

How you may be advised of floods

Flood information including flood forecasts, road closures and advice on evacuations and property protection will be broadcast on ABC and local radio stations.

Bureau of Meteorology weather forecasts and flood predictions including river height information are available at www.bom.gov.au

Emergency services personnel may door knock your area or you may receive a voice or text message to your phones.

If evacuation is necessary

The NSW SES evacuates people whose lives are at risk from floods. It is important to follow all advice given to you by emergency services. Being prepared now will allow you to respond quickly.

How you may be advised of an evacuation:

Evacuation Warnings and Evacuation Orders are issued to residents and businesses that are likely to become inundated if floodwater reaches levels predicted by the Bureau of Meteorology. You may receive these warnings via the media, door knocking and/or telephone.

Preparing to evacuate:

- Locate important papers, valuables and mementos and put them in your emergency kit
- Turn off the electricity and gas at the mains and turn off and secure any gas bottles
- Stack possessions, records, stock or equipment on benches and tables, placing electrical items on top
- Secure objects that are likely to float and cause damage
- Relocate waste containers, chemicals and poisons well above floor level

When you evacuate:

- Register at the Assembly Area then stay with friends or relatives
- Take your emergency kit with you
- Take your pets with you
- Act early before roads and evacuation routes close

How NSW SES can help

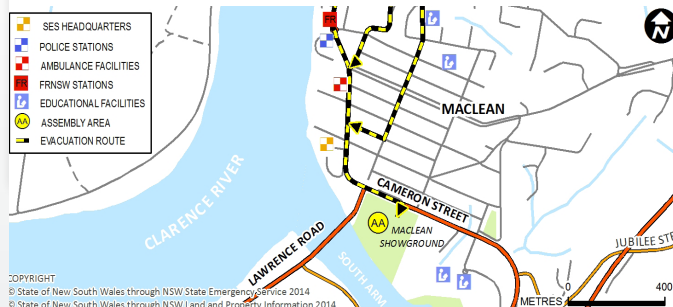
NSW SES is responsible for the emergency management of floods in NSW. This includes planning for floods and engaging with communities to prepare themselves and their property.

During floods, NSW SES will provide flood information and safety advice and may arrange for the delivery of essential supplies to communities isolated by floodwater. NSW SES also warns communities of the need to evacuate and provides emergency help where required.

Your Assembly Area

If evacuation is necessary, act early and make your way to the Assembly Area. Once you have registered with staff you can stay with friends or family, or accommodation may be arranged for you.

Assembly Area: Maclean Showground
Cameron St. Maclean.



During a flood

A Flood Warning is issued by the Bureau of Meteorology when flooding is about to happen and may be updated during floods. A Flood Warning provides a predicted flood level on a river gauge and a time at which the river is expected to reach that level.

During a flood, there are some simple things you can do to help protect your family and property:

- Never drive, ride or walk through floodwater
- Keep listening to your local radio station for further information, updates and advice
- Keep in contact with your neighbours
- Be prepared to evacuate if necessary

After a flood

Do not return to a flood affected area until emergency services advise that it is safe to do so. These areas can be dangerous for the health and safety of you and your family.

Follow safety advice when cleaning up after floods. Discard all food items that have come into contact with floodwater. Clean, sanitise and properly dry belongings.

Update your Home Emergency Plan or Business FloodSafe Plan with what you have learnt from the flood.

A local recovery centre, staffed by representatives from a range of agencies and services, may be established after a flood. This centre may be able to provide financial, insurance, housing, counselling and welfare assistance and advice.

Local FloodSafe contacts

Emergency phone numbers

NSW SES 132 500
Life-threatening emergencies 000 (triple zero)

Phone numbers

NSW SES Information Line 1800 201 000
Police Assistance Line 131 444
Clarence Valley Council 6643 0200
Roads and Maritime Services (Live Traffic) 132 701
Local Land Services 1300 795 299
Department of Primary Industries 1800 814 647
Disaster Welfare Assistance Line 1800 018 444
Essential Energy 132 391
Telstra 132 203

Local broadcast radio stations

| | | |
|-------------------|----------|---------|
| ABC North Coast | 94.5 FM | 738 AM |
| 2GF Grafton | 103.9 FM | 1206 AM |
| Clarence Coast FM | 104.7 FM | |
| 2TLC | 100.3 FM | |

Websites

NSW SES www.ses.nsw.gov.au
Bureau of Meteorology www.bom.gov.au
Clarence Valley Council www.clarence.nsw.gov.au
Major roads - Live Traffic www.livetraffic.com
Local Roads www.myroadinfo.com.au

Facebook pages

NSW SES and NSW SES Clarence Nambucca Region

Free smartphone apps

NSW SES apps are available at your app store. Search for FloodSafe and StormSafe



FOR EMERGENCY HELP IN
FLOODS AND STORMS CALL

132 500

For more information visit: www.floodsafe.com.au



Community Floodsafe



Maclean and
Harwood Island



Front cover: Maclean and surrounds, January 2013.

Are you at risk from floods?

The Clarence River is the largest coastal river in New South Wales for catchment area and discharge and has a long history of flooding. In January 2013 the Clarence Valley experienced extensive flooding. This was a flood of record at numerous locations. Significant flooding has also occurred around Maclean in 1890, 1950, 1954, 1963, 1967, 1974, 1996, 2001, 2009 and 2011.

