

**TO THE HONOURABLE THE SPEAKER AND MEMBERS OF
THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

This petition of frustrated residents of the Coffs Harbour, Bellingen and Nambucca Shire Councils draws to the attention of the House:

That individuals from the aforementioned Council areas who suffered property damage during the extensive floods in the region (March 31, 2009) have not received Australian Government Disaster Recovery Payments.

However, similarly affected flood 'victims' from the May weather event on the North Coast and Northern Rivers regions were/will be compensated following a Prime Ministerial directive made on May 25, 2009.

The payments announced were for a one-off immediate payment of \$1,000 to adults and \$400 to children.

While their neighbouring counterparts can access the payments having suffered the same personal disadvantages associated with a major flood, many individuals and families in the Coffs Coast region continue to struggle to make ends meet in the wake of the devastating and officially declared Natural Disaster of March 31.

The payments would go a long way toward helping recovery for those who have suffered substantial losses and should be made immediately to redress the anomaly.

We therefore ask the House to:

Provide Coffs Harbour, Bellingen and Nambucca Shire residents affected by the March 31, 2009 floods the same Australian Government Disaster Recovery Payment of \$1000 per adult and \$400 per child that has been afforded to victims of the May 2009 floods in northern NSW and south east Queensland.