

## 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

During a flood the NSW SES and other emergency services may ask you to evacuate.

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.

## When you evacuate

You must leave well before roads to high ground are closed by flood water.

Proceed to the evacuation centre you are asked to go to. Help will be available at an evacuation centre established by the Department of Family and Community Services.

Assistance will include:

- ✔ Temporary accommodation
- ✔ Financial help
- ✔ Personal support
- ✔ Refreshments and meals
- ✔ Clothing and personal needs

## After a flood

Keep away from flood affected areas until emergency services advise that it 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](http://emergency.nsw.gov.au)

## 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).

**LiveTraffic**  
[livetraffic.com](http://livetraffic.com) for local road information.

**Richmond Valley Council**  
(02) 6660 0300  
[richmondvalley.nsw.gov.au](http://richmondvalley.nsw.gov.au)  
for local road closure information.

**Richmond Valley Disaster Dashboard**  
Can be viewed at  
[richmondvalleycouncil.disasterdashboards.com/dashboard/overview](http://richmondvalleycouncil.disasterdashboards.com/dashboard/overview)

**Bureau of Meteorology**  
[bom.gov.au/nsw](http://bom.gov.au/nsw) for the latest flood and weather warnings.

*Accurate at Sept 2021*

**Local Land Services**  
1300 795 299  
[lls.nsw.gov.au](http://lls.nsw.gov.au) for support services where agriculture and animals are affected.

**Disaster Welfare Services**  
13 77 88  
[nsw.gov.au/resilience-nsw](http://nsw.gov.au/resilience-nsw)  
for flood recovery services.

**NSW Dept. of Primary Industries** [dpi.nsw.gov.au](http://dpi.nsw.gov.au)  
For support services where agriculture and animals are affected.

**Essential Energy** 132 080  
[essentialenergy.com.au](http://essentialenergy.com.au)  
for supply and outages.

**Telstra - 132 203** [telstra.com.au](http://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](http://ses.nsw.gov.au)



Community FloodSafe



Coraki





## Are you at risk from floods?

Coraki is a small, historic town with a population of 1277, that was once an important river port at the junction of the Richmond and Wilson Rivers.

After flowing through the rural areas of Tatham and Codrington, the Richmond River is joined by the Wilsons River at Coraki.

Downstream of Coraki, the river approximately doubles in width to over 200m in places.

The river then winds in a southerly direction to its junction with its second largest tributary, Bungawalbin Creek.

In a major flood, water crosses the main street and enters low areas of the town. Local flooding in the Bungawalbin Creek system can cause extensive rural inundation south-west of Coraki.

The locals refer to this area as “the backwater”.

The Richmond and Wilson rivers are prone to flooding with a long history of past floods, from 1954 (the flood of record) to present times.

The last big flood in March 2017 was a result of prolonged rain and then the remnants of tropical cyclone Debbie moving down the coast.

In a major flood the township of Coraki may become totally isolated until the flood waters fall with no access into or out of the town.

It is important that residents and businesses in Coraki, and surrounding areas are aware of their flood risk, have a plan and know when to act.



## What happens in Coraki floods?

Heights at gauge	Expected consequence
7.01m	<b>Flood of Record 1974.</b> 80% of Coraki inundated at this height including parts of Coraki Township and East Coraki. The Box Ridge indigenous community of west Coraki is also isolated at this height.
6.96m	<b>Peak Height of 1954 flood</b>
6.88m	<b>Peak Height - April 1989</b>
6.81m	Extensive flooding of Coraki township and surrounds. Queen Elizabeth Drive (Coraki Road), Yabsley Street, Minto Street, Martin Street, Allwood Street, Nolan Street, Union Street, and the low lying properties in Church Lane, Bridge Street, Richmond Terrace, Duke Street and Belmore Street, and the properties near the Coraki Bowling Club and Sporting Ovals, and East Coraki are inundated.
6.77m	<b>Peak Height - April 2017.</b>
6.55m	Coraki is isolated. Flood water breaks the banks of the river and low lying homes become flooded.
6.36m	In 2001, water covered the Richmond Terrace. The new bridges on the Coraki -Casino Rd and Red Hill were covered with 1- 1.5 m of water.
6.00m	Coraki Casino Rd closed, rural properties start to become isolated.
5.70m	<b>Major Flood Height.</b> Many rural properties around Coraki are now isolated. Most arterial Roads closed and many properties in Rural Coraki area isolated.
5.00m	<b>Moderate Flood Height.</b> Flood water completely inundates the Coraki Caravan Park.
3.80m	This height is the trigger for Evacuation of Coraki Caravan Park. Ellangowan and Springvale roads impacted. Coraki Cemetery road closed.
3.40m	<b>Minor Flood Height.</b>
3.20m	Water reaches the top of the river bank near the Coraki Caravan Park.

Key heights in metres at the Coraki flood gauge

## Stay informed

Flood information, road closures and advice on evacuations will be broadcast over local radio stations:



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 property in terms of isolation, inundation and evacuation.

## What you can do now



For further information on your local or regional flood risk please visit [ses.nsw.gov.au](http://ses.nsw.gov.au) and search for “Local Flood Plan”.

## 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](http://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](http://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.



Image courtesy of ABC News