

## Evacuating

When flooding is likely to cut evacuation routes or inundate property, the SES may issue an Evacuation Warning to indicate that you should get prepared to evacuate. This means that flooding is imminent in your area. Being prepared will allow you to respond quickly.

The SES will issue an Evacuation Order advising people of what to do and where to go. There are a number of ways you might hear about the need to evacuate including, but not limited to, doorknock (by SES or other emergency services), through radio stations, or by automated telephone and/or SMS.

You must evacuate immediately. You should try to seek shelter with family or friends well away from flood impacted areas. In larger floods, evacuation centres may be established to help people affected by the flooding. Assistance may include:

- Temporary accommodation
- Financial help
- Personal support
- Refreshments and meals
- Clothing and personal needs
- Help in contacting family and friends

## During a flood

- Never enter or travel through floodwater - this is the main cause of death during floods as water may be deeper or faster flowing than people think and may contain hidden snags and debris
- Keep listening to the radio station for information, updates and advice
- Follow your Home or Business FloodSafe Plan
- Follow all instructions given to you by emergency services

### Specific advice for flash flooding:

- If you become trapped in your home or a building, seek refuge in the highest part and call 000 (triple zero) for assistance

### Specific advice for riverine flooding:

- Locate and prepare pets for possible evacuation
- Keep in contact with your neighbours
- Be prepared to evacuate if advised

## After a flood

Severe weather and flash flooding can result in major damage to property, potentially causing a range of health and safety issues.

When returning to your property:

- Ensure the structural stability of your property before entering. Check for damage to windows, walls and the roof and be especially cautious of potential contaminants including asbestos
- Make sure the electricity and gas are turned off before going inside. Use a torch to carry out inspections inside buildings
- If power points, electrical equipment, appliances or electrical hot water systems have been exposed to floodwater or are water damaged in any way, they must be inspected by a qualified electrician before use
- Gas appliances and gas bottles that have been exposed to floodwater should be inspected for safety before use
- Wear suitable protective clothing, including boots and gloves, when cleaning up
- Be aware of any slip, trip or fall hazards
- Never eat food which has been in contact with floodwater
- Only use clean utensils and personal items
- Have a supply of fresh drinking water

Disaster Recovery Centres may be established following some disasters. Recovery centres may provide a range of welfare services including financial assistance, personal support, organising temporary accommodation and providing information and referrals. If you have been affected by floods and require assistance, contact Disaster Welfare Services on **1800 018 444**.



Chittaway Point, June 2007

## How the Local Council can help you

Local Government is responsible for planning future development and protecting existing development from flooding. It does this with technical and financial assistance from the State and Federal Governments. Councils undertake investigations and studies to identify areas of flood prone land to determine risks, set future development restrictions, as well as investigate and implement options to mitigate the affect of floods on existing development.

Councils provide information to the public and local emergency services to assist with understanding and addressing the various types of flood impacts for each area. Councils may also be able to provide specific information on the potential extent of flooding to your property and in your area.

This brochure and other general information on preparing for floods, can be found at the SES website at

**[www.ses.nsw.gov.au](http://www.ses.nsw.gov.au)**

**FOR EMERGENCY HELP IN FLOODS AND STORMS CALL THE SES ON**

**132 500**

**FOR LIFE-THREATENING EMERGENCIES CALL 000 (TRIPLE ZERO)**

SES website	<a href="http://www.ses.nsw.gov.au">www.ses.nsw.gov.au</a>
Gosford City Council	4325 8222
Website	<a href="http://www.gosford.nsw.gov.au">www.gosford.nsw.gov.au</a>
Wyong City Council	4350 5555
Website	<a href="http://www.wyong.nsw.gov.au">www.wyong.nsw.gov.au</a>
Bureau of Meteorology website	<a href="http://www.bom.gov.au">www.bom.gov.au</a>



Brochure printed August 2011



*Better FloodSafe than Sorry*



*Protecting yourself from a flood*



Top: Wyong Nursing Home 2007  
Bottom: Wamberal Lagoon 2007

**Central Coast**



# Are you at risk from floods?

If you live close to a creek, river or major stormwater drain or in a low-lying area, you may be at risk from flooding, even if you have not experienced it personally. This brochure contains information that can help you protect your life, property and belongings. It also provides general information on the types of flooding experienced on the Central Coast and suggests where to obtain further information to help you prepare for floods.

# Flooding on the Central Coast

The most densely populated areas of the Central Coast are located in low-lying areas near creeks, estuaries, lagoons, coastal beaches or other water bodies. These areas are popular as they allow access to the water and are an attractive lifestyle choice. However, in periods of severe flooding they are also the areas where floodwater has the most impact.

Areas on the Central Coast experience flooding regularly. Since the 1940s approximately 20 major flood events have occurred in the area. Some of these floods have resulted in above floor level flooding, property damage and in some cases serious injury or death.

**Flash flooding** results from very heavy rainfall during short intense storms and can occur with little or no warning. Areas with a flash flood risk can be very dangerous as flash floods may be sudden and unexpected and can occur within minutes to only a few hours from the beginning of a heavy rainfall or storm event. The depth or arrival time of floodwater is not usually possible to predict in many flash flood environments.

