

**From:** [NSW Government](#)  
**To:** [Flood Inquiry](#)  
**Subject:** Floods Inquiry  
**Date:** Friday, 20 May 2022 3:28:56 PM  
**Attachments:** [Flood photo 1.pdf](#)  
[photo 2.pdf](#)  
[Photo 3.pdf](#)

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## Your details

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<b>Title</b>	Mr
<b>First name</b>	Tony
<b>Last name</b>	Shannon
<b>Email</b>	
<b>Postcode</b>	2463

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## Submission details

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<b>I am making this submission as</b>	A primary producer
<b>Submission type</b>	I am making a personal submission
<b>Consent to make submission public</b>	I give my consent for this submission to be made public

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## Share your experience or tell your story

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<b>Your story</b>	I am a long-term sugar cane grower based at Harwood in Northern NSW. My farm runs parallel to the Pacific Highway and is located next to the Serpentine Channel. The new highway included the construction of an 80 drain underneath the highway.
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The cell drains water from the highway and west of the highway, from the cell water drains to the north then under Serpentine Channel South Bank Road, then north back under the Serpentine Channel South Bank Road and finally into the Serpentine Channel. There is also a high flow drain that ran north parallel to the highway and directly into the Serpentine Channel. The drainage system also consists of a high flow drainage system located on the western side of the Serpentine Channel South Bank Road, this drains directly into the Serpentine Channel and doesn't criss-cross the road.

I had many meetings with representatives of Pacific Complete trying to get them to understand my issues and the problems, but they wouldn't consider having all drain directly in the Serpentine Channel given the flood modelling they had completed indicated this is not required.

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## **Terms of Reference (optional)**

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

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### **1.1 Causes and contributing factors**

I have lived on the Clarence River my entire life and have been through many floods, I accept floods are part of life living on the flood plain. I have previous experience with flood migration and a good understanding of water flow in the area. I have had no prior issues with floodwater inundating my property, water drainage or crop loss before the construction of the new highway. I have lost an entire cane crop, resulting in a loss of income, along with the cost of planting and fertilising etc. The current cost to plant cane is approximately \$2,700/ha. Given the current drainage setup, I will no longer be able to grow cane on this farm, given the financial risk to my business.

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### **1.5 Recovery from floods**

I have further meetings with Transport NSW to discuss my ongoing drainage issue. I am hoping the inquiry outcomes will allow for changes to be

made to the current drainage situation that will alleviate these issues.

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## **Supporting documents or images**

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### **Attach files**

- [Flood photo 1.pdf](#)
  - [photo 2.pdf](#)
  - [Photo 3.pdf](#)
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