

Submission  
No 134

**INQUIRY INTO PLANNING SYSTEM AND THE IMPACTS  
OF CLIMATE CHANGE ON THE ENVIRONMENT AND  
COMMUNITIES**

**Name:** Name suppressed  
**Date Received:** 3 November 2023

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Partially  
Confidential

I am a resident of Yamba.

I will address all the terms of reference using the paragraphs provided.

(a) developments - Yamba at the mouth of the Clarence River is a recognised flood plain.

Approvals over the last 15 years has allowed fill to be imported to development sites located on these wetlands causing water pooling and diverting water on to established residential areas. Water that used to follow a natural flow in heavy rain and flood events is now blocked and pushed back. This is particularly the case in West Yamba. In the process of clearing the sites the entire eco system and existing bio diversity of West Yamba has been obliterated. Climate change and with it sea level rises now put Yamba at risk if these developments on flood plains are allowed to continue.

(b) planning powers - State Planning laws need to be put in place to stop any further development on flood plains.

(c) planning reforms - Advocates have been campaigning in Yamba for at least 15 years to stop residential development on flood plains. The time has now come to mitigate the damage that has been done and to adapt to the new climate that is upon us. This means simply stopping all development on flood prone land.

(d) alternate options - There are plenty of options available for land release (for development) which are not flood prone. This may mean a limitation on growth in coastal towns such as Yamba but the safety of its residents is paramount.

(e) other matters - Local Councils are Statutory Bodies and as such have a statutory duty of care to its constituents. Both the federal PM and the State Premier have said on national TV there should be no more building on flood plains. This acknowledgment

is now entrenched with the severity of natural disasters exasperated by the changing climate. Its time to stop developing flood prone areas and amend the Planning laws accordingly.