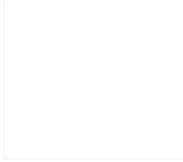


From: [NSW Government](#)
To: [Flood Inquiry](#)
Subject: Floods Inquiry
Date: Thursday, 19 May 2022 6:54:16 PM



Your details

Title Ms

First name Jillian

Last name Spring

Email

Postcode 2483

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 Dear Committee,
I support the submission by the NORTH BYRON ACTIVATION GROUP
My Ongoing Flood Prevention Submissions/Actions Over Many years.
I am very thankful that we are having this opportunity to present our ongoing unnecessary flooding situations to the NSW Government.

The floods/heavy rain washes Billinudgel Road away, gravel all over at the corner junction – pipes needed desperately under The Pocket Road so the massive water coming down Billinudgel Road can drain onto the land well below The Pocket Road and into Marshalls Creek which is a festering problem as is the whole river system – massive blockages, silting, privet trees/tobacco trees, vines, 3mtr high setaria blocking vision at the bridge junction and ignored by council except for a few good clearing by slashing but the creek ? – no, a now dirty, mucky, debris taking over – all the way to New Brighton – the same – now a mucky, dirty, silted – smaller river (because of mangrove encroaching – yes, encroaching , even in a drain where one was being removed but then was not allowed!! (is it still there?!))

We swam in the creek here at the junction/the people in the tick house, collected water from that creek for bathing & washing clothes in dry times! There is water in it now of course but that is only because of the constant rain we have been having!

The pipes under Brunswick Valley Way and Highway to Balemo Drive are too small, the drain to Balemo Drive was putrid with a dead eel in it in my photos! The safety fences under the bridges & at Balemo Drive are rubbish catchers and are damaged – for years, really badly now I saw a few days ago with these 2022 floods.

Drains in, around Billindugel are a disgrace – as are all creeks in our surrounds (including at Crabbes Creek 5 mins by car north) are full of massive reeds, weeds, fern trees, etc etc, (IN Mullumbimby too in the creek that runs past the baths, Everitts Creek just near the Mullumbimby turn-off, totally blocked!!

The South Arm of the Brunswick River, is a lost river, silted extremely! – nothing like it used to be, even at low tide, a lovely clean & good depth for swimming! Now? – a guncky, dirty, massively silted river!!

I have photos of all these issues I speak of –

starting with the Tweed/Byron Flood Study 2014 (no photos in that though), then statements from Council later Flood Studies, stating: rock walls (eg) – Readings Bay – a bay of sand, except at high tide, across the waterway- joins to the main east/west rock wall, blocked drains they stated also – all constrain water-flow! The evidence is in their own Flood Studies!

Also, Cyclone Daisy 1972, we lived in Cason's Lane, 1" from being flooded – looking out the kitchen window, saw the floodwaters rushing NORTH! What's happened? A while before we could walk out to see; followed the crowd! What we saw!! MASSIVE RAPIDS ROARING OUT TO SEA – FOR A VERY LONG TIME. We just almost could not believe our eyes!

When this 2022 flood was becoming very dangerous, I emailed Byron Councillors and the General Manager to open the beach as happened in 1972, just a stop-gap measure to meet the current crisis but no, nothing. Oh, also the Flood Engineer, The Mayor & Deputy Mayor I missed sending in time as they had new email addresses plus my computer was not working too well! So I did send but too late for the beach to be opened to let the massive forming floodwaters out!

I also saw on tv news, The Shoalhaven river entrance was opened – to many people's advantage! The council did not want to open the river but IT WAS OPENED & IF IT HAD BEEN OPENED EARLIER, LESS FLOODING WOULD HAVE HAPPENED WAS SAID!

Massive amounts of money is spent on numerous computer 'models' / scenarios / etc and these take precedence over historical knowledge by earlier generations &?or historical maps showing earlier creeks/waterways (some of these only after much rain) that have been blocked for a lot of years. These historical situations need to be taken into account and not only the 'modern senario' computer 'models' that have been 'found wanting', not fitting the actual practical – 'what the eye can see' or actual

experience of past generations.

I will leave this part now as I think I have explained a fair amount for understanding the frustration that has been festering in everyday life for a very long time, ignoring the very easily seen siltation and tropical vegetation growth in our creeks, The Draintree has nothing on that tropical growth in the creek near the Mullumbimby baths!

I started my 'flood campaign' many many years ago, as being cut off just beyond the Marshalls Creek bridge junction of The Pocket/Billinudgel Road (originally – The Stock Route – the first highway to Murwillumbah in the early days and with the tick gates at the start of The Stock Route),

I was unable to drive out for days so wrote to council re this flooding; because as not able to drive out 'the back way' (The Stock Route) as everyone called it – as with the continuing population growth, more and more people living there and at The Pocket etc, a lot of cars began driving that way - on that narrow road and slippery clay in so many spots and once the upper valley crossings cleared, a lot of cars drove 'the back way'.

To my amazement, council were not interested. I also had noticed, the river (Marshalls Creek but really on my map- North Arm of the Brunswick) as after flowing down from Billinudgel it was not a 'little creek'; well before and at New Brighton onto Brunswick Heads main river – was a lovely, big, deep, free-flowing RIVER but how it was silting so much and this was continuing, plus mangroves were growing more and more into the river.

Hence I started photographing from Billinudgel to Brunswick Heads – these of which I Submitted to Byron Shire Council's Flood Studies.

I conclude with a thank you very much for this Flood Investigation – long overdue.

Lismore river, the Macleay, all silted – large ships docked at Kempsey (where we lived until 1968, firstly to Nimbin, then Dunoon, then to

North Lismore – in a lovely old home – later to New Brighton/2 homes, then to Billinudgel, The Pocket Road & finally, we bought blocks connected to that farm, and built/moved in to our home November 1976),
Lismore, Wilsons River - ships docked there also but not as large as at the Macleay River at Kempsey.

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

I have covered these in my letter but of course there is more.

1.2 Preparation and planning

Early preparation and planning needs to be done - definitely. Especially for new residents to learn from the past residents and river history.

1.3 Response to floods

Prevention is the key, not just prepare at the last minute. This means, drain control, debris blocking, what 'the eye can see' but this practical situation has been ignored.

1972, we lived in Casons Lane - 1n inch to go before floodwaters came in, suddenly looking north in our back yard, the floodwater was rushing - yes, rushing north! A long time before we could walk out, so then followed the crowd and to see an unbelievable sight! Roaring massively high rapids roaring out to sea; this went on for a very long time. This was cyclone Daisy 1972. This saved many people's homes that day! I emailed Councillors and the General Manager of Byron Shire to open the beach so the same could happen in these 2022 floods before the worst happened. The Mayor & Deputy Mayor had new emails so I was too late to reach them in time.

1.4 Transition from incident response to recovery

2005 was an horrendous flood too, with people renting holiday homes, week here, 2 months there, this continued for months and staying with family. All in all a very emotional time.

1.5 Recovery from floods Prevention is the main activity needed.

1.6 Any other matters I had 2 PDF papers to send but I'm afraid, not IT competent enough - so far, then .. in the trying - lost the lot. So have had to do this again but very much less information.
The process needs to be an easier way for more people to be able to present their whole document/s. Very disheartening.

Supporting documents or images
