

From: [NSW Government](#)
To: [Flood Inquiry](#)
Subject: Floods Inquiry
Date: Friday, 17 June 2022 11:30:12 AM

Your details

Title Mrs

First name Jennifer

Last name Hunt

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

Organisation making the submission (if applicable) Casbah Design

Your position in the organisation (if applicable) Partner

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

Thankyou for being at the Mullumbimby Flood inquiry submission meeting. Though there was not time for everyone to speak, nor was it possible for all those affected to attend, great problems with the roads for many surrounding communities, it was clear the failings ,which are repeated throughout.

My submission is about the response to infrastructure repair failure. It is notable that with regards to the landslip to Federal village, that slices the rural community from its centre, the village ,is causing isolation.This affects mental well being as it makes seeing family and friends difficult. The landslip affects the economy of the area (impact to village & surrounding businesses) & causes accidents, due to conditions down lengthy detours on unsealed roads & across flooded creeks, with personal harm and damage to cars.

The council say they will decide how the landslide, blocking access to the village, will be fixed by mid July, 5 months after the landslide. They do not say when the work decided on will begin or be finished. As you know there are landslides affecting Main Arm and surrounding areas too. Is it not possible for it to be assessed as too much for the local council, who vocalise this is the case, and have urgent State or Federal Government help for finance, technical expertise and on the ground construction so our roads get fixed as quickly as those affected with similar, in the areas outside of Sydney? We would also like better information as to what is happening as all are concerned and there is little information via council . One tries council and they say they will get the relevant department to call or e mail, they never do. To start they provided news letters, but even then the landslide was rarely mentioned. Rural communities have notice boards and facebook pages could info. be provided via these as hope is a valuable and info. allows us to plan. It is depressing to be stuck in a void.

If it had not been for the anonymous work(as the

council did not want this on the ground initiative, as with all private rescue, due , we believe, to insurance) of locals keeping flooded potholed side roads, barely passable, with long diversions, we would have been helpless for the 3 months it took for council to do work on the damaged creek crossings of the circuitous unsealed back lanes. We remain until the landslide on the road is fixed isolated from our community and work. As an observation, we are older Australians and throughout our lives we have seen reprehensible changes in the way insurance works. In the past one insured to cover a job that one does within what was needed, now insurance companies change the job, to what they will to cover. So an emergency worker/volunteer finds it impossible to respond to the situation, has to act as private individuals, without the very resources the services are meant to be able to access. Quite apart from the organisational problems within the services and the segmented nature of them. This is not restricted, it applies in many settings. There are legal departments in hospitals who say what can and cannot go on a medical record if mistakes happen, affecting treatment & outcomes. As I am sure you are aware most walks of life are now affected, in the past what does and does not happen was not so driven by insurance company profit motives. Could essential services such as emergency, health, education, government be covered by a separate scheme that was funded through a public purse allowing an ethical outcome rather than a profit bottom line. Surely we are better than what happens now?

We have not lost everything as many others. We know by listening to all you will have formed a picture of the failings and hope that there will be a better way forward. Our council as I am sure you will have picked up from the meeting is no longer held in high esteem and failures could be due to administrative structure, culture, interest/ambition, finance, circumstances etc. or more probably a combination of all. It is when things

are bad we see clearly the weaknesses, which at other times are camouflaged. This disaster is terrible, but can we see clearly what is needed and change things?

I sincerely hope your inquiry does this.

Thankyou.

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

Failure of Infra Structure repair

1.2 Preparation and planning

Funding & a specialised team in place

1.6 Any other matters

Would you like a picture of the Federal Villager Landslide? I can walk up to it and take one, but it is a bit scary and the council have better Drone pictures showing what has happened.

Supporting documents or images
