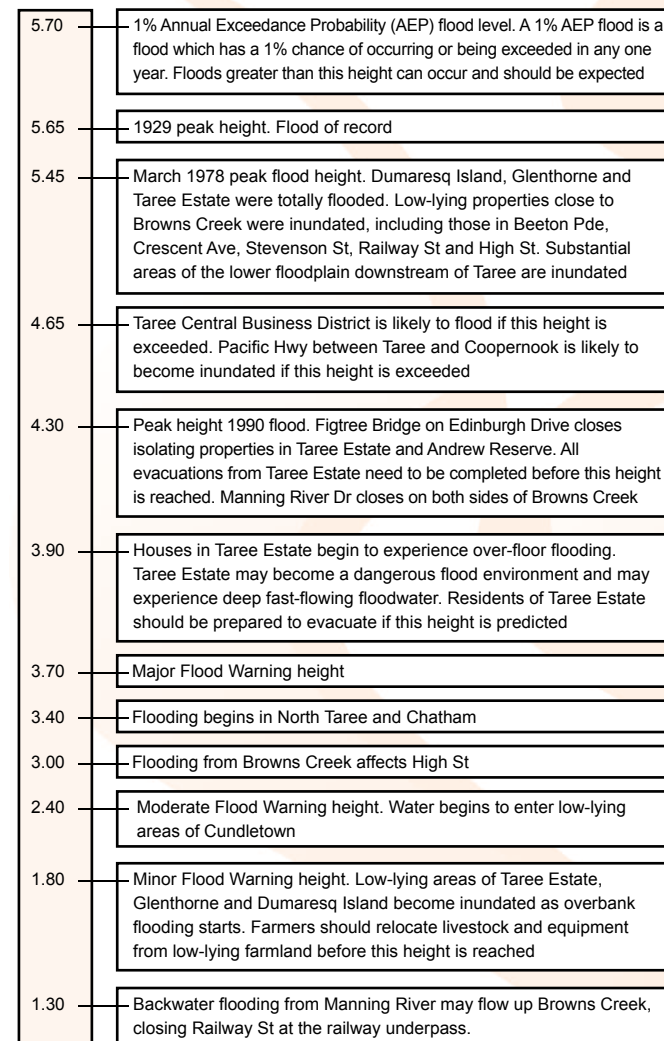


## What happens in Taree floods?



Key heights in metres (AHD) at Taree Traffic Bridge (Martin Bridge) gauge

The Bureau of Meteorology provides predictions of expected flood heights in metres for the Manning River at the Taree Traffic Bridge (Martin Bridge) gauge. Historically warnings were issued for the Taree Aquatic Club gauge. The Bureau of Meteorology no longer provides warnings for this gauge. To convert Taree Traffic Bridge (Martin Bridge) gauge readings to the Taree Aquatic Club gauge add 0.3 metres.

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 at which your property may be affected and when evacuation routes may be cut.

## Prepare yourself

Some basic measures you can take right now include keeping a list of emergency numbers near your telephone and assembling a Home Emergency Kit.

Your Home Emergency Kit should contain at all times:

- A portable radio with spare batteries
- A torch with spare batteries
- A first aid kit (with supplies necessary for your household)
- Candles and waterproof matches
- A waterproof bag for valuables
- Emergency contact numbers
- A copy of any household emergency plans

When flooding is likely, place in your Home 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
- Suitable food and drinks

Know the height at which your home may be affected by floodwater and when your evacuation routes may be cut.



Every home should put together an Emergency Kit

## How the SES can help you

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

During flood the SES will provide flood information, safety advice and arrange for the delivery of essential supplies to people isolated by floodwater. Where appropriate, the SES will conduct evacuations and flood rescue.

[www.ses.nsw.gov.au](http://www.ses.nsw.gov.au)

FOR EMERGENCY HELP IN FLOODS  
AND STORMS CALL THE SES ON

**132 500**

SES website	<a href="http://www.ses.nsw.gov.au">www.ses.nsw.gov.au</a>
Taree City SES	02 6552 5866
Greater Taree City Council (business hours)	02 6592 5399
Greater Taree City Council website	<a href="http://www.gtcc.nsw.gov.au">www.gtcc.nsw.gov.au</a>
Bureau of Meteorology website	<a href="http://www.bom.gov.au">www.bom.gov.au</a>



Protecting yourself  
from a flood



Top: Taree Rowing and Sailing clubs flooded during the 1990 flood  
Bottom: Taree residential areas during the 1978 flood



## Are you at risk from floods?

Taree has a long history of flooding from the Manning River. Significant flood events have occurred in 1866, 1875, 1895, 1929, 1930, 1968, 1976, 1978 and 1990. The largest flood on record occurred in 1929, most recently large floods have occurred in 1978 and 1990. The 1978 flood had a peak height of 5.45m at the Taree Traffic Bridge (Martin Bridge) gauge and completely flooded Taree Estate, Glenthorne and Dumaresq Island. Low lying areas close to Browns Creek were also flooded and substantial areas of the lower floodplain below Taree were inundated.

