

From: [NSW Government](#)
To: [Flood Inquiry](#)
Subject: Floods Inquiry
Date: Thursday, 12 May 2022 5:12:32 PM



Your details

Title Mr

First name Martin

Last name Novak

Email

Postcode 2480

Submission details

I am making this submission as A primary producer

Submission type I am submitting on behalf of my organisation

Organisation making the submission (if applicable) Subtropical farm Forestry Association (SFFA)

Your position in the organisation (if applicable) President

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 farm has suffered significant damage as a result of the last 2 floods, as have many other farms of SFFA members and others. We have been involved in tree planting since the 1980's. We have seen the multiple benefits of these plantings over those years and in particular during the last 2 flood events. One example was the areas that we had planted to prevent further landslips held, while other areas that had minimal vegetation suffered from massive landslips.

Terms of Reference (optional)

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

1.1 Causes and contributing factors

The effects of Climate Change, has resulted in increasing the severity of events such as floods and fires in our region. Past land clearing and inappropriate earthworks has resulted in siltation of our waterways and faster runoff during extreme rain events. Inappropriate development of roadways, buildings and the like, has added to the problem.

1.2 Preparation and planning

The Room for Rivers idea has great merit, but in Lismore the river can't be widened however, there could be a mega spillway west of south Lismore, especially since the airport not coming back, this could also act as a water storage in drought times and provide habitat for wildlife. In addition to this, environmentally appropriate smaller dams strategically allocated on farms throughout the catchment. (eg the deep weed infested gullies on many properties, if designed well, could significantly slow down flood waters and also help in drought times and add to wildlife habitat. Houses that are to remain in flood prone areas need a properly designed escape systems via the attic and onto the roof and rebuilt with flood proof materials. The older houses built with quality hardwood have with stood many floods in the past.

In addition Nature based flood mitigation needs to be utilising appropriate tree plantings, reinstating wetlands and allowing floodwaters better access to flood plains and the like.

1.3 Response to floods

Response to floods needs to be a lot faster and better coordinated.

1.4 Transition from incident response to recovery

Start by implementing what I have set out in 1.2 along with other suggestions from all the various experts and in particular from the community that suffered the floods.

1.5 Recovery from floods

Better delivery of recovery grants and loans. More hands on assistance for all who have experienced the losses from the floods including the farmers.

1.6 Any other matters

Flood mitigation has provided opportunities to develop mitigation against drought and fire as well.

Supporting documents or images

Attach files

- [Landslip area held by trees.jpg](#)
 - [Massive landslip Whai Whian.jpg](#)
 - [Screed form landslip.jpg](#)
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