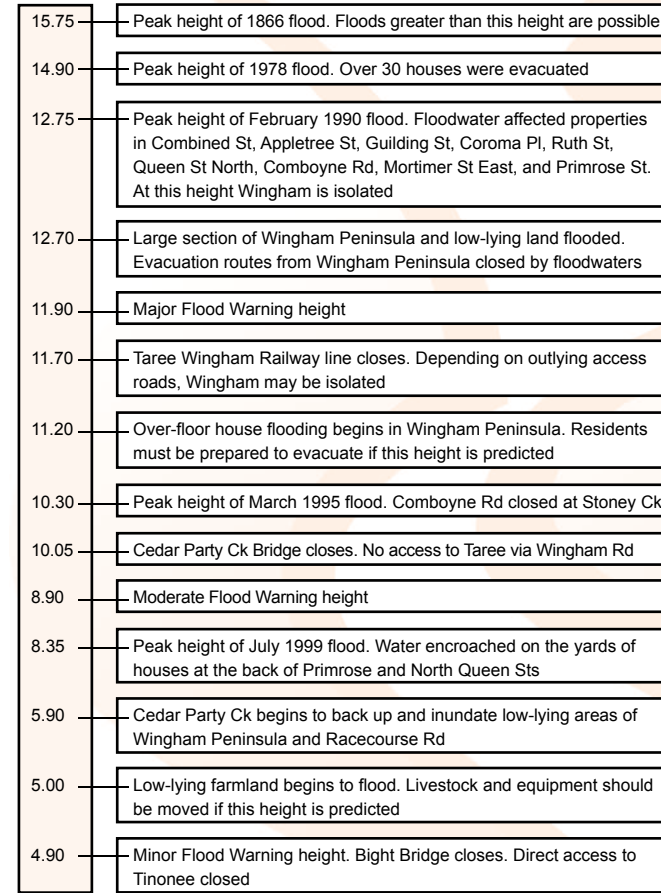


What happens in Wingham floods?



Key heights in metres at the Wingham gauge

The Bureau of Meteorology provides predictions of expected flood heights in metres at the Wingham gauge based on received and forecast rainfall.

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 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 (with supplies appropriate for your household or business)
- 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
- Suitable food and drinks

BUSINESSES

Your business should have a Business FloodSafe Plan. The SES has an interactive 'Business FloodSafe Toolkit' available online at the SES website. A Business FloodSafe Plan can be developed by using this Toolkit. Ensure that your Business FloodSafe Plan is complete and up to date.

You should decide where you will move stock and equipment to and how it will be transported. Keep backups of important records and store these in a flood free location.

Check your insurance policy. Where possible ensure shop fittings can be easily moved or are able to resist water damage. Keep a supply of boxes to move stock and records if flooding is likely.



Every home and business should put together an Emergency Kit

How the SES can help you

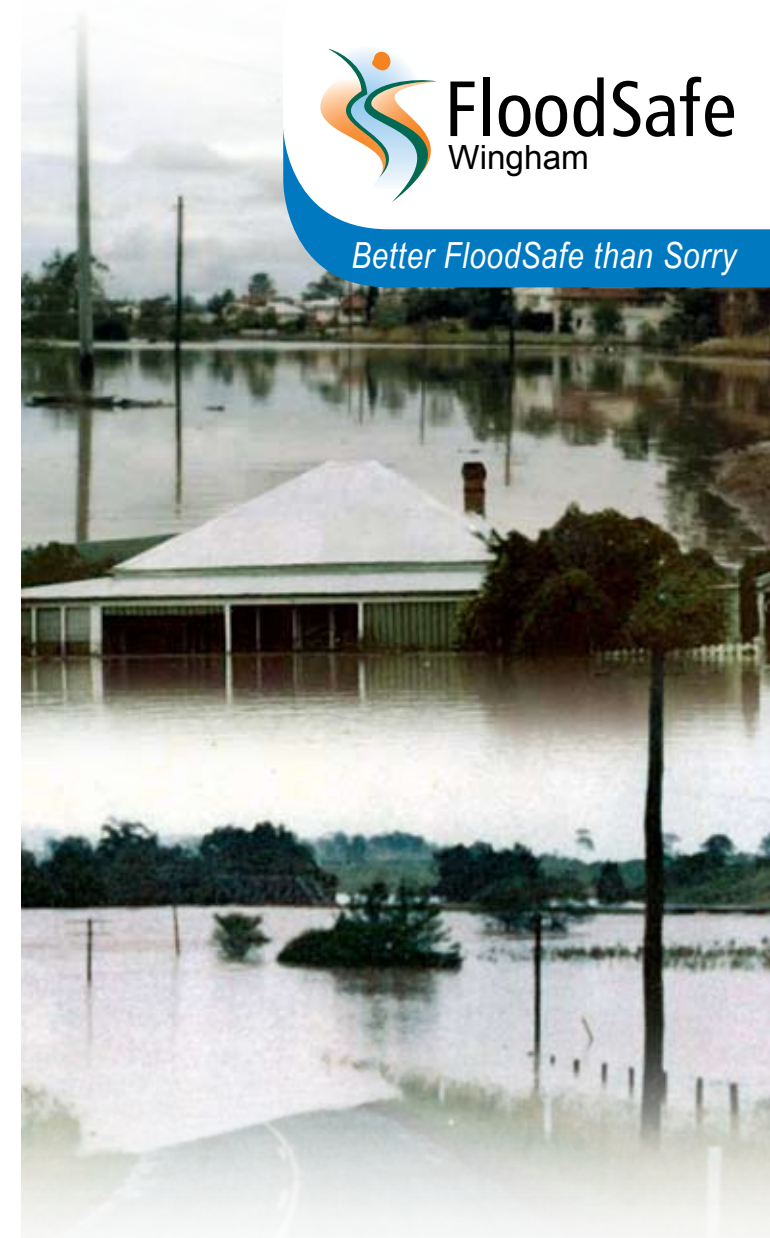
The State Emergency Service is responsible for responding to floods in NSW. This includes planning for floods and educating people about how to protect themselves and their property.

