

From: [NSW Government](#)
To: [Flood Inquiry](#)
Subject: Floods Inquiry
Date: Tuesday, 17 May 2022 5:20:58 PM

Your details

Title Mrs

First name Betty

Last name Archer

Email

Postcode 2472

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 have lived in this house on the riverbank since 1968 and have experienced several floods with no water entering our house. Past history shows that the house was built in 1925 and has not had water in on the floor. Monday February 28 no water had entered our house block at 6.00pm teatime 10.00pm water had covered the grass from front

and back of house. Midnight March 1, water was at top step. We had everything on benches and tables. We shifted as much as possible to the top of cupboards. 3.00 am the water was 1 metre inside our house. The water was approaching from the east/ south from the motorway with force and eerie rumbling. Between 3 and 5 am the water had reached the cornices of our 8 foot ceilings and the waves had splashed up on to the 10 foot ceilings . The force of the water when released from the motorway levee blew out our front door , broke a window, and tipped over all the cupboards and washed them on to the inner riverside walls of our house.

At 6.00am all was quiet but the debris from the south continued to flow past our easterly wall to the river at a rapid pace. Our front roller doors were forced in and the back roller door forced out. Everything in the sheds was swept out to the river .It also took our jetty, 1,000 litre tank of fresh water and our trailer loaded with blocked wood.

The water in the house settled at about 30 cms from the ceiling and stayed at that height for 3 days because the river had risen with the Lismore water and there was nowhere for it to go.

Water was over our floor for 7 days.

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 farmland in the south /east was inundated and the motorway prevented the water from spreading out and once the area filled it exploded in our direction.

We were on our top deck with a searchlight and watched and heard the water as it approached our house.

1.2 Preparation and planning

Evacuation notice was adequate . We elected to stay as we are SES trained and had already prepared for a week of isolation should it be

needed

Locals living on a floodplain usually expect the water level in the river to be the indicator but not this time.

1.3 Response to floods

Service personnel and locals all responded to the best of their ability.

However :

there was no roll call for the village and two people near us could have lost their lives. Very easy for someone to have a list and once evacuees are noted just check on others.

messages were sent out on mobiles only. We didn't have power, phones, internet for days and knew very little of what was happening. Our news came from the battery wireless. We depended on people knocking and asking if we were OK

helpers came and went but there was a need for all types of assistance for many weeks after the event. Even now a check would reveal many have only just started to recover

1.4 Transition from incident response to recovery

It was a community building exercise . Evidence shows that people from the Sunshine Coast to Melbourne were in the Broadwater area offering help. (2 hours or 2 days.)

We were in shock for at least ten days and found it difficult to plan or go forward.

We didnt know how to start.

Buses (and there were several over three weeks)with young people were probably our saving grace. They cleaned (not just pressure spray)and asked if we thought we could save something rather than throw it out.

We had watched so many things tossed out that may have been washed and used again.

1.5 Recovery from floods

Government help has been adequate.

Neighbourhood Centre Evans Head contacted many older citizens and were able to offer the type of assistance necessary. NSW Service Centre has been helpful.

We have received help from friends and have been willing to accept second hand appliances

up until we have our home re established
Even last week a man from Wardell came into
our street and asked if everyone had had
sufficient pressure spraying done on their paths.
(10 weeks after the flood) He had his machine
set up ready to help.

**1.6 Any other
matters**

Will be interested to see if the Inquiry opts to
employ a person in each area who will have their
finger on the pulse should another event occur.
Volunteers are thin on the ground.
Less talk and more compilation of how this
went so wrong.
accept that the motorway contributed to the
demise of Broadwater
flood insurance must be investigated.
Companies must have a level playing field for
house owners and accept some of the risk and
not wait for the Govt pay out to cover household
goods.

Supporting documents or images
