



HELP NEEDED: Billinudgels main Street under water at the height of recent flooding.

PHOTO: FACEBOOK

# Byron gets no relief

## Mayor calls for local disaster declaration

BYRON Shire Mayor Simon Richardson has urged the Commonwealth Government to declare Byron Shire a natural disaster area so residents within Byron Shire are eligible for individual disaster relief funding if required.

"Although the shire hasn't been hit as hard as Lismore and Tweed, certain areas and residents within our shire have been left devastated," Cr Richardson said. He said Council had been in contact with state and federal representatives and they too expressed

concern and are supporting Council's request for inclusion.

Local MP Justine Elliot echoed calls by the mayor demanding the Federal and State Governments urgently activate Category C assistance under the Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements (NDRRA).

"Our region desperately requires more assistance from both the Federal and State Governments. They have the capacity to activate

Natural Disaster Relief today to ensure that major and significant funding and assistance is delivered to our community," said Ms Elliot.

Cr Richardson has told the Commonwealth the shire had residents in distress in Billinudgel, The Pocket, Main Arm, South Golden Beach, New Brighton, Mullumbimby and the lower lying areas of Ocean Shores and Brunswick Heads.

The town of Billinudgel was particularly hard hit

with locals on the Brunswick Valley Facebook site saying the flood was "the worst locals have ever seen... The Billinudgel Hotel (standing since 1906), had prepared for the water to roll in, but the water came in faster and higher than expected... water levels over the bar at its peak... the Post Office, General Store and local Laundromat (were also affected). This is the community of Billinudgel reaching out to the wider

world... Without our local businesses, economy and residents, the town and community of Billinudgel dies.

"We've also had reports people who have lost their cars, which were uninsured and also their home. These people need funding support," Cr Richardson said.

He also thanked the Mullumbimby District Neighbourhood Centre and the Salvos for their continued support.

■ To donate go to: <https://mdnc.org.au/>

## Mullum SES answers 200 calls for help

During the recent flood emergency Mullumbimby SES received more than 200 calls for assistance during the event.

Unit controller Michael Davison-Long said top priority went to several flood rescues including, "rafting injured residents to waiting ambulances, evacuations from homes with water over the floor, clearing trees from homes,

temporary repairs to leaking roofs, and restoring access for emergency vehicles to reach people with blocked driveways."

"Many residents were able to collect sandbags and plastic sheeting from SES depots to divert water away from low-lying doorways.

Mr Davison Long reminded locals never to

enter floodwaters and for emergency help in storms and floods phone 132500; or phone 000 if lives are endangered.

"If you are fit, with time and interest to help the community in such demanding conditions, you might consider becoming a volunteer member of the SES," he said.

To apply go to: [www.ses.nsw.gov.au](http://www.ses.nsw.gov.au)



Car swept away near Crabbes Creek. PHOTO: SES/CONTRIBUTOR

MEMBERS 'WHY COOK AT HOME' SPECIAL