

**From:** [NSW Government](#)  
**To:** [Flood Inquiry](#)  
**Subject:** Floods Inquiry  
**Date:** Monday, 2 May 2022 10:04:31 AM

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## Your details

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**Title** Mr

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**First name** andrew

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**Last name** crockett

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**Email**

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**Postcode** 2481

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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** I was fortunately high and dry, but as a long time local of mullumbimby i feel the need to contribute.

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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**

Similar to the horrible 2017 flood that caused a lot of damage in Mullumbimby and northern NSW, this one in 2022 had months of rain leading up to it. Rain was frequent from early december right up to March when the floods hit. There was flooding in the weeks before THE flood, if that makes sense. What was completely different from my perspective was the landslides up the valleys that ended up washing so many trees and boulders down the valleys resulting in so much silt and damage in the flood plains. Those landslides were different.

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**1.2 Preparation and planning**

I didnt see much preparation or planning. Personally I did receive an emergency text message and email from byron shire council as i had previously registered for their emergency alerts. Obviously everyone should register going forwards.

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**1.3 Response to floods**

the community response was awesome! In hindsight there should have been helicopters up here much sooner....people being rescued off their rooftops after 48 hours is not good enough from emergency services, army etc. A lady being able to talk to Nine morning tv on her mobile phone but not being able to be rescued with her two kids hiding under a solar panel just says so much. The army were fantastic, just about two weeks too late really.....not too late, as they did a lot of work but yes they should have been here earlier.

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**1.4 Transition from incident response to recovery**

this is ongoing and difficult to gauge currently

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**1.5 Recovery from floods**

this is ongoing and difficult to gauge currently

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**1.6 Any other matters**

i used to live at jubilee ave in mullumbimby. flood insurance wanted \$400 a week. many houses and businesses are not insure able.....it should be mandatory that a property can be

insured against the things that are the largest threat. Given that most of mullumbimby, murwillumbah and lismore, ballina, woodburn, coraki etc are built on a floodplain ; obviously there needs to be new laws on council approved dwellings. They need to be built ABOVE the 2022 water mark.....and most homes in these areas need to be raised and/or earmarked as a problem. State govt should free up rural land for sustainable semi-rural dwellings. There is so much land, un-used farmland and rural land that could easily have a house/shed/dwelling on it, but the councils wont approve it. The councils will approve a dwelling on a floodplain, but not approve a house on a hill due to 'zoning issues'. There are so many 60 acre and 100 acre properties with elevation that have one old farmhouse on it and the owner is not allowed to cut off 5 acres for a home. or 1 acre. There is a massive development slated for mullumbimby called 'lot 22' which should immediately be erased from any planning process now or in the future as it is right on the flood plain. The councils and state government need to pull their finger out and enable a significant number of new multiple occupancies, communities and approve any land for housing that is 10-20m+above sea level. Towns dont need to be built on river banks any more.

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### **Supporting documents or images**

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