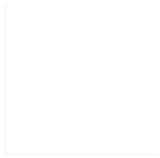


**From:** [NSW Government](#)  
**To:** [Flood Inquiry](#)  
**Subject:** Floods Inquiry  
**Date:** Thursday, 5 May 2022 8:37:26 PM



## Your details

Title Mr

First name Russell

Last name Chaplin

Email

Postcode 2483

## Submission details

I am making this submission as A resident in a flood-affected area

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 Living in known flood liable location adjacent to the Ocean Shores country Club Golf Course. Understand and accept the flood risk. Key issues are improving flood warning and providing better information for the ocean shores catchment east of the highway.

## 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**

Predicting flood behaviour is challenging for Ocean Shores when based on Billinudgel (Pocket) catchment and Mullumbimby (Main Arm) catchment alone. Billinudgel flooding Feb 2022 was lower than 2017 when the flood in Ocean Shores was 350mm higher than 2005 and even higher than 2017.

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**1.2 Preparation and planning**

Ocean Shores (Marshalls Creek) flood gauge on the BOM website needs to provide a minor, moderate and major flood level and predictions to suit. The influence of the tides at Billinudgel, Ocean Shores and Brunswick river bar differ so much they can not be used to assist Ocean Shores residents to predict and plan for flood events. For example Billinudgel high tide is 4 hours after the Brunswick River bar. Billinudgel flood data is no longer a reliable indicator for flood risk. At the same time, the impact of the rainfall from the Yelgun catchment and beyond, which flows through the Kallaroo circuit bund, is not reported or modelled and was a major contributor to the flooding in Ocean Shores, as both Yelgun and Billinudgel flows to the ocean are via the Marshalls Creek flood plain - directly impacting flood levels and behaviour in Ocean Shores.

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**1.3 Response to floods**

The most challenging concern was lack of data when internet and mobiles went down. If we could have monitored rainfall and flood height data we could have prevented more harm. SES orders and advice were issued hours after it was too late to move cars - relying on billinudgel flood height proved to be a poor decision.

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**1.4 Transition from incident response to recovery**

Removal of waste at no cost and in a relatively timely and efficient manner was greatly appreciated. If there are priorities for allocation of public funds then clean up (along with support for those who need it) is important to assist in the commencement of recovery.

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**1.5 Recovery from floods**

If ever there is a time to consider relaxation of planning and building constraints and approval processes - it is now. The ability to have shelter and a place to live is a far superior need than strict adherence to planning and building laws that add to the complexity of the approval process, and add to the cost of building. Replace the need for a DA with a simplified part 4 approval process. Relax the application of DCP and NCC requirements and be pragmatic about the benefits of doing so. For example, we can get back on track with sustainable building however there is a higher order need now to allow people to rebuild sooner and at a lower cost than would normally be the case.

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**Supporting documents or images**

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