

**From:** [NSW Government](#)  
**To:** [Flood Inquiry](#)  
**Subject:** Floods Inquiry  
**Date:** Thursday, 19 May 2022 5:07:14 PM



## Your details

<hr/>	
<b>Title</b>	Ms
<b>First name</b>	Cheryl
<b>Last name</b>	Kirby
<b>Email</b>	<input type="text"/>
<b>Postcode</b>	2460

## Submission details

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<b>I am making this submission as</b>	A resident in a flood-affected area
<b>Submission type</b>	I am making a personal submission
<b>Consent to make submission public</b>	I give my consent for this submission to be made public

## Share your experience or tell your story

<b>Your story</b>	<p>My property at <input type="text"/> North Street Grafton has never had water in it in the 23 years I have lived here but in February 2022 I had an estimated 30 to 40 CMS on my land. Fortunately it did not get in my house but was in my shed. Even when the river was going down after the major flood level of 7.7 metres, water was still rising in my yard. There are 2 new subdivisions at each end of</p>
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North Street now that drain into Bakers swamp causing flooding. Once the flood gates close the water can't escape. Clarence Valley Council have been asked to dredge and unblock drains as they were blocked before this event. It never happened. I lost everything in my shed and was unsure if I would have water in my house. There were no warnings or information about water inside the levee so it could be expected that if water overflowed the levee there would be little information available. I cannot get information from Council as to the height of my house in comparison to the levee. I even had to ring council to tell them the intersection at the front of my house was under water

I was told by council that the flood gates would open at 4 metres. This was incorrect information. The flood gates do not open until the river reaches 3 metres. That was very dangerous misinformation to be giving to the public who were at risk of their homes being in flood water.

There were notices that the evacuation centre in Grafton is South Grafton High School. This is on the other side of the river for those living on the north side and therefore they would be unable to reach it once water entered south Grafton. There is NO Evacuation centre for people living on the north side. This is a very very dangerous situation if there is another major flood. It needs to be addressed ASAP

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## **Terms of Reference (optional)**

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

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### **1.1 Causes and contributing factors**

Draining from new subdivisions, blocked drains and drains needing to be dredged, failed pumps, significant rain event.

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### **1.2 Preparation and planning**

There were no warnings of flood water entering my land so was unprepared and had no idea how high or how fast it would rise

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**1.6 Any other matters**

Council should be marking power poles with levee and previous flood levels in areas that are at risk of flooding especially those inside the levee.

Council staff need to be able to give residents accurate information about water heights, flood gates and flood risks for people who could potentially be in a flood probe area

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**Supporting documents or images**

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