

From: [NSW Government](#)
To: [Flood Inquiry](#)
Subject: Floods Inquiry
Date: Friday, 24 June 2022 4:16:33 PM
Attachments: [Peter Pool CV.pdf](#)

Your details

Title	Mr
First name	PETER
Last name	POOL
Email	
Postcode	2450

Submission details

I am making this submission as	A resident in a flood-affected area
Submission type	I am making a personal submission
Your position in the organisation (if applicable)	RETIRED ADF SPECIAL FORCES, MASTER ENGINEER, MARITIME MASTER & DESIGNER FIELD HOSPITAL DEPLOYMENT MODULES
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	I am a concerned professional Maritime and past defence equipment senior design engineer, now retired. As a background, I am a Senior Maritime
-------------------	--

Master and Marine Engineer & Surveyor with over 50 years experience in the Australian Maritime and Defence International Maritime Operations. I have extensive experience with design engineering, boat construction, commissioning & operation of commercial vessels and marine environment management. I was Technical Director of Australian Designed Field Hospital/Rapid Deployment ICU module. Finally, I visited many of the towns effected and spoke to a number of people who were trapped for days on their rooftops and felt compelled to share my observations and advice based on my relevant experience.

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

Floods effected the regional areas of Lismore, Ballina, and Clarence Valley and many small towns were also flooded along the Richmond, Wilson and Clarence Rivers from February through to March 2022.

Public Hearings have been held in the towns effected by the floods which followed 2021 March floods with the late February and March 2022 floods causing major concern.

On June 14 & 15 2022 the NSW Parliamentary Committee and the Chair met with Senior members of NSW:

- State Emergency Services
- Roads & Maritime Service
- NSW State Government Resilience Commissioner

The failings of the commance and flood response on the following matters need to be addressed:

- Why weren't their more L3 and L4 flood vessels deployed during the flood, and why were large flood boat resources and crews not deployed in the days that followed with many hundreds of

residents, both in the towns and rural population, trapped on the roof of their homes for days.

- No rescues effected during the event. Woman and children were trapped on roofs for days with no protection.
- No purpose designed evacuation centres.
- No clear lines of communication
- No clean water
- No showers or toilets
- No level L3 and L4 flood vessels deployed
- No medical support
- No back up fuel or generators to provide power.
- No clear command from State and Federal Authorities.
- The beauracratc command did not function as one.

There were L3 and L4 flood vessels sitting in Clarence Valley at Glenreagh. Permission was not given to deploy these , however these vessels had the highest standards to rescue the flooded trapped population from flooded rooftops, as they were Australian Maritime Safety Authority designed and certified at Level 3 and Level 4. Crews were experienced ex-defence personnel and AMSA qualified.

In summary , as the retired commissioner of Fire and Rescue and Senior Defence leaders have said publicly, the effected population of approx. 2800 homes flooded to roof top level were in most cases left to an armada of private small craft to rescue families sitting on their roofs for days. This is unacceptable.

1.2 Preparation and planning

The conclusions I have drawn from talking to the many effected in Lismore and the Clarence was that the unfolding flood emergencies should have been effectively commanded by one Regional command structure.

As an independant consultant, I have grave concerns as this very same situation could occur once again. To use the NSW Premier's comment

- we must address those failures now!

I have written this submission based on the facts of what occurred from Feb 28th 2022 and from the perspective of a concerned professional Maritime and past defence equipment senior design engineer. I will attach my profile and qualifications to this submission.

I have visited many of the towns effected and personally spoken to some people who were trapped for days on their rooftop.

Having lived through the Northern Rivers floods and fires I believe the focus needs to be on a purpose built evacuation and command centre and needs to be innovative in their design to meet future emergencies and be designed above the flood plain.

Still today, four months on many families are suffering in the coldest winter Northern NSW has suffered since records were recorded. Power outages are still occurring in the Northern Rivers. This demonstrates the lack of planning and action.

1.6 Any other matters

The Australian Defence Force, when finally deployed, did an excellent job in Lismore. However, many ADF staff members became sick and were infected with septic wounds due to removing debris and household rubbish. I am concerned that there was not enough care for their welfare.

I wish to thank you to the many ADF and Police who did their best to address the flood emergency.

I believe that more retired defence personal should be employed in the emergency management as they have a clear understanding of command control communications and possess the leadership skills to be immediately effective with discipline, as some state and

federal government bodies failed to respond adequately to the flood emergency that unfolded.

Geographically the new disaster management and command centre should be located with access to the New Pacific Highway with a hub to the proposed evacuation centre.

