

From: [NSW Government](#)
To: [Flood Inquiry](#)
Subject: Floods Inquiry
Date: Friday, 20 May 2022 4:06:31 PM

Your details

Title Mr

First name Trevor

Last name Acfield

Email

Postcode 2480

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 I want to talk about waste.
There were no boundaries except for asbestos, but even that was problematic and it wasn't for a week or so looked at by council. Tapes started to appear around waste piles.
I picked through piles for wood and got quite a lot, but A LOT OF THE WASTE COULD HAVE BEEN AVOIDED.

There was almost no recycling. Lots of steel, from table legs, pianos, furniture. Almost nothing got sorted, and there was no leadership to advise or insist recycling was desirable. The amount of melamine, chipboard and other building materials, like gyprock that were dumped. We should know by now that we should not use materials that will only be put into another pile out the front. Government needs to get policies that do not encourage waste. Such as making melamine illegal, or at least discouraged. Maybe a cost to dispose of materials that are inappropriate, particularly if education has been used to encourage environmental responsibility.

Another point on waste is that lots of willing volunteers chucked out lots of good stuff. I had to spend heaps of time, resorting my pile, but lots more should have been saved from the dump pile. Owners need to know and council should advise us at the time to beware of over zealous volunteers and prepare in advance to organise them.

Then ofcourse there is the issue of over consumption. How much shit to we need. There is also an attitude of council that seems to be that we are in a crisis and we should therefore lower environmental responsibility by the individual, businesses or government.

There was a lot of good useable wood thrown out. There were insurance companies who employed contractors to rip out the interiors of houses, leaving frames only some was fibro, villaboard or timber. One example I knew of was a complete house that was gutted of all timber, except the floor and frame. The walls and ceiling was taken out of this house that was built on 1908 from local hoop pine. The worst part is the owner was not consulted. I was there when he arrived home. He was more gutted than his house. How does that happen?

The general high removal of materials was excessive. I think it likely to be related to the Work Place Health and Safety fear to get rid of

mould and help the drying out of the frame. Ofcourse the house had been flooded before. It was built in 1908 on low land near the CBD. Somehow people survived the mould and damp. There is no issue with the environmental waste. The wood was just ripped out asap. WPH&S that is out of control.

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	Climate Change. We could just say it was a once in however long bit of bad luck, but its Climate Change and maybe a bit of bad luck as well.
1.2 Preparation and planning	Build houses and infrastructure out of reusable materials. Ban the use of melamine, chipboard, gyprock and other disposable materials. Govts to take on responsibility to bring in policies and procedures to reduce the waste, and educate.
1.3 Response to floods	Like fires, get out. No-one in my near vicinity left early (except us). They were all saved in tinnies. We didnt go the same hell others did. We were just lucky. We just decided we may as well spend the night at a friends place.
1.5 Recovery from floods	Its not easy, but we are resilient and thankful to so many people who helped, but I know many who are traumatised.
1.6 Any other matters	Our leaders need to admit to us this was a Climate Change assisted event. Our local Federal MP, Kevin Hogan said it was a Natural event. He has never mentioned Climate Change or what we could do to alter our lifesyles and policies to turn this around.

Supporting documents or images
