

**From:** [NSW Government](#)  
**To:** [Flood Inquiry](#)  
**Subject:** Floods Inquiry  
**Date:** Monday, 30 May 2022 11:05:17 AM

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## Your details

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**Title** Mr

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**First name** Adrian

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**Last name** Stock

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**Email**

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**Postcode** 2469

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## Submission details

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

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

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**Consent to make submission public** I give my consent for this submission to be made public

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## Share your experience or tell your story

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**Your story** On the night of the 27 Feb, 2022, I was preparing my property for major flooding. I had moved cattle and machinery to high ground that has not flooded in the past 35 years that I have resided here. As the night progressed and the rain became heavier and more relentless. By the early hours of the morning the flood water had surpassed the major flood levels and was still

rising.

By 6 am. the water had entered the house and was still rising. My 6yo daughter and myself started loading clothing, food and blankets in the car and we moved further up the hill on the front of our property. By 9.00am it was impossible to enter the house. The rain was still pouring and my daughter and 2 dogs sat in our car and watched the property being destroyed. We saw a 3000 gallon water tank lift up and float over the carport. We watched the chicken house lift up and get smashed against the machinery shed. The tractor and lawn mowers were already under and only about 500mm of the house was now unsubmerged.

My daughter was terrified and crying incessantly. I watched 35 years of work, piece by piece, either wash away or be destroyed as the water continued to rise.

My property is on the only hill on the Bungawalbin road and at the peak of the flash flooding there was a section of approximately 500m of road that was not under water.

We sat in our car and followed the posts and threads on the Bungawalbin residents group page on Facebook, but were helpless to help our neighbours. It was extremely traumatic to hear our neighbours on the roofs of their houses pleading for help, or the posts asking if there was any news of our next door neighbours, the Pollock's who were missing after trying to leave their property in a small dinghy. The rain had eased by around 2.00pm and the water had stopped rising. I waded down the driveway to see that nothing but the roof of the house and the shed still visible.

We spent that night in the car eating dry noodles and cereal and drinking floodwater. My daughter was severely distressed and cried herself to sleep in my arms.

In the morning of the 1st March, 2022 we were elated to see that the water had dropped to major flood levels and the sky was clear.

There was no sign of my cattle or chickens and

the devastation was absolute.

Later that day we were met by SES volunteers who took us into Coraki by boat. The next day we were flown to Lismore hospital and we got accommodation with my ex wife in Gardner Ave. We are still living there.

The event was unprecedented and I didn't believe it was even possible

for a flood of that magnitude. In 35 years I have seen rain events equal to that one but the result has never been as severe. In the late 80s we had 3 major floods in the period of 3 months and there was never an event even close to this one. In my opinion, the construction of the section of freeway between New Italy and Broadwater, has severely affected the way water escapes into the Evans River and has permanently changed flood levels throughout the Lower Richmond and Mid Richmond flood Plains, causing more regular flooding and more severe flooding.

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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**

The section of freeway between New Italy and Broadwater has restricted the natural flow of water during flooding events and has had the affect of creating a dam across a flood plain.

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### **1.2 Preparation and planning**

Consultation with landholders and the public were ignored when planning the freeway and the results of studies following 2017 flood events were ignored.

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### **1.3 Response to floods**

Without volunteer organisations hundreds of people would have suffered even further traumas and the loss of life would have been far more significant.

The cost of Government funded departments is wasted and misdirected. These departments are strangled by bureaucracies and staff are not trained in hands on operations but are staffed by

clerks and administrators. They become flotsam in a flooding event such as we have experienced.

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**1.4 Transition from incident response to recovery**

Politicians and bureaucrats are in no way in touch with what is really affecting the victims of such disasters. The time and logistics relating to accessing help and grants makes it impossible for victims. When you have lost your house and vehicles, have no internet or power supply, how do you access these services.

When the road is damaged so severely that army vehicles get bogged and disaster relief groups can't access these properties, it is ridiculous to expect or assume that families can access any services what so ever.

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**1.5 Recovery from floods**

I haven't been able to receive or access any grants. Without power, access or money I havent been able to even think about recovery.

I am currently paying rent at the rate of \$560/week. I am now working 6 days a week as an aged care employee to pay that.

Last year I was a business owner, with a landscaping / gardening business.

My cattle are still at large and I don't feel that repairing a flood prone house makes any sense whatsoever.

If it was only a matter of a few inches of water entering the house then I would consider repairing the house, but how can I plan for an event that is 2.5m above floor heights.

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**1.6 Any other matters**

Help, no really, help!!!!

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**Supporting documents or images**

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