

From: [NSW Government](#)
To: [Flood Inquiry](#)
Subject: Floods Inquiry
Date: Tuesday, 10 May 2022 10:04:15 AM

Your details

Title Mr

First name Tony

Last name Margan

Email

Postcode 2480

Submission details

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 We have 24ha of river flats including 2.1km frontage to the Wilsons River at Monaltrie, downstream from Lismore. Our 120 year old dairy was washed away, cattle yards trashed, fences flattened and tonnes of debris deposited on our fences, paddocks and riparian areas.

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

Upstream landholder neglect in not controlling noxious weeds, especially water hyacinth and coral trees which are lifted by the floodwaters as a very solid mass and destroyed our important infrastructure and took out power poles so that mains power took 12 days to restoration. The flood can only be considered "catastrophic" because of the massive loss of human possessions. If there was less "stuff" on the floodplain the loss would not feel so bad - witness the 30 March flood, a major flood with limited loss because there was less to lose after the 1st one.

1.2 Preparation and planning

Re-educate the population to be pro-active by providing rainfall and river height readings hourly via ABC Radio from upper catchment sights such as Upper Wilsons Creek, Goonengerry, Back Creek, Dunoon. We can then make informed decisions from that information about what we can do to minimise damage and losses rather than relying on SES to give re-active direction.

Relocate all houses in North and South Lismore off the floodplain. There are thousands of blocks of land approved for residential by Lismore Council that are being land-banked by developers - force their hand with a time limit. Move the CBD to up on the hills around the North Lismore plateau.

1.3 Response to floods

Community response is the quickest and best. SES and Army can come in later to help clean up, if required

1.4 Transition from incident response to recovery

Army did a great job, as did LLS. SES okay too, though it's difficult for a boat to pick up people when there are already 5 SES people on it; make it a maximum of 2?

1.5 Recovery from floods

If the business district was not affected by floods because it wasn't on the floodplain there would be no interruption to business and people's lives - physically and mentally. Minimise or eliminate the chances of loss.

1.6 Any other matters

If this flood recovery cost \$1.7 billion then that sort of money will have to be found again and again if we don't drastically change the City. A fraction of that could relocate homes and the CBD from the floodplain as a once off. Engineering solutions have not worked and will not work. Only lazy vested interests in the CBD think that is the future. If people think the best way to manage the flood is to protect the CBD and get the water out of Lismore as quickly as possible we downstream will bear the brunt. Not only our farms but the Bruxner Highway at Loftville will eventually become cut through as the volume and velocity of water cuts away at the river bank towards the nearby hill

Supporting documents or images

Attach files

- [Flood before from house on hill.jpg](#)
 - [Flood Dairy from hill prior.jpg](#)
 - [Flood debris on riverbank.jpg](#)
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