### Flood prone residential areas in Taree include:

**Taree Estate:** During a flood reaching 5.7m on the gauge parts of Taree Estate will experience deep, fast flowing floodwaters that will inundate many houses over floor level.

**North Taree:** During a flood reaching 5.7m on the gauge, many house in North Taree will be flooded over floor level, some to considerable depth. A total of seventeen streets in North Taree would be affected by floodwaters. Flood affected streets include Bent, Railway, Stevenson, Victoria, High, Albert, Mackay, Pioneer, Bligh, Whitbread, Cornwall, Florence and River Streets. Queens Place, Stevenson Lane, Crescent Avenue and Beeton Parade are also flood affected.

**Chatham:** Chatham contains numerous flood prone properties located in Gipps Street, Davis Street, Bushland Drive, Lawson Crescent, and Bligh Street.

**West Taree:** A small area in West Taree is prone to flooding. This includes parts of Cowan Road and Bayview Crescent.

**Glenthorne:** A number of flood prone properties are located on the southern side of the river.

**Cundletown:** Cundletown is largely unaffected by flooding, however a small number of properties in River Street are flood prone.

You must be ready to evacuate when a significant flood is approaching. Deciding to remain in your home when it is surrounded by floodwaters or has water over floor level can be dangerous. Your home may become a refuge for vermin, snakes and spiders. There may be no water, sewerage, power, telephone or other services for many days and you may be unable to call for help in an emergency.

## Stay informed

The Taree City SES Unit can give you information on what you can do to reduce the effects of flooding.

Greater Taree City 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 on the SES website [www.ses.nsw.gov.au](http://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:

ABC 2TR	AM 756
ABC Mid North Coast	FM 95.5
STAR FM	FM 102.3
MAX FM	FM 107.3
2RE	AM 1557
Ngarralinyi 2TLP	FM 103.3

If evacuation becomes necessary, the SES and other emergency services may doorknock to advise residents and businesses on what to do. There may be other ways that you will be informed if you are required to evacuate including television, radio or public address announcements.

Bureau of Meteorology flood predictions and river height information are available on their website [www.bom.gov.au](http://www.bom.gov.au)

**There are a few simple measures that you can take around your home, unit or property that can reduce the potential damage caused by floods.**



Never drive, ride or walk through floodwater

## When flooding is likely (Flood Watch)

A Flood Watch is issued by the Bureau of Meteorology when flooding is likely. You should be prepared to act should flooding occur.

When a Flood Watch is issued:

- Listen to your local radio station for information, updates and advice
- Locate and activate your Home FloodSafe Toolkit
- Locate and check your Home Emergency Kit (see the 'Prepare yourself' section in this guide)
- Locate important papers, valuables and mementoes. Put them in your Emergency Kit in case of evacuation
- Check if neighbours are aware of the Flood Watch
- Move livestock, including agisted animals, to high ground

## During a flood (Flood Warning)

A Flood Warning is issued by the Bureau of Meteorology when flooding is about to happen. Flood Warnings provide a predicted flood level and time at which a river will reach that level. Flood Warnings will be issued for the Manning River at Taree Traffic Bridge (Martin Bridge) gauge.

During a flood you should:

- Never drive, ride or walk through floodwater - 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
- Stack your possessions 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
- Check if neighbours need help
- Locate and prepare pets for possible evacuation
- Keep listening to a local radio station for further information, updates and advice
- Be prepared to evacuate



Location: The Manning River during the 1990 flood

## Preparing to evacuate

During a flood the SES and other emergency services may ask you to prepare for evacuation.

The SES aims to keep people safe and minimise the risks to life and property when floods occur so it is important that you follow evacuation advice. Being prepared will allow you to respond quickly should you need to evacuate.

- Have your Home Emergency Kit ready to take with you if you need to evacuate
- Locate important papers, valuables and mementoes. Put them in your Emergency Kit and take them with you if you need to evacuate
- Turn off the electricity and gas at the mains before you leave and turn off and secure any gas bottles
- Prepare to take your pets with you – they cannot take care of themselves. Put them on leads or in pet containers for evacuation. Dogs should be muzzled

The SES will continue to monitor the flood threat and will advise you when to evacuate.

## When you evacuate

If evacuation of residents becomes necessary, the SES and other emergency services may doorknock to advise residents on what to do and where to go.

Proceed to the Evacuation Centre the emergency services direct you to. You must leave well before roads to high ground are closed by floodwater.

The SES and other emergency services will tell you when it is safe to return.

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

If you evacuate to a relative or friend's place please inform the authorities of where you are staying.

## Assistance for animals

The NSW Department of Primary Industries provides assistance for livestock, companion animals and wildlife during floods. This may include emergency supply or delivery of fodder to stranded livestock and evacuation of pets and livestock.