

From: [NSW Government](#)
To: [Flood Inquiry](#)
Subject: Floods Inquiry
Date: Thursday, 19 May 2022 10:50:24 PM



Your details

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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	We live in South Lismore in a temporarily full house. My Mum (the home owner), Sister, Partner and our two kids - 12 and 2 - and I. We prepared for possible flooding with 2017 in mind. I got up at about 2 or 3 am to have a look at what was happening. The water was maybe 30 cm above ground level and our home is raised about two and a half meters. The rain was hammering.
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I waded to open the garage door to stop it tearing off. Stuff began to float out but there was nothing to do about it.

-CUT-

Its raining so hard and I am yelling out to my neighbours to ask how they are going, but the rain is so loud we can't hear each other. Their home is not raised and they are not super mobile.

The kids are still asleep.

Wow, the water is coming so high. Im worried about my neighbours. I am scared to go over because of the flow and its dark still. Its maybe a meter deep. Its going to stop rising. Trying to phone for help but soon realise there is no one to help.

-CUT-

St...Its not going to stop rising. An inner tube has floated up. I grab it. The sun is rising. The water is colder than expected. I paddle over. They are standing with water up to their chests. Stuff is floating around their house. The dog looks like he is about to drown. One at a time I shuttle them to our house, using the inner tube, where we get them a warm bath and dry cloths. The water is still rising though and now coming into our place too. It comes in half a meter or so. We are calling SES and 000 for help but there is no help. We don't know where it will stop. Trying to save things by putting them up. There is a brown snake swimming around the house. We wait. Some neighbours turn up in a tinny. We exit through a bedroom window into the boat and go up the road to a higher house where about 30 people are. My partner and I's recently purchased home across the road which we were renovating and moving in to has water above the window sills. Some people in larger boats turn up and take us east. We have to wade across highway bridge to get to another boat. River too wild / bridge too shallow. Pretty dangerous I think. We are dropped off at higher ground and wind up at a friends house.

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

Town built in a place which turned out to be much worse than realised, in fact down right dangerous.

Maybe it was the train tracks and the new Highway. I don't know.

1.2 Preparation and planning

House raising is prohibitively expensive and now must be ridiculously high. Please raise our homes so we don't drown and the kids feel OK. Maybe land swaps and subsidised house moving could be organised, which is not a great option because we will lose our home's location, but the safety and ability to have a normal existence would win out I feel. Maybe we could move our homes. It would have to be done tastefully according to the homeowner, within reason.

1.3 Response to floods

My heart says get us out of there... Its not safe anymore.

Think about people, not just businesses.

R U OK Lismore..... not really.

1.5 Recovery from floods

So much help from civilians..... volunteers... Still helping. Every day. Average people.

Thank you volunteers.

Thank you Kourie Mail Centre and other centres... Thank you Threaded Together for giving us cloths. So many others..

Without this help we would be so stuffed... even more so than now.

One of my neighbours is granddad. He has tears in his eyes every time we speak.

This place has been hit so hard. I don't know if everyone can recover. I don't know if I can. Its no longer safe here.

Please help properly.

This is no patch-up job.

1.6 Any other matters

Feels so unfair. This is but a brutal extension of the housing crisis. We put so much blood, sweat

and tears into getting that home liveable and setting up home business. Now its gutted to the picture rails and I am exhausted.

Back Home Grant, (which we still are battling to try to access). Back Home.... HOME?

HOME! The kids are traumatised, so are we. Go back there? What if next time I am not so lucky and get opened up by under-rushing-water sheet metal and die while saving those who were yelling for help. Back Home Grant? of course I want it. I hope we can actually get it. Has anyone got it?

How worried should we be about all the asbestos containing pieces laying around the streets? Is this a hazard when it gets dry and the cars kick up dust around our kids?

Supporting documents or images
