

From: [NSW Government](#)
To: [Flood Inquiry](#)
Subject: Floods Inquiry
Date: Monday, 16 May 2022 3:30:03 PM



Your details

Title Mr

First name Stephen

Last name Elworthy

Email

Postcode 2487

Submission details

I am making this submission as Other

Submission type I am submitting on behalf of my organisation

Organisation making the submission (if applicable) The Cudgen Drainage Union

Your position in the organisation (if applicable) Director

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

We are a drainage union that maintains the drains in rural land in the catchment of Clothiers Creek and Reserve Creek to Cudgen Lake . We experienced severe flooding and our paddocks are still inundated with water . Forty years of silt have built up in Cudgen Lake and also Cudgen Creek severely restricting the flow of water to the ocean, this has impacted on the town of Cabarita Beach causing considerable damage and loss of property. The landowners in our area have not had access to any of their flat land for most of this year greatly restricting primary production.

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

: Cudgen Lake and Cudgen Creek have accumulated decades of silt massively restricting flow
:Other restrictions in the flow path, encroaching vegetation etc
: Lack of will from various agencies to address residents concerns
: Cudgen Lake is now brakish / fresh water and has very restricted tidal flow

1.2 Preparation and planning

The local council has known about this for some time and can not action anything because the agencies involved make it to restrictive to achieve any worthwhile outcomes
Environmental impact of mitigation by dredging or clearing has not been considered using environmental research and data collection or best practice management.

1.4 Transition from incident response to recovery

:We believe that our flooding situation could be prevented by the maintaining and or creating of flow channels of suitable capacities to carry the volume required to the ocean .
:Local council and agencies supporting and encouraging a successfull outcome .
: We believe that returning the lake to saltwater as it was historically would also help

considerably

: Explore the option of an outflow duct directly
from the lake to the ocean

Supporting documents or images
