

From: [NSW Government](#)
To: [Flood Inquiry](#)
Subject: Floods Inquiry
Date: Thursday, 19 May 2022 8:01:53 AM

Your details

Title	Mr
First name	Mark
Last name	Graham
Email	<input type="text"/>
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 packed all valuable items from bottom garage level onto the back deck of our home, A high set house, The flood was to peak at 10. 5 m. Not something to be concerned about as that was just hitting the levee top,I moved my cleaning business machines and put them in my van for the cleanup, Business owners in town were putting stock up past 2017 levels and the
-------------------	---

feeling was of confidence that we would beat this one, The next warning was later that evening saying the peak was revised to 2017 level or possibly 1974 level at 12.5 m, .We started to get worried a little but that level although high was still below our floor, so we stayed put . The next warning came at about 9 , It said 13.5 m, We couldn't leave, South Lismore was closed off , We put what we could up on cupboards and stuffed the roof cavity with what we could, that level we knew would have been about knee deep inside so we sat on beds and waited, Then the water came, Through the bath tub. first overflowing on to to floor then through the floor boards at a rate of about 10cm per minute , wading around the house we still tried to put up what we could. As the water got over knee level inside, I had the family get up inside the dry and warm roof cavity to call 000, to get out, I was outside clinging to the front veranda trying to get help from anyone who came past, As the water rose, now at chest level and with no response from sea or 000 , I was frantically screaming at any boat that came past, there wasn't many of them and they were full already, Then a police rescue boat came, They were there to pick up the police woman two doors down, There was a family on the roof of the house across the road from the police officers house two young teenagers and the parents screaming for help from the police boat, One if the rescuers yelled at them, We are not here for you.. They made the pick up and left. As they were driving away one said loudly enough for everyone to hear, We can't fuckin save everyone. Then I knew we were on our own. The water inside now was neck deep, My wife and youngest son were still in the roof, I knew if it got deeper they would have byo swim underwater in darkness with no bearings to get out out so I got them down one by one and with their hands on a body board directed them out the door and stirruped them onto the roof, The guttering broke so I couldn't get there myself so I waited in the water still

yelling at anything and anyone with something that floated, finally a boat with space came and transferred us to Ballina st Bridge where we waded till we got a boat on the other side, I was in the water for maybe 6 hours but other people had it much worse, WHERE WERE THE WARNINGS?
WHY DID THEY SAY THERE WAS GOING TO BE 150mm WHEN IT WAS MORE LIKE OVER A METRE ?
WHY WERE WE IGNORED ?
WHERE IS THE RECONSTRUCTION?

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

- [7FBD5F29-6F10-4C3E-9B20-3A6EC0F4ED98.jpeg](#)
 - [835A0183-D808-433C-9455-91452116F4BE.jpeg](#)
 - [F95A7BF0-FC17-489C-9186-27F75DFEAB03.jpeg](#)
-



