

From: [NSW Government](#)
To: [Flood Inquiry](#)
Subject: Floods Inquiry
Date: Wednesday, 4 May 2022 8:25:41 PM

Your details

Title Mr

First name Stephen

Last name Wagner

Email

Postcode 2472

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 Our houses and properties were flooded on the 01/03/22. We believe that maintained infrastructure would ameliorate the impact of damage.
We had house, machinery and farm crop damage that will cause significant cost to us and a few years of farm recovery.

Terms of Reference (optional)

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

1.2 Preparation and planning

This concerns the lack of maintenance of existing flood mitigation infrastructure. May we provide a little piece of history. The Evans river and Rocky Mouth creek were joined by a canal with an inflatable fabri-dam after the 1954 flood where construction was completed in the mid 1960s. When the fabri-dam is deflated, the canal diverts water from the Richmond river through the Evans river in flood-which provides a quicker flow of water to the ocean. Otherwise, the water has to flow many miles up to the ocean at Ballina. The fabri-dam in the canal was a water inflatable barrier that prevented salt water reversing back into the river during normal weather.

This inflatable bladder failed approximately 25 years ago and a fixed weir has replaced it – set above high tide level. This was said, at the time, to be done due to insufficient funds to replace the original fabri-dam. Presumably this was done by Public Works Department.

The fabri-dam was designed to be deflated as soon as the river started to flood, to allow the canal to act as a spillway directly to the ocean. As you can image, the weir causes a significant impedance to flow early, and during, all flooding.

It is worth noting that this shortcut of water to the ocean is the same area where there is a complaint and looming class action against the new motorway, where there is the belief that it blocks this same flow of water across county to the ocean at Evans Head.

The original fabri-dam needs to be replaced and flood mitigation works actively maintained. This was an advantageous precedence set by the authorities of the 1950-1960s.

Supporting documents or images
