



LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE RESPONSE TO MAJOR FLOODING ACROSS NEW
SOUTH WALES IN 2022

MEDIA RELEASE

Have your say on the NSW Government's response to recent major flooding on the North Coast and in Western Sydney

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

5 May 2022

A NSW Upper House parliamentary committee examining the response to major flooding across New South Wales in 2022 is calling for submissions from the local communities affected by recent flooding on the North Coast and in Western Sydney, with the submission deadline extended to **Sunday 15 May 2022**.

Written submissions do not need to be long, they can be as simple as writing your personal story or a few lines about what could be done to improve the government's response to the recent flooding.

The committee will also visit the following locations to conduct site visits, regional hearings and public forums:

- Ballina/Byron on Monday 30 May 2022
- Lismore on Tuesday 31 May 2022
- Murwillumbah/Tweed on Wednesday 1 June 2022
- Windsor/Richmond on Friday 3 June 2022.

The committee also intends to set up an online questionnaire which will open in early May and close in late June, to provide a further opportunity to those affected to engage with the inquiry.

Committee Chair and Shadow Minister for the North Coast, the Hon Walt Secord MLC, said: 'The committee acknowledges that many people who have been affected by the floods may be disconnected from services or otherwise may not have the resources to engage with our inquiry. To encourage all those who would like to engage with us, we have set up a number of ways the community can contribute to our inquiry including through submissions, public forums in the affected areas and an online questionnaire to be released soon.'

Below is further information on how members of the community can contribute to the inquiry and the committee's focus for this inquiry.

Ways to contribute to the inquiry

- **Submissions:** Make a submission telling your story by lodging it through the committee's [online portal](#) or by writing to the Director, Select Committee on the Response to Major Flooding in

New South Wales in 2022, NSW Parliament, Macquarie Street, NSW, 2000. Submissions close on **Sunday 15 May 2022**.

- **Public forum:** Express your interest to speak at a public forum for five minutes in Murwillumbah, Lismore, Ballina/Byron or Windsor/Richmond. You can sign up by registering online here: <https://forms.gle/SeHPcCBGWyznQpYV9>. Expressions of interest close on **Wednesday 18 May 2022**.
- **Online questionnaire:** Respond to the committee's online questionnaire which will be released in early May and will close in late June.

If you require assistance in making a submission or completing the form expressing your interest to speak at a public forum, please call the secretariat on 02 9230 3067.

What information is the committee seeking?

The committee is seeking the stories of those affected by the floods as well as your views on the:

- preparation, coordination and response by government agencies to the floods
- role, composition and resourcing of key government agencies involved in the flood response
- coordination between various stakeholders including the state government, federal government, local governments, private sector organisations and the community
- public communication, systems and strategies
- implementation of recommendations from inquiries into previous natural disasters
- overall effectiveness of the flood response.

The committee acknowledges the adversity and hardship that has been faced by local communities affected by the floods. The committee respects that resources in affected communities will be limited. Whilst seeking to hear the personal stories of those directly affected by the floods will be valuable to the inquiry, the committee is mindful that the final work of the inquiry is to make recommendations to government, and would like to ensure the public is aware of the limits of the inquiry in that respect.

Is this inquiry different to the NSW Government's inquiry?

Yes, the Select Committee on the Response to Major Flooding across New South Wales in 2022 is an inquiry established by the Upper House of the NSW Parliament. The committee comprises seven members of Parliament from the opposition, crossbench and government. The committee will gather evidence through submissions, site visits, an online questionnaire public hearings and public forums, and produce a report by Tuesday 9 August 2022 with recommendations to the government.

Who to contact for more information

The secretariat can be contacted on 9230 3067 or via email on floods@parliament.nsw.gov.au.

Further information about the inquiry can be found on the committee's [website](#).

-ENDS-

For media enquiries please contact Committee Chair the Hon Walt Secord MLC on 02 9230 2111.