

**Submission
No 40**

REVIEW OF THE NSW RECONSTRUCTION AUTHORITY ACT 2022

Name: Mrs Helen Robinson

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The NSWRA has not every considered risk to life when choosing which houses in Lismore are to be brought back.

Large swathes of by backs are in areas where high land is less than 100m away and where houses are no exposed to high currents. Houses where people are easy to rescue when situations change suddenly as they did in our Big Flood should have been last on the buy back list. Instead they are first.

South Lismore and its people who were isolated by two raging rivers and had currents flowing across Casino, Kyogle and Engine Sts etc of >70knotts have been ignored, thrown under a bus to await the next big flood, except for a few river bank homes, the highest land on a flood plain, which were mostly not exposed to high current.

How many people is the RA prepared to let drown next time? We in Lismore do not want to see one. Further, we do not want to see our people constantly stressed by the very real threat that they could easily get trapped again when situations change rapidly, that they will have to cling to roofs in torrential rain again, that they will have to be in fear while knowing there is no way their possessions and animals can be saved. The ongoing trauma this wilful ignorance and arrogance is causing is enormous and not only has a personal cost but an enormous ongoing cost to our community and society.

The level of secrecy of the NSWRA continues to traumatise much of the town, not just those whose homes were and will again be flooded. Businesses are dying, this isn't about the downturn in trade caused by nation wide issues, this is primarily about people not want to shop in our CBD.

Businesses on the flood plain, retail and manufacturing, have suffered enormous losses and owners and staff are experiencing the same trauma as residents - they fully and correctly expect to be flooded again and again.and to suffer enormous losses again. There is no alternative for them.

Back to the buybacks - this whole process has been phenomenally mismanaged. The level of secrecy has been designed to disempower people. Ordinary working people are frightened by threats associated with confidentiality so have undertaken processes without the benefit of discussing their buyback situation with friends and relatives.

The absurd secrecy about what is happening with the boarded up houses. Why can't we know which ones will be available for relocation? Is it just because the RA hasn't decided? If they have decided how? It certainly wasn't in consultation with local experienced house movers.

JLG - the management of this company, it's and the RAs conflict of interests have also been absurd. Unfortunately the shell shocked people of Lismore have mostly been unable to complain about bullying, misinformation mostly from ill informed staff and all the other mistreatment they have received.