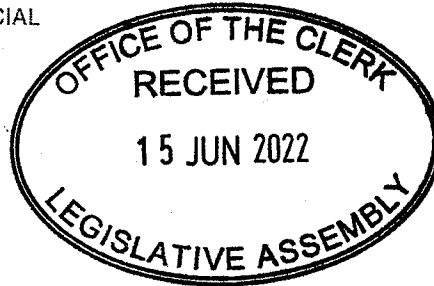




The Hon. Paul Toole MP
Deputy Premier
Minister for Regional New South Wales
Minister for Police

OFFICIAL



Ref: 22/36#9

Ms Helen Minnican
Clerk of the Legislative Assembly
Parliament of New South Wales
Macquarie Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Dear Ms Minnican

I refer to the petition submitted to the Legislative Assembly on behalf of 937 signatories requesting the establishment of a dedicated independent body to streamline recovery and reconstruction following the devastating floods of February 2022. The submission has been referred to me as the matters raised fall within my area of responsibility.

The NSW Government is establishing the Northern Rivers Reconstruction Corporation (NRRC) to lead the long-term reconstruction of flood impacted areas across the Northern Rivers area.

From 1 July 2022, the NRRC will work with multiple government agencies to coordinate the planning, rebuilding and construction work of essential services, infrastructure and housing across the local government areas of Ballina, Byron, Clarence Valley, Kyogle, Lismore, Richmond Valley and Tweed.

We're ensuring local expertise is at the core of the NRRC, which is why it will be supported by a skills based advisory body including local representatives and community leaders. The NRRC will have broad and extensive powers to consult, including working with councils to identify, prioritise and support projects that can rejuvenate communities within the area, with particular emphasis on housing and supporting social infrastructure.

David Witherdin, Deputy Secretary Commercial, within the Department of Regional NSW, will lead the NRRC as Chief Executive.

I appreciate the petitioners for taking the time to register their interest in this matter.

Yours sincerely,

The Hon. Paul Toole MP
Deputy Premier
Minister for Regional New South Wales
Minister for Police

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