

From: [NSW Government](#)
To: [Flood Inquiry](#)
Subject: Floods Inquiry
Date: Thursday, 19 May 2022 7:29:07 AM

Your details

Title Miss

First name Katie

Last name Barnes

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 I admin the Brunswick heads community page on Facebook with 14,000 members. During the chaos as the SES and 000 were not answering, I did my best to coordinate rescue operations and direct rescuers to people posting their addresses who were in need in the Byron shire. I also did my best to post and pin the most up to date info for evac locations and edit as needed as roads

became inaccessible and we relied purely on Chinese whispers for where to go for help. I had my friend who was in bruns in his dinghy calling me in Burringbar for where to go for the next rescue as in bruns as he no longer had enough reception for Facebook and I needed to relay information as I still had internet. It was scary witnessing the sheer panic and trying to stay calm and respond to hundreds of desperate posts for help and information and welfare checks and seek the best info I could find from other community members notifying me of updates. I did this until the power went out and I was stuck on our property for three days without contact with anyone due to massive causeway/driveway/road damage. We relied on the few candles we had until those burned out and reserved our phones for occasionally turning on to check reception. Fortunately we had some spreads and tortillas to eat as the fridge food spoiled very rapidly due to humidity. It took days for the power to come back weeks for us to be reconnected with internet reception and roads.

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	No preparation from the state council or federal level knowing we had La Niña.
1.2 Preparation and planning	No preparation knowing we had La Niña, equipping SES and the community with other comms systems, having a cache of better vehicles/boats/fuel reserves in the event of such an emergency. Have the ADF on standby.
1.3 Response to floods	000 was overwhelmed as was SES- more training intensives for even casual or at home positions with walkie talkies etc to coordinate the community and other personnel
1.4 Transition from incident	We needed the ADF much sooner. We needed options for our displaced residents to go to. Push

**response to
recovery**

for Airbnb to mandate emergency residences over tourism. Have weather appropriate and land appropriate pods ahead of time. Address the housing issue so we have room for flood refugees.

**1.5 Recovery from
floods**

Address the housing and roads issues. The rest of Australia and the government has forgotten about us. I know families still without access over two months later, or rejected for assistance, or living in tents in their destroyed homes as there are no housing options. Help us please.

**1.6 Any other
matters**

Housing!!!!

Supporting documents or images
