

From: [NSW Government](#)
To: [Flood Inquiry](#)
Subject: Floods Inquiry
Date: Friday, 8 April 2022 9:19:57 PM

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Submission details

I am making this submission as	A member of the general public
Submission type	I am making a personal submission
Consent to make submission public	I give my consent for this submission to be made public

Share your experience or tell your story

Your story	<p>In 1979 my partner & I purchased a small hobby farm in Nimbin . Previously had lived in Canberra.</p> <p>I have stayed in Nimbin since and have seen a fair share of floods...and droughts!!!</p> <p>I consider myself a keen observer of the weather and contribute my thoughts on any significant 'events' to our local facebook community.</p>
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I only wish to contribute my thoughts on the bureaucracies involved with forecasting (BOM) and the response to those forecasts (SES)

Terms of Reference (optional)

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

1.3 Response to floods

During emergencies one becomes familiar with the various heads of govt agencies via their daily press conferences etc. During the Great Flood that basically destroyed Lismore one was left in no doubt that these spokespeople were way out of their depth. (sorry!!)

So first recommendation...advertise more widely even internatinally for these positions rather than selecting some plodder who over the years have worked their way up the ranks.

Carlene York the SES commissioner is the worst example of this dullard mentality.

This is how she failed, As dawn broke on Monday the 1/3/22 after a night of torrential rain she asked members of the public NOT to bring down boats so as to help rescue people trapped on their roofs. She said leave it to the professionals who will undertake rescue operations when safe to do so. Fortunately the public ignored this advice and saved over 400 people. If people had listened to York then she would have had to bear the responsibility of 100s of deaths.

Ahem....if you volunteer for the SES you must be prepared to risk your life. It comes with the territory!! The role of their boss is not to make sure their work conditions are 'safe'.

The other striking thing that became apparent over those hectic days was the alarming lack of commonsense on display from these bureaucrats. They all appear incapable of making their own decisions but rather 'taking advice'.

I suppose what I am saying is we really need talent in these important positions...a passion. Oh...a deep knowledge of meteorology and

geography would not go astray. Oh...and more respect for local knowledge.
The SES and BOM failed us during this crisis.

Supporting documents or images
