

From: [NSW Government](#)
To: [Flood Inquiry](#)
Subject: Floods Inquiry
Date: Tuesday, 10 May 2022 9:05:34 AM



Your details

Title Ms

First name Cheryl

Last name Morton

Email

Postcode 2477

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 were first aware we were in trouble while trying to get to work at Empire Vale Public School on Friday 25th February, the road had water over it near the school and we had to turn back. After 20 years at school this had never happened before.
Within a day Wardell was completely cut off from all directions and people were being evacuated

by boats. A temporary Evacuation Centre was set up at the Wardell Recreation club, which was totally inadequate with not enough toilets, no showers and way to many people accommodated, many of whom were elderly or disabled.

We took 21 people into our home for a week, then 15 stayed for another week. During the first week we had no access to food and had to live on what we had in the house. We had makeshift beds everywhere, 7 dogs & limited room but it was better than the evacuation centre.

Every day we would watch the water go higher & wondered too if we would be flooded. It was deeply traumatizing to us, the people staying with us and the general community.

The 2nd flood a month later saw our garage flooded, the ground was so saturated, that water had no where to do.

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	Too much rain & no where for it to go. poor drainage in Wardell, poor drain maintenance. NO EVACUATION PLAN for Wardell at all and we live right next to the river.
1.2 Preparation and planning	Was there any?
1.3 Response to floods	Poor response from the State Government, poor response from the Federal government (Army), poor response from the local council(Ballina Shire)
1.4 Transition from incident response to recovery	A recovery hub was set up by locals with no support from anyone. This has been on going but Ballina Shire council want to shut it down and say we need to 'get back to normalcy' This is impossible. We still have families living in tents after 9 weeks. People have no money and rely on the hubs for food, cleaning supplies, mental health support, blankets, clothing etc. NONE of

the grant money from State or Federal government has come through. People are desperate.

1.5 Recovery from floods We need recovery hubs to continue until the end of 2022 with some support from councils or Resilience NSW ect

1.6 Any other matters This is the worst thing in my life I have ever gone through. Trying to remain positive for my community is so difficult when you see people's living conditions and lack of the basic human rights Australia holds so dear.

Supporting documents or images

- Attach files**
- [Main street Wardell.jpg](#)
 - [Empire Vale PS.jpg](#)
 - [River st wardell.jpg](#)
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WARDELE
ON THE RIVER HOTEL

SINCE 1881

