

**From:** [NSW Government](#)  
**To:** [Flood Inquiry](#)  
**Subject:** Floods Inquiry  
**Date:** Sunday, 22 May 2022 10:48:53 AM

## Your details

**Title** Mr

**First name** William

**Last name** Nissen

**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** My partner and I have 3 kids, all at school in Lismore. I work as an arborist and my partner has a support worker but has a neurological condition that has prevented her from working since our youngest was born. We moved into North Lismore from Nimbin because my partner lost her driving privileges because of seizures. As a single income family North Lismore was

affordable and close to the amenities that my partner needed. Our home is set high - higher than the 2017 flood level; we thought we were safe. But we weren't.

All our belongings have been destroyed, all the kids books that we read to them at night are gone, our house is now gutted - no internal lining, no kitchen or working bathroom.

We are living in two caravans under the house. We've set up a make shift kitchen using the laundry sink under the house.

We had to move everything for the second flood... and back again.

People have been so generous. Helping with the tidy, donating to a go fund me set up by our friends and offering a places to stay while the floods were on. It's been overwhelming.

It's still wet and feels primed for flooding as we spend what little money we have on rebuilding.

I feel, despite owning our home in north Lismore, that we are now destined for poverty - rebuilding over and over every time a flood happens - eventually we'll loose the house and still be in debt.

We would be open to a buy- back or land swap. But please, we are close to town for medical reasons and need to be close - not in a satellite suburb where we have to drive to do shopping.

We have no options other than to live here. Fortunately we love Lismore and and especially the community we live in.

It's hard working in the wealthy coastal communities are returning to my family and home in a physical and emotional quagmire.

I really want to finish on an up note. At least there's not a drought.

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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**

Climate change, poor town planning.

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### **1.3 Response to floods**

Response by the community was amazing. The government's response was lack lustre. Mind you, they weren't dealing with long term crises like domestic violence; climate change so why would they be good at acute crises like a flood.

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### **1.4 Transition from incident response to recovery**

It's hard to recover with out a clear plan for the future.

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## **Supporting documents or images**

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