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Flood survivors forum

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# Flood survivors forum

By Jonathon Howard

FLOOD SURVIVORS and community groups are invited to a meeting calling on the state and federal government for a fully funded flood recovery, to be held at Ballina RSL on Monday, February 12.

The meeting has been convened by the Byron Flood Emergency Action Group (BFEAG) who say they are bringing local community groups and individuals together in a forum to discuss “the failures of the Resilient Homes Program (RHP) and the broader flood recovery.”

“Following the devastating 2022 floods, our community has tirelessly sought support from both the state and federal governments,” the BFEAG state in their invitation.

“Despite our persistent efforts, including an open letter to key political figures, the Resilient Homes Program has still been left underfunded by \$700 million.

“This forum is a crucial step in amplifying our collective voice and addressing these critical issues.”

The group wants the \$700 million shortfall in the RHP addressed and the state and federal government to contribute funds “to meet the \$1.5 billion required.”

They also want to see a change in the current criteria for access to the RHP and say the one in 20 years flood level plus 100mm “is not fit for purpose.”

BFEAG is calling for transparent “timelines and implementation” of the RHP, including retrofits, house raising and buybacks.

They are urging local representatives Justine Elliot and Janelle Saffin to advocate for all 6,000 applicants of the RHP and review eligibility criteria.

Local politicians and flood recovery bureaucrats and officials have been invited to participate along with flood survivors and community groups.

The forum will include in-depth discussions, expert panels, and “collaborative workshops” focused on the challenges faced in the aftermath of the floods, the current state of the RHP, and strategies for advocating a fully funded recovery plan.

The free event runs from 9am to 1pm on Monday at the Ballina RSL. Tickets: [events.humanitix.com/demanding-a-fully-funded-flood-recovery-a-community-forum-for-the-northern-rivers](https://events.humanitix.com/demanding-a-fully-funded-flood-recovery-a-community-forum-for-the-northern-rivers)



One of the many horrific scenes from the 2022 Tweed flood