Flash flooding is generally associated with creeks, water courses and drainage systems which overflow into surrounding areas, often with great speed. Even shallow water is very powerful and can carry large amounts of debris. People are often swept away after entering flash floodwater on foot or in vehicles. This is the leading cause of death during floods. Erina Creek, Narara Creek and Tumby Umbi Creek have a history of flash flooding.

**Riverine flooding** is associated with large bodies of water like the Hawkesbury and Wyong Rivers. Flooding on these river systems can last for several days and may result in isolation of families and communities. Floodwater from this type of flooding is largely a result of rainfall run-off over a large river catchment area. An example of this type of flooding occurred in June 2007 where areas such as South Tacoma and Chittaway were isolated for days due to flooding of Tuggerah Lakes by river inflows from adjoining catchments.

**Coastal Storm Surge** on the Central Coast is associated with low pressure weather systems off the east coast. These weather systems can cause several days of increased seawater levels, an increase in onshore winds and increased wave heights. These conditions cause damage to the foreshore area of coastal beaches and also within estuaries affected by such events.

**Dam Failure Flooding** results from the uncontrolled release of water from a water storage area. Dam failure can be caused by flooding, structural issues or factors other than a flood (landslide or earthquake).

# Stay informed

The Bureau of Meteorology (Bureau) issues Severe Thunderstorm Warnings and Severe Weather Warnings when heavy rainfall or storms are predicted. These warnings can indicate weather which can possibly cause flash flooding. Monitor weather conditions and environmental cues. In flash flood areas, these may be the only notice of possible flash flooding.

Where flooding is expected on the larger river systems such as the Hawkesbury and Wyong Rivers, the Bureau will issue Flood Watches and Flood Warnings. A Flood Watch is a notice that flooding is potentially going to occur. Flood Warnings are issued when flooding is expected and give predicted river heights and times when these may be exceeded, reached or peak.

Flood information including, safety advice, evacuations and road closures will be broadcast over local radio stations.

- |             |              |                  |
|-------------|--------------|------------------|
| ABC FM 92.5 | 2GO FM 107.7 | SEA-FM FM 101.3  |
| ABC AM 702  | 2GB AM 873   | STAR-FM FM 104.5 |
- Keep listening to the radio for information, updates and advice
  - Check with friends and neighbours to make sure they are aware of any warnings

# Prepare yourself

All floods are potentially life-threatening. Preparing now can help reduce the loss associated with floods and the impact on you, your family, property or business. Find out about your local flood risk and check your insurance policy.

If you own or manage a business in a flood-prone area, put together a Business FloodSafe Plan. An interactive 'Business FloodSafe Toolkit' is available on the SES website – [www.ses.nsw.gov.au](http://www.ses.nsw.gov.au). You can use this toolkit to develop your Business FloodSafe Plan.

The SES also has a Home FloodSafe Toolkit to help householders prepare for, respond to and recover from flash and riverine floods. This toolkit is available from the SES. Maintain your plan and update it after every flood.

Remember, you can still be affected by floods even if your property is not flooded. You may become isolated and essential services or access to areas may be cut.

Some basic measures you can take right now include keeping a list of emergency numbers near the telephone or on the fridge and assemble an Emergency Kit.

## Your Emergency Kit contents:

- A portable radio with spare batteries
- A torch with spare batteries
- A first aid kit
- Candles and waterproof matches
- A waterproof bag for valuables
- Emergency contact numbers

## When flooding is likely, place in your Emergency Kit:

- Important papers and photos
- A good supply of required medications
- Any special requirements for babies and the disabled, infirm or elderly
- Strong shoes
- Suitable food and drinks



Every family and business should make an Emergency Kit.

# When flooding is likely

## Flash Flooding

If you live in an area at risk of flash flooding, there will not be enough time to make the preparations that are suggested for people who live in flood risk areas that have longer lead times. It is important to know whether you live in an area at risk of flash floods. It is likely you will need to use environmental cues to initiate your evacuation rather than to wait for official advice so it is important to monitor the weather conditions.

When flash flooding is likely, leaving low-lying homes and businesses well before flash flooding begins (evacuation) is the best action to take, but only if it is safe to do so. If you are trapped by rising floodwater, seek refuge in the highest part of a sturdy building. Stay there and call '000' (triple zero) if you need rescue.

Prepare and plan now so you can act quickly when flash flooding is likely.

