

From: [NSW Government](#)
To: [Flood Inquiry](#)
Subject: Floods Inquiry
Date: Sunday, 15 May 2022 1:47:32 PM

Your details

Title Mr

First name Andrew

Last name Williams

Email

Postcode 2488

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 give my consent for this submission to be made public

Share your experience or tell your story

Your story We moved to this beautiful area less than a year before the flood of 28 February/1 March 2022. Given we were purchasing a townhouse on the canal (drain) I was careful to research 1:100 flood levels and indeed make sure I had planned for a significantly higher flood level to be comfortable in our purchase as a 'forever' home for our family.

When we went to bed on the 27 February I saw that the water level had got to the entry door of our underhouse storage area, so I thought it best to go under the house at first light to remove stored items. By the next morning the water level was up to the top of that door and rising preventing my entry, destroying several thousand dollars of stored items. We spent that day and the next in disbelief as the water went way higher until Monday 1 March when it was touching the top of our deck and over our immediate neighbours (see picture). That means there was only about 100mm until water would have entered through our doors and windows. We were lucky a community member arrived with a few sandbags to protect our slightly lower garage door (see picture of our complex - there are over 50 townhouses at the same height along Friday Island canal on Hastings Road). There were no specific warnings to prepare or act, it was really up to us and our neighbours. The same is true of recovery efforts facilitated by SES and community members along Tamarind Avenue and severely impacted areas.

While we are extremely grateful that we are not in the situation of so many others with significant damage and destruction of their homes, I want to make it clear that although over 300 homes in Bogangar were significantly inundated, had it not been for the Woolworths underground carpark filling rapidly at the peak of the flood, hundreds more homes would have been affected if it had just got a little higher. What is of further importance is that although there is limited data, it appears we had much less rain in our catchment than in the nearby Tweed Valley by looking at nearby gauges in Hastings Point and Kingscliff. Therefore I would contest the idea that the rainfall in our catchment was consistent with a 1:500 year flood as stated by Tweed Shire Council to us in an email. This is the result of lack of management of Cudgen Creek and Lake

to manage inflows from more and more built environments over recent decades. I kayaked to the entrance of the creek in June 2021 when the lake was at a 'normal' level and I could barely find the tiny entrance to the creek which was flowing out rapidly through it's constriction (see picture).

It is clear this system has changed dramatically over recent decades. If we have a rain event in future that is coastal in nature, such as a cyclonic event it is likely that Bogangar will experience even more dramatic flooding which would have similar significant impacts up and down the coast if the environment is not sustainably managed.

Although there are many departments and bodies with conflating responsibilities for Cudgen Nature Reserve, a solution must be found to allow this system that has already been heavily modified by man to be managed in a sensible and environmentally responsible way for the long term. Climate Change is probably already part of our problem, and is extremely likely to increase incidents of similar events in future. We want to be confident that we can live here for the next 30-50 years, particularly when it seems there are clear solutions that would allow residents to be insured and minimise future impact.

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

Rainfall data is lacking, but at nearby Kingscliff (8km north):
27/2 121mm
28/2 157mm
1/3 72.8mm

It is possible that there was more intensity in other areas of our catchment, but having been through the 2017 flood in Uki it appeared to be

heavy but not that great. It is likely to be reasonably close to the above numbers in our small catchment. This is a small fraction of the rainfall totals seen across so many other areas.

Supporting documents or images

Attach files

- [view of Cudgen Creek at lake.jpg](#)
 - [Reef Villas East front.jpg](#)
 - [Friday Island Canal over deck.jpg](#)
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