

**Submission
No 37**

REVIEW OF THE NSW RECONSTRUCTION AUTHORITY ACT 2022

Name: Mr Shamsi Jesse James

Date Received: 12 June 2024

Jesse James

I am a 49 year old male living on a Northern Rivers multiple occupancy where I've grown up and built my dream home. As a result of the March 2022 Flood and the unprecedented rain event, the southern area 15 m away from my home gave way in a giant landslip 30 m high. In December 2022, Johns Lyng Group provided a Flood Property Assessment Program report which identified the risk of damage to the property as high and the risk to life for occupants as outside of the suggested acceptance criteria. The geotechnical report included stated that there may be an opportunity to reduce the risk to life with further geotechnical investigation, analysis and design which could cost approx. \$50k.

In March 2023, I made an application for the Disaster Recovery Grant (DRG). In May 2023, I sought a quote for geotechnical work to investigate securing the site at approx. \$38,000. In May 2023, I received correspondence from NSW Reconstruction Authority stating I had "been approved, in principle, for a grant towards the structure of my home and solely privately owned rural access road". However since then, in response to queries by my case managers about my claim and progressing the geotechnical works with NSW Public Works Advisory, the NSW Reconstruction Authority has stated that they need to have a Landslip Policy in place before they can progress the DRG. Initially the NSW Reconstruction Authority stated the policy would be completed by December 2023. It is now June 2024 and despite many calls in which the NSW Reconstruction Authority stated that the Landslip policy would be imminent, I am still waiting.

While awaiting an outcome I continue to feel unsafe in my home and will sleep in a tent onsite during heavy rainfalls. It's been over 2 years since the 2022 Flood event and the delays in any progress due to no landslip policy from the NSW Reconstruction Authority, compounded by the trauma from 2022 takes a heavy toll on my health and well-being.

Myself and others affected by the lack of development of a Landslip policy live daily with the ongoing trauma from the 2022 Flood event. I feel like I am living in a vacuum. Please help.