

From: [NSW Government](#)
To: [Flood Inquiry](#)
Subject: Floods Inquiry
Date: Wednesday, 25 May 2022 3:49:15 PM

Your details

Title Mr

First name Stephen

Last name Birney

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 I was born and raised till the age of 16 years (I am 67 years old now) in Mooball. Never in that time did our family home EVER have flood water in it up until 2017. We lived two houses south of what is now the Moo Moo Cafe and in 2017 and 2022 it had over 1.5m of flood water in it.

My wife and I built our first home at Hunter Street Burringbar in 1983 and have lived there since.

My mother milked cows on the dairy farm where our home is now for many years and could never recall flooding in that area.

The flood events of 2017 and the recent February 2022 event are a direct result of the filling of the flood plain for the construction of the M1 where the Pottsville Road runs adjacent to the M1 just east of Mooball, locally known as Cowell Park.

The causeways that were constructed are simply not big enough and as a result far to much of the flood plain fed by Burringbar Creek was filled in for the road to be constructed.

It is my opinion that if the earth was removed and across the full area a new road constructed above it the flooding in Mooball and Burringbar would be no longer an issue.

As a lifetime resident I can site the following facts to support my opinions.

Prior to the M1 construction the cane fields at the M1 would ALWAYS be flattened by the force of the floodwaters rushing away, currently the water in major rainfall events simply spreads out and rises with the cane fields remaining upright until it runs across the M1 as it did in 2017.

At that time my home had 610mm of water inside.

The February 28 /2022 event saw two flooding events (one at 4.15am and and 2.30pm) the first being 125mm deep in our home and the second 325mm deep.

This time the M1 did not flood hence the lower flood levels, but still the same result.

In heavy rain that goes on for days this would not have been an issue prior to the M1 construction

the water would simply have spread down stream across the Wooyung flood plain.

I have spoken with the local cane farmers who agree that their property remains inundated with flood water for longer and on the Mooball side of the M1 the water reaches far higher up their property's than prior to the M1 construction.

I would very much appreciate the opportunity to have my say on what is proposed to fix this major problem for all local residents affected.

My wife and I are once again in emergency accommodation (said to be another 12 months) and unless the issue with the M1 is rectified we will again sometime in the future be affected.

Cheers

Steve Birney.

Terms of Reference (optional)

The Inquiry welcomes submissions that address the particular matters identified in its [Terms of Reference](#)

Supporting documents or images
