

**Submission
No 230**

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

Name: Grant Jennings

Date Received: 16 November 2023

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1. For some years the lower Clarence Valley community has expressed anger at the approval of residential housing/retail on flood plains which have been filled to heighten that flood plain well over local roads ; thus causing those local roads to now flood and overflow to Yamba Road. All development proposals on flood plain areas in NSW should not be allowed to proceed and NO new developments should be approved.
2. Threatened species habitat in local areas are removed using a nebulous offsets arrangement for other areas. The use of offset arrangements should be discontinued.
3. There has been far to many instances of local councils approving development applications where questionable conduct has been found to have taken place. It is time for the NSW State government to assume total responsibility for all development application approvals.
4. For too our local council has been able to sideline community concerns by adopting a tactic of approving development applications on MERIT thereby ignoring community consultation. This tactic should not be allowed to continue and would be strengthened if point 3 above was to be enacted.
5. It is questionable if local councils have the necessary expertise to both understand and navigate a pathway over impacts of climate change. Once again it is now time to review allocation of powers between the state and local councils – as noted in point 3 above moving total responsibility for development application approvals to the NSW State government would allow a single approval process.