

**From:** [NSW Government](#)  
**To:** [Flood Inquiry](#)  
**Subject:** Floods Inquiry  
**Date:** Wednesday, 18 May 2022 9:23:26 AM

## Your details

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<b>Title</b>	Dr
<b>First name</b>	John
<b>Last name</b>	Davies
<b>Email</b>	
<b>Postcode</b>	2482

## Submission details

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<b>I am making this submission as</b>	A resident in a flood-affected area
<b>Submission type</b>	I am making a personal submission
<b>Consent to make submission public</b>	I give my consent for this submission to be made public

## Share your experience or tell your story

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<b>Your story</b>	Address, Ann Street, Mullumbimby Flood waters covered the bottom front step, inundated a large shed.
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## Terms of Reference (optional)

The Inquiry welcomes submissions that address the particular matters identified in its [Terms of Reference](#)

<b>1.1 Causes and contributing factors</b>	A contributing cause must be the lack of maintenance of the above ground drainage channels (which are generally known as drains. Byron Council limits this term to below ground pipes designed for storm water runoff. From my subjective observations, it appeared that the waters slowly rose coming from the NW and then suddenly came in to the extent that there were ripples. A current started flowing to the E again with ripples. It was as though the water was finding its way round a basin.
<b>1.2 Preparation and planning</b>	Everything had been lifted about a metre high in the shed and downstairs living area.
<b>1.3 Response to floods</b>	Bewilderment and disbelief. Concern for friends.
<b>1.5 Recovery from floods</b>	About 3 days on a pressure hose to get rid of mud. Calling on friends and helping where we could. My wife volunteered her counselling skills at the local community centre. I have been restoring flood damaged photographs, being the personal memories of many affected locals.
<b>1.6 Any other matters</b>	<p>1. Appalling lack of effort on the part of local council. From their attitude displayed at a recent public meeting, they are disinterested in doing anything constructive and actually expressed an ideological issue of not interfering with nature. Surely this must be grounds for bringing in an administrator as we, the residents , will be faced with the same results again.</p> <p>2. A councillor admitted that there was no spatial information about the extent of the flooding, neither heights nor coverage. It would not have been rocket science to have some of the many aircraft flying taking just oblique photos. They need not be photogrammetric quality.</p> <p>3. Immediate attention must be given to clearing current above ground drainage systems, culverts cleared and grass removed from trenches. At least water flow would not be inhibited so back up would be minimised.</p> <p>4. For the same reasons, river/stream systems</p>

must be cleared of debris, fallen timber and possibly dredged where sediment has infilled the river beds.

5. Some attention needs to be given to older resident's memories. Oral histories maybe as significant as air photos.

6. New surface drainage systems need to be built to protect those homes that Council has provided a DA.

7. Where 'unofficial' additions have been made to a residence or land and this could contribute to flooding, such additions must be removed.

8. Flood responsibility issues must be factored into all future developments.

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### **Supporting documents or images**

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