

From: [NSW Government](#)
To: [Flood Inquiry](#)
Subject: Floods Inquiry
Date: Thursday, 5 May 2022 9:34:46 AM

Your details

Title Mrs

First name Katie

Last name Davis

Email

Postcode 2480

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

We purchased our house in late October 2021 as elated new residents of Lismore we had no previous flood experience though felt confident as the home we purchase was above the 1 in 100 year flood even though our house is in Casino street South Lismore. Leading up to the day of the flood the warnings that had been broadcast were suggesting minor to moderate

floods though well below our floor height. We prepared accordingly; batteries, power banks for electronics and stocked up on food. We spoke to our neighbours who were all remaining in their homes and really piggybacked off their confidence that all was well.; With over 25 years of living there coupled with the minor/moderate flood warnings all would be well.

That evening we took the kids to the movies in town ate dinner and monitored the situation. At 9ish we had a knock on the door from our local SES asking if there was an evacuation order would we follow the order etc. We let them know that we had 3 young kids and would follow any order given and asked if they felt we should leave? the response from the SES personel was that we would be fine!

Around 10:30 there was a bit of water beginning to pool in the back yard and underneath the house so following neighbours suggestions we moved any belongings from under the house up onto the balcony.

At around 12-12:30 I checked outside before going to bed and the water was around ankle deep in the yard, our house floor height is around 12 meters so I wasn't too worried.

I was awoken by a loud band and the feeling of the house shuddering, I checked my phone and it was not long after 3 I got up to investigate and discovered the water was 2-3 steps from entering the house. Shocked at how suddenly it had risen I immediately called SES, my call was answered and I explained my situation. The SES respondent said they had logged my call and hoped someone would be there to help soon but to monitor the situation and be prepared to move to higher area as needed. during the time of this call i lost another 2 steps to the water and panick really set in. I woke my husband and kids and instructed everyone to get shoes on and jumpers and we quickly began trying to save baby photos etc. during this time the water had begun to enter the house and we decided it was time to try and get on the roof before it was too late.

bundling up the Dog, Cat, Rabbit, kids and climbed onto the roof at around 4am. We sat the cold and scared and tried tirelessly for hours to get help and hoped that daylight would bring a rescuer our way. We were so very wrong. By this time our elderly neighbours had become stuck in their roof cavity and we were stuck listening to them scream in fear of their lives and i decided action needed to be taken. I instructed my husband to get on social media and together we would start doing live videos and posting with the aim of getting enough attention to our situation. It worked an before I knew it I was talking to the ABC news and video calling Karl from NBN news pleading for help. Asking for the Army to respond. Help eventually came not in the form of some government agency but in the form of an group of heroic civilians who risked their lives with no experience or special equipment to rescue us all. We are still without a home and have received very little support from any government agency though have been surprised and humbled by the amazing support of our local community.

Terms of Reference (optional)

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

1.2 Preparation and planning

A clear more accurate warning system needs to be put in place. We had no Evacuation order except something that was sent over social media and at around 2pm I'm sure this reached very few people.

With where we are at with technology etc. this is an inexcusable failure of power and leadership! We also have the capability of giving a more accurate warning of flood level for a minor to moderate flood warning to blow out to an unrecorded never in history seen before level is incomprehensible.

1.5 Recovery from floods

The response from the community has been amazing.

The government has lacked leadership, control and basic empathy.

The council has been poor in their ability to provide concise information and guidance. Over 2 months in and we are no where closer to knowing what our future holds in regards to our area.

What is the plan for our area, will south Lismore change from a flood zone to a flood way meaning not fit for housing? What happens to all of us who have just bought, who have mortgages and can't just pack up and leave? What flood mitigation plans do you have?? another inquiry? wasting money on a group discussion.

Take some ownership, some control, own your position of power and take some action!

Act in a way that is for the people and the community not for the profit of big business or government. Do what is right!

If a land swap is what will happen start the planning; ease some of the anxiety that we all feel not knowing what our futures hold.

We all have no other option than to move back to these house, move back and process the trauma, guide our children through this trauma and hope for the best. The least you could do is provide some guidance a clear outline of the processes that will take place. A timeline for us to follow and plan for.

Supporting documents or images
