

From: [NSW Government](#)
To: [Flood Inquiry](#)
Subject: Floods Inquiry
Date: Wednesday, 4 May 2022 8:31:43 PM

Your details

Title Mr

First name Stephen

Last name Wagner

Email

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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

Terms of Reference (optional)

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

1.2 Preparation and planning Submission to Enquiry into 2022 Flood, Lismore. Woodburn Flood which occurred on the 01/03/2022.

This concerns the poor prediction of flood heights for flood, at Woodburn.

Firstly some facts:

The Bureau of Meteorology predicted the flood level at Woodburn to be 5.3m on the Monday 28/02/22. According to the SES, that prediction remained in place for over 12 hours. When the river reached that level, it was reviewed through the night with ever increasing heights - after the river reached each of these heights – that is, their predictions were too late. They were reports that were obvious, not helpful predictions. Even the evacuation order for Woodburn was issued after it was too late for anyone to travel due to flooded roads.

The early prediction of 5.3m flood height is below the level of the 1954 flood (which has been the highest known flood at Woodburn). We know that our house, equipment and cattle are safe on the land near our house, at this river flood height. Consequently all machinery and cattle were moved to this high ground. In addition, our brother, his wife and 3 young children plus his equipment and vehicles were moved to our 'high ground'.

These same actions were repeated on multiple sites throughout our community, on that day. = to later be met with disaster.

It is obvious the bureau has insufficient weather metering and river level measurement points. We believe this applies to Bungawalbyn river catchment area. (the other 2 catchment areas- Richmond River and Wilson River are probably monitored well enough).

It would be helpful for the future, if more metering was in place in the Bungawalbyn river for accurate predictions of lower river flooding. This includes the need for appropriate flood modelling to accurately predict flood heights at an earlier stage.

This applies to the lower Richmond River affecting Coraki, Woodburn, Broadwater, Wardell and Ballina.

Supporting documents or images
