

From: [NSW Government](#)
To: [Flood Inquiry](#)
Subject: Floods Inquiry
Date: Monday, 16 May 2022 8:15:15 PM

Your details

Title Mr

First name Brett

Last name Faulks

Email

Postcode 2480

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 Ses called in on Sunday night and said a warning was current they were expecting a flood like 2017.
By 930 after taking the car to tender centre it was looking g like it was going to be bigger.
By how much runoff was about I would have daughter We could have gotten out of south lismore at that point.

2017 was no worries really at that height for our house.

But at around 2.30 am I woke to a loud thud/thump to see water already around the house.

I had already been up at around 130am no water other than rain water sitting in gutters etc.

By the time I got downstairs and lifted the garage door it's was at least a foot.

Within around an 1 hr it was say 6 feet under the house and rising.

We lost power around 4 am and started counting stairs.

By 6am we had water coming up thru the carpet the house is 13.99 floor height.

We had already been calling emergency services, multiple times sometimes being told help was coming other times we could not get thru.

So like everyone else we turned to social media and family to be rescued. We gave up on emergency services by 9 am.

So we focused on how we would survive until my brother or author friend could get to us.

We told at one point on 000 to climb into the roof cavity.

I asked them do they know the area.

All the houses or most in our suburb had roofs replaced in 2008 from a hail storm.

They are all colour bond and screwed in they asked did I have a drill and tin snips seriously.

I said yes but they were 12 feet under water and we have no power etc.

We were rescued at 2pm by my brother it was not until 245 we actually seen any SES personal and all they had was two canoe like boats.

At the end of the day we all thought we would either die swimming for our lives but we could not rely on emergency services to help us we came to the conclusion. They did not seem to be able to help themselves never mind any one.

We counted around 20 people in houses or on the them with 100 metres of ours.

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

I don't think anyone was prepared for this nor could you be.
But communication is key and that was pretty obviously lacking in 2017 and definitely in February.

1.2 Preparation and planning

Possibly should have more public education on floods roads out etc.
No amount of preparation would have seen that coming although some weather wachers predicted it and were warning people via fb.

1.3 Response to floods

Earlier access to funds for those affected should be simpler.
With all the tech out there now being used to track people and money it would not be hard to prove were you live and that you were living at that time.

1.4 Transition from incident response to recovery

It May 16th and we still are no closer to living a normal life.
This is staring to feel like how it will remain.
If it was not for charities and locals helping out early on well it would have been lonely.
Adf should have been brought in a lot ealier.

1.5 Recovery from floods

I am not optimistic at all about recovery. We are still lost and its going to always be there.

Supporting documents or images
