

**From:** [NSW Government](#)  
**To:** [Flood Inquiry](#)  
**Subject:** Floods Inquiry  
**Date:** Friday, 20 May 2022 9:22:37 PM



## Your details

<hr/>	
<b>Title</b>	Mr
<b>First name</b>	Bill
<b>Last name</b>	Walsh
<b>Email</b>	<input type="text"/>
<b>Postcode</b>	2480

## Submission details

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<b>Submission type</b>	I am making a personal submission
<b>Consent to make submission public</b>	I give my consent for this submission to be made public

## Share your experience or tell your story

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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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| <b>1.1 Causes and contributing factors</b> | 1. Street drainage and town drainage is non-existent due to neglect for decades from Lismore City Council. The designated floodway, directly opposite my home and many others has been neglected and severely overgrown with coral trees, lantana and a combination of obnoxious |
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weeds and trees meaning Water has nowhere to go and builds quickly and becomes a Dam. This then backfills rain and storm water onto our properties. This is a regular occurrence even with a heavy downpour. There is NO DRAINAGE.

note: I have contacted Lismore city Council on numerous occasions via phone and mail to address the drainage and designated floodway situation as extremely hazardous and they concluded it was not a problem.

2. Misinformation from the BOM. Their predictions were totally inaccurate resulting in major losses of property and lives.

3. Radio media coverage was totally inadequate. elderly people who cannot access the internet were ill advised by the poor media coverage on ABC and 2LM radio station. Once the power was gone we had no radio at all.

4. SES was totally and inadequate and illprepared. They had very limited resources and refused the ADF assistance on two occasions prior to the disaster.

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### **1.2 Preparation and planning**

on the 27th February, I along with everyone else in South and North Lismore prepared as per the advice given from the BOM which was 2017 flood level at Maximum. I lifted all of my possessions well above the anticipated maximum level as issued by the BOM where they should have been safe. Earlier that day I moved my car to higher ground, to avoid damage and a compensation claim from my insurance company (NRMA Insurance).

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### **1.3 Response to floods**

1. SES came around at 9pm on the 27th, they did not offer any assistance or suggest evacuation was necessary.

2. The biggest response was from the many volunteers and civilians that risked their own lives to save thousands of residents from North and South Lismore. they came in boats, tinnies,

kyaks, jetskis to save the lives of those who would have perished otherwise.

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**1.4 Transition from incident response to recovery**

there was no real transition to recovery. Civillians and voluenteers transfered me to higher ground and then we were left to find our own emergency accomodation. as a 70 year old man this was not an easy feat. most people had lost their mobile phones in the flood and therefor had no means of communication.

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**1.5 Recovery from floods**

Community Support and help from one another was the only Recovery help or assistance we got. there was a presence from the RFS. In South and North Lismore we did not receive any assistance from the SES or ADF until at least one week after the waters receded.

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**1.6 Any other matters**

Most residents have home and contents insurance however flood cover is optinal. NRMA bundle rain water run off and storm surge with flood cover. Therefor if you cannot afford the deliberate inflated quote for flood cover ( in South Lismore it is around \$32,000) you opt out of everything. This should not be allowed. Residents should have an option to protect their properties at an affordable price,

The National and State Government reaction time during this catastrophic disater was appalling. It is only now, we are in week 11 that people are starting to recieve some financial assistance. We have been living in homes that have no internal walls, no floor or window coverings, no furniture, no kitchens or bathrooms, no lights, no heating and no hot water. Furthermore, most homes have no beds or mattresses, no refrigeration, no washing machine and no dryers. If they are lucky they have minimal clothing, bedding and personal hygine products. They have lost everything. Applying for government assistance has been extremly challenging and frustrating as nearly all documentation needed has been lost in the flood. this only adds to the trauma and stress

people are already going through. Words cannot express how much we have lost.

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**Supporting documents or images**

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