Supporting documents or images

Attach files

- [Peter Pool CV.pdf](#)
-

2Ref.221

**PETER JAMES POOL,
CAPT. ME.**

SHIPS MASTER

Senior Project Manager,
Engineering Manager
Military Systems and GIS.
Special Forces and
Royal Australian Engineers - RAE



QUALIFICATIONS

General Engineering Certificate
Graduate School of Military Engineering
SME Graduate in Marine Engineering – Maritime
College for Australian Defence Forces
Diploma in Mechanical Engineering
Master 1V Ships Master / Commercial & MSV Ships,
Master IV in Transport & Distribution (Maritime
Operations) Marine Surveyor / Structural & Marine
Systems. Master IV & Pilotage Certified. MED
1(AMSA. marine engineer)
Military - Senior Instructor on SAR
Marine Operations & Raid Commander SBS Group
Special Forces Helicopter Rappelling Instructor
Qualified Parachutist and Stick Commander
Unarmed Combat Instructor
Qualified S.F. Marksman /Queens shoot team
Capt. 1969, Eastern command winner RAE team
Amphibious Warfare Instructor
RAE Demolitions and Minefield Clearance
RAE Instructor to Bomb Disposal and Mine Warfare
Specialist
RAE RDB Bridge & Airfield Construction Engineer
Instructor in Marine Operations and Safety
Blue Water A Sailing Master & Australian Sail
Training ship Tall Ship master of Aust. Reg.
Schooner, ASTS S V. Mistra. / *Director of
design/new Baylene 70m ship Marine Science Ship
IMO/USLstds.

BACKGROUND

Peter Pool is a professional Maritime Master and Marine Engineer with an excellent background obtained in the Australian Maritime and Defence International Maritime Operations with over 50 years industry/defence experience in maritime operations, marine engineering & specialised engineering design, Maritime Surveillance, design engineering, boat construction, marine surveying, watchkeeping and commissioning & operations of commercial vessels & marine environment management. He leads by example, but is a team player who gives his total commitment to any project he is involved in project management, or is requested to command. Peter James Pool holds the position of Senior Marine Master, Marine Engineer & Surveyor with ASDE & PJP Marine International. He also was the senior consultant to Shell and Caltex serving more than ten years with both companies.

NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENTS

- Designer of Maritime Vessels, Seacat P30, Navro16, Hercules C120 Class Vessel, CDO/ SBS Amphibian MK3 designer. [Commando folding kayak] Submarine SBS /SASR classified operations
- Past President of the Australian Special Forces Association
- Past President of the Australian Commando Association [1st Commando Coy, Association]
- Past Chairman of the Australian Defence Industry Association
- Past Chairman of the Australian Middle East Defence Council
- Chairman and CEO of Australian Specialised Defence Equipment
- Technical Director, Australian Designed Field Hospital/rapid deployment ICU module.
- Consulting Engineer for design and manufacture of the Anzac Rapid Deployment Bridging System
- Director of underwater helicopter recovery operations in Gulf/UAE training.
- Maritime surveillance Co-ordinator and Senior Designer for Kuwait and UAE Gulf State Navies
- Qualified Marine Master and Marine Response Engineer for toxic chemicals (PCB, s/ TDI, EPA/AMSA accredited and oil spills
- Watchkeeper Master and Marine Engineer on AS John Monash, AS (LSM) Vernon Sturdy and MV Ocean Dreaming, SV Antarctic, MV Starship /Sydney, MV Lady Wake Hurst, SS South Steyne, MV Mastek a &. M.V. Epicure /Master/Marine Operations Manager
- Member Chartered Institute Transport Engineers
- Member Chartered Institute of Marine Masters, Marine Engineers and Marine Science.
- Test engineer for Rolls Royce Australia

AWARDS & RECOGNITION

- Active Service Medal/Vietnam
- Defence Service Medal
- National Service Medal
- Vietnam Service Medal
- Active service badge. / RAE special ops, Cam Ran Bay/Na Trang. /Vietnam.

- RAE Engineer of the Year 1969- Aust. Army School of Military Engineering/service with 32 *SQD/as engineer /special ops maritime operations Singapore commando rec/medal. /Vietnam War.
- Special Operations Service and Training CT and Amphibian ops. Vietnam - Brunei-Singapore-UAE - Thailand - Kuwait - PNG /drug interdiction PROJECT design & training Dir, high speed Interceptor vessels Sea cat P29, PNG Drug Interdiction Program P30. Indonesia's/Singapore SF, TRG.REC, MEDALS/RECOGNISED by their Governments special forces, Malaysia/UAE/Singapore/Thailand.
- Design director counter terrorist training facilities for the above countries & maritime operations consultant on MSV's.60/70m. design

SPECIFIC PROJECT EXPERIENCE

Senior designer and Engineer for the development of the cold climate aircraft refuelling storage, and dispensing of aviation fuel for the Australian bases Antarctic Division at Casey and Divisoria Hercules / AIRBUS 320/ SUPPORT HELICOPTER refuelling.

