

**From:** [NSW Government](#)  
**To:** [Flood Inquiry](#)  
**Subject:** Floods Inquiry  
**Date:** Sunday, 8 May 2022 9:15:08 PM

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## Your details

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**Title** Mr

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**First name** Clayton

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**Last name** Dunn

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**Email**

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**Postcode** 2482

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## Submission details

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**I am making this submission as** A resident in a flood-affected area

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**Submission type** I am making a personal submission

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**Consent to make submission public** I give my consent for this submission to be made public

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## Share your experience or tell your story

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**Your story** My wife and I own a house on  near the showground in Mullumbimby. At 5am on 28/2/22 the flood waters came onto our property resulting in water entering our house 3 times in the one day. Our shed and downstairs flat had 50cm of water come through and the main part of the house had 20cm through the whole house. We lost 3 cars that were in the front yard. The

impact of the floods that week included:  
loss of mobile phone coverage;  
the whole town being completely cut off;  
power going out;  
water supply impacted;  
an almost total disruption to communications  
except for ABC Local Radio who did an  
incredible job with continuous communication  
and updates.  
We had incredible help from friends who lived a  
block from our house and took myself, my wife, 2  
teenage daughters (aged                      and our  
dog in to their home for 2 weeks.  
The community was incredible with people  
coming past our house offering all manner of  
support.

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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**

There are concerns we are aware of about the following:  
The impact of Tallowood Estate in Mullumbimby on the runoff into the river which could then cause higher levels of flooding in the rest of the town;  
Whether the maintenance on the drainage systems in the town is at a level that allows for maximum drainage in big flood events where there is also a high tide;  
Whether the storm water system is big enough to service the town.

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### **1.2 Preparation and planning**

The lack of communication is a big issue as there was mobile phone coverage and no power at times. Satellite phones would be a great help and allow for timely communication in a major disaster.  
There was poor preparation for an evacuation center in the town given that the town was cut off on all sides by road.

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### **1.3 Response to**

In 2017 my family had warning at 5am from the

**floods**

SES truck going past in the flood waters. This allowed us time to rescue items in that flood. There was no official warning and we did not see the SES until later in the day. An early warning system is needed in the town.

The recovery centre in Mullum was a great resource. The matching of help to those in need was amazing. We asked for help to move all of our remaining household items to new accommodation and there were 2 guys who came and helped with their ute for 3 hours.

There were many people coming to town who wanted to help and the recovery centre played a role in coordinating these extra resources.

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**1.4 Transition from incident response to recovery**

the army came and did support us which was much appreciated. By the time they did come we had already received the bulk of the help we needed from family and friends.

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**1.5 Recovery from floods**

An increase in resources to deal with depression and anxiety, PTSD and increased suicidality is needed over the next year to 2 years if not longer.

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**Supporting documents or images**

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