

From: [NSW Government](#)
To: [Flood Inquiry](#)
Subject: Floods Inquiry
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Attachments: [Woodburn SES HQ Doc.doc](#)

Your details

Title	Mr
First name	Bruce
Last name	McCormack
Email	<input type="text"/>
Postcode	2471

Submission details

I am making this submission as	Emergency services personnel
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

Terms of Reference (optional)

The Inquiry welcomes submissions that address the particular matters identified in its [Terms of Reference](#)

Supporting documents or images

Attach files

- [Woodburn SES HQ Doc.doc](#)

Woodburn SES Head Quarters

- Woodburn SES for many years operated from the McCormack family home in Woodburn street for both flood and storm events. Bills private home office, a room 8' x 8' on the front veranda of his home was the SES HQ. This continued until the construction of the current headquarters.
- In the late 1970's funding from "The Red Scheme" was used to build a facility on the back half of a block next to the Woodburn Post Office. This housed the Woodburn Bushfire Brigade truck and the Woodburn SES flood boat.
- In 1984 a Woodburn local was tragically killed in a motor vehicle accident which was the catalyst to form the Mid Richmond Rescue Squad as part of Woodburn SES.
- A truck was purchased and fitted out with funds raised by the Woodburn SES squad. Team members underwent RCR training, so SES members were able to respond to accident callouts.
- The new rescue truck was moved into the shed at the post office, along with the Woodburn Bushfire Brigade truck and the SES flood boat was moved to a single bay shed on Richmond River shire council land south of Woodburn. Later extensions were added to the existing facility to house the SES flood boat.
- Campaigning was started by Bill McCormack and members of the Woodburn SES in the late 1980's to have a new Headquarters built for Woodburn SES, as the squad had out grown the facility they were using as they had also inherited the North Woodburn SES flood boat after the construction of the bridge over the Richmond River in the early 1980's. At this time Woodburn SES and Woodburn Bushfire Brigade had approx. 8 joint members.
- After many years of work Bill retired from SES in 1991 and Jim McCormack took over as SES Controller. He continued negotiations with council until the squad were successful in having the Richmond River Shire Council purchase the land, and along with grant's from the National Disasters Organisation and the Federal Government the current facility was built and opened in September 1993, at a cost of \$123,564.
- Council purchased the land for \$60,000 with the building construction costing \$63,564. Many weekends were spent by dual

members of the SES and Bushfire Brigade fitting out the office, kitchen and mezzanine areas. Shelving and all the tiling were built and installed by the squad with funds raised at Woodburn SES Charity Golf days held annually. Council purchased a new Rescue truck cab chassis which was fitted with a purpose built back at a cost of \$26,000, all of which was raised by the squad.

- Woodburn SES controller and squad offered a bay of the new Woodburn SES facility to the Woodburn Bushfire Brigade to house their only truck because approx. 8 members of Woodburn SES were dual members of both SES and the Bushfire Brigade.
- In 2003 Kerry Smith, executive officer of Richmond Tweed SES applied for a grant from the National Disasters Organisation to build the bottom shed to house extra equipment. A bay of this shed was offered to the RFS (previously NSW Bushfire Brigade, which changed to RFS on 1st September 1997) to house their Cat 9 Fire truck.
- There have been many attempts over the last 20 years by RFS higher up officers and some local RFS volunteer members to gain more space in our headquarters for RFS. Numerous meetings and discussions between local SES, local RFS, paid SES, paid RFS and RVC senior staff re this issue have taken place. Many plans have been made and nothing to date has come to fruition. Both organisations have grown somewhat in equipment and resources over the last 20 years and the current HQ is bulging at the seams. At no stage has the RFS put any financial support into our current HQ.
- The flood event of February 2022 resulted in approx 1.6 mtrs of water inundating the current Woodburn SES Head Quarters with the loss of 2 rescue trucks and all office equipment. On Monday 9th May 2022 Woodburn took possession of a new \$400,000 rescue truck but unfortunately are unable to put it in our headquarters as the Woodburn RFS has put an additional fire truck in the headquarters.

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