

**INQUIRY INTO RESPONSE TO MAJOR FLOODING
ACROSS NEW SOUTH WALES IN 2022**

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We are an ongoing residents association sub-committee focused on flood mitigation, exploring factual evidence to support and assist all levels of government to recognise the severity and character of our problem. Our residents association represents 3000 concerned people in our community. This submission is focused on flood mitigation and minimisation, not resilience and recovery.

Bogangar (Cabarita Beach) is often overlooked. Our flood issues are very different to most that you will respond to in the inquiry in the Northern Rivers. We are attached to a naturally occurring lake with a man made drain/canal attached. The lake is perched above sea level with an increasing height above sea level. In the past there is evidence that this flowed to the sea via Cudgen Creek and was indeed tidal and brackish in the lake. Plants on the lake are now predominantly freshwater as it has changed.

When residents have approached Tweed Shire Council over recent years they have cited lack of money, environmental impact and multiple NSW government departments' non-interaction.

Our evidence of the impact includes:

Over 320 homes were inundated

Over 50 are unlivable

Several houses have been demolished

Over 200 cars were written off (attesting to the unprecedented flash flooding nature of this event)

Flood levels do not correlate with available rainfall data from this event compared to previous events suggesting other reasons are contributing to the scale of this flood

Two months later, water levels have still not fully receded and lake height is statistically increasing over the years

Anecdotal causes for flooding include:

increased flow from Clothiers Creek due to clearing of blockages upstream

Lake and canal silting up over recent decades

Heavily reduced flow and capacity of Cudgen Creek over recent decades

Roads and bridges restricting flood plain outflow near Casuarina

Ongoing residential development increasing the floodplain and flow to the lake and Cudgen Creek

What we need is:

A study including environmental data (rather than assumptions) that explores the feasibility of various solutions

Resilience NSW using their mandate to cut through competing authorities to find a viable solution.

We need to find an ongoing solution or range of solutions that mitigate and minimise the impact of future floods and Climate Change.



Figure 6: Lake Cudgen outlet view from Lake



Figure 5: Aerial view of lower Tamarind Ave 0800 01/03/22. Note flood levels then rose further until evening

Cabarita Flooding Drone Shots ~08:00 01/03/22

Waters continued to rise through until that evening



Figure 2: View from Tweed Coast Road end of Tamarind Ave 0800 01/03/22. Note flood levels then rose further until evening

