

A discussion of flooding in the Hawkesbury-Nepean Valley

Focus: This resource develops students' awareness about different perspectives of natural hazards, and how individuals, agencies and government may respond to a situation. It involves students developing an informed understanding of an event, issue or incident and considering how to mitigate, respond, prepare for or reduce risk and harm. This resource provides students with opportunities to become informed and active citizens and participants in their local context, when faced with a natural hazard such as flooding in the Hawkesbury-Nepean Valley.

Inquiry Questions:

- What are the responses of individuals, groups and government to the impact of a disaster?
- How do management strategies have a future impact of similar hazard event?

Teaching Note:

This activity would be best placed as one of the last activities in the unit, and could be used as a closing activity.

To discuss something is to 'speak' about a topic or issue. Often it is helpful to consider a range of opinions and perspectives, as different groups and organisations have specialised knowledge and experience. Such a breadth of information is often difficult to obtain from one source.

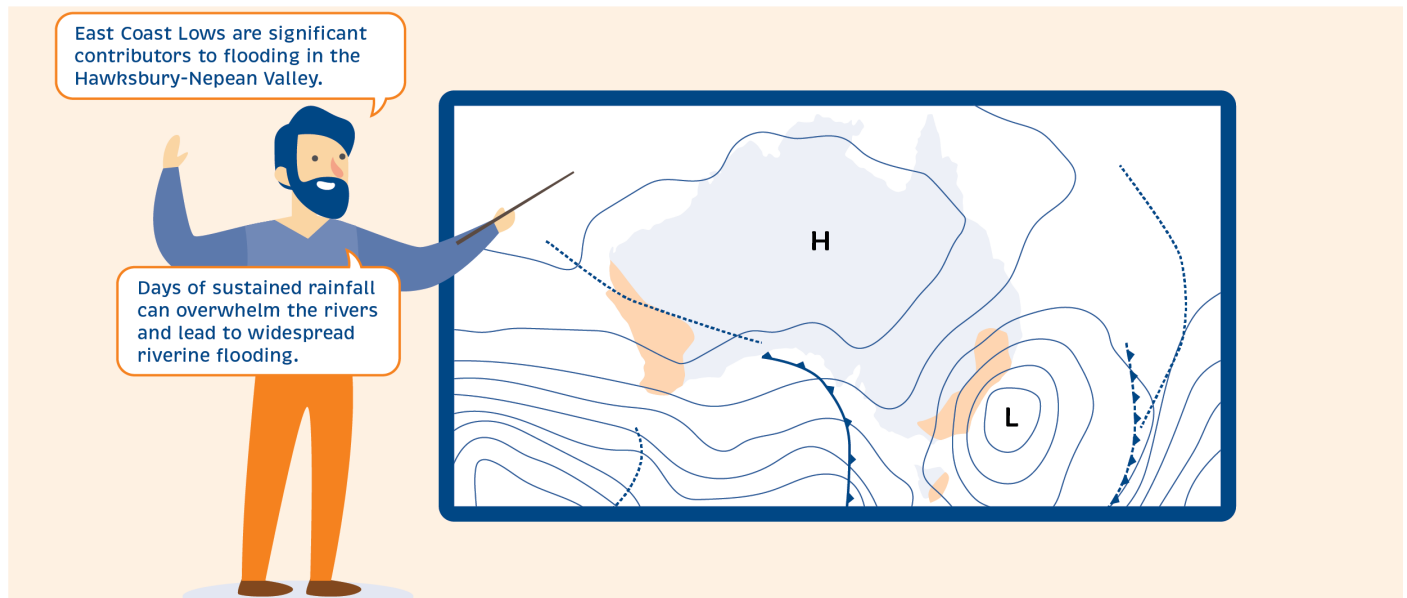
Throughout this unit, you have learnt about the Hawkesbury-Nepean Valley, and its associated flood risk. You have also engaged with a variety of resources, websites, and the perspectives of groups and individuals.

