

**From:** [NSW Government](#)  
**To:** [Flood Inquiry](#)  
**Subject:** Floods Inquiry  
**Date:** Friday, 20 May 2022 2:36:25 AM

## Your details

**Title** Mrs

**First name** BEVERLEY

**Last name** NORTH

**Email**

**Postcode** 2484

## 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** My Husband and I have farmed the Tweed flood plain for over forty years, we were devastated in both 2017 and 2022 floods. We have witnessed not only higher flood levels but also the longer duration of time it takes for the water to drain away. This causes additional farm and community damage also stress on local residents. I've seen my husband frustrated with

local and state governments river management. We maintain drainage channels through our farms up to the flap gate at rivers edge. The most important maintenance is routine slit removal, this not only maintains good water flow for drainage but also stops bank erosion and contributes to a healthy water quality and fish habitat.

the river's edge demarcated by NSW flood mitigation flap gates, beyond these gates, drainage maintenance has been none insistent as it becomes state local and state government response ability. I've seen my husband's frustration, particularly since 2017 floods dealing with government departments to get the entrances from flap gate to the river drains cleaned, also we watch on while hundreds of thousands of dollars is spent rock stabilising the riverbank, if large sand banks in the middle of the river were removed the main water flow would be in the middle of the river away from river banks, mitigating erosion. And flood water could drain away quicker reducing flood height and duration

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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**

Causes and contributing factors

The Tweed River has become severely silted-up, restricting water flow. The reduced river depth contributes to the height and duration of flooding across the entirety of the flood plain during major weather events. Since river dredging ceased, the Tweed River cannot drain water from the hills to the west of Murwillumbah through the flood plain to the ocean as efficiently as it did previously. The section of the Tweed River upstream of Murwillumbah (that is, south of the Murwillumbah bridge adjacent to South Murwillumbah), has been restricted down to a distance of less than 500 metres due to the construction of the main Murwillumbah levee wall to the north and the

natural barrier of Green Hills to the south. This narrow section of river has to accommodate all the flood water flow from Tweed and Oxley River catchments. Since routine dredging ceased this section of the river is completely silted up with only a partial channel on the north side. This restriction caused devastating flood flow through South Murwillumbah and topping of the main Murwillumbah levee to the north in 2022 February floods. This section needs priority dredging to recommence!

Part of this catchment area is land owned by Tweed Shire Council, originally purchased for the purpose of constructing Byrill Creek water storage dam. The project was shelved and Tweed water storage is now secured by Clarrie Hall Dam with a proposal to raise its dam wall to secure future water storage needs. This leaves the Byrill Creek site unutilised. Consideration should be given to use the Byrill Creek site for a flood mitigation dam.

Tweed River downstream of Murwillumbah is in a similarly poor state, with numerous sand bars and accumulated siltation all the way to the ocean. In its current state Tweed River is not capable of handling increased flood flow. The result is increased flood heights and duration of inundation.

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**1.6 Any other matters**

clean and maintain drainage outlets into Tweed River, recommence river dredging, build a flood mitigation dam on Tweed Shire Council land at Byrill Creek (in the Tweed/Oxley River catchment), to act as a shock absorber for flooding events.

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**Supporting documents or images**

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