

**From:** [NSW Government](#)  
**To:** [Flood Inquiry](#)  
**Subject:** Floods Inquiry  
**Date:** Monday, 9 May 2022 4:07:00 PM  
**Attachments:** [nsw flood inquiry submissioncopy 0.docx](#)

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## Your details

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<b>Title</b>	Mr
<b>First name</b>	Michael
<b>Last name</b>	Walker
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## Submission details

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<b>I am making this submission as</b>	An academic/researcher
<b>Submission type</b>	I am making a personal submission
<b>Consent to make submission public</b>	I give my consent for this submission to be made public

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## Share your experience or tell your story

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### Terms of Reference (optional)

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

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<b>1.1 Causes and contributing</b>	See attachment
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**factors**

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**Supporting documents or images**

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**Attach files**

- [nsw flood inquiry submissioncopy\\_0.docx](#)
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Nsw flood enquiry submission

Sorry this is so short but I typed it on my phone.

My name is michael walker and I have 38 years experience in climate research and education.

I want to make the following points:

Firstly that the severity of these weather events are the new norm due to global climate change.

We have now reached a point where we can not stop sea level rising by at least 10 metres so we have to lift our infrastructure to at least 20 metres to be safe. The melting of Greenlands glaciers alone will lift sea levels by approximately 7.5 metres.

We have a lot of high ground in this area to do this with.

Other communities will have to do the same and will look to our example.

We don't only have to think for ourselves we have to prepare for people escaping flooding in from the coastal strip as it becomes inundated.

We have to save important infrastructure like our airport. Because all the coastal airports will be inundated and Lismore's airport will be the only one left along this coastal strip.

Insurance can not be subsidised as it is one of the few market forces that act like an early warning system and incentivise people to move.

Sea level rise will happen quickly due to the nature of ice melt and all the positive feedback loops in climate systems. Ice is very stable at a huge range of temperature below zero degrees but as soon as we get to zero point one degrees the whole lot melts eventually.

At the end of the last ice age sea level rose by as much as four metres in a century without any help from us.

We are in a natural heating phase out of the little ice age which ended at the beginning of the industrial revolution. Add our warming on top of this.

It is predicted that summer Arctic ice sheet will fully melt by 2033-2035 then all hell brakes loose due to increased sunlight absorption and methane and carbon dioxide release. Tundra holds twice the carbon in our atmosphere as frozen organic matter . Some will become carbon dioxide some methane and some will stabilise.

The IPCC a most conservative advisory panel said in latest report we have ten years to work this problem out. Their most radical predictions have all fallen short of reality.

I think we will be at 10 metres in fifty years which sounds insane but I'm afraid will be the case.

We need to act now! Good luck.

I'm in favour of digging separate channels for Leycester creek and the one from Nimbin. I would dig them deep and not wide and let the flood water do the work for us. I'm also in favour of digging out sweet soil and selling it before it becomes salt effected. I would move the airport up onto the plateau or a suitable ridge line. I would bulldoze ridges and expand land area above 20 metres. I would change roads to run at least 20 metres above current sea level using existing land forms, fill ins and bridges. I would stop cattle farming in the river catchment and replace with forest on slopes to control land slides and horticulture on flats. I would create a protective zone on river banks. I would subside farm dam building especially in dry gullies which will slow water discharge and recharge soil in semi dry times. I would also build more large dams to reduce and control flow to sea and prepare for growing hinterland population. I would promote the development of intentional communities to get more people on the land to intensify farming and land use and provide housing for people who have lost their homes. Eco/farm villages might be a less intensive option as well.

Yours sincerely,  
Michael Walker