

During a flood

Flood Warnings are issued by the Bureau of Meteorology (BoM) when flooding is about to happen or is already happening. A Flood Warning provides a predicted flood level on a river gauge and a time at which the river will reach, exceed or peak at that level.

During a flood, there are some simple things you can do to stay safe:

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

Evacuate

Evacuation Warning is early advice by NSW SES that evacuation may be necessary.

Evacuation Order is a direction by NSW SES when evacuation is necessary.

The NSW SES aims to keep people safe and minimise the risk to life and property when floods occur. Follow evacuation advice. Being prepared will allow you to respond quickly should you need to evacuate.

- ✔ Locate important papers, valuables and mementos. Put them in your emergency kit.
- ✔ Take your emergency kit with you
- ✔ Turn off the electricity and gas at the mains before you leave and turn off and secure 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
- ✔ Prepare to take your pets with you
- ✔ Act early before roads to high ground are closed by floodwater.

After a flood

Keep away from flood affected areas until emergency services advise that is safe to return. These areas can be dangerous for the health and safety of you and your family. Discard all food that has come into contact with floodwater and clean and sanitise your belongings.

A local recovery centre may be established by a range of government departments and community agencies. You may be able to get advice on everything from insurance to counselling. In the event of a flood, information is available from Disaster Welfare Services on **1800 018 444** or emergency.nsw.gov.au

Stay informed

Cessnock City Council provides information on the height at which your property may be affected by floodwater. Flood information, road closures and advice on evacuations will be broadcast over local radio stations:

1233AM ABC Newcastle

Flood predictions and river height information are available from the Bureau of Meteorology. NSW SES issue flood bulletins on what may happen and safe actions. It is important to know the height that affects your business or home in terms of isolation, inundation and evacuation.

How the NSW SES helps the community

The NSW SES is responsible for the emergency management of floods in NSW. This includes planning for floods and working with communities about how to protect themselves and their property.

During floods the NSW SES will provide flood information and safety advice, can arrange for the delivery of essential supplies, conduct evacuations and undertake flood rescues.

Emergency contacts & support

Police, Fire and Ambulance - 000 (triple zero)
Life-threatening emergencies.

NSW SES Emergency Assistance - 132 500
The deaf, hard of hearing or speech impaired can call Triple Zero (000) or SES on (132 500) using the National Relay Service (NRS).

NSW SES Hunter Region Facebook
[Facebook.com/NSWSESHUR](https://www.facebook.com/NSWSESHUR)

My RoadInfo
myroadinfo.com.au for local road information.

Cessnock City Council
cessnock.nsw.gov.au

Bureau of Meteorology
bom.gov.au/nsw for the latest flood and weather warnings

Disaster Welfare Services
1800 018 444
emergency.nsw.gov.au
for flood recovery services.

Department of Primary Industries
dpi.nsw.gov.au for support services where agriculture and animals are affected.

Essential Energy
132 080
essentialenergy.com.au
for supply and outages.

Telstra - 132 203
telstra.com.au for service disruptions in a disaster.



FOR EMERGENCY HELP IN FLOOD,
STORM AND TSUNAMI CALL

132 500

In life-threatening emergencies call 000 (triple zero)

For further information about flooding visit
ses.nsw.gov.au



Community FloodSafe



Wollombi



Wollombi Township 2015



Are you at risk from floods?

Wollombi derives its name from its Aboriginal meaning "meeting place of the waters". Wollombi is a location of extreme flood risk. Major flooding occurred in Wollombi in the 1860s, 1949, 2007 and 2015. The Wollombi Brook and Congewai Creek valleys are narrow and deep. Periods of heavy rainfall can result in the rapid onset of dangerous floods often with very little warning time. Many roads have difficulty withstanding the impacts of floods and can become inundated even in minor flood events. This can affect access to properties and the ability to evacuate. • Flood waters have been known to persist resulting in prolonged isolation of up to five days.

