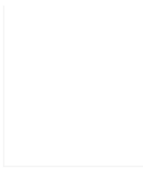


From: [NSW Government](#)
To: [Flood Inquiry](#)
Subject: Floods Inquiry
Date: Friday, 20 May 2022 2:05:09 PM



Your details

Title	Mr
First name	Peter and Mark
Last name	Byrne
Email	<input type="text"/>
Postcode	2472

Submission details

I am making this submission as	A primary producer
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	Our farming property (with two houses) in Broadwater has been a big part of our family since it was settled in the 1860s by our forefathers. The flood in February 2022 is the biggest flood ever recorded and decimated our farm property including crops, tractors/ machinery, contents etc and also everyone else in the tiny town of Broadwater who live on the
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floodplain. In the past, very few floods that occur in the upper Richmond actually inundate our farm land, and only once has the main farm house had any water (300mm) through it. This time the waters came up 1.8 metres and our entire farmland was inundated with floodwaters that contained toxins and debris, which will take some time and expense to remedy.

Although the upper parts of the Richmond River experienced around 10% increase in flood depth we at Broadwater and surrounding lower river villages experienced around 20% increase.

We believe this greater increase is related to the new highway not being bridged across the floodplain and also the new Richmond River Bridge draining into a detention basin and then into our farm drains. This new bridge brings floodwaters from another catchment (water that once fell directly into the Richmond River is now flowing back into our farm drains, which backs up all the water across our farm and into both Rattle and Eversons Creeks.

Our concerns regarding the bridge were communicated to RMS/Pacific Complete on numerous occasions and informing them of the damages that were and would be occurring into the future. Nothing was done. We were told that the modelling showed minor inundation for up to a couple of days, which would not affect our crops. Our protestations fell on deaf ears.

We asked that the stormwater run off from the bridge be piped to the Richmond River down the corridor but was told that this was 'too expensive' option.

Not only did the NSW Government acquire a large portion of our farm for the new highway and bridge but it also has contributed significantly to the damage that we have incurred. We made submissions previously to the inquiry into the highway but our concerns were not taken on board.

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

As outlined above:
Although the upper parts of the Richmond River experienced around 10% increase in flood depth we at Broadwater and surrounding lower river villages experienced around 20% increase. We believe this greater increase is related to the new highway not being bridged across the floodplain and also the new Richmond River Bridge draining into a detention basin and then into our farm drains. This new bridge brings floodwaters from another catchment (water that once fell directly into the Richmond River is now flowing back into our farm drains, which backs up all the water across our farm and into both Rattle and Eversons Creeks. Our concerns regarding the bridge were communicated to RMS/Pacific Complete on numerous occasions and informing them of the damages that were and would be occurring into the future. Nothing was done. We were told that the modelling showed minor inundation for up to a couple of days, which would not affect our crops. Our protestations fell on deaf ears. We asked that the stormwater run off from the bridge be piped to the Richmond River down the corridor but was told that this was 'too expensive' option.

1.2 Preparation and planning

As the township had never experienced a wall of water coming at such a great speed nothing could have prepared us. The modelling of the how floodwaters would be directed straight into Broadwater (instead of spreading across the floodplain as usually happens) was not provided to residents. We has no idea the extent that the new highway would change floodwater flows/ velocity/ height.

1.3 Response to floods

See above

1.5 Recovery from floods

See above

1.6 Any other matters

See above

Supporting documents or images
