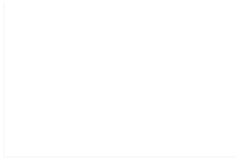


From: [NSW Government](#)
To: [Flood Inquiry](#)
Subject: Floods Inquiry
Date: Tuesday, 26 April 2022 9:58:38 PM



Your details

Title	Ms
First name	Jane
Last name	Laidlaw
Email	
Postcode	2480

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	I bought my house in 2013 in an area of lismore that doesn't flood much. Girards Hill. It is 13.88m above sea level. Over 1.5 metres above the highest flood ever recorded. My youngest daughter K & partner D with 3 month old baby bought next door. Their home is 12.3 metres above sea level. Worst flood would give them wet feet. My eldest daughter A was moving from
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Melbourne with her partner H and 12 month old baby on January 10 2022. Tenant moved out so they could move in. I had my stuff in the studio at ground level and was starting to move in too after a bout of cancer.

27th we knew it was going to be another 2017. It had come up our street to bottom step. By early morning on 28th it was clear this was bigger. I was at my partners home around the corner. Went to sleep at 3am after telling them to prepare for wet feet.

6am my daughter A rings me. 'Mum it's in your house!' The Flood! She told me they were all in my house. K&D and Bub had come up when they saw it was at their top step.

I raced around there. They were trapped.

The water was still rising. I was pacing at the edge looking for a boat. Nothing. Far away a Police Rescue who after half an hour was no closer. I spied my grandbabys paddling pool. Pulled it out, but realised the babies were too young. Not solid enough. Then I saw a blue half clam shell sandpit in the water. I waded in and dragged it out, emptied the sand. A guy came up to me and said I heard your family are trapped. I said they were. There's two babies. He said 'there's no boats coming.' Started swimming to tell them all to get out. I called him back, gave him the clam shell. 'Put the babies in that'. My friend turned up with her car just as the babies arrived in the clam shell floating on putrid water with their dads swimming the clam shell to safety. I grabbed the babies and put them in friends car and took them home.

The dads returned with the clam shell and put the cats in it. Then the mums swam out.

The dads then took the clam shell & the paddling pool and saved neighbour & 4 yr old, then carried it to another street and saved more people including a woman in a wheelchair. They had no tinny. They were swimming in cold putrid water.

Both houses wrecked. My daughter had a great insurance policy with AAMI

I was with NrMA and had no flood cover. Too expensive.

As I write this I have heart palpitations. The stress and trauma live on.

Thank you

Jane Laidlaw

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	Climate change Months of rain and storm cell overhead that didn't budge Bad drainage - we flooded from drains backing up I think Not enough pumps.
1.2 Preparation and planning	Everything was put up high in the highest house. Most things were lost. Fridge tipped over.
1.3 Response to floods	I thought I was living in a 3rd world country the response was that slow and bad. Federal response outrageous. We needed boats and helicopters and army within hours. It took 5 days. Lucky community saved each other. We will never forget
1.4 Transition from incident response to recovery	Recovery response slow, badly communicated, badly managed. State did better than federal but neither were great. We will be cold and many will be homeless this winter. Families, the elderly. People will die. We need houses. We need trades to quickly fix our homes. Not bloody lengthy grants processes asking for ID most lost in floods
1.5 Recovery from floods	My 2 daughters & families now living in one rental because my son in law has good social capital here. They are lucky. My house is being repaired using my super. As a woman it will cost me about 1/10th of my super to repair the house. The studio could house someone or me but I can't afford to do it. Help us with housing!!! The Army took away the contents of our homes

using a bulldozer. They wrecked our verge making it more likely flash flooding will get into our yards. The council refusing to fix it. Where are our leaders??

1.6 Any other matters

We needed leadership - there was none
We needed on the ground rescue services for the whole town - we had 2 SES boats
We need to plan for the future. Move the houses higher. It won't happen. My life savings are in my house. I still have a mortgage. My super is now in the house.
How do we recover?

Supporting documents or images

Attach files

- [556FAD5E-E8D5-4F15-91E3-50D1B9B7E29F.jpeg](#)
 - [2A590215-9296-4D5F-A68A-7FEC3D500D08.jpeg](#)
 - [20132B9F-E18A-415E-9C40-1A4697366DF2.jpeg](#)
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