

How the SES can help you

The State Emergency Service is responsible for dealing with flood emergencies 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 isolated by floodwaters.

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
Eugowra SES	02 6859 2359
Cabonne Council (business hours)	02 6392 3200
Bureau of Meteorology website	www.bom.gov.au



Prepare yourself

Some basic measures you can take right now include keeping a list of emergency numbers near the telephone and putting together 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 necessary supplies)
- Candles and waterproof matches
- A waterproof bag for valuables
- Emergency contact numbers
- Copies of any emergency plans

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

BUSINESSES:

Your business should have a Business FloodSafe Plan. A copy of the plan is available for download on the SES website. Keep a copy of your Business FloodSafe Toolkit handy and ensure that the Business FloodSafe Plan it contains 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.

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
- Don't leave your pets behind – they cannot look after themselves. Put them on leads or in pet containers for evacuation. Dogs should be muzzled

When you evacuate

You must leave well before roads to high ground are closed by floodwater. Proceed to the evacuation centre you are asked to go to. Help will be available at the evacuation centres 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

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.



Location: Residential flooding during the November 2005 flood.



Protecting yourself
from a flood

Location: Flooding along the main street in November 2005



Are you at risk from floods?

Eugowra has a history of flooding from Mandagery Creek and to a lesser extent from Puzzle Flat Creek. Major flooding occurred in April 1950, February 1973, August 1990, February 1992 and most recently in November 2005.

The April 1950 flood is the flood of record in Eugowra. Water levels reached 10.01m on the Eugowra Town Bridge gauge. The August 1990 flood reached a height of 9.90m. During the August 1990 flood over a quarter of the town’s buildings experienced over floor flooding while many others had flooded yards and sheds.

In a major flood, Eugowra is divided in two by flood waters with eastern Eugowra being separated from the western side. Eastern Eugowra becomes isolated when the Eugowra Town Bridge closes at 8.7 metres, making land based evacuations impossible. Even in minor floods substantial sandbagging is required.

Streets that are likely to experience inundation during major floods include North, Hill, Broad, Cooper, Camp, Chesher, Barrack, and Myall Streets on the western side, including most of the businesses on Broad Street.

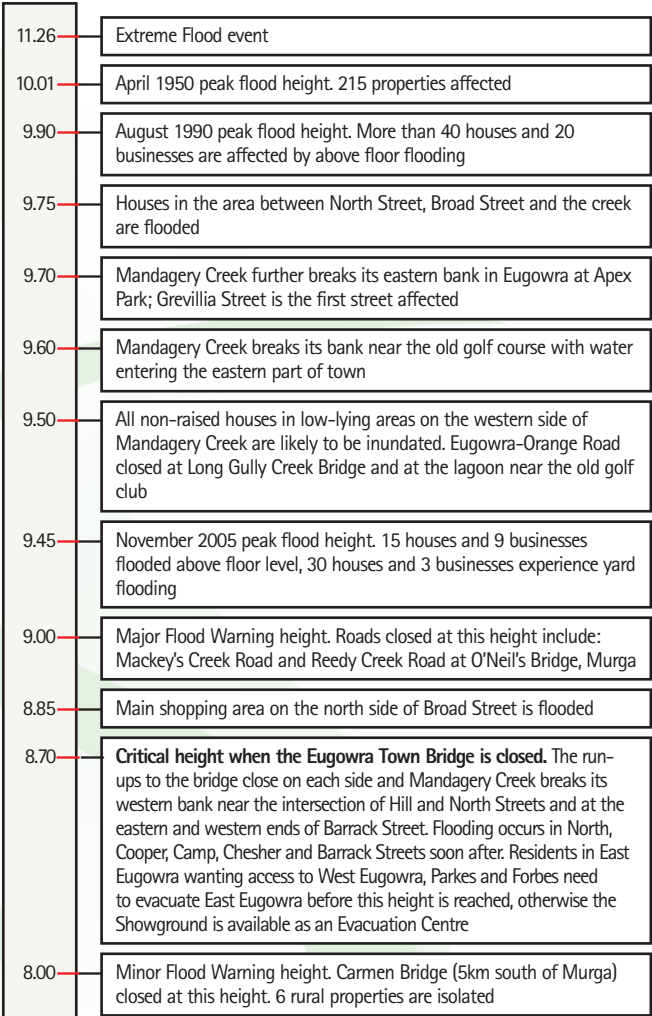
On the eastern side Grevillia Avenue along with Pye, Nanima, Evelyn and Loftus Streets all experience inundation. Floods larger than the August 1990 event can occur and must be expected.

The main Eugowra Evacuation Centre is located at Eugowra Public School (Corner of Hill and Victoria Streets) in western Eugowra. A second evacuation centre is located at Eugowra Showground (access from Noble Street) in the east as shown on the map within this guide. It is preferable to evacuate to the main evacuation centre at Eugowra Public School.

You must be ready to evacuate when a significant flood is approaching. Flood waters close the Eugowra Town Bridge at 8.7 metres on the gauge. If you live in East Eugowra (Sector B) and you want to access the Evacuation Centres in the west of Eugowra, Parkes or Forbes, you need to evacuate to West Eugowra (Sector A) prior to the bridge closing. After the bridge closes, the Evacuation Centre available to those in East Eugowra (Sector B) is located at the Showground.

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. There may be no water, sewerage, power, telephone or other services for several weeks and you may be unable to call for help in an emergency. You should never drive, ride or walk through floodwater.

What happens in Eugowra floods?



Key heights in metres at the Eugowra Town Bridge gauge

The Bureau of Meteorology provides predictions of expected flood heights in metres at the Eugowra Town Bridge 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 gauge height at which your property may be affected by flooding and when evacuation routes may be cut.

Stay informed

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

Cabonne 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 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:

2CR (ABC)	AM 549
2PK	AM 1404
2LVR	FM 97.9
2GZ-FM	FM 105.1

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

Areas affected by flash flooding may have little warning. You should use any time after receiving a warning to prepare your property and not leave preparations until the last minute.



Receding flood water during the November 2005 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.

RESIDENCES

- Listen to your local radio station for information, updates and advice
- 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 an evacuation
- Check if neighbours are aware of the Flood Watch
- Locate and prepare pets for possible evacuation
- Move livestock, especially horses, to high ground

BUSINESSES

In addition businesses should:

- Listen to your local radio station for information, updates and advice
- Locate and activate your Business FloodSafe Plan
- Act early as roads may become congested or close
- Ensure employees are able to get home before evacuation routes are closed
- Ensure neighbouring businesses are aware of the Flood Watch
- Where possible, back up records and store off-site

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 Eugowra Town Bridge 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, 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
- Be prepared to evacuate if advised