Being capable of forming and sustaining a discussion about a topic or idea is an important skill. For instance, if you were asked to write a response to the following:

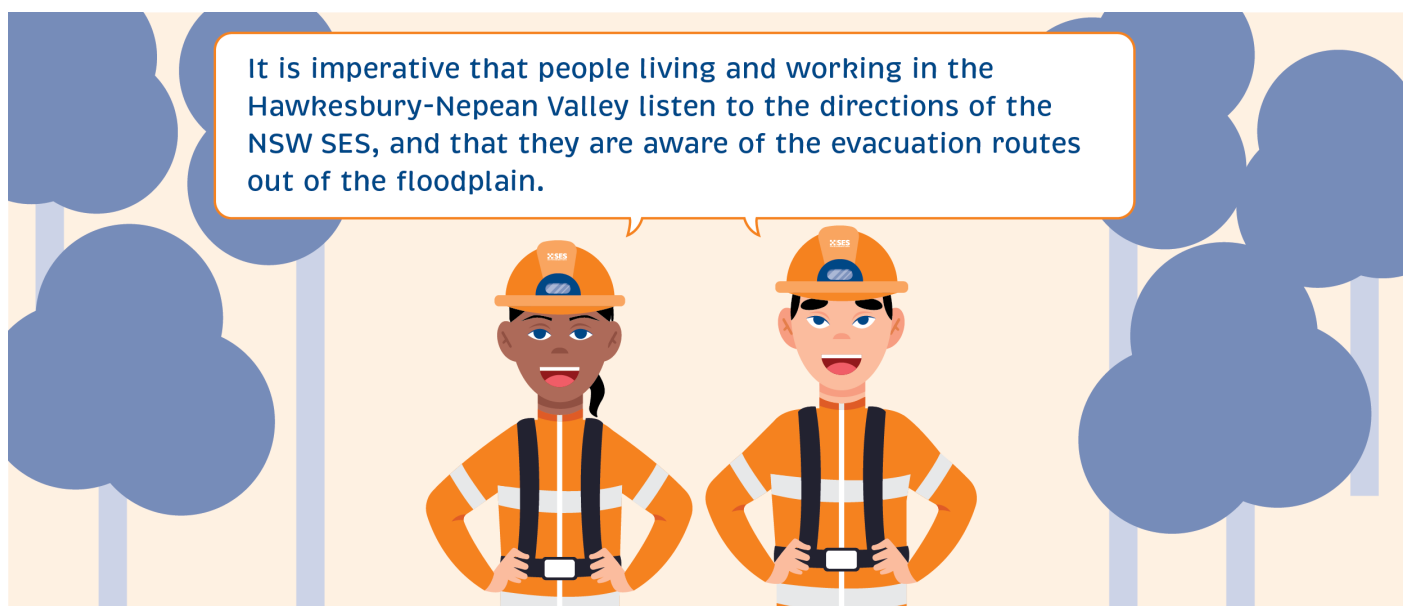
Discuss flooding in the Hawkesbury-Nepean Valley

It would be quite important for you to consider and include a range of perspectives:

