

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 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 **13 77 88** or nsw.gov.au/resilience-nsw

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 for local road information.

Byron Shire Council (02) 6626 7000
byron.nsw.gov.au for local road closure information. View emergency dashboard at emergency.byron.nsw.gov.au/

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

Local Land Services 1300 795 299
lls.nsw.gov.au for support services where agriculture and animals are affected.

Disaster Welfare Services
13 77 88 or nsw.gov.au/resilience-nsw for flood recovery services.

NSW Dept. 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.

Mullumbimby SES
Search Mullumbimby SES Unit on Facebook.



FOR EMERGENCY HELP IN FLOOD,
STORM AND TSUNAMI CALL

132 500

In life-threatening emergencies call 000 (triple zero)

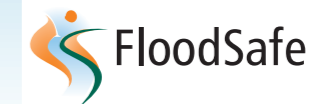
For further information about flooding visit
ses.nsw.gov.au



Community FloodSafe



Mullumbimby



Are you at risk from floods?

Mullumbimby, with a population of approximately 4,000 people, is located in the Brunswick Valley in the Northern Rivers of NSW at the meeting of the Brunswick River and Mullumbimby Creek.

The Brunswick Valley is a flash flood catchment. Flash flooding can cause loss of life from high velocity floodwater and overland flows cause isolation, inundations and road closures.

Upstream of Mullumbimby the streams are largely confined to their main channels, but at Mullumbimby and downstream there are extensive floodplains.

Flood heights in Mullumbimby can also be affected by tidal influence.

When the tide is on the make it will hold water back with a tendency to raise the water level. As the tide starts to ebb the level usually falls very quickly.

Flood height recording has occurred at Mullumbimby since 1954 and the town has experienced several major floods during its history.

The last major flood occurred in May 1987. Known as the Mother's Day Flood, it was the most severe in living memory.

During a flood, there can be significant urban flooding, extensive road closures and disruption to road networks, infrastructure damage, including roads, bridges and culverts as well as power outages, sewerage system failure and water supply disruption.

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

Mullumbimby will flood again. That's a fact!



What happens in Mullumbimby floods?

Heights at gauge	Expected consequence
6.40m	Estimated height of a Possible Maximum Flood (PMF). This is the biggest flood event that Mullumbimby could expect to experience.
5.42m	Estimated 1% (1 in 100) AEP flood level.
5.21m	Significant flooding within the Mullumbimby CBD.
4.89m	Floodwaters continue to fill in the area between Saltwater Creek and Brunswick River.
4.76m	Estimated 10% (1 in 10) AEP flood level.
4.64m	Locally recorded Peak Height Mother's Day Flood 10 May 1987. However, the BOM recorded the flood peak at 4.52m. Many local roads and homes impacted.
4.50m	Major Flood Height. Further flooding impacts many homes in Argyle St, Anne St, New City Rd, James St, King St, Queen St in Mullumbimby, and Station St is directly threatened by over floor inundation.
4.49m	Peak Height May 1987.
4.40m	Major roads into Mullumbimby are impassable and Gulgarn Road may be closed isolating the town. Saltwater Creek backwater begins to surround the eastern area of Mullumbimby and the CBD. Flood water progressively fills in towards the CBD.
4.27m	Peak Height March 2017. Local roads continue to be impacted by flood water.
4.00m	Mullumbimby Creek breaks its banks near the Mullumbimby High School.
3.50m	Moderate Flood Height Some isolations and floodwater causing local road closures in Mullumbimby, Upper Main Arm, Wilsons Creek area. Mullumbimby Hospital begins to be impacted. The Left Bank area becomes isolated.
2.50m	Minor Flood Height. The road to Upper Main Arm above the Palmwoods junction may become impassable.

Key heights in metres at the Federation Bridge flood gauge

Stay informed

Byron Shire 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:

94.5FM
ABC Nth Coast

99.9 FM
Bay FM

100.9FM
Triple Z

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 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
- ✓ 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.