- 1992 - PJP Commercial Marine Design – ASDE Senior Designer (design & build Customs Search Centre on Sydney Harbour): Naval platforms, Seacat P30 Class Patrol Vessels PNG, Maritime surveillance systems, Police & Olympic waterways vessels, Caltex Australia – senior consultant marine oil spill response and main Sydney – Newcastle Oil Pipeline.
 - 1996 – Design director of the Maritime Surveillance vessels MSV 60 Class for Kuwait and U.A.E. Navies.
 - 1999 – Design and Project Director and senior marine engineer for special operations vessels for the 2000 Sydney Olympics.
 - 1989 – 2001 - Special Defence Envoy for the Middle East and Chairman of Australian Middle East Joint Committee on Defence and Industry Senior Advisor to the defence International Policy director and committee on Middle East Gulf states .2001 – Commonwealth Department of Defence nominated Peter James Pool as Director of the programme to co-ordinate and manage the training of the U.A.E. (Middle East) downed aircraft black box recovery ops. and ship sea mines damage recovery operations. Peter James Pool was instrumental in developing high level contacts with the UAE senior defence officials and was the first to establish close ties with the UAE government officials at the highest level with close defence co-operation. [see attached references]
- 1983 – 1992 PJP Marine & Defence – Senior Consultant to Australian Defence Industries and Defence Material Organisation; Australian Defence Marine Engineering – Major & Minor management experience: Project development & Technical Director, design and development of Amphibian MK3 Special Forces collapsible kayak, Australian Patrol Vessel Project – senior consulting engineer to Australian Defence Forces on system deployment design, RAN ASTERN Refuelling Design – Senior Project and Design Engineer, RAAF – C130 Aircraft Refuel and Recovery System for C130 Hercules – Senior Design Engineer, Senior Consultant "Project Parakeet" – Rapid Deployment Communications Capability with the ADF, ADI, Senior Consultant Australian Customs Design – Patrol Vessels, Australian Specialised Defence Equipment Design Consultant, Maritime Surveillance Platforms – Kuwait & UAE Navies. Appointed as Senior Defence Consultant to the Australian Defence Dept / Australian Defence Forces International Policy Branch / Middle East /South East Asia. 1990 /2001.Ref Defence /ADF Brig JJ Wallace.
 - 1983 – 1991 Commercial Project Management & senior consultant for Union Carbide Petrochemical & Shell Australia, Engineering Consultant, Petrochemical Downstream Industry for Polypropylene; Pacific Power, Project Consultant and Environmental Engineer; Design Engineer for the Australian Antarctic Division in developing cold climate fuel distribution system; Senior Design & Project Engineer for Olex Cables Australia (designed Sydney Plant). Project Director for Australian Antarctic (CSIRO) Division, Aircraft Cold Climate refuelling system for ADF Hercules HC130 & Commercial Aircraft operations on Australian Antarctic Bases.

- 1965 – 1990 Marine Engineer, Naval Designer & Maritime Consultant for the Australian Defence Forces RAN. Also engaged as a senior engineering consultant to Shell Australia & Sydney Ports Corporation. Australian Army Service & Defence Service with International Defence Policy Branch D.H.Q./ SF. Commando Regiment – Special Boats Section (SBS) Amphibious Operations Instructor; Royal Australian Engineers – 32 Small Ships Squadron – Senior Marine Engineer and Watchkeeper, Specialist Engineer (Vietnam RAE 1969 – 1970) – Marine Operations South Vietnam coast and South China Sea; Service in Thailand, Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, PNG, Middle East-Gulf States UAE & Kuwait, Brunei (1978 – 1990) – Defence Consultant & Marine Advisor to Australian Defence and Water Police. PNG , GOV. NSW Maritime Authority 2000 Olympic Specialised Vessels SF & Water proof Commination's Equip. Security side/ san marine Operations vessel 2000 Maritime OPerations, Seacat P30 /Helo Fast Ropes/ Blackhawk/Seaking SAR/military.. Test Stds. TR75 SF full body harness/certified.
- 1993 – 2001 Senior Middle East Deferice. Advisor to ADF and International Defence Policy Branch – Maritime surveillance and CT Ops. / UAE & KUWAIT DEF & COASTGUARD. During this time Peter Pool was nominated by the Australian Defence Force / IP Branch to write a training programe for Air /Sea rescue operations in the Arabian Gulf and to assist those GCC states to improve Maritime & Aviation Rescue Operations & Training. ADF and Commonwealth Government fully approved this International. In 1887 Appointed as Managing Director of Australian Specialised Defence Equipment. In 2006 the ASDE board appointed Peter James Pool to be responsible for the merger of ASDE & PJP Aerospace & Defence which was completed in 2007. Also appointed in 2003 by Caltex Australia as the Emergency Management Engineer & Marine Operations Director for environmental disaster management in 1999 Peter Pool was commissioned by the Commonwealth Government (Australian Customs Dept.) to design and build the Federal Search Marine Operations Training Centre in Sydney which was completed by ASDE at Neutral Bay Sydney in 2000. This project was designed and managed by Peter James Pool.

