

**From:** [NSW Government](#)  
**To:** [Flood Inquiry](#)  
**Subject:** Floods Inquiry  
**Date:** Monday, 2 May 2022 1:08:44 PM  
**Attachments:** [Independent Flood Inquiry Submission #2.docx](#)

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## Your details

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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>	see my submission today, attached below Thanks, Ross
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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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## Supporting documents or images

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### Attach files

- [Independent Flood Inquiry Submission #2.docx](#)
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Dr Ross J. Lehman

GOONELLABAH, NSW, 2480

Monday, May 2, 2022

## ***INDEPENDENT FLOOD INQUIRY***

Professor Mary O’Kane and Michael Fuller

Dear Mary and Michael

I have tried to register to participate in the Open Meeting at the Whitebrook Theatre, Southern Cross University, Lismore Campus advertised for 5:30 pm tomorrow, Tuesday, May 3, 2022.

However, there are no more entry tickets available.

Below are my additional thoughts for consideration by the Independent Flood Review.

My original submission is dated Sunday, April 24, 2022 which has been acknowledged.

### **FUTURE**

#### **Lake Lismore and Dam wall**

The year is 2222 – two hundred years from now!

Based on the variety of input from the 2022 Independent Flood Inquiry, the decision-makers moved forward with a robust action plan devised by including urban architects [like Walter Burley Griffin who designed Canberra, ACT and Islamabad, Pakistan with wide boulevards and many green parkland areas] which included:

1. The construction of a huge dam wall near South Gundurimba and the creation of Lake Lismore.  
COMMENT: As a consequence, there has never since been a flood along the Richmond River. Woodburn, Broadwater, Coraki and Cabbage Tree Island have been flood-free for the past two hundred years.  
COMMENT: The control of the gates to the dam for overflow have been carefully managed, such that issues that have occurred in Brisbane [Wivenhoe Dam] and Sydney [Warragamba Dam] do not occur.
2. The water supply needs for the Northern Rivers region have been plentiful and have met demand, ever since.
3. Housing in the Lake Lismore zone has been built on the higher ground and nearby plateau areas.
4. The Services hub was established on 100 hectares of land in Lindendale and has successfully housed Ambulance, Police, Fire and Rescue, State Emergency Services, the Law Courts and legal entities. The integrated service provision is a key, world standard example of co-ordination
5. The industrial hub established on hundreds of hectares of land in the Tregeagle area continues to be successfully developed.
6. The education hub established at Wollongbar is a vast site of inter-related institutions from Pre-school to Post-Graduate and Research at the university level, with library provisions to match the need. A key provision has been the continuous flow of work-ready ‘tradies.’
7. The entertainment hub established north of Wollongbar contains multi-purpose performance spaces for opera, musicals, concerts, meetings, display of many forms of artistic production.

COMMENT: Part of the reason that our indigenous ancestors established the Bora Ring on the plateau near Alstonville was the lovely view and being a flood-free site.

8. Retail centres are scattered at appropriate distances to meet the local areas' requirements, along with sufficient parking, if such is required for whatever means of transport is being used, in 2222.
9. The equivalent of a network of light rail services link all the areas together, including the coastal areas such as Ballina, Lennox Head and Byron.
10. The local government hub established near Lindendale contains the equivalent of city administration, Service NSW, Centrelink and similar entities. Still with plenty of space available for expansion.
11. An infrastructure 'nerve' centre established nearby, has been instrumental in the success of the area, which includes, for example: water, power, housing, communication [radio, television or whatever has been devised in the past 200 years], transport planning and control.
12. Provisions for volunteer and cultural organisations [Red Cross, CWA, Guide and Scouts Groups, PCYC to name a few] have been integrated into the re-establishment planning.
13. A medical and mental health hub along with 'spiritual support' has been established in Lismore Heights.
14. The local indigenous community continue to be consulted during any re-establishment developments of Lismore and environs.
15. Sport and recreation facilities abound, with venues for open air venues for local activities from golf to netball, tennis, cricket, football, hockey, pony club, for example.
16. The regional Botanic Society and interested folk have been successful with their advice and as a consequence, prolific land improvements have been included in all development enterprises. The shoreline of Lismore Lake is a world-renowned tourist attraction.
17. A large stadium established overlooking the Lismore Lake has been constructed with world class events being held there.
18. Indoor facilities for swimming, basketball, table tennis, for example, have been established throughout the plateau.
19. Water sports, including boating and fishing, abound around various centres established beside Lake Lismore.
20. Large areas that are 'pet friendly' have been provided throughout the region.
21. The latest version of the Bruxner Highway is at least a four-laned carriage-way from Tenterfield to Ballina and it crosses over on top of the dam wall in South Gunderimba.
22. Housing provision of allocated provision of special rental homes for itinerant workers, for example: Police, Nurses and Teachers, has been a successful enterprise throughout the Northern Rivers region.

#### Notes:

1. Lake Burley Griffin in Canberra, ACT was a sheep station during European development. The dam wall created the lake.
2. Under Lake Jindabyne in the Snowy Region is the former town of Jindabyne, now drowned, where diving tours occur to explore the relics in the depths below the surface.
3. As an Anglican, what would happen to the heritage-listed, St Andrew's Anglican Church, a rare Garrison church, in Zadoc Street? If required, it could be moved – brick by brick – to an appropriate site on the Eastern Plateau.

COMMENT: All Saints, Anglican Church, Ainslie, ACT was originally, the first Mortuary Train Station at Rookwood Cemetery. When the steam trains ceased to transport funeral groups from Redfern and the station was closed, it was moved – brick by brick – to Ainslie in Canberra, ACT and refurbished as the current, beautiful, All Saints Church.

4. St Carthages, Catholic Cathedral, along with Trinity Catholic College and the latest version of Richmond River High School could be re-established on the edge of the Dunoon Plateau overlooking Lake Lismore.

COMMENT: For those who have been fortunate enough to visit the Chapel at HMAS Watson on the southern headland of Sydney Harbour, will remember, the awe-inspiring view out from the large Eastern window looking at the ocean. Imagine the view from St Carthages Cathedral across Lismore Lake.

5. To reach Nimbin, in 2222, part of the travel might need to be via a series of highway and light rail tunnels which have been constructed under Lake Lismore.

#### Further Recommendations:

1. ROADS AND 'POT HOLES:'

A multi-million dollar research grant be awarded to the Engineering Faculty at Southern Cross University. The outcome of the research would be world-class guidelines for the construction of roads. Such would include the foundation and the top-level of road surfaces. The result would mean NO MORE POTHOLES! Or, some process that permanently fixed an imperfection, crack or hole. Wow!

COMMENT: If the O'Brien company can fix cracked windscreens with a successful and invisible process surely the composition of our roads could be constructed using a revolutionary method.

2. PROVISIONS FOR THE WELFARE NEEDS of individuals and families who come from the lower Strata of Socio-Economic Status.

Many of the current 'homeless' and disadvantaged people who formerly lived in flood-prone areas like North and South Lismore established their dwelling place in such areas because the financial cost was less.

COMMENT: There is a special need to develop appropriate policies to be implemented to more adequately provide for the needs of society's poor.

RJL:02/05/2022