

**From:** [NSW Government](#)  
**To:** [Flood Inquiry](#)  
**Subject:** Floods Inquiry  
**Date:** Friday, 22 July 2022 5:47:07 PM

<b>Title</b>	Mrs
<b>First name</b>	Dianne
<b>Last name</b>	Sykes
<b>Email</b>	
<b>Postcode</b>	2472
<b>I am making this submission as</b>	A primary producer
<b>Submission type</b>	I am making a personal submission
<b>Organisation making the submission (if applicable)</b>	Sykes Farm
<b>Your position in the organisation (if applicable)</b>	Partners
<b>Consent to make submission public</b>	I give my consent for this submission to be made public
<b>Your story</b>	<p>We knew the flood was coming so my husband John and our son Arron and Grandson James helped John start to bring machinery up onto our house mound which is half a meter higher than the one in one hundred flood height for 2 days in the teaming rain. A massive lightning strike had hit the back tyre of our front end loader blowing it to pieces which made moving things from the sheds half way down the farm very heavy work</p>

indeed. A neighbour rang at 4am on the 28th February saying this was going to be a bad one so we better tell my sister who has a relocatable house down near the farm sheds 2 meters above the ground to prepare to evacuate and our tenant in the cabin which is one in twenty year flood height as well. They had both brought their cars up onto our mound and so did the neighbours the day before believing the water would not come into our house as in 15 years it had never gone into the cabin and our house mound was considered a safe height.

We rang them and explained the situation the water was rising fast so John went down to my sister Carole in the tractor and got as much as they could by his second trip down the water was half way up the tractor tyres. The water was not going into the cabin but Judy did have to wade through water to get up to the house, she made several trips trying to get as many of her treasures as she could. I had filled the freezers and baked ready for the flood believing we would maybe be isolated for a few days. Filled water bottles and prepared as best I could.

The water continued to rise by 10 pm it was under the cars and every piece of machinery we owned. I asked John to tie my fairy chair to the front pillar and as he did so a large gas bottle floated past, he grabbed it and lopped the extension lead through it as well. The only one of the six on the farm to be saved. By 11pm it began to come into our house we rang the SES to be told no rescues during the night. It was rising 10 ml every 10 minutes by 6am as day broke it was up to my waist we rang the SES again to be told at least 700 other homes needed to be rescued.

We rang our neighbour Alyn [redacted] who has boats and he said he would come and get us as the water was rising even faster, between 6am and 6.45 to was up to my shoulders.

John was outside standing on the bonnet of the tractor hoping he might be able to wave down a boat if one came by.

Alyn pulled up with a small boat in tow at the pool fence. I had bought the grandchildren a water slide for xmas and I dragged it over to the pool fence. John helped Judy climb the ladder of the water slide and get into the boat. Then it was my turn I climbed up stood on the pool fence and John and Carole helped me in then Carole got in.

As we settled in Alyn's boat a man and his son in a larger boat came in and it was decided that the ladies would go with him so we transferred to the bigger boat. My husband and grandson James 5 cats in 3 cages and 3 dogs went with Alyn and his partner.

We were all taken to the Woodburn school Carole, Judy and I arrived first and were let out on the side of the bank so we climbed up the bank yelling out to get people inside the school to take down the security fence to let us and dozens of other flood victims that were being dropped off enter enter as all the lower gates were by this stage under water.

The boys arrived with the animals about an hour later.

The water continued to rise another meter after we were rescued.

The school had no power but they could give us bottled water and a snack.

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

We have lived here for 15 years and have seen many floods, but nothing like this. I believe there would have been a flood because of the massive down pours however this time the water was not getting away. I fear that the highway has stopped a lot of the water from spreading out onto the flood plane and has therefore backed up to the devastating heights that it did.

Previously the water got away in a reasonable amount of time but over the time that the highway has been under construction the water has taken longer and longer to get away. This time the water was over the roads for about 10 days before we could even go to see the extent of the damage to our property. I'd seen floods on

the news for Lismore but nothing prepared me for the actual devastation and loss.

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**Attach files**

- [IMG\\_5053.JPG](#)
  - [IMG\\_0474.JPG](#)
  - [IMG\\_9496.JPG](#)
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