DISASTER MANAGEMENT

Emergency Management Background
Mitigation Command & Remediation Engineer of the Sydney Harbour/Garden Island / Woolloomooloo Bay Oil Spill emergency

- Response Group clean-up during the Woolloomooloo Bay emergency. Peter Pool also assisted during the inner harbour emergency at the Shell Bulk Terminal and foreshore protection and oil recovery operations.
- Oil Spill 1998.as marine environmental consultant.

Commander of oil pipe line disaster where a 60 Tonne excavator cut the Sydney/ Newcastle Caltex pipeline is ruptured causing a major emergency and large oil spill more than 200,000 litres. Feb 2005 Peter James Pool is requested to commanded operations by Caltex / EPA authorities.

JOINT COMMANDER OF MAJOR CHEMICAL EMG.TDI/PCB /MARITIME TOXIC OIL SPILLS.

- **Australians most recognised response engineer for dangerous chemicals such as TDI/PCBS/DOIXON/TOXIC MARITIME OIL SPILLS** Since 2008 Peter James Pool has been. the joint commander for major oil and chemical disaster incidents in Port Botany including the major emergency on the P&O ship mv Los Angeles when tanks containing TDI chemical liquids ruptured on the ship, sparking a major maritime emergency. Port Authority / AMSA request all operations are under the command of Capt. Peter James Pool. Operations completed by all emergency teams within 48 hrs. the ship continued its voyage. Peter Pool also commanded the emergency at Murray One, Snowy Mountains Corp. main power station, when a main transformer ruptured, spilling thousands of litres of PCB contaminated oil into the lower turbine / tail bay catchment dam, EPA and SMC authorities authorised Peter Pool to command the operation and remove the highly toxic PCBs from MURRAY 1 SMC power station. REF, CEO/SYD/PORTS Shane Hobday mob 0417265672/also EPA

Peter James Pool is the founding member and Chairman of the International Disaster Response Agency.

EPA/AMSA. Accredited /Maritime/Port Authorities.

He was recently appointed to design and develop the Baleen ship to respond to world major oil spills. This design will allow more ships of this class to protect the oceans of the world in cases such as the BP Horizon platform spill that caused billions of dollars in damaged infrastructure and endless damage to the world's marine environment. Following the world's worst oil spill of light crude

Peter James Pool. was recognised for his service in the Middle East GCC / SOUTH EAST ASIAN COUNTRIES for his contribution to Maritime Security, over 50yrs service in Defence and Maritime Surveillance.Australia,s National Interest .

In International maritime Training / Helicopter downed pilot / rescue operations TR75 system design and his many dangerous response operations both in South East Asia anti privacy operations / PNG Maritime drug interdiction and interception also under took many training missions with the support of the then minister of Defence and International Policy branch .Director of skills and operational training Middle East for over 25 years until he retired from this role .then advising on counterterrorism on major infrastructure such as /airports /shipping ports /Off shore oil/gas platforms/pipe lines and shipping

Peter James Pool was the Chairman and Adviser for Middle East Defence Policy and spoke out against Australians involvement in the second Iraq War. He was Chairman of AMDEC, And the foundation member of ADIN.

He served as an adviser to Defence and Industry and was respect and wrote extensively on the Middle East where he worked and consulted for over 30 years.

Peter James Pool. NSW Parliament House 2019..



REFEREES

Brig. Jim Wallace AM (RTD)
Managing Director
A C L.

Lieutenant Colonel Rowan Tink (RTD)SASR
Business Development Manager
Maritime - BAE Systems Australia

Major Bob Quodling (RTD)Special Forces
Sqd/Cdr.
XTEK Protect and Special Forces CT /SASR CT CDR
Email:

Colonel Adrian Harding (Project Manager.RAE.
Assistant Dir, ARMY, IED, SPECIAL TASK GROUP
Reference Land Command Victoria Bks Sydney

Major GEN. Jim Molan. [Commander Joint Forces
ME.]. Rid /. Senator of the Australian Parliament
Australian Defence Force

Brigadier Phil McNamara (RTD) Mob
Independent Consultant – Defence & Special Forces

Director General Mike Lyons
Director General International Policy
Department of Defence

Senior Special Forces Sargent Major David
McCamley OAM – Commissioned/Captain.
Consultant
Mac Solutions

Brian McDermott
Owner of South Steyne

Peter James Pool - CV 2019AUSTRALIAN SPECIALISED DEFENCE /. MARINE OPERATIONS /International Policy Adviser.