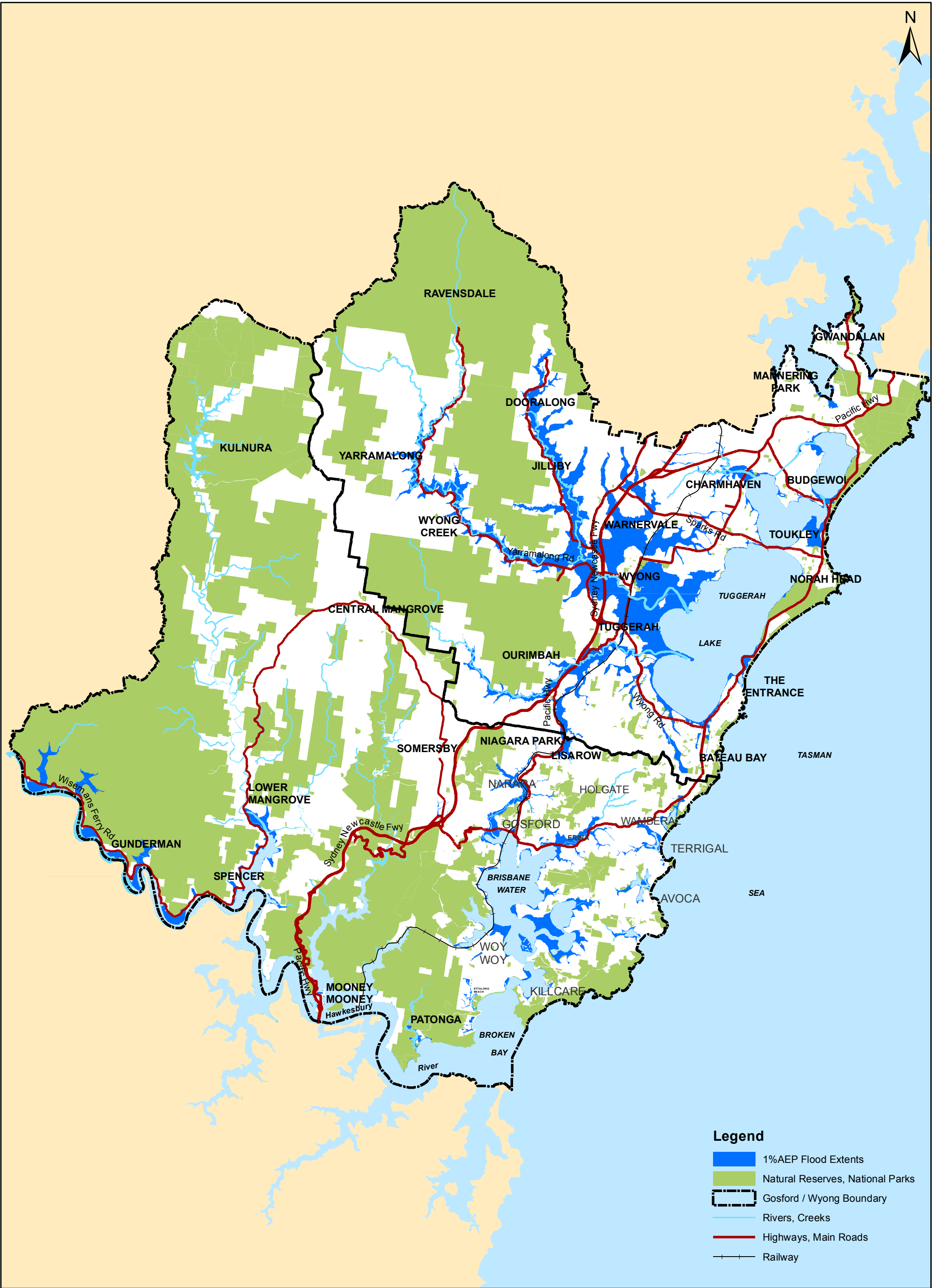
## Riverine Flooding

If you live in an area susceptible to flooding from larger river systems and lakes, be alert and keep an eye on the weather. Be prepared to act:

- Listen to your local radio station for information, updates and advice
- Locate and activate your Business or Home FloodSafe Plan and check your Emergency Kit
- Ensure neighbours are aware of Flood Watches or Flood Warnings and are prepared to act if necessary
- Stack possessions, records, stock or equipment on benches and tables, placing electrical items on top
- Relocate waste containers, chemicals and poisons well above floor level
- Move livestock and agisted animals, especially horses, to high ground and prepare pets for possible evacuation
- Secure objects that are likely to float and cause damage
- Ensure employees are able to get home before evacuation routes are closed. Act early as roads may be congested or close
- Locate and check your Emergency Kit (see the 'Prepare yourself' section of this guide)
- Locate important papers, valuables and mementoes and place them in your Emergency Kit

# Gosford/Wyong 1% AEP Flood Extents

A 1% AEP flood has a 1 in 100 chance of being reached or exceeded in any given year. Floods larger than the 1% AEP flood have occurred.



- Legend**
- 1%AEP Flood Extents
  - Natural Reserves, National Parks
  - Gosford / Wyong Boundary
  - Rivers, Creeks
  - Highways, Main Roads
  - Railway

Filepath: Q:\Spatialmaps on Nike\F&D\100yrFELMisc\MapForSES\FloodsafeBrochure-110223.mxd



0 1 2 3 4 5  
Km  
1:220,000

DISCLAIMER: The flood boundary on this map is based on data not produced by the SES and must be considered as indicative only. Warning: Information on this map is subject to change.  
1 in 100 Flood. DISCLAIMER: Floods larger than the 1 in 100 year flood have occurred. The flood boundary on this map must be considered as indicative only. Warning: Information on this map is subject to change.

19/05/2011