

From: [NSW Government](#)
To: [Flood Inquiry](#)
Subject: Floods Inquiry
Date: Monday, 13 June 2022 6:42:45 PM

Your details

Title Mr

First name Mark & Roxine

Last name Gittoes

Email

Postcode 2472

Submission details

I am making this submission as A primary producer

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

The Flooding that occurred in the Northern Rivers region of New South Wales was bigger and much more damaging to peoples' homes, local businesses and to community infrastructure than any previous flood.

We ourselves have sustained considerable damage to our home, our rental property and our farming business, Plenkovich Road

Broadwater NSW 2472.

We own cane farms at Plenkovich Broadwater, Broadwater Quarry Road Broadwater, lease another 2 farms at Pine Tree Road, Broadwater and Pacific Highway Woodburn, sharefarm another 2 properties, Dungarruba Road Broadwater and Banks Lane Broadwater, approximately 200 ha in total. All of our farms have sustained damage – our sugar cane crop will experience losses for at least the next 2 years possibly for the next 5 years, lost 27 ha of soybeans, damage to cane harvester, 2 x tractors, damage to farm roads, drains & crossings, irreparable damage to tools, generators, pumps and some farm implements and machinery. Our estimated loss for our farming business is \$450,000, grants at this stage will cover approximately \$75,000.

On Sunday 27 February 2022 Mark heard a weather report on ABC radio that said they were evacuating Casino due to flooding and Casino does not flood to our knowledge.

We knew we were in for a reasonable sized flood but not to the extent that eventuated, none of the locals foresaw such an event, even the old timers that had knowledge of past flooding We moved as many tractors and farm implements as we could to higher ground throughout Sunday and then moved household items above the 1954 flood height throughout the night and into very early Monday morning. There was no indication from authorities that a serious flood event was going to take place, the only indication we received was a text message advising us to evacuate to higher ground at a much later time, 3.12pm Monday 28 February. We left our home at 1am Monday 28 February when Mark saw water coming across our front yard from the river. We evacuated on a large tractor to Mark's parent's property in Pine Tree Road Broadwater. When leaving our home to cross the bridge at Broadwater onto Barrang Drive we experienced a small amount of flood water. When we reached Pine Tree Road the

water was considerably deeper and was over the front tyre of the tractor which measures approximately 1200mm or 4 ft.

Throughout Monday 28 February and the following week we were constantly checking the river heights, this flood did not come as in previous flood years, normally when major flooding occurs in Lismore, Casino and Bungawalbin we have 2 to 3 days' notice to move farming equipment and household items this time it hit about the same time. This time the water was still raising upriver when the flood hit our end of the Richmond River with unprecedented river heights.

Throughout the flood event we heard and searched for information on the flood levels for our hometown of Broadwater, no reports were found. River levels and notifications were found for Lismore, Casino Bungawalbin, Woodburn as well as towns upriver of these towns. No information for Broadwater. Wardell the next town along the Richmond River from Broadwater received the odd mention and Ballina also received some information.

We need live information for Broadwater, information from Lismore isn't very helpful. The authorities must acknowledge the difference between a major flood and a catastrophic flood. In a major flood we would have been OK. We also suspect the new motorway from Woodburn to Broadwater trapped water and increased the rapid rise of flood water. This caused more loss to all of the community and risked lives. We are still in shock of this event and finding life difficult, no house, farm crops; soybeans total loss and reduction of crop in sugar cane.

Terms of Reference (optional)

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

Supporting documents or images

Attach files

- [IMG_2439.jpg](#)
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Wed 2 Mar

Today
12:59 pm



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