

**From:**  
**To:** [Flood Inquiry](#)  
**Subject:** Flood Experience story  
**Date:** Sunday, 22 May 2022 6:23:40 PM

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To whom this may concern,

My experience of these latest floods ,is as a support person, where I have helped cleanup, plus contending with this deadly black mold and the toxic mud smelling water. I had my Cousin and I still have someone staying with me who has lost her home in Mullumbimby. Her place had common land behind her before it backed onto Brunswick River. Due to the torrential rain , she woke at 3am, to water surrounding her mattress, someone banging on her door, asking her if she needed help, these two young people guided her through the terriorial water with her cat in a shopping bag , to their house around the corner, that was 2 stories and not flooded, she said she could not of walked through the high water without their assistance, as it was to strong and it was pitch black with no street lights, or she could have not got out of the situation if known , as the two bridges were flooded.

These young people housed and fed 17 other neighbours in a similar situation with their animals. She said if these young people had not come and rescued her, she knows she would not have survived.. Now she gets triggered when it rains and does not want to live in her home again.

My cousin who lived a few streets away from this person , had my Uncle standing on the kitchen bench, as water was pouring out of the bathroom drains and through the house , the street was covered with water and so was her car, she really though they were both going to drown, a boat eventually came and rescued them. She said it was terrifying as it was so dark,and there was no communication.. It was the community that saved her and my uncle....With both this lady and my cousin and my Uncle, they have lost most of their furniture, personal belongings and memories....

If they had prior warning well before , say with loud SIREN , they could have taken what was most important and gone to higher ground.

Even Though I have not directively experienced these latest floods, I have experienced flood water coming into my house, due to the accepted design of the building of the house I bought. This building was built by cutting into the land rather than building on the natural slope of the land, were upon on a cement slab, was situated, so when it rained heavily I would get the water run off from the 3 properties that are at the back and side of my property, [ council approved design building..] I had to eventually put in large pits to take most of the water away or place a pump in these pits to take overflow to the street....Having this happen enough is scary as no matter what you do, you can't control the water..

I feel a lot of problem or contributing factor is allowing these estates and development all over the Northern Rivers, where there are small blocks , large houses ,cement slabs and no absorption of the very quick run off water when it rains heavily.

What is terrifying me is the approval of West Byron Development, as the area of West Byron is like the kidneys of Byron so when it rains and floods the water is carried into West Byron and absorbed by the wetlands into Belongil Creek.

By building on it with yet another estate of 500 plus 150 blocks and 2 to 4 meters of unknown fill, yet there will be no were the flooding water can go, we at Sunrise beach and Industrial Estate will flood, and with an extra 1000 cars from this estate and the cars from Sunrise and the Industrial Estate, trying to get on flooded Ewingsdale Road to try to get to higher land will be impossible. And if there was a tsunami, the death toll would be huge..purely because we all will be trapped.....as will the rest of Byron Town.

Climate Change is here, we have to look how we can reduce the impact and also stop allowing Developers to build on unsuitable sensitive land which will cause major

problems in the future...  
yours sincerely

Byron Bay