

From: [NSW Government](#)
To: [Flood Inquiry](#)
Subject: Floods Inquiry
Date: Thursday, 19 May 2022 7:59:43 PM
Attachments: [King St Mullumbimby Flood photos.docx](#)

Your details

Title	Ms
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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	My first indication that we were to experience a flood was the SES evacuation notice that was forwarded to me from a friend. I had no other indication that we were in danger. I chose to stay as My house is highset (above the 100 year flood level) but evacuated when I saw how fast the water was rising and had looked at weather
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maps and several sites. The SES were wonderful and collected me and my dog and her 2, 8 week old puppies. We spent the flood on the second story balcony of a local resident along with 5 other families. Returned home once the waters receded to find the high water mark was 4cm below my floor. I was one of only 3 houses in my immediate neighbourhood that wasn't under water.

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

Saturated soil and high creek and river levels already and then a huge rain event in a short period of time. The Brunswick River overflows and fills the paddocks surrounding our neighbourhood and then floods the residential zone. The outlet of the river was at capacity and tide rising so nowhere for water to go. I believe that the development of Ocean Shores including filling of wetland and overflow systems is a contributing factor to increasing frequency of flooding. The Feb 28th flood was followed with a March 28th flood, much lower. The severity of these events is, I believe, increasing and will continue to do so with climate change speeding up.

1.2 Preparation and planning

The SES and local council rely on BOM for weather predictions. The predictions were clearly not even close until the event was almost underway. this gave very little time for preparation. other weather sites had predicted this event a number of days beforehand. This meant that we were given very little warning and so little time for personal preparation. Mullumbimby doesn't have a real evacuation centre, residents were directed first to council chambers and then to the RSL.

1.3 Response to

Predominately it was a community led response

floods

for the first few days as roads were cut across the Northern Rivers and movement difficult. The ADF eventually arrived and spent quite a few days settling in and didn't bring any road equipment. Council's equipment was flooded also so the first repairs were carried out by community members.

Byron Council were amazing considering how many of them were unable to get out and high numbers of staff also flooded.

1.4 Transition from incident response to recovery

We are a long way from recovery! Many are still homeless or living in gutted houses as there are no choices.

The break down of Telstra system, general telecommunication failure slowed the movement toward recovery.

1.5 Recovery from floods

Recovery will be a long time coming, schools flooded, centre of town flooded and communities are still cut off (following recent high rain events.

1.6 Any other matters

Recommend that we look closely at planning for future events, community hubs for communication and support and basic supplies stock piled. Education, resilience training. Food security when communities are not prepared for disaster.

A big issue in this area (Byron Shire) is the lack of accommodation in general, there is virtually no emergency accommodation, and people that did find some accommodation (mainly bed and breakfast places opening up to longer term rental, had to leave for the school holidays so that tourists could have their planned holidays. We need to look at the suitability of living on flood plains and the possibility of relocating with climate change, or look at how other cultures live on stilts in flood prone areas.

This was the highest recorded flood in this area and it didn't have a high or king tide. it could easily have been 70 + cm higher.

The warning systems need to be upgraded, relying on text messages for some people is not enough, sirens are used in Qld, why not NSW.

Concerns about rising insurance costs or even if it will be possible to reinsure.

Supporting documents or images

Attach files

- [King St Mullumbimby Flood photos.docx](#)
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King St Mullumbimby Flood photos



Feb 28th 7.14am, waters rising rapidly



March 2nd, debris showing water high mark