

**Submission
No 74**

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

Organisation: Tumbulgum Community Association Flood sub Committee
Date Received: 1 July 2022

To: Select Committee on response to Major Flooding across NSW 2022.

1/ Tumbulgum has a unique problem within the Tweed River Floodplain.

Recent large floods (2013,2017,2022) have resulted in flood levels for Tumbulgum far in excess of what would be expected, as a comparison to modelling figures for Murwillumbah upstream and Chinderah downstream.

Tumbulgum additional flood heights in these events were

2013. .63 metres above 1:5 event

2017. 1.04metres above 1:20 event

2022. .97metres above 1:100 event

Murwillumbah and Chinderah achieved results either on or below each event.

Tumbulgum believes that a Dam Wall is being built at Chinderah holding back large amounts of water on the flood plain which would have previously passed through more freely.

The M1 built in 1996 and extended in 2002 which mainly runs across the Floodplain shows on councils flood mapping with many more regular contours on the upstream side compared to the downstream side of the structure.

Actual event contours are even worse.

Commercial Developments at Chinderah are also inhabiting the flow of water through the floodplain.

Basic science does not seem to have been applied here and we can supply information to assist in explaining our conclusion.

We would like the State and Local Governments to take ownership of the problem and

A) rebuild a suspended M1 in Chinderah as like the Kempsey model.

B) stop new Commercial and Residential developments in Chinderah and throughout the floodplain that inhibits flood water flows.

C) make moves for land swaps to remove recent Commercial buildings in Chinderah out of the floodplain. Note these have been bolted together and easily removed.

If these ideas don't come into play and today's standards are left in place, higher floods for Tumbulgum and other towns like Condong causing an increase to chance of loss of property and life.

The Sugar Mill could also be compromised, jeopardising our cane farming industry.

2/ Communications loss, (as like 2017 flood). NBN and mobile coverage was non existent whilst in flood.

Our residents have been trained in using data and communications whilst in flood events and outages leaves us out in the blue as to what is actually going on (especially when power is turned off). Warnings and river height information becomes not available and the training then becomes obsolete.

3/. Power outage, this is believed to have been cut without notice.

Essential Energy needs to explain why and when this happens and if a new policy is in place to notify customers how it works.

4/ Ideas for improvement

- : lift M1
- : change Planning and Development rules for floodplains
- : land swap for Commercial buildings in Chinderah
- : review the River Mouth design
- : building a second dam with flood mitigation measures
- : removal of road maintenance storage at Cudgen road intersection
- : use lower style crop in high flow area around Chinderah to Scott's Island
- : dredging with materials to be removed immediately from the floodplain
- : lift Terranora road from Tumbulgum along the ridge line
- : use SES tweed/banora as a back up for Tumbulgum (as like in 2022)
- : create a forth level of flooding above major so as to set of alarm for quicker additional response.

Regards

Tumbulgum Community Association Flood sub Committee.