

**From:** [NSW Government](#)  
**To:** [Flood Inquiry](#)  
**Subject:** Floods Inquiry  
**Date:** Sunday, 22 May 2022 6:17:06 PM

---

## Your details

---

**Title** Ms

---

**First name** Lishia

---

**Last name** O'Reilly

---

**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 bought our investment property in Lismore because it ticked all the boxes and was not likely to flood, but this time it did! Our tenants were lucky to get out in a canoe at the last minute and we've spent the last two months working every spare moment after hours to get it back to liveable. It has been physically and emotionally draining, and at some considerable financial cost

because my husband had forgotten to pay our insurance renewal last year! However, I'm now glad as those with insurance red tape have not been able to get on with rebuilding in a timely manner they've had their nervous hands tied behind their back with so much uncertainty in how and when to take the next step. Also, we are two working professionals with an income and well supported by our family and friends. It is not the case for so many others less financially or mentally secure in Lismore and surrounds. Our son lost his car, wasn't high enough that night, but he's got a job and has been able to borrow the work vehicle to get around. As a teacher I see the stress parents are under, whereas the children just want to be at school and be kids - to play and have fun - without the stress of worrying about the future. We are so lucky that during the actual flood locals saved lives and that post flood locals have offered support. It's predominantly the poorest who are in the hardest situations to bounce back. They cannot bounce and need more help to even step. The govt response has been woeful - too little too late! I trust these stories are helping to build an accurate picture. Cheers Lishia

---

## 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

Unprecedented rain in the lead up to the flood. Better analysis of the catchment may have warned people downstream earlier and more accurately.

---

### 1.2 Preparation and planning

Everyone planned well. Lismore is used to floods. But why did this take everyone by surprise? Because it was a freak rain bomb on an already saturated catchment. Better land and river management and more accurate forecasts may help in future

---

**1.3 Response to floods**

Ses and council need better emergency response systems that activate community grassroots involvement rather than dissuade the public volunteers until it's desperate for immediate help! Too short sighted.

---

**1.4 Transition from incident response to recovery**

Better coordination between volunteers and govt. encourage and facilitate grassroots involvement rather than block the raw energy of local people who are so willing to help.

---

**1.5 Recovery from floods**

Too many fall through the cracks because they're old, not on Facebook, or for whatever reason don't actively seek help. The local movements such as Koori mail and Resilience Lismore have enable people to find some connection and feel supported, these organisations are making up for the void that has been left by govt.

---

**1.6 Any other matters**

Open public meetings would benefit Lismore folk to feel heard and supported.  
Funding needs to be made more accessible and channeling directly to those that need it most.

---

**Supporting documents or images**

---

---