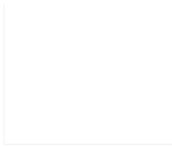


**From:** [NSW Government](#)  
**To:** [Flood Inquiry](#)  
**Subject:** Floods Inquiry  
**Date:** Saturday, 21 May 2022 9:10:06 AM



## Your details

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<b>Title</b>	Mrs
<b>First name</b>	Karen
<b>Last name</b>	Fleming
<b>Email</b>	<input type="text"/>
<b>Postcode</b>	2478

## 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>	On 28th March our neighbor ( Adrian) went to help out Lismore- returning stating it was catastrophic, and up to most peoples roofs. That night we knew we were going to get some me flooding ( maybe at worse up to about chair hight) so we moved the couch on top of chairs, the bed on some pavers, then moved some important things like horse feed, took some
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things out like food from the fridge etc.- this was out of the shed house that my parents were living in- lucky the main bedroom was 2.5 m high on the mezzanine . we moved the 4 horses closer to the house. All cars, tractors, mowers and neighbors cars were moved to our house which had recently been built on a giant mound of dirt at the 150 yr flood height. Slowly over that night the water went up and down.... Not enough to scare us, but enough to flow hard enough through the paddocks and into the shed that we knew we couldn't get over there again. Our neighbors by this time had moved to our house and we had prepared the boats. It was the next day 1/3/22 - it was now a good meter of water in our paddocks and we had now moved our 4 horses to around the house. We were spending the day transporting people by boat back and forward to Wardell- it was now into most peoples houses just. Our house became a refuge for collecting people in small boats to them be taken out in larger punts to Wardell. We collected/ treated injured elderly from their flooded homes.... But the water continues to rise.... At our gobsmacking surprise! We were VERY worried about the 4 horses, as the land was very gradually disappearing..... it was at this point me made the best decision to swim the horses 3.5km behind a jetski to the only location we knew was dryer... towards the beach. This was an EXTREMELY traumatic event for all of us, the horses at many points in the transport looked like they were going to drown, also my daughters life was put very much at risk when one of the horses freaked out and he swam away from the jetski (broke her foot in the process of trying to save him- concussed too). The horses spent the night in water up to their bellies. Then the next day Seaworld helicoptered in a team of people and a vet, so we could swim our horses another kilometer with another 22 horses from a Ranch to a dry paddock on the beach- the vet was the best thing ever, as there were so many horses in distress, needing

muscle relaxants, antibiotics, abs sedatives. Meanwhile the water increasingly got to the bottom part of the house slab, the shed went under by 1.8m, and we had every neighbour, animal / cat / dog at our place- we had water, a generator for power, we were able to house as many people who needed a hot shower and a shoulder to cry on. I never want to go through this again in my lifetime.....

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## **Terms of Reference (optional)**

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

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### **1.1 Causes and contributing factors**

- 1)Climate change
- 2) highway barrage
- 3) no communication ( mobile phone towers down)

If the community wasn't as well equipped with boats, we would have had many, many deaths.

Our house proves that a refuge location at the 200yr flood level is essential for recovery, support, and rescue..... as this WILL happen again- it's now the governments decision to help prepare the community.

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### **1.2 Preparation and planning**

We prepared as we would for a"regular flood"

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## **Supporting documents or images**

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