

From: [NSW Government](#)
To: [Flood Inquiry](#)
Subject: Floods Inquiry
Date: Tuesday, 5 April 2022 6:54:50 PM

Your details

Title	Ms
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Last name	McLennan
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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

Your story	<p>I was born in the Northern Rivers. I came to live in Lismore on the 07.01.22 from Terrigal. My Youngest Son said he didn't need me to move near his Uni. So I said I am going to my homeland. I was loving Lismore</p> <p>On the 28.02.22 My dog Freyja woke me at 0300. She normally slept in a crate under the house but it had been raining so hard and so long I left her inside. I looked out the window and</p>
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saw my neighbour loading his boat. Freyja was doing this Lassie thing trying to get me to follow her so I turned on lights and saw water coming in over my first step and rising fast. I measured the rise of the step 12 cm and lit candles on the 10th step. There are 15. The water rose 12 cm every 20 minutes. I rang my neighbour who is 71, he said pack a bag and go out on the front veranda they will come for us at dawn (his boat wouldn't start).

They did not come.

I rang ESS they said we have no resources drag a table out to the veranda. Impossible water rushing too fast, cars and cows floating past.

I called 000 they said we can't come climb onto your roof. My house is 100 this year and there is no access to a steep roof.

My neighbour got picked up off his roof at 0900 they said the boat was too full and they'd come back for me.

They did not come back.

An hour later I rang my neighbour and he said they forgot. I rang my son's and my siblings to say goodbye. I knew will the rise rate we would be swept off in 20-30 minutes.

I heard a boat pass. I had seen a few and screamed until I was hoarse. Then I did a big wolf whistle and a boat going past my treetops stopped and came in to me. Freyja and I were standing on a day bed with water up to our ankles. The driver said I am too full I'll come back for you. I lost it crying hysterically. He looked me in the eye and said my name is Aidan and this is Tim and if I say I'm coming back I will. I said please hurry I only have 20 minutes.

He came back.

I am alive and luckier than most.

Terms of Reference (optional)

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

1.1 Causes and contributing

Lismore is a flood plain. Why are people allowed to sell houses or live in an area of danger. I was

factors	ignorant of the risk. As a new resident 07.01.22 where was my briefing. Where was the Council's Emergency Plan?
1.2 Preparation and planning	ESS said it won't come near you love as the house is 3.5m up.
1.3 Response to floods	I need help to move my 100 year old cedar house to high ground please.
1.4 Transition from incident response to recovery	Volunteers saved me, volunteers clothed and fed me and my dog. My sister in laws best friend housed me for 8 days. The the president of the CWA in Casino housed me for a week. Volunteers cleaned my house. My Insurance company called 18 days post despite a claim on 2.3.22.
1.5 Recovery from floods	I need trades people. I need debris removed from my garden. I am a single 57 year old. I have been without electricity for 6 weeks now. All my down pipes were destroyed and the rain is still coming. Need a plumber too.
1.6 Any other matters	This is devastating, soul destroying. All my childhood memorabilia lost. Recovery will take 6 months. We need organised assistance. Saturday 4 army privates removed some heavy fencing that landed in my yard thankyou. Yesterday I asked some if they could move a tree that's floated in and they said they had to go elsewhere.

Supporting documents or images

Attach files	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 20220306_094553.jpg • 20220304_124241.jpg • 20220228_063357.jpg
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