

From: [NSW Government](#)
To: [Flood Inquiry](#)
Subject: Floods Inquiry
Date: Tuesday, 28 June 2022 4:12:13 PM

Your details

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Submission details

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

Terms of Reference (optional)

The Inquiry welcomes submissions that address the particular matters identified in its [Terms of Reference](#)

1.6 Any other matters	I am enquiring as to what the Govt is going to do to stop further flooding events taking peoples lives, & wrecking their homes. I am a Returned Serviceman, a TPI, and now a flood victim living on the Richmond River at West Ballina. My home was inundated with several feet of water.
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Whilst I don't blame the Govt for what happened, I am more than interested in what steps you are taking to mitigate the chances of it ever happening again. In the past various Govt Departments have allowed Lismore to be built up to the extent that it is now a city, knowing full well that it is on a major flood plain, which is now ensconced with all sorts of buildings, tar & cement, completely eliminating the natural flood plain, which sits virtually at Sea level, on which Lismore is built. Lismore has even built a wall to direct floodwater down river, rather than being dispersed on the natural floodplain. This of course negatively impacts all the towns, homes & farms downriver from Lismore. To make matters worse the Govt have built a new expressway on top of a virtual level bank right across another natural flood plain. The water having nowhere to run inundated the towns & people living along the rivers proximity.

Another major contributor was that the Richmond River hasn't been dredged for over 40 years along with Lismore's Wilson River, both of which have silted up with debris & mud for all this time, severely limiting their capacity to cope with flooding waters. A clear example can be seen at Ballina where the build up of silt & sand from Ballina to Wardell is clearly noticeable, along with Ballina's North Creek where it is nearly possible to now walk across at low tide. No decent size vessel can navigate it.

We can't undo all the mistakes but we can take steps to prevent these disasters from happening again. I believe building a dam is the the only responsible course of action, & if Lismore has to be reclaimed so be it. People can't afford insurance & the town cannot survive in its present state or location & towns & people living along this waterway can't go on dying, or having their lives ruined.

The Govt must take positive steps to ensure this disaster never happens again.

Supporting documents or images
