

**Submission
No 190**

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

Name: Craigh Mcneill

Date Received: 8 November 2023

I am situated in the Clarence Valley Shire, currently Council is undertaking a flood model update.

For West Yamba the LCFM 2022 does not comply with Flood risk management guidelines

The model does not provide an understanding of the full range of flood behaviour and the associated flood risk to the Yamba community.

If the council fails to fulfill its obligations in flood risk management, the financial burden may ultimately be transferred to the ratepayers.

The issues so far;

1) Lack of understanding of the flood model by councilors.

While the Council staff advises councilors, the model is too complex for them to fully understand.

2) Lack of community engagement

The council is only now engaging the community after the modelling has been completed and council is ready to adopt the model.

3) Inability for residents to determine accuracy

The information that determined the final height is not readily accessible to the public, if at all, due to "commercial-in-confidence provisions"

This leads to an inability to assess flood impact assessments provided to council.

4) Failure to collect flood data March 2022

Council did not record the height of the flood waters against any infrastructure.

5) Failure to assess separate waterbody

Lake Wooloweyah has not been modelled according to NSW Floodplain Risk Management (FRM) Guidelines which provide clear distinction that recognise Lake Wooloweyah as a distinct water body

West Yamba is a flood storage area, as per the definition in the Current flood modelling guidelines. As can be seen from the March 2022 flood images - carrs drive yamba.jpg, the land is low lying. Even if they fill the land and the adjoining roads, people will still be isolated because the whole road system floods and no vehicles can get through.

Yamba is a small town and in March 2022 the road to Yamba was cut off for 6 days, the supermarket shelves were emptied in the first few days. There is no provision for further food stores as commercial land is limited with only small lots undeveloped.

There are multiple further issues, however the point is council is not following the guidelines and lacks understanding, this leaves the only recourse through the courts.

I believe that there needs to be some form of independent oversight of the council's actions.

I can supply photos and further details of flood heights if required.

Thanks Craigh McNeill