

**From:** [NSW Government](#)  
**To:** [Flood Inquiry](#)  
**Subject:** Floods Inquiry  
**Date:** Saturday, 4 June 2022 9:20:35 AM  
**Attachments:** [Eliminating Lismore flooding.docx](#)

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## Your details

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<b>Title</b>	Mr
<b>First name</b>	Raymond
<b>Last name</b>	Sporne
<b>Email</b>	
<b>Postcode</b>	2480

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## Submission details

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<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>	As a reasonably long term resident I believe in the town but obviously, without the likelihood of further devastating floods
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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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<b>1.6 Any other</b>	I have set out my proposal in the attached
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**matters**

document

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**Supporting documents or images**

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**Attach files**

- [Eliminating Lismore flooding.docx](#)
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## Eliminating Lismore flooding

Lismore floods.

I repeat my belief that the only way to avoid Lismore flooding in future is to provide a better means by which the water which flows into the "basin" can flow out of the town area just as quickly, and that modifying and utilising the existing water course downstream from the town would appear to be the most logical and practical option.

We know the downstream river carries all the water away (apart from whatever is absorbed by the ground), so theoretically at least, the river should be able to eventually handle the volume.

Now, volume, I've heard the amount of water we are talking about is somewhere between half the volume of Sydney Harbour and the total volume of the harbour, that is between 250,000 and 500,000 cubic metres of water, a huge quantity in anyone's assessment.

To modify the existing river to carry that much water quickly would obviously be possible but it would be a huge undertaking.

Alternatively, the river could be modified and a series of lakes or reservoirs provided so the water flows but not in a single flush.

The other advantage would be that the region would have a new storage of fresh water which could be distributed to wherever it is needed, rather than just flow out to sea.

Downstream?

Yes the water would eventually travel downstream and would add to whatever flooding was in the Richmond River, however this could be mitigated by installing a dam in the vicinity of Coraki, and controlling the rate at which the water from the Wilson is released.

The only down-side I can see, apart from the cost of course, is that we would no longer have a navigable river from the sea to Lismore, but I don't believe it currently used by boats anyway, perhaps fish?

Logical? Definitely

Feasible? The water course and the land are there, so yes.

Will it solve the problem of Lismore flooding? Yes, if the water has somewhere to go, the town can't flood.

Expensive? Yes, but perhaps not when compared to the proposed relocation of the town, land buy-backs etc

I believe a lot of people still have faith in the town of Lismore and would prefer to keep living here, but the minimisation of the risk of future floods must be addressed before residents will return confidently.

Good luck with pursuing this or other options to preserve the town.