

From: [NSW Government](#)
To: [Flood Inquiry](#)
Subject: Floods Inquiry
Date: Friday, 8 April 2022 2:12:21 PM

Your details

Title Mr

First name Brett

Last name Rhodes

Email

Postcode 2478

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 Live in West Ballina. Evacuated to Southern Cross School of Distance Education/Southern Cross Public School.

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

In the past in Ballina, flood waters have always dispersed over the lower lying farmland, marshland or vacant land. Developers are now building on those areas, building up the base to a height of 1m as per council guidelines, which means the floodwaters have no where to go, but into other areas. ie: peoples homes.

1.3 Response to floods

Being in the evacuation centre, there was no internet, landlines or mobile phone reception. During my days there (3), no one from any agency came to tell the people what was happening.

1.4 Transition from incident response to recovery

Very well handled.

1.6 Any other matters

I've been told that the damage from this event is going to run into the billions of dollars. To help prevent future flooding in the Ballina/Wardell/Cabbage Tree Island area I have an idea. Just south of Cabbage Tree island there is a horseshoe bend in the river. If a drain, similar to what is in Los Angeles is built straight to the ocean, with a concrete wall set at a certain flood height, it would allow the quick release of flood waters, saving the inundation of the above mentioned communities. It would also allow for floodwaters to get away from the other communities such as Broadwater, Woodburn and Coraki. The expense of building it would be minor when compared to the continual expense of cleaning up damaged communities. It would also allow for the lowering of insurance premiums as less floods would be expected.

Supporting documents or images