During floods 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

FOR EMERGENCY HELP IN FLOODS
AND STORMS CALL THE SES ON
132 500

SES website	www.ses.nsw.gov.au
Wingham SES	02 6557 0155
Greater Taree City Council (business hours)	02 6592 5399
Greater Taree City Council website	www.gtcc.nsw.gov.au
Bureau of Meteorology website	www.bom.gov.au



Protecting yourself
from a flood



Top: Queen Street North during the 1978 flood
Centre: Residential flooding in Queen Street, 1978
Bottom: Belbourne Bridge during the 1978 flood



Are you at risk from floods?

Wingham is situated on the Manning River and has a long history of flooding. Since European settlement major floods have affected Wingham in 1866, 1875, 1895, 1929, 1930, 1968, 1976, 1978 and 1990. The largest recorded flood occurred in July 1866 and measured 15.75 metres on the Wingham gauge.

The Manning River, Stoney (Gorman) Creek and Cedar Party Creek can all influence flooding in Wingham. Properties adjacent to Cedar Party and Stoney (Gorman) Creeks are prone to flooding with those in low-lying areas of Wingham Peninsula particularly susceptible to flooding. Floodwater in the Wingham Peninsula area can be more than one metre in depth and flow faster than one metre per second.

In the 1978 flood (14.9m) rapidly rising, fast flowing floodwater covered Wingham Peninsula and over 30 houses were evacuated from the township. More recently, in the 1990 flood (12.75m), floodwater affected properties in Appletree Street, Combined Street, Comboyne Road, Coroma Place, Guilding Street, Mortimer Street East, Primrose Street, Queen Street North, and Ruth Street. Other areas in Wingham likely to be affected by flooding include: Barnard, Beckham, Dawson, Flett, Isabella, Keech, Mortimer, Queen, Rowley, Steele and East Combined Streets and Khatabundah Road.

You can be indirectly affected by flooding even if your property is not actually inundated. It is important to prepare yourself for floods by making sure you have adequate supplies of non-perishable food and essential medications. Wingham can become isolated with access roads to and from the town as well as the railway line closing during major floods. Access roads that may be closed during flooding include: Wingham-Tinonee Road at Bight Bridge, Wingham-Taree Road at Cedar Party Creek Bridge, Wingham-Taree Road at the Brick Kiln, Gloucester Road (Wingham to Gloucester) at Dingo Creek and Comboyne Road at Stoney Creek.

The Manning River can rise very quickly. You must be ready to evacuate when a significant flood is approaching. Deciding to remain in your home or business when it is surrounded by floodwaters or has water over floor level can be dangerous. Your home or business may become a refuge for vermin, snakes and spiders. Services such as power, water, telephone, sewerage and gas may be unavailable for some time. You may be unable to call for help in an emergency that occurs after you are isolated.

Stay informed

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

The 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 at 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
MAX FM	FM 107.3
RHEMA FM	FM 106.5
STAR FM	FM 102.3
2 MC	FM 100.7
2RE	AM 1557
Easy Listening	AM 531
2TLP	AM (Ngarralinyi)

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



Wingham Green during the 1978 flood

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.

RESIDENTS

- Listen to your local radio station for information, updates and advice
- Locate and activate your Home FloodSafe Toolkit
- Locate and check your 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

BUSINESS OWNERS AND MANAGERS

In addition, business owners and managers should

- Locate and activate your Business FloodSafe Plan
- Ensure neighbouring businesses are aware of the Flood Watch
- Where possible back up records and store off-site
- Keep in contact with neighbouring businesses

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 the river will reach that level. Flood Warnings will be issued for the Wingham gauge.

- 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 may contain hidden snags and debris
- 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
- Keep listening to a local radio station for further information, updates and advice
- Keep in contact with your neighbours
- Locate and prepare pets for possible evacuation
- Ensure employees are able to get home before evacuation routes are closed
- Be prepared to evacuate if advised
- Act early, as roads may become congested or close

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 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

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

When you evacuate

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

Evacuation centres may be established at:

- Wingham Town Hall, Farquhar St, Wingham
- Wingham Services Club, 28 Bent St, Wingham
- And / or an alternative location as advised by authorities

Evacuation routes include:

- Apple Tree St to Wingham Central Business District
- Combined St to Wingham Central Business District

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.