

**From:** [NSW Government](#)  
**To:** [Flood Inquiry](#)  
**Subject:** Floods Inquiry  
**Date:** Thursday, 19 May 2022 10:12:04 AM

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## Your details

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**Title** Mr

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**First name** Hagai

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**Last name** Hadad

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**Email**

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**Postcode** 2483

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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** On the morning of February 28th, our house was flooded.  
That morning I was scheduled to fly to Canberra for my work.  
It started with sewage coming from bathrooms drains around 6:30 in the morning.  
I helped my wife clean it for the first half hour, then we woke up the older kids to help as well.

We thought that was just that since we had sewage coming from drains in the 4 years we live in this house multiple times (when it rains heavily).

We now know that sewage isn't suppose to do that. It was simply bad maintenance of council. Around 7:30 water started coming into the house throughout the windows and doors.

Around 8:00, we were ankle deep.

By the time I evacuated (I was the last to evacuate), water rose up to 15cm in the house. Our house is raised pretty high, so water max level in the house reached to 35cm throughout the entire house (single story, flat concrete slab house).

I remember I had to swim a short distance outside since the road was under a meter and a half of water. I remember the dog and my older son swimming next to me.

We went back to the house that day around 18:00. I remember standing in a pool of water at my living room, talking even smiling but inside I was frozen shut. I couldn't grasp this.

In the next day, we started the recovery process. By the end of the third day, we had thrown most of our content outside (2 huge piles of what used to be parts of our lives).

We went back to live in the house on Thursday eve (March 3rd). It turns out it was not a wise decision. My younger son developed a cough which he couldn't control.

I took out the skirting the next week after I noticed black water coming from the walls in several points.

The builders came into our home a week after and took down the gyprock and cement boards in most of the house up to 40cm. It turns out, they should have cut it to 120cm (no one could have know that at that time, but the gyprock was full of mould).

Later on we found out that some of the boards they cut (and later on the restoration team also cut) contained asbestos.

Which means that not only people were exposed

to asbestos, we also lived it cut asbestos for a about 2 weeks.

Our house is in the process of restoration and if all goes well, we will have it back in a few months. So I consider myself lucky.

I went to help my neighbors, some of them were hit much worse then we did. I remember helping in a house full of mud where the water mark was higher then me.

I know now that our house was not supposed to get flooded. Not in this level of storm anyway. Our section is not connected to the river, but to a lake close by ("Waterlily" park in Ocean Shores). Had the drainage system been maintained properly (again - we had sewage coming from the drains for 4 years and council kept ignoring our claim times and again), would have been spared, and others would not have been flooded to the extent they were.

This is my story. I still have flashbacks. I still sleep in the tent on my front lawn because all my equipment is stored outside under tarps.

I am getting help, both financially (government assistance and insurance) and mentally (to cope with the flashbacks).

All in all, I still consider myself blessed to have been flooded just up to 35cm and not worse.

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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**

Clogged drainage system and a council which treats poorly the entire region of north Byron Shire.

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### **1.2 Preparation and planning**

I'm not a flood specialist or a hydrologist, but those who are explained that having a working drainage system will mitigate flood levels to a reasonable level in our impacted area (I've been to several community meetings where flood experts presented an analysis and also talked about solutions).

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## **1.6 Any other matters**

On the first few days, the council published that everyone who was impacted can just throw his waste outside and it will be collected.

The ADF came once to pick up the waste (and I thank them from the bottom of my heart), but after that we were asked to throw in a designated skip bins (placed far away from the impacted areas) and then not even that. We had to clear everything to the recycle center (the skip bins were abused by those who were not impacted, so the council just shut it down).

My wife suggested to implement some sort of an emergency identification system where in times of crisis, a dedicated personal will go through the houses and simply mark those impacted (and maybe provide them with some sort of card or something which marks them as disaster impacted). Those impacted will be able to obtain services from different services (local and state government) using that authentication system.

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## **Supporting documents or images**

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### **Attach files**

- [IMG-20220228-WA0032.jpg](#)
  - [IMG-20220228-WA0034.jpg](#)
  - [IMG\\_20220303\\_110455\\_MP.jpg](#)
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