It is essential that residents and businesses have an emergency plan that is designed to allow stock and belongings to be raised or relocated and to evacuate in time if required. Remaining in your home/business when it is flood affected can be dangerous. Your property may be flooded, you could become isolated (surrounded by floodwater), access to other areas might be cut and you could lose your power, and telecommunications. Emergency response may be slow due to limited resources, the extent of area impacted and inundation of access roads.

Cessnock City Council online mapping system has flood maps showing the extent of flooding and flood hazard at Wollombi.

<https://www.cessnock.nsw.gov.au/Plan-build/Planning/Online-mapping>

The NSW SES and Cessnock City Council can assist with development of a Home or Business Emergency Plan.



Wollombi 2015

What happens in Wollombi Floods?

Wollombi River Gauge - zero:85.72m AHD

Wollombi - 300m downstream of Cunneens Bridge

| Heights at gauge | Expected consequence |
|------------------|---|
| 15.73m | Peak Height June 1949 Flood |
| 13.13m | Peak Height June 2007 Flood |
| 12.20m | Major Flood Height |
| 11.63m | Peak Height April 2015 Flood |
| 10.22m | Gauge Height Cedar Creek Bridge closed |
| 8.60m | Moderate Flood Height |
| 8.24m | Gauge Height Paynes Crossing Road closed between Cunneens and Williams Bridges |
| 8.00m | Gauge Height Paynes Crossing Road closed between Negro Street and Cunneens Bridge |
| 7.35m | Gauge Height Gleghorns Bridge closed on Great North Road |
| 7.01m | Gauge Height Paynes Crossing Bridge closed on Paynes Crossing Road |
| 6.79m | Gauge Height Great North Road closed between Milson Arm Road and Watagan Creek Road. Stockyard Creek Bridge closed. |
| 6.74m | Gauge Height Wollombi Road closed between Charlton and Narone Creek Road. Great North Road closed. |
| 6.70m | Minor Flood Height |
| 6.19m | Gauge Height Watagan Creek Road Bridge closed on Paynes Crossing Road |
| 5.78m | Gauge Height Yango Creek Road and Milson Arms Bridges closed |
| 2.76m | Gauge Height Paynes Crossing Bridge closed on Paynes Crossing Road |

The information in this guide is accurate at April 2021.

River and rain gauge information for Wollombi Brook and Congewai Creek catchments can be found on:

<http://www.bom.gov.au/nsw/flood/midnorth.shtml>

What you can do now



BUREAU FLOOD HEIGHT TERMINOLOGY

| | |
|---------------|---|
| EXCEED | The river level will definitely pass this height based on current rainfall. |
| REACH | Highest level expected based on current or forecast rainfall. Further rainfall or tributary inflows mean the flood level could go higher. |
| PEAK | Rainfall has eased or stopped, this is the highest expected river height. |

When planning for floods, consider further rises when rivers are predicted to reach or exceed certain heights.

Assistance for animals

NSW Department of Primary Industries coordinate animal welfare and relief services for livestock, wildlife and companion animals. This may include assistance for animal care services and emergency fodder supply in areas affected by a flood emergency.

When flooding is likely

A Flood Watch is issued by the Bureau of Meteorology when flooding is likely. Act early should flooding occur.

RESIDENTS:

- ✓ Listen to your local radio station for information, updates and advice.
- ✓ Locate and check your emergency kit and follow your Emergency Plan. Go to ses.nsw.gov.au
- ✓ Check on your neighbours and make sure they are aware of possible flooding.
- ✓ Prepare to move pets, including agisted animals to high ground.

BUSINESS OWNERS AND MANAGERS:

- ✓ Follow your Business FloodSafe Plan, developed by working through the Emergency Business Continuity Kit on the NSW SES website ses.nsw.gov.au
- ✓ Check neighbouring businesses are aware of possible flooding.
- ✓ Back up records and store off-site.
- ✓ Make preparations to raise or relocate stock, records and equipment.
- ✓ Check the evacuation routes for your business and make sure your employees know when they are likely to close. This will ensure they can leave before flooding occurs.



Mission Arm Road 2015