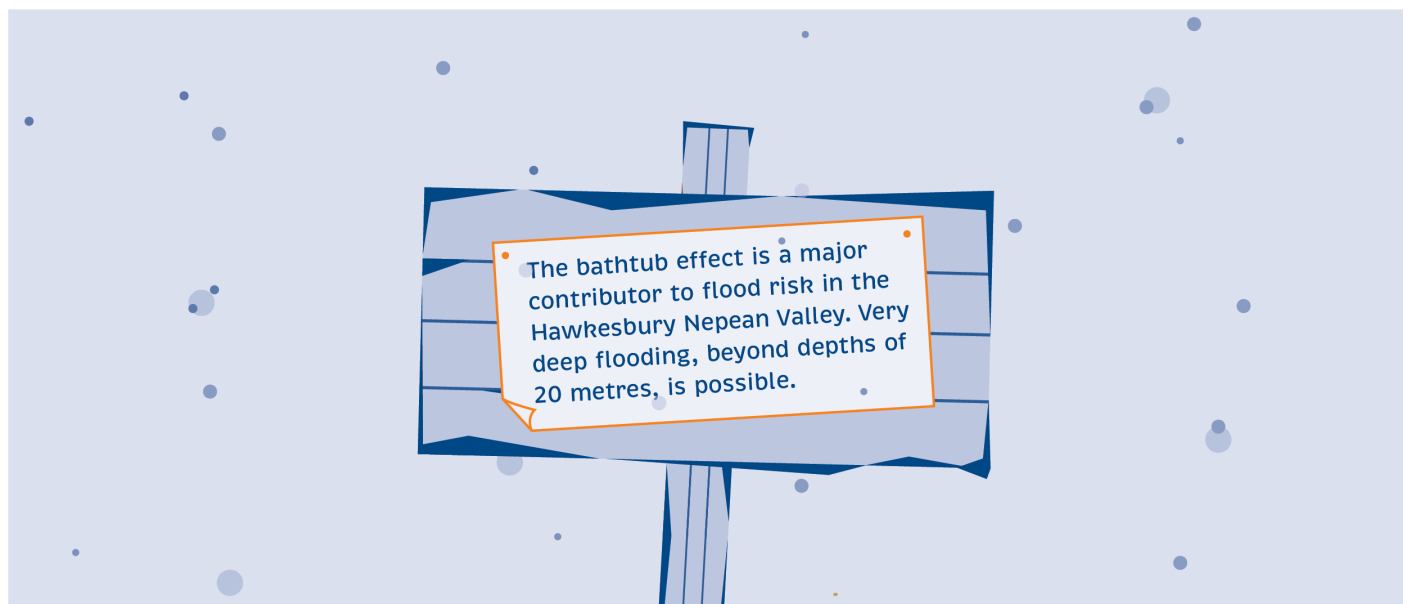
The Australian Bureau of Meteorology acknowledges that...



According to the NSW State Emergency Service...



The local councils report and floodplain committees report that...



A resident from the Hawkesbury-Nepean Valley relays that:

I remember the floods from the 1960s. They were disastrous.
There certainly is periodicity to flooding here. It can flood many times in a short period, with floods clustering together. Then again, you can have dry spells and no major floods for decades.
It will flood again, we just don't know when.



Literacy Tip:

When writing an essay or response it is important to:

- Include a **topic** sentence
- State an **example**
- Support with **evidence**
- **Link** ideas back to the question



Activity:

You will use information provided in the speech bubbles, or perspectives, as evidence within a paragraph.
For example:

Include a topic sentence	The possibility of flooding in the Hawkesbury-Nepean Valley is heightened by the weather.
State an example	The propensity for long periods of rain, and the inability for rivers to contain such volumes, attributes to this risk.
Support with evidence	The Bureau of Meteorology, who specialise in tracking and predicting the weather, acknowledges that, 'East coast lows are a significant contributing factor to flooding in the Hawkesbury-Nepean Valley. Days of sustained rainfall can lead to riverine overwhelm and widespread flooding.'
Link ideas back to the question	It is therefore apparent that there is a relationship between rainfall volume and riverine flooding in the Hawkesbury-Nepean Valley.

This quotation is too long. Choose one sentence from the quote as your evidence.

Activity

Now complete this paragraph:

Include a topic sentence	
State an example	
Support with evidence	According to the State Emergency Service, 'It is imperative that people living in the Hawkesbury-Nepean Valley listen to the directions of SES, and that they are aware of the evacuation route out of the floodplain.'
Link ideas back to the question	

Activity

Choose another quotation, from the speech bubbles, and complete a paragraph of your own:

Include a topic sentence	
State an example	
Support with evidence	
Link ideas back to the question	