

# 2022 flood inquiry submission

## Your details

Title Mr

First name

NEIL

Last name

HARGREAVES

Email

Postcode 2478

## Submission details

I am making this submission as A resident in a flood-affected area

Submission type I am making a personal submission

Organisation making the submission (if applicable)

Your position in the organisation (if applicable)

Consent to make submission public

Please note the Inquiry will retain discretion to withhold publishing any information that may be considered personal or defamatory in nature.

I give my consent for this submission to be made public

## Share your experience or tell your story

Your story

I am a resident affected by this event. I am 90 years of age and retired after many years spent in both work and hobby associated with rivers, the ocean and many adverse weather events. An amateur fisherman for many years, a lifesaver for many years, an engineer associated with the whaling industry where I was a consultant to the government in Tonga and the Cook Islands plus a company in Suva. I was engineer in charge of construction and operating a whaling station at barrier Island, New Zealand and I worked at Byron Bay during the construction and the start-up operation of the whaling station there. I have seen many floods

## Terms of Reference (optional)

The Inquiry welcomes submissions that address the particular matters identified in its **Terms of Reference ([https://www.nsw.gov.au/sites/default/files/2022-03/CS1111%20Terms%20of%20Reference\\_V4.pdf](https://www.nsw.gov.au/sites/default/files/2022-03/CS1111%20Terms%20of%20Reference_V4.pdf))**

### 1.1 Causes and contributing factors

My observations are that the severity of the flooding this time was due to the silting of the Richmond entrance. This silting resulted in acting as a choke between the sea walls and restricted the flow of water out to sea causing excessive backing up of water throughout the township of Ballina.

Dredging and maintaining better depth of water at the river entrance would allow water to move away faster and prevent another flood like this occurring in future.

The current situation could be compared to fitting a 50cm sewer pipe with a 5cm outlet and not expecting a sewerage "event".

### 1.2 Preparation and planning

Keep the Richmond River bar Dredged.

### 1.3 Response to floods

If the flood is prevented then no response is required. severe flooding at Ballina can be prevented

### 1.4 Transition from incident response to recovery

The response from insurance companies has been deplorable. Three months after the flood I have still not recieved a payout for contents and have been told it could be 6 months more before the house will be rehabilitated..

### 1.5 Recovery from floods

Faster action by insurance companies. Mandated if necessary.

## 1.6 Any other matters

Better depth over the bar would have great benefits to Ballina, both for the fishing industry and tourism. Making the bar safe for travelling yachts and pleasure boats would encourage their visits. It would also be much safer for amateur fishermen.

Widening of the bypass canal into the Evans River at rocky Creek should also be considered, with resulting benefits for other towns along the river.

## Supporting documents or images

Attach files

Maximum 3 files.

16 MB limit.

Allowed types: gif, jpg, jpeg, png, bmp, eps, rtf, pdf, doc, docx, ppt, pptx, xls, xls.

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