

From: [NSW Government](#)
To: [Flood Inquiry](#)
Subject: Floods Inquiry
Date: Wednesday, 18 May 2022 12:13:42 PM

Your details

Title Mrs

First name Liz

Last name Barrett

Email

Postcode 2480

Submission details

I am making this submission as Other

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 own a property in South Lismore. The property was purchased in 2021. During the 1974 flood the water came 12cm into the home, damaging the floor coverings and nothing more. Our tenant knew this, hence he felt safe enough for his elderly mother and he to live there safely. On the night of the flood, he got his car to higher ground and he (alone) stayed at the property. At

4am he was woken to water coming into the bed. You can imagine the terror he must have felt. When he realised the water was still rising he escaped to the roof where he was rescued only an hour before the property was submerged in water.

He was left with no recoverable possessions. We have now been left with a decimated property and 3 months on, no idea if we are covered by insurance or if we should rebuild given the likelihood that we may see another flood of this magnitude.

There has been no decision on what to do long-term with the town, no offer of land swap, no buy back and nothing proposed.

The justification that we shouldn't have purchased in a 'flood zone' is ridiculous when councils/govt have built on one in the first place. There seems to be no sense from anyone. The trauma combined with the drawn out process of trying to get help, answers and insurance coverage is appalling. I urge the govt to step in and help Lismore.

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	Storm, inundation of water, lack of resources, lack of appropriate mitigation, poor planning.
1.2 Preparation and planning	Non- existent
1.3 Response to floods	Response was from the general public, despite being asked not to intervene. Had they not, so many lives would have been lost. SES response was delayed and ineffective.
1.4 Transition from incident response to recovery	Delayed and almost deadly.

1.5 Recovery from floods Drawn out, extensive and no local, state, federal support, assistance or future planning.

Supporting documents or images
