

From: [NSW Government](#)
To: [Flood Inquiry](#)
Subject: Floods Inquiry
Date: Monday, 23 May 2022 11:45:51 PM

Your details

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|-------------------|----------------------|
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Submission details

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|--|---|
| I am making this submission as | A member of the general public |
| 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

| | |
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| Your story | I live in Sydney and want to be of use. I have collected quite a lot of brand new or excellent quality goods like work boots, camping equipment, rugs, etc but there is no government initiative to transport them. I only have a very small car and the cost of petrol makes the trip not worthwhile. The Northern Rivers locals can't organise from Sydney even though I've asked if |
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they know of anyone coming up. The only possibility is paying for truck backloads and I can't afford it. What I can do is collect things down here. There is an amazing amount of excellent second hand quality goods like furniture, bikes, baby carriers, school shoes, etc here in Sydney that are getting ruined in the rain waiting for council cleanup to take to landfill. An enormous waste. I could collect larger furniture if I had the means of getting it up there. Of course proper testing, checking quality is needed but I can do that. The government had relied on charities too much. A lot of goods transported both by individuals and charities has not been checked and is dirty, damaged or faulty which is extremely distressing for the recipient. I'm not religious and give church entities a very wide berth. Too many churches donating unwanted clothing. A government channel could have prevented that. So much could be done for these people who are still sleeping rough, in campgrounds or hosting others in shells of houses.

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

Lack of government initiative. Inflexibility. Lack of communication between government areas.

1.2 Preparation and planning

Too little, too late. Citizens out of area want to help and contribute but no official method or channel available to do that. Donating money is difficult for me but I should be able to help in other ways without actually driving up there myself. I think we need 'sister cities' or regions where one can help the other in times of hardship and logistics are already in place to do that, whether it's hay to Merriwa, water to Wilcannia or a beanie to Eden.

1.3 Response to

The lack of government assistance has been

floods

difficult to watch from afar. So much more than money should have been done. Too much reliance on volunteers, SES, Facebook, internet which in a disaster is not accessible. That should already have been a lesson learnt with the fires.

1.4 Transition from incident response to recovery

A good working model should be set up for the future; that should already have been done. Specialising in evaluation, access, stages of response. Embarrassing to watch this country floundering with ineptitude. If Russia attacked us we'd go down like a sack of bricks.

1.5 Recovery from floods

Government still needs to get in there and show their faces. Listen. Not wait for them to find you. No car, no petrol, disabled, aged, carers, childcare, on hold on phone with govt department, out of area accommodation, sleeping rough with no access to bureaucracy, very upset, injured, landslides, no access to town or phone, no phone charger. So many reasons government needs face to face representation and think outside the box.

1.6 Any other matters

Remarkable how many locals said they did not see one ADF person for weeks.
Remarkable how many locals STILL have no idea what help is available from government if any, as well as those who should be eligible but aren't. Very distressing.
Remarkable that people are finding alleged tradies on their property without permission who say they're assessing, but no official proof of that. Very invasive.

Supporting documents or images
