

From: [NSW Government](#)
To: [Flood Inquiry](#)
Subject: Floods Inquiry
Date: Tuesday, 17 May 2022 7:23:25 PM

Your details

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Last name	Heywood
Email	
Postcode	2477

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 lost 2 houses, one was our superannuation, our future our security when we get old. The other is our family home for our young family. 2am in the morning we fled as the water was rushing at the back of our house trying to get to the river. Yes that's right, the water came from the back of our property. I ask how can anyone in power let this much water travel 40 odd kms
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down the river to get out to sea. If only the water could of got out at woodburn and Boundary Ck to the ocean the devastation would not be as significant for us here at Wardell and Ballina. The highway "new dam wall" has caused the natural flow of flood water to be re directed. This was made very clear with the second flood within the month.

Flood mitigation drains were funded years ago and installed for a very good reason, yet now the lack of funding and maintenance to these drains has added another level of devastation to our homes. If only the water that was blocked in these drains could of got out the river through the flood gates we would of had less impact when the water came rushing down.

Why did we not get enough notice to pack up and get out safely?

Why did authorities not open the fabri dam at woodburn?

Why did authorities not ensure the culverts were clear at the new highway so at least some of the water could go down south to the flood plain?

Why did we let water travel so far and cause so much devastation twice?

How will we recover from this when the flood water has taken our lively hoods, taken our future and we can't even get a grant to fix our homes?

What measures will be put in place to ensure our safety of these River Towns?

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

New M1 Highway
Brocken Bungawalbin Levee from 2017
Brocken Fabri Dam Woodburn
1974 flood water carved out and went to the ocean at Boundary Ck and Moylans Lane, why did not put in place a spill way so this could get out there again

1.2 Preparation and planning

We need physical structures to prepare for future flooding
We need to install more dams and levees
We need to dredge the river
We need to install spill ways to get the water out to see in numerous locations
We need action not, pen pushers and reports that never get read?

1.3 Response to floods

This could of been prevented.
There were enough evidence gathered in the days before to know how much water was coming our way yet nothing was done to lessen the negative impact.

1.4 Transition from incident response to recovery

It's going to be a long road, how the government expect us to survive when we have been smashed by this is beyond belief.

1.5 Recovery from floods

NSW needs to ensure all insurance companies make flood cover affordable for all.
We need to be covered just like fire.
Why is it we have insurance yet not covered for flood because it's yearly premium is more then we earn?

1.6 Any other matters

Why is it that one government agency has to pay another government agency to approve works to be done on flood mitigation drains.
This should not be a complex multi tier of bureaucracy.
Questions need to be asked and responsibility needs to lay with Pacific Complete who were paid a ridiculous amount of money to construct the highway. How can so many teams of engineers get this wrong?
Why did they not listen to our elders and farmers?
Why did Kempsey section of highway get piers and yet we get kms of dam wall?

Supporting documents or images

Attach files

[E46DB02E-8758-4125-8CFD-D6D8C0813B7B.jpeg](#)

- [07C85C8E-3198-4529-8D5E-386C31E246D0.jpeg](#)
 - [5A45CB09-71F1-4841-81DF-3140105EC847.jpeg](#)
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