

**From:** [NSW Government](#)  
**To:** [Flood Inquiry](#)  
**Subject:** Floods Inquiry  
**Date:** Friday, 24 June 2022 3:06:47 PM

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## Your details

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**Title** Ms

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**First name** Susan

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**Last name** Howland

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**Email**

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**Postcode** 2463

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## Submission details

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**I am making this submission as** Other

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**Submission type** I am submitting on behalf of my organisation

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**Organisation making the submission (if applicable)** Country Women's Association Maclean Branch

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**Your position in the organisation (if applicable)** Secretary

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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

Country Women's Association Maclean Branch  
Response to the NSW March 2022 Flood  
Inquiry.

The Maclean Branch of the Country Women's Association opened its doors on Friday 4 March 2022 whilst the Maclean township was still flooding and cut off from the outside world as well as threatened with a possible levee bank collapse.

The CWA Rooms acted immediately as a community hub to receive donations and distribute needed goods during the flood and for the following couple of weeks, including opening over the first 2 weekends,

Members of Maclean CWA who lived within the township rallied around and gathered or purchased cleaning products, mops, brooms and other necessary items to help the locals clean up their homes. Donations of cleaning materials, supermarket gift vouchers, food, clothes and other items were received and distributed to those in need.

The CWA hub also provided a welcome cuppa and chat for locals and stranded travellers as well as giving out goods, food vouchers and trying to source other requested items.

However, as time went on, it was clear that other areas, such as Woodburn and Coraki were in dire straits and Maclean CWA members decided to re-direct their efforts to helping these communities with requested items, such as washing machines, cleaning supplies, fold up tables, toys, bedding and warm clothes. During the following weeks, CWA members packed up their own vehicles several times with donated goods and travelled to these communities over roads that were severely flood affected to deliver the much-needed goods. This was before the army arrived in these villages.

Our Facebook page was the principal method of communication and responded to requests within a few hours. Maclean CWA collaborated with other community organisations, such as Mend

and Make Do, based in South Grafton and local businesses. People who donated to the CWA said that they trusted us to get the money or goods out quickly to those in need. We have proved this by distributing all the donated money and goods to those in need. Our members also listened carefully to those people who contacted us and tried to the best of our ability to get what was most needed at the time; sometimes it was just a listening ear.

Our members recommend that local community groups and individuals be acknowledged for the role they play in the vital hours and days during and after a disaster and are included in any disaster recovery planning.

24 June 2022

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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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#### **1.4 Transition from incident response to recovery**

See background to our recommendation above in our Story:  
"Our members recommend that local community groups and individuals be acknowledged for the role they play in the vital hours and days during and after a disaster and are included in any disaster recovery planning"

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### **Supporting documents or images**

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