

From: [NSW Government](#)
To: [Flood Inquiry](#)
Subject: Floods Inquiry
Date: Thursday, 23 June 2022 10:33:46 PM

Your details

Title Ms

First name Debrah

Last name Novak

Email

Postcode 2464

Submission details

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

Submission type I am making a personal submission

Your position in the organisation (if applicable) Elected Councillor

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 I am an elected Councillor for Clarence Valley Council.
The Clarence Valley is the major food bowl of the Northern Rivers.

While the Clarence Valley may have missed the full brunt of the weather system that hit the Richmond River in March we did experience major flooding in our lower river.

For some this was the highest recorded rainfall and flooding in their area.

The new M1 created unexpected impacts.

For many of our farmers on the flood plains and fisherman it has had a devastating impacts and will take years to recover.

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	Continued denial of three tiers of government that our region floods biannually and after 175 years of colonisation we still don't have a flood or fire plan that works.
1.2 Preparation and planning	Poor planning and preparation by the State Government, SES hierarchy and Resilience NSW. Vaccine mandates on volunteers drastically reduced support putting lives at risk. Local Emergency Management Planning Committee does not have community, accessibility or industry sitting at the table to assist in making informed decisions. Lake of community education and lulling our community into a false sense of safety.
1.3 Response to floods	Slow and unacceptable triaging of incidents from call centres external to the region. Not responding to emergencies. Lack of awareness for the needs of people with a disability across all agencies tasked with rescuing.
1.4 Transition from incident response to recovery	External agencies being parachuted into impact zones is too slow. Locals should have capacity to support each other with a skilled community ready to step up.
1.5 Recovery from	Red tape has tied everyone up and made them

floods

ineffective agencies.

Uncoordinated response continues to impact and traumatise members of our community.

1.6 Any other matters

The March 2022 Northern Rivers floods were an apocalyptic event that resulted in a humanitarian disaster for our region.

What this natural disaster showed us was the complete incompetence of all tiers of government but in particular the failure of the systems put in place by the state and federal governments who are tasked to have our backs during a natural disaster.

We have no official record of the number of people who are missing and who have passed.

The great thing to come out of this disaster is knowing the strength of community to lead, act and step up.

Supporting documents or images
