

From: [NSW Government](#)
To: [Flood Inquiry](#)
Subject: Floods Inquiry
Date: Friday, 24 June 2022 10:37:28 PM



Your details

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Last name	Commerford
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Postcode	2481

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	Byron Bay Community Flood Relief response: On March 1 after floods came through, Byron Bay was almost acting like an island on the Northern Rivers and became a central distribution hub for supplies for the northern rivers. A fully led community emergency relief program
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was up and running in hours with a makeshift depot first at St Finbar's – one of the few buildings high enough and unimpacted, and then we moved to C3 Church Byron Bay in the Industrial estate providing storage at scale and good access for people and vehicles.

We sent out close to 500 trucks, vans and 4wds with up to 100 people coming in/out of the church depot daily

The Facebook 'Northern NSW 2022 Floods community clean up' team were pivotal in supplying and managing the volunteer roster after experience doing the same in the QLD floods. They were up and running in a matter of hours as well.

By day two the industrial estate location was filled to the brim with chainsaws, fuel, new clothes, water, pantry items, wheelbarrows, medical supplies..

Our depot was largely being fed by what was left of local community donations when food and fuel supplies were cut off, but when the M1 to the north opened, Cornerstone stores at Currumbin, with the support of high profile private benefactors, pumped thousands of dollars of supplies, trucks and people to us, and then used C3 Byron Bay as a middle meeting point on the coast for rescues south at Evans Head.

Volunteers were acting as transport coordinators with trucks, boats, jet skis and helicopters; they became logistics experts overnight

We were on standby with the Red Cross to provide supplies via helicopter into Upper Wilsons Creek.

With limited mobile or internet coverage, we had teams near towers dialling into the various evac centres, civic centres and Red Cross to see where the immediate needs for supplies and resources were

The truck drivers and volunteers going out on the ground informed us on their second runs where the need was; they were some of the first responders to Mullum as well as remote areas like The Channon by car and, hiking, and then

followed up with coordination with helicopters on subsequent days once they knew locations. Volunteers who came by thinking they'd be sorting and stacking clothes and supplies, fast became disaster relief experts taking on a load that they never thought they'd need to. In week three after the emergency phase, we then organised a Town Hall meeting to fast track short term housing requirements lobbying people like Mal Lanyon et al, and holding the gathering in the local Goonellabah theatre. We've raised and coordinated close to ~\$200K in direct cash donations, bunnings vouchers, Australia Post partnerships with deliveries from Sydney coordinated and delivered first into the Lismore showgrounds with semi trailer loads of items of goods. That figure doesn't include the various cash donations and goods, fuels, supplies that were coming through during the emergency phase.

Terms of Reference (optional)

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

Supporting documents or images

Attach files

- [9CD65ACD-C9AB-4DEA-9352-552FF4E8FA5F.jpeg](#)
 - [E4EF6B65-EC2E-41B5-8FBC-4A4F40C21A92.jpeg](#)
 - [3D9A6791-34A0-4E38-8165-2B53C592176F.jpeg](#)
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WELCOME!





DELIVERY POINTS

LIFE OARCH
G.S. Graham
Chris Davis

TAKT STEVE
CHIFFER
TAKT
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CULTURAL
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