

From: [NSW Government](#)
To: [Flood Inquiry](#)
Subject: Floods Inquiry
Date: Monday, 2 May 2022 6:27:16 PM

Your details

Title Mrs

First name Vicki

Last name Gaillard

Email [REDACTED]

Postcode 2466

Submission details

I am making this submission as Other

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

Two years ago we sold our farm in the Keerrong Valley in lower Terania Creek to my son [REDACTED]. He grew up there and knew what to do when given a flood warning, he knew water had never entered the house but all vehicles and livestock had to be moved to higher ground. This flood warning was minimal and he was left trapped in the house where water rose 1 metre

inside, had his 10yo son asleep in the roof cavity and spent the night perched on a ladder with lifejackets handy to swim with his boy to safety if the house was washed off its footings.

Terms of Reference (optional)

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

1.2 Preparation and planning

The warning was inadequate for the size of the flood, too little too late, peaks were surpassed hours before predicted times

1.3 Response to floods

His tenant who was trapped in the cottage on the farm with her 12 year old autistic daughter made contact with the SES at 3am requesting help for all of them and was told they were first priority and a chopper would rescue them at first light. This never eventuated, further calls to SES, 000 and police were left unanswered and by sheer luck a neighbour borrowed a boat and got them out at 10.30 and my son in the afternoon

1.4 Transition from incident response to recovery

Non existent

1.5 Recovery from floods

Community response has been the lifesaver, government grants are near to impossible to access. I have been trying for over a month to apply for my intellectually disabled daughter for rent assistance and disaster relief and am still unable to, given conflicting advice from Service NSW

1.6 Any other matters

There is an urgent need to have community input in reporting rainfall figures as used in the past. Gauges are non functional in the Terania and Tuntable creek area and people in the Keerrong Valley right through to Lismore can make judgement calls if they have up to date reports. When we lived at the farm in the 2017 flood we made early preparation and evacuated as my husband had seen a facebook post from a friend

living at the top of Terania that they had received 700mls of rain overnight. This sort of information needs to be made public immediately, there are many community members who would gladly report rainfall figures if given reliable equipment, and in some instances take creek readings but the equipment needs to be kept maintained. Sending information through to Wollongong and then reported back is clumsy and time wasting, keeping it local makes much better sense. There also needs to be more information made public and explained about the alerts on Rocky Creek Dam; when it is broadcast that there is an amber or red alert no-one knows what that means, a mail out explanation to all households that would be impacted if imperative. My husband made this point in a submission after the 2017 flood but nothing was done

Supporting documents or images
