

From: [NSW Government](#)
To: [Flood Inquiry](#)
Subject: Floods Inquiry
Date: Tuesday, 5 July 2022 7:05:52 AM

Your details

Title

First name

Last name

Email

Postcode

Submission details

I am making this submission as A resident in a flood-affected area

Submission type I am making a personal submission

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

Share your experience or tell your story

Your story We live in in Woodburn. Our home was already surrounded by water from the heavy rainfall before the river broke its banks and broke our hearts. We can clearly see the new highway from our home, we watched as it blocked the flow of water out to the Evans Head flood plain and river. We watched Woodburn fill like a bath. My family watched as my husband begun

rescuing our community. We arrived to the emergency evac centre (Woodburn Primary) and it was already at capacity, we slept on concrete and shared a bathroom with hundreds. Dog poo was everywhere, the concrete was freezing and we had no available food or water.

My husband went back to our now flooded home to raid the pantry and share the supplies. SES were not on the ground yet, some had been drinking at the pub and shouldn't have been trying to drive boats. Upon closer questioning, most of the Woodburn SES didn't have boat licences and some couldn't swim. My husband and some local Fishos rescued our community non stop for 72 hours and then only came to the centre for a quick rest before going out again.

The SES made sure they had beer... again.. why was alcohol a priority?

We had women with no baby formula or sanitary products... but the SES had beer... it was a joke. The SES refused to work at night, our fishos kept up the search, our boat is ruined but we look at it with pride. Evans Head was cut off, locals filled their cars with fuel... even though they were stranded. Leaving the boats with none... the private boats that were still making huge trips to lives.

Did we get any government help, a couple of grand, which helped with the repairs to the boat, but our boat repairs exceed that. The community and community donation groups were of greater help to us.

Three months on and we are still stuck in the same situation, no answers on our home. Families homes left uninsured. Cane growers can't cut or burn their cane as its full of people's belongings, pets, gas canisters... where is their help? Farmers need pasture testing so they can bring their cattle back.. where is their help?

Terms of Reference (optional)

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

1.1 Causes and contributing factors The new highway, having studied hydrology at university it is clear to see that changing the waterway without more causeways exacerbated the flood. It also kept our home underwater for a week.

1.2 Preparation and planning As a family we were prepared. As a community, no way.
The evacuation centres should be fully stocked at all times with emergency supplies.
SES in flood areas should be trained in boat rescues and have at least one boat (punt) big enough for the job. They should all require a boat licence.

1.3 Response to floods - Loud speaker at the emergency evacuation zone to speak to the towns.
- Each house having a emergency plan.
- Water report conducted to ensure flood water can recede.
- enough fuel and food for 1000 people plus.
- bedding and first aid

1.4 Transition from incident response to recovery - Making it big news, most still have no power at Woodburn, in zero degree nights with no walls and no insurance.

1.6 Any other matters 1st photo shows flooding before the river broke

2nd photo is when the river broke

3rd is from the evac centre

Supporting documents or images

Attach files

- [inbound8490808655387814770.jpg](#)
- [inbound7184390242349558338.jpg](#)
- [inbound3982689124329437646.jpg](#)



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NEW HOMES
HOME UNITS
EXTENSIONS
COMMERCIAL

FAUSTH



