

**From:** [NSW Government](#)  
**To:** [Flood Inquiry](#)  
**Subject:** Floods Inquiry  
**Date:** Thursday, 23 June 2022 4:45:59 PM  
**Attachments:** [2022 Flood Submission.docx](#)

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## Your details

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<b>Title</b>	Mr
<b>First name</b>	Doug
<b>Last name</b>	Irby
<b>Email</b>	<input type="text"/>
<b>Postcode</b>	2483

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## Submission details

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<b>I am making this submission as</b>	A primary producer
<b>Submission type</b>	I am submitting on behalf of my organisation
<b>Organisation making the submission (if applicable)</b>	NSW Canegrowers, Tweed Branch
<b>Your position in the organisation (if applicable)</b>	Secretary
<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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**Your story**

The growing sector of the sugar industry in the Tweed district suffered losses well in excess of \$50 million. Houses, Machinery, Plant and Equipment, Infrastructure and crop losses made up the majority of this.

While insurance will cover some of these losses the estimates for damage not covered is in excess of \$20 million

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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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**1.1 Causes and contributing factors**

We feel the major cause and contributing factor is the poor condition of the Tweed River and its tributaries and their lack of ability to deal with the efficient removal of flood water from the flood plain

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**Supporting documents or images**

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**Attach files**

- [2022 Flood Submission.docx](#)
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**NEW SOUTH WALES CANE GROWERS'  
ASSOCIATION  
TWEED RIVER BRANCH**

A.B.N. 90 242 496 047

DISTRICT SECRETARY – D. J. IRBY  
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To Whom It May Concern

21<sup>st</sup> June, 2022

After the recent flood event Tweed canegrowers have been involved in a number of meetings and the following are the main issues raised in discussions:

1. The construction of Flood Mounds on the Floodplain:

The substantial losses in machinery, plant and equipment in excess of 30 million dollars from the recent event has left the industry in disarray. It is felt that a program of construction of flood mounds on the properties affected is the best solution to preventing similar losses in future events. Should this not be available then the future viability of the industry would be at risk. These mounds can be constructed in places on properties outside areas of high water flow to prevent interference with the natural course of floodwater.

We have had mixed advice regarding this with some information stating that Development Applications and Hydrological Studies are required in order to construct these mounds and other information stating that they are not necessary. Some clarification of this is requested.

2. The Health Of The Tweed River and its Tributaries:

The feeling of the industry and a substantial number of Tweed residents is that the river and its tributaries are in need of major remedial works. This would involve reinstating the river bed back to where it was before European settlement or as near as possible to it in order to increase the efficiency of the river to remove flood water. The continual siltation of the river system has caused directional changes in the flow of water which is causing considerable damage to river banks in a large number of places. This remediation would have to be carried out by dredging the entire river system from the Byangum Weir downstream. This would include the removal of all impediments such as fallen trees which were supposedly classified as fish habitat but have now become silt traps and in most cases are being covered in silt.

It is felt that this action should be treated as urgent because of the substantial increase in the siltation of the river and erosion of the river banks from many major flooding events over several decades. Concerns have been raised that if no action is taken then there is a real danger of considerable loss of property and life should similar events occur in future.

R.H. Hawken – President

D. J. Irby - Secretary