

**From:** [NSW Government](#)  
**To:** [Flood Inquiry](#)  
**Subject:** Floods Inquiry  
**Date:** Sunday, 19 June 2022 2:05:32 PM

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## Your details

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**Title**

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**First name**

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**Last name**

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**Email**

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**Postcode**

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## Submission details

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**I am making this submission as** A primary producer

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**Submission type** I am making a personal submission

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**Consent to make submission public** I would like this submission to remain anonymous

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## Share your experience or tell your story

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**Your story** Whilst not as severely affected as others, we had 1.8-2.5 metres of flood water through 1) our machinery sheds, dissolving two 1 tonne bags of urea, 9 bags of other fertilizer, petrol motors turned over, workshop tools, batteries, welders, bearings, pumps, etc (the list is endless) ; tractors, harvester, fertilizer spreader, trailers, tanks which floated away, tanks of oil; and 2) two

shipping containers full of household wares, clothing, books, musical instruments, fridges and freezer, tv, electric organ, stereos, : all were in good working order before the flood: all the above were severely damaged and we are still working on recovering/restoring anything that can be retrieved. 3) 1.7 metres through a house that is .6 metre above the ground - complete loss of furniture and fixtures.

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## **Terms of Reference (optional)**

The Inquiry welcomes submissions that address the particular matters identified in its [Terms of Reference](#)

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### **1.1 Causes and contributing factors**

Maybe too much rain? and the area was already saturated from previous rain.....  
Despite the amount of rain that fell, no body expected the speed at which the flood came both in Lismore, over the flood plain and here - we are approximately 80 river kms downstream from Lismore. Nor any concept of how high the floor eventually came up to. It is our opinion that the lower Richmond River water level was peaking at a similar time to the peak in Lismore which slowed the flow of water from Lismore and backed the water up across the flood plain.

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### **1.2 Preparation and planning**

As common with everybody, we lifted everything that could be moved but it was not enough. In this area, it is unprecedented to have floods at this height and this farm has been here for over 100 years. Levee banks built in early 1970s usually restrict flood water. in the 2017 flood Lismore flooded to a height of 11.4 m and did not breach the level banks of the lower Richmond. The second flood in Lismore which got to 11.7 also did not break levies.  
There is no operational river level gauge reporting past Woodburn - the radio and other services report water levels further up river but for those downstream from Woodburn, there's nothing. So while we know there's been a lot of rain, impacts across the flood plain are not reported so we are left with sticks in the ground

showing the rise of the water. When the river peaked in Lismore we were already under water. Evacuation notices via txt relies on people having workable phones and having them on hand - and came too late for quite a number of people.

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**1.3 Response to floods**

It was appreciated that the SA contingent of SES and Army personnel came to assist in some cleanup.

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**1.4 Transition from incident response to recovery**

It is ridiculous to assume that recovery can be recorded in a time frame - this is going to take years to be back to some sense of normal - life will always have that worry of 'when will the next one come'. If another flood comes through in the next 10 years - the flood plain farms and towns will be untenable.

Agricultural properties are now covered in weeds not seen before - weeds are so widespread and prolific - chemical costs will be excessive in order to regain some semblance of viability of farming life.

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**1.5 Recovery from floods**

Restoration of machinery and equipment will take years and copious amounts of time and may not be successful in the long term. Trying to salvage goods from the shipping containers has been arduous and continues.

Applying for government assistance has proved tiresome : forms are not user friendly, the demand of having specific data to support claims takes a lot of time and given the trauma the community continue to suffer often delays completion of any grant application. We have not yet requested assistance even though quite a lot of our equipment is not usable. We appreciate that guidelines have to be in place and know there has been quite a number of people scamming from government handouts but there must be a better way of checking people's credentials prior to payment.

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**1.6 Any other matters**

I'd like to see some ongoing data for farmers on the lower Richmond which marries up the water

levels from rainfall in the upper Wilson and tributaries with expected river heights which might be experienced further downstream. We were flooded here some days before the Lismore peak should have made its way downstream and hardly noticed the second floor peak a couple of weeks later. More education for those of us who live and farm on the flood plain would be extremely beneficial.

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## **Supporting documents or images**

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### **Attach files**

- [P1000520.JPG](#)
  - [P1000500.JPG](#)
  - [P1000513.JPG](#)
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