

**From:** [NSW Government](#)  
**To:** [Flood Inquiry](#)  
**Subject:** Floods Inquiry  
**Date:** Friday, 24 June 2022 4:24:36 PM

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## Your details

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<b>Title</b>	Mr
<b>First name</b>	Peter
<b>Last name</b>	Blackwood
<b>Email</b>	<input type="text"/>
<b>Postcode</b>	2478

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## Submission details

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<b>I am making this submission as</b>	A member of the general public
<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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<b>Your story</b>	<p>Our home was not threatened by the floods, although we were cut off for several days because of surrounding flood water. My experience with these floods was a volunteer, assisting a household in Broadwater with flood clean up and a large property in Kilgin with clean up and recovery ... that assistance is ongoing.</p>
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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**

It is my view that there is merit to the proposition that the M1 motorway contributed to the extent and duration of flooding in the areas around Woodburn, Kilgin and Swan Bay. This view is based on the aerial photographs taken of the extent of the flooding in the first few days of March which show the M1 motorway as a "boundary" of the flood waters beyond Woodburn. The clear and unambiguous conclusion from those photographs is that lengthy areas of the M1 motorway acted as a dam wall to the flood water and denied that flood water from spreading across flood plain areas towards the Evans River and then to the ocean.

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### **1.4 Transition from incident response to recovery**

After the flood waters had sufficiently receded to allow recovery activity to commence there was a notable absence of "official" assistance, other than that provided by the RFS (e.g., hosing mud from flooded premises). The flood recovery activity was driven by volunteers, most of whom were individuals or teams of individuals, including groups from various organisations such as youth groups, church groups, etc. In time, the ADF presence was noted ... however, I don't recall seeing or hearing of any "field kitchens" where flood victims could attend to receive a hot meal.

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### **1.6 Any other matters**

The efforts to rescue people from flooded properties were hindered by rescuers not knowing whether there were people in a particular house or property who needed to be rescued, particularly during the night hours. It is recommended that as part of the process of making homes/properties in flood-prone areas ready for any future floods that each home/property be equipped with a form of an EPIRB device. While the device may not need to

have the features of EPIRB devices currently used for marine purposes, the device should be simple to operate, water-proof, buoyant, visible (e.g., with a fishing light) and capable of operating for at least 48 to 72 hours. Such devices would be initiated by persons when flood waters threaten a house/property and should be removed from the property only after rescuers have satisfied themselves that all persons have been safely removed from the flood-threatened home/property.

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### **Supporting documents or images**

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