

**From:** [NSW Government](#)  
**To:** [Flood Inquiry](#)  
**Subject:** Floods Inquiry  
**Date:** Sunday, 15 May 2022 1:04:07 PM

---

## Your details

---

**Title** Mr

---

**First name** Andrew

---

**Last name** Williams

---

**Email**

---

**Postcode** 2488

---

## Submission details

---

**I am making this submission as** Other

---

**Submission type** I am submitting on behalf of my organisation

---

**Organisation making the submission (if applicable)** Cabarita Beach Bogangar Residents Association  
Flood Mitigation Sub-Committee

---

**Your position in the organisation (if applicable)** Sub-Committee Member

---

**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

We are an ongoing residents association sub-committee focused on flood mitigation, exploring factual evidence to support and assist all levels of government to recognise the severity and character of our problem. Our residents association represents 3000 concerned people in our community. This submission is focused on flood mitigation and minimisation, not resilience and recovery.

Bogangar (Cabarita Beach) is often overlooked. Our flood issues are very different to most that you will respond to in the inquiry in the Northern Rivers. We are attached to a naturally occurring lake with a man made drain/canal attached. The lake is perched above sea level with an increasing height above sea level. In the past there is evidence that this flowed to the sea via Cudgen Creek and was indeed tidal and brackish in the lake. Plants on the lake are now predominantly freshwater as it has changed.

When residents have approached Tweed Shire Council over recent years they have cited lack of money, environmental impact and multiple NSW government departments' non-interaction.

Our evidence of the impact includes:

Over 320 homes were inundated

Over 50 are unlivable

Several houses have been demolished

Over 200 cars were written off (attesting to the unprecedented flash flooding nature of this event)

Flood levels do not correlate with available rainfall data from this event compared to previous events suggesting other reasons are contributing to the scale of this flood

Two months later, water levels have still not fully receded and lake height is statistically increasing over the years

Anecdotal causes for flooding include:

increased flow from Clothiers Creek due to clearing of blockages upstream

Lake and canal silting up over recent decades  
Heavily reduced flow and capacity of Cudgen  
Creek over recent decades  
Roads and bridges restricting flood plain outflow  
near Casuarina  
Ongoing residential development increasing the  
floodplain and flow to the lake and Cudgen  
Creek

What we need is:

A study including environmental data (rather  
than assumptions) that explores the feasibility of  
various solutions

Resilience NSW using their mandate to cut  
through competing authorities to find a viable  
solution.

We need to find an ongoing solution or range of  
solutions that mitigate and minimise the impact  
of future floods and Climate Change.

---

## **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**

Flood levels do not correlate with available  
rainfall data from this event compared to  
previous events suggesting other reasons are  
contributing to the scale of this flood.  
Two months later, water levels have still not fully  
receded and lake height is statistically increasing  
over the years.  
Anecdotal causes for flooding include:  
-Increased flow from Clothiers Creek due to  
clearing of blockages upstream  
-Lake and canal silting up over recent decades  
-Heavily reduced flow and capacity of Cudgen  
Creek over recent decades  
-Roads and bridges restricting flood plain outflow  
near Casuarina  
-Ongoing residential development increasing the  
floodplain and flow to the lake and Cudgen  
Creek

---

## **1.2 Preparation and planning**

As alluded to, the flow out of Cudgen Lake has reduced significantly over the last few decades while significantly more built environments rely on this system for drainage.

Members of our committee have made submissions to council as recently as 2020 indicating that there would be future, regular flooding if measures weren't taken.

Council stated that changes to Cudgen Creek are difficult or unable to be made due to multiple agencies being involved. At this stage they have stated that engineered solutions such as a culvert to divert flood water is infeasible (though no study has been made).

Environmental impact of mitigation by dredging or clearing has not been considered using detailed environmental research and data collection.

---

## **Supporting documents or images**

---

### **Attach files**

- [Cudgen Creek 1.jpg](#)
  - [Tamarind Arial 4.jpg](#)
  - [Tamarind Arial 1 .jpg](#)
-



*Figure 6: Lake Cudgen outlet view from Lake*

## Cabarita Flooding Drone Shots ~08:00 01/03/22

Waters continued to rise through until that evening



*Figure 2: View from Tweed Coast Road end of Tamarind Ave 0800 01/03/22. Note flood levels then rose further until evening*



*Figure 5: Aerial view of lower Tamarind Ave 0800 01/03/22. Note flood levels then rose further until evening*