

From: [NSW Government](#)
To: [Flood Inquiry](#)
Subject: Floods Inquiry
Date: Friday, 20 May 2022 10:01:22 PM

Your details

Title Ms

First name Bec

Last name Luxton

Email

Postcode 4215

Submission details

I am making this submission as Other

Submission type I am submitting on behalf of my organisation

Organisation making the submission (if applicable) Wardell Warriors

Your position in the organisation (if applicable) Founder

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

As a Volunteer from Qld my experience during the first 11 weeks was one I never thought I was getting into. I never thought I would be supporting the rebuild from my own pocket. I never thought I would be at the wrong end of the Jury of Social Media and a victim of Cyber Bullying led by a Greens Councillor purely because I came "from the Gold Coast, White Saviour Victim, go back home, you are not wanted." I never thought I would witness Racism and Reverse Racism in Australia like I did in the small towns in Northern Rivers. Never did I think I would be planning with the ADF on which rural properties to check on using Google Earth at The Ballina Jockey Club, wondering where the Emergency Response Command Centre was (Answer: Kedron QLD). Never did I think I would hear so many stories of sheer horror and such bravery from the same community. Never did I think I would be setting up a Community Hub and Supporting the same people that had managed to deceit the whole town about the lack of legal lease. Never did I think I would see so many people put through a humanitarian crisis due to the lack of assistance from the actual entities that should have been supporting these Australians

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

- Drains in the Cane Fields not being maintained to prevent this. The law of protecting the mangroves is unbalanced with flood prevention management.
- Mangroves in the RICHMOND RIVER reducing the room for water in the river
- The structure of the M1 has created a Dam wall especially at Broadwater. The velocity of the water rushing to the drains rather than a natural spread caused destruction in the way

1.2 Preparation

- No contingency plans

and planning

- No emergency disaster centre after the fires only 2 years ago, NSW should have been prepared for the absolute worse of any Big Weather Event. See Mark Fullers comments from "Big Weather" available on ABC iView

1.3 Response to floods

- There was none.
- Wardell was told by Ballina SES " You are on your own" and 5 days later they were still on their own
- Volunteers worked with ADF as they landed without "orders" for the first 4 weeks, ADF as a entity does not work without Orders
- Volunteers provided the community with full support, Community Volunteers groups were not ever identified by Local councils until week 5, State government have provided no support

1.5 Recovery from floods

- The state Government were under flood until week 9 ... or so we are assuming as they were nowhere to be found.
- The second flood was the horrible reality of the Humanitarian Crisis... The toughest of tough Aussies threw there hands up and said " we can't do this" and they looked for support as their grants continued to get refused, there was nowhere dry for them to stay, no internet, no phone and we were waiting but we didn't and still don't know what for.
- remember I said I was from QLD. I return to watch on the News the big investment that Brisbane city council has invested in the rebuild, Brisbane has been rebuilt only a month post the floods. Unfortunately, our West has just been smashed again, but the Army is already in and assisting the residents

1.6 Any other matters

- So many times a CEO of a National charity said to me, as I chatted about the daily dramas I had gone through "So when did this become Bec, the volunteer from the Gold Coast's problems" ? After spending all my savings and almost 3 months driving back and forth to volunteer, the Cyber Bullying has finally stopped the ability to

support the people who don't scream and shout on Facebook. We have declined the Governments request to reset up the Hub again, they are kindly assisting me to exit safely. Now to return back to QLD to refill my cup and be forever shocked at what happened in NSW.

Supporting documents or images
