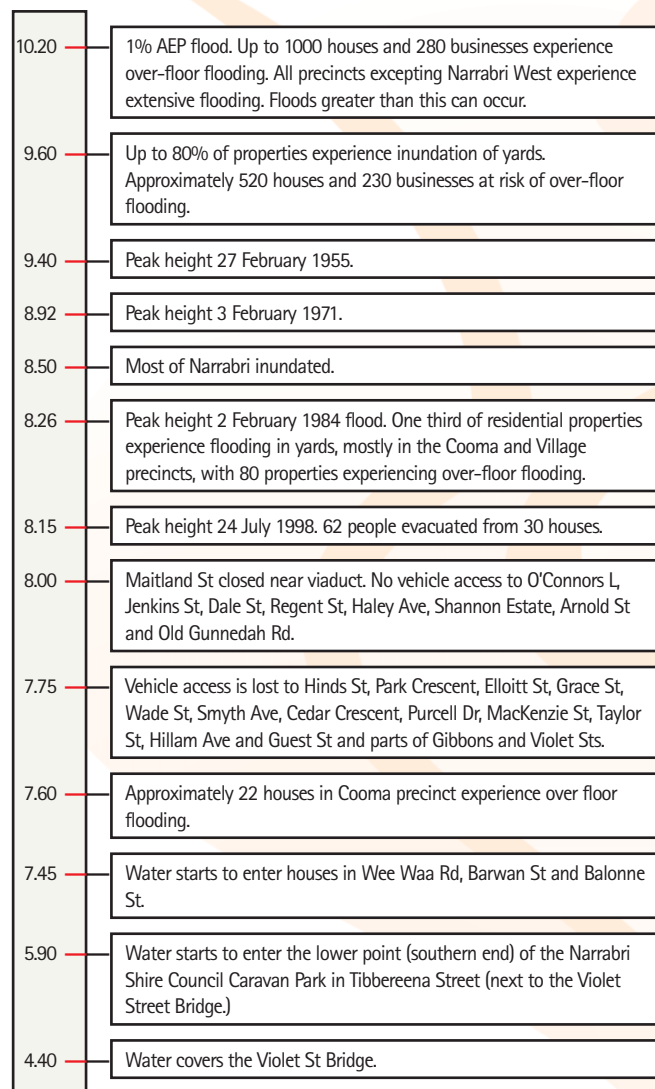


What happens in Narrabri floods



Key heights in metres at the Narrabri Creek gauge

The Bureau of Meteorology provides predictions of expected flood heights in metres at the Narrabri Creek gauge based on received and forecast rainfall. All heights are in meters at the Narrabri Creek gauge.

SES flood bulletins provide information on what may happen at the predicted height and what actions are required to protect yourself and your property. It is important to know the height that affects your property.

Prepare yourself

Some basic measures you can take right now include keeping a list of emergency numbers near the telephone and assembling an emergency kit.

Your emergency kit should contain at all times:

- A portable radio with spare batteries
- A torch with spare batteries
- A first aid kit
- Rubber gloves
- Candles and waterproof matches
- A waterproof bag for valuables
- Emergency contact numbers

When flooding is likely, place in your emergency kit:

- Important papers and photos
- A good supply of required medications
- Any special requirements for babies and the disabled, infirm or elderly
- Strong shoes
- Fresh food and drinks



Every family and business should make an emergency kit.

How the SES can help you

The State Emergency Service is responsible for dealing with floods in NSW. This includes planning for floods and educating people about how to protect themselves and their property.

During floods, the SES is responsible for flood information, safety advice, evacuation, rescue and providing essentials to people cut off by flood waters.

Also, Narrabri Shire Council protects Council owned property and assists the SES by arranging road closures, providing heavy machinery, materials and back up staff.

