

From: [NSW Government](#)
To: [Flood Inquiry](#)
Subject: Floods Inquiry
Date: Thursday, 19 May 2022 12:04:59 AM

Your details

Title Ms

First name Carmel

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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 Although my house is on a ridgetop and was unaffected, one of our friends drowned along with his dog. The floods have destroyed access roads to a friend's house who can no longer drive to their house and have to wade through a creek. Other friends were flooded and lost their possessions.

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

Many scientific articles have been published and many articles have appeared in our local newspapers warning that the failure of the Federal Government to act on greenhouse gas pollution of our atmosphere from the burning of fossil fuels and the logging and clear-felling of the last of our forests that absorb carbon dioxide will soon cause massive rainfall events that will devastate our communities with flooding. To make matters worse the NSW State Forestry Service has instigated the logging and clearing of the forests that cover our catchments and headwaters that once slowed the movement of rainwater down to the lowlands. Protection of these essential catchment and water storage forests have been removed by the NSW State Government both for public forests and private forests. The width of the stream-side forested corridors have now been reduced to only a few metres on either side ensuring that rainwater will run rapidly downhill and flood the lowlands. There would have been little flooding if these forests had been protected as hydrologists have reported that it takes months for the rainfall to trickle through undisturbed forests until it reaches the creeks. I have walked the tracks of our various national parks and it is easy to see that where the forests have been protected there is no sign of damage to the plants growing along the creeks, no erosion and no discolouration of the water. Once the forests have been heavily logged or cleared there is massive erosion evident along the creeks. The NSW State Government and the Federal Government are responsible for the flooding because of a lack of action on global warming and a failure to protect the forests that would have prevented the rainwater from immediately rushing downstream.

1.2 Preparation

There appears to be almost no preparation or

and planning

planning for the flood events that we have been expecting for some time as the Coral Sea heats up and rain events become ever more threatening as meteorologists, climatologists and oceanographers have been warning would soon occur.

1.3 Response to floods

There was no response to the floods for several days from Government and it was only untrained volunteers that were responsible for saving people's lives, donating food and emergency accommodation.

1.4 Transition from incident response to recovery

There has been no transition from incident response to recovery. Thousands of houses, shops and factories have been badly damaged or destroyed and thousands of people have been bankrupted and their lives ruined due to the NSW State Government Forestry Service logging and clear-felling of the last of the forested headwaters that once slowed the movement of rainwater down to the lowlands.

1.5 Recovery from floods

There can be no recovery from the floods as thousands of people have been bankrupted and their lives ruined due to the NSW State Government Forestry Service logging and clear-felling of the last of the forested headwaters that once slowed the movement of rainwater down to the lowlands.

1.6 Any other matters

The giant canopy trees, the dense middle strata of smaller trees, the ground cover of ferns and mosses and the combined roots of all the plants absorb all of the rainfall. Here in north-eastern NSW, we have a private power company that is transporting and burning the last of our forests for electricity generation. With the removal of the big trees that shade and create protection for the lower strata of vegetation the devastated forests dry and become a bushfire hazard. I am positive that no action will come from this inquiry as that is well known as the usual state of affairs. The politicians are only interested in their own power and wealth and have no concern for the well

being of the people. The future will be one of devastation as the floods and fires will continue to destroy our communities and our youth will continue to commit suicide in ever larger numbers as they understand that they have no future and recovery is not possible, now that we are in the great extinction event that the scientists have been warning us about.

Supporting documents or images
