

From: [NSW Government](#)
To: [Flood Inquiry](#)
Subject: Floods Inquiry
Date: Saturday, 21 May 2022 10:41:54 AM

Your details

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Submission details

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

Your story	<p>Not only am I a resident of a flood affected area, I am a primary producer, and partners in a publishing business which lost stock. My wife and I live at the junction of Terania Ck and Rocky Creek in the village of The Channon - about 20km north of Lismore. Our house and land have not flooded in living memory though our lower creek paddock floods regularly.</p>
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We were unprepared for the flood which covered our whole property at the end of February. We moved a few items higher but by the time we realised the water was coming close to the house we were more concerned with saving our cattle. It was about midnight as I set up an electric fence along the roadside and called the cattle out through belly-deep water to higher ground.

For the remainder of the night we sat in the car on the road.

By day-light the water had receded enough to return to our home to find the water had been about 1 m deep in our house. We lost many reference books and, of course, the carpets and all cupboards in kitchen, bedrooms and bathrooms as they were made with particle-board which dissolved on contact with the water. After about an hour of starting the clean-up, we realised the water was returning in a second wave of flooding. Again we left. On our return we found this time the water was slightly lower at about 50 cm.

This time we checked what had happened in our shed and found the 100 or so boxes of our books which we had lifted off pallets and onto the table tennis table were ruined and now unsaleable.

Sales of the books we have written and published, 'Australian Rainforest Plants' Vols. 1 to 6, provide a significant part of our income.

Loss of these books is a serious blow to our future income as these printings should have provided stock for several years sales.

Back in the house, I realised my library of photographic transparencies (slides) had been impacted, with the lower drawers of three filing cabinets inundated. At the time clearing muddy carpet and rescuing things from disintegrating cupboards seemed more pressing so I left the slides for later. I did not realise the moisture would dissolve the emulsion. By the time I got back to attend to drying my slides I found about 10,000 of them were blank with all the colour drained into rainbow pools in the bottom of each

pocket of the slide files. These were photographs taken over decades from all over Australia and are irreplaceable. This is a devastating loss as it destroyed the potential to illustrate any further volumes in our book series, as well as robbing me of income from sale of slides to institutions and organisations which seek my input to illustrate books, signs and scientific papers. So, we lost no livestock but the flood has had a serious impact on our livelihood and future income from our publishing business.

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

Lack of maintenance of river height gauges and rainfall gauges by the authorities is reprehensible. Similarly, saving costs by centralising the warning network loses the input from local people to local people who know the area and historical conditions. This is short-sighted.

1.6 Any other matters

The science indicates that with global warming we must expect the weather to become more extreme. The heat waves will be longer and hotter, while rain events will be more violent. What we are seeing is not a freak 1-in-100 year event. This latest flood in Lismore is climate change in action. It is happening and governments at all levels should be held responsible for failing to heed the warnings.

Supporting documents or images