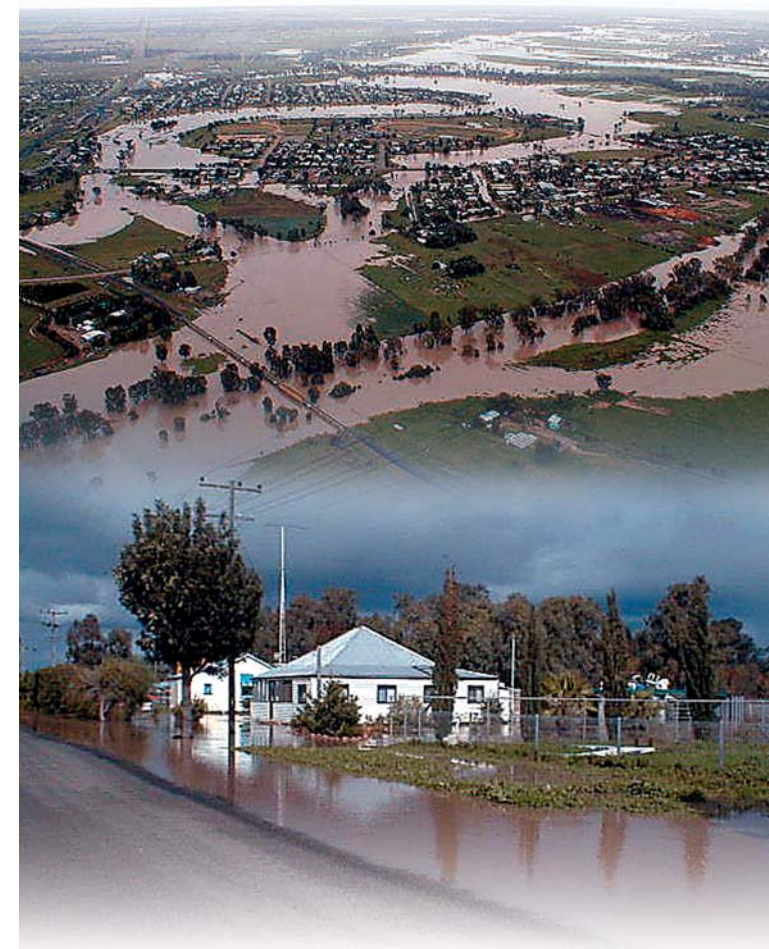
FOR EMERGENCY HELP IN FLOODS
AND STORMS CALL THE SES ON

132 500

SES website	www.ses.nsw.gov.au
Narrabri SES	02 6799 6893
Narrabri Shire Council (business hours)	02 6799 6877
Bureau of Meteorology website	www.bom.gov.au



Brochure printed January 2006



Protecting yourself
from a flood



Top: Narrabri under flood November 2000
Bottom: Wee Waa Road, Narrabri



Narrabri – Residential

Are you at risk from floods?

Narrabri has a long history of floods, some of them severe. The most serious flood occurred in February 1955 when floodwaters reached 9.4 metres on the Narrabri Creek gauge. Approximately 80% of Narrabri experienced flooding of yards and some 800 homes and businesses experienced flooding over floor level. Other major floods occurred in 1971, 1974, 1976, 1984, 1998 and 2000. In large floods, floodwaters in Narrabri may divide the town into as many as 12 separate isolated precincts. Floodwaters may be deep and fast flowing, carrying large amounts of debris. Flooding can result in isolation of properties for periods of several days to over a week.

The Namoi River begins to flow when floodwaters reach a height of 3.6 metres. At a height of 6.8 metres the Shire Council Caravan Park is evacuated. Further rises to 7.45 metres cause water to enter houses in Wee Waa Rd, Barwan St and Balonne St. At a height of 7.6 metres about 22 houses in the Cooma precinct experience over-floor flooding.

When the river height reaches 7.75 metres vehicle access is lost to Hinds St, Park Cr, Elloit St, Grace St, Wade St, Smyth Ave, Cedar Cr, Purcell Dr, MacKenzie St, Taylor St, Hillam Ave and Guest St as well as parts of Gibbons and Violet Sts.

At 8.00 metres the Newell Hwy closes and access to the airport is lost. Maitland St closes near the viaduct and there is no vehicle access to O'Connors L, Jenkins St, Dale St, Regent St, Haley Ave, Shannon Estate, Arnold St and Old Gunnedah Rd.

At 8.25 meters up to 80 properties may experience over-floor flooding, principally in the Cooma and Village precincts. Most evacuation routes out of Narrabri are closed. Further rises to 8.5 metres will result in the inundation of most of Narrabri, including much of the business district. If a height of 10.2 metres is reached up to 1000 houses and 280 businesses would experience over-floor flooding. This is the estimated 1% Annual Exceedance Probability (AEP) flood meaning that there is a 1% chance of a flood equalling or exceeding this height in any given year. Floods can exceed this level.

Even if your home is not directly flooded you may suffer indirectly. Deciding to remain, even if it is raised, is dangerous. If you remain you may experience rapid rises in floodwater that could go over floor level. Fast flowing floodwater could threaten the building's structure. Your property may become a refuge for vermin, snakes and spiders. Services such as power, water, telephone, sewerage and gas may be unavailable for many days. In an emergency that occurs after you are isolated you may be unable to call for help.

Stay informed

Narrabri SES Unit can give you information on what you can do to reduce the effects of flooding on your family and your property.

Narrabri Shire Council may be able to provide information on the height at which your property is flooded.

This brochure and general information on preparing for floods can be found at the SES website www.ses.nsw.gov.au

How you will be advised of a coming flood

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

2GGG FM	FM 97.5
2MO AM	AM 1080
ABC North West (2NU)	AM 648
Narrabri Community radio (MAX FM)	FM 91.3

Bureau of Meteorology flood predictions and river height information are available on their website www.bom.gov.au



Namoi Street, Narrabri



Partially inundated residence, Narrabri

When flooding is likely

- Stack your possessions on benches and tables, electrical goods on top
- Secure objects that are likely to float and cause damage
- Relocate waste containers, chemicals and poisons well above floor level
- Locate important papers, valuables and mementoes, put them in your emergency kit and take them with you when you evacuate
- Check if neighbours need help
- Locate and prepare pets for possible evacuation
- Move livestock, especially horses, to high ground

During a flood

- Avoid driving or walking through flood water - this is the main cause of death during floods as water may be deeper or faster flowing than people think and contain hidden snags and debris
- Keep listening to a local radio station for further information and advice
- Keep in contact with your neighbours
- Be prepared to evacuate if advised

If you need to evacuate

- Take your emergency kit with you
- Turn off the electricity and water as you leave and turn off and secure gas bottles
- You will be advised which evacuation centre to go to

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 Community Services (DoCS).

Assistance will include:

- Temporary accommodation
- Financial help
- Personal support
- Refreshments and meals
- Clothing and personal needs
- Help in contacting family and friends