Maclean is located downstream of Grafton and is the main centre for residents of Woodford, Harwood, Chatsworth and Warregah Islands. All these areas are extremely flood prone and strongly affected by tides and oceanic conditions. Maclean has a levee which protects the CBD and residential areas along the Clarence River to a flood height of 3.30m. An overtopping or failure of the levee would cause these areas to become inundated. The town may become isolated during minor flooding due to local road closures.

Illarwill is located on Woodford Island upstream of Maclean on the south bank of the Clarence River. The majority of Illarwill is located above major flood level but becomes isolated when Lawrence Road and MacFarlane's Bridge are closed.

Townsend is located south east of Maclean on the South Arm of the Clarence River. A small number of homes and businesses may be surrounded by water in a major flood and the village may become isolated. The main access road to Maclean from Townsend is Brooms Head Road, which can close during major floods.

Harwood Island is located north of Maclean on the north bank of the Clarence River. Access to the island can be cut in a minor flood when the village becomes isolated. Much of the land on Harwood Island would be inundated in a minor flood and most houses would be surrounded by floodwater in a moderate flood. A major flood causes some homes and businesses to become inundated and require evacuation.

What happens in Maclean and Harwood Island floods?

- 5.17** Highest possible flood.
- 3.71** 1% AEP (Annual Exceedance Probability) flood level, meaning there is a 1 in 100 chance of this level occurring each year.
- 3.54** Highest flood on record - 13 March 1890. During this flood, the town was inundated resulting in large scale evacuations.
- 3.30** Estimated height at which Maclean levee may show signs of overtopping where floodwater would enter the northern end of the levee and flow back towards town.

Key heights in metres at the Maclean Gauge, continued on next panel...

What happens in Maclean and Harwood Island floods?

- 3.26** 11 March 2001: Peak height.
- 3.17** 23 May 2009: Peak height
- 3.11** 30 January 2013: Peak height.
- 3.00** For floods predicted to reach this height, residents and businesses in **low-lying areas of Maclean, Chatsworth Island and Warregah Island** prepare now for possible evacuation. Extensive flooding may occur in Illarwill.
- 2.98** 13 January 2011: Peak height.
- 2.60** Floodwater may start to reach floor level in some houses on Warregah Island.
- 2.50** **Major Flood Level** - extensive flooding and/or isolation. Floodwater may start to reach floor level in some properties on Harwood Island. Low-lying farmland may become inundated. Pacific Highway may close at Ferry Park isolating Maclean.
- 2.20** **Moderate Flood Level** - flooding of low-lying areas and main roads. May require the evacuation of some areas. Pacific Highway may close at Chatsworth Island turnoff and Serpentine Bridge north of Harwood.
- 2.10** Pacific Highway may close at the southern approach to Harwood Bridge "Cloverleaf" preventing travel north from Maclean. Iluka Road may close at the Esk River Bridge isolating Iluka. Yamba Road may close in several locations isolating Yamba and Angourie.
- 2.00** Lawrence Road may close west of McFarlane's Bridge isolating Illarwill. River Street may close 2km east of Maclean isolating properties outside the levee system.
- 1.95** Floodwater may begin to inundate the northern end of Harwood Village and enter low-lying areas of Goodwood Island and Warregah Island.
- 1.65** For floods predicted to reach this height, residents and businesses in **Harwood Island** need to prepare for possible evacuation. Floodwater may begin to enter Harwood Village.
- 1.60** **Minor Flood Level** - inconvenience, closes minor roads and low level bridges.
- 1.50** Maclean-Lawrence Road may close at Poverty Creek and Broadwater Corner 4km west of Maclean. Lawrence Ferry may close.

Key heights in metres at the Maclean Gauge.

8 TIPS

YOU CAN DO NOW TO PREPARE FOR FLOODS

- 1 KNOW YOUR RISK** 
- 2 KNOW WHERE TO GO** 
- 3 KNOW WHO TO CALL** 
- 4 KNOW YOUR PLAN** 
- 5 GET YOUR KIT TOGETHER** 
- 6 PREPARE NOW TO ACT EARLY** 
- 7 CHECK YOUR INSURANCE** 
- 8 LISTEN TO LOCAL RADIO** 

For more information visit www.floodsafe.com.au

If isolation is likely

If your property is likely to be isolated by floodwater, evacuating well before access roads are closed is your safest option. Deciding to remain at home when it is surrounded by floodwater can be dangerous.

During floods, isolated properties can lose power, water, phone lines and sewerage services as well as become a refuge for spiders, snakes and other animals.

If evacuation is not possible, keep a stock of at least seven days' supply of non-perishable foods, medications, drinking water, fuel and feed for your animals and pets. Some properties may be isolated for longer periods and therefore require additional supplies.

Talk with your local council who can provide you with information on floods specific to your property and plan now so that you can act early before flooding occurs.



When flooding is likely

A Flood Watch is issued by the Bureau of Meteorology for possible flooding. A Flood Warning is issued when flooding is likely.

RESIDENTS AND BUSINESSES:

- Listen to your local radio station for information, updates and advice
- Locate and check your emergency kit and follow your Home Emergency Plan or Business FloodSafe Plan
- Check on your neighbours and make sure they are aware of possible flooding
- Prepare to move pets, including agisted animals to high ground
- Make preparations to raise or relocate possessions, stores, records, furniture and equipment
- Plan to leave well before evacuation routes may become closed

RURAL PROPERTY OWNERS:

- Relocate livestock and farm equipment, including pumps, to high ground
- Check sheds and outbuildings. Raise equipment, feed and chemicals above predicted flood levels or to higher ground