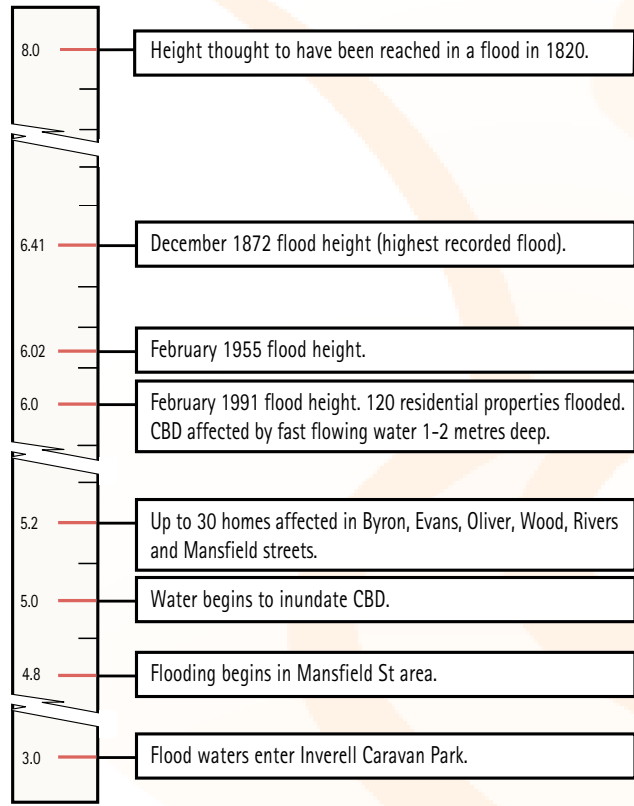


What happens in Inverell floods



Key heights in metres at the Inverell (Ross Hill Bridge) gauge



Rescue at the corner of Otho and Evans streets in the 1991 flood. (Photograph courtesy of the Inverell Times)

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
- Emergency contact numbers
- A waterproof bag for valuables

When flooding is likely, place in your emergency kit:

- Important papers
- 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 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.

FOR EMERGENCY HELP IN FLOODS
AND STORMS CALL THE SES ON

132 500

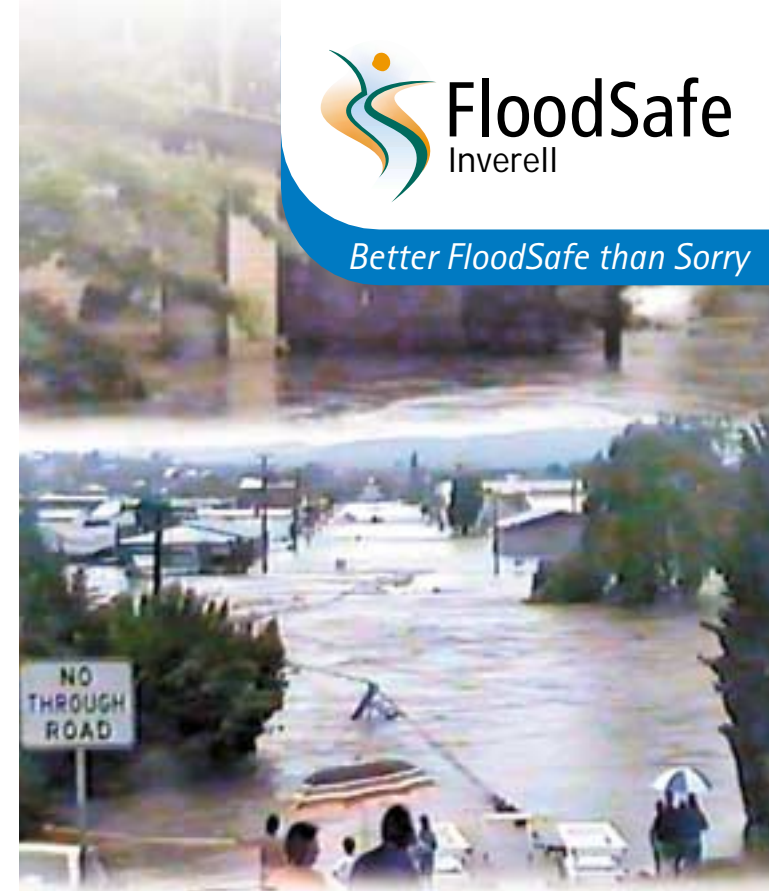
SES Website	www.ses.nsw.gov.au
Inverell SES	02 6721 0833
Inverell Shire Council (business hours)	02 6728 8288
Bureau of Meteorology Website	www.bom.gov.au



Brochure produced May 2004



Better FloodSafe than Sorry



Protecting yourself
from a flood

Photomontage:
Inverell during the 1991 flood.



Inverell – Residential

Are you at flood risk?

Inverell has a long history of large floods, significant floods having occurred in 1872, 1890, 1955, 1971, 1976 and 1991. Flooding in Inverell is particularly dangerous. There is very little warning time, flood waters rise quickly and are very fast flowing. Residences in Belgravia, the Ashford Rd and Edward St areas, Southside and the lower areas of Ross Hill can experience flooding.

Problems begin to occur when the river reaches a height of 2.2 metres on the gauge at the Ross Hill Bridge, closing the Mansfield Bridge. At a height of 3.0 metres flood waters begin to affect the Inverell Caravan Park.

At 4.3 metres water enters warehouses in lower Byron St. and at 4.5 metres the lower end of Vivian St. is inundated. When flood water reaches a level of 4.8 metres, flooding begins in the Mansfield St area and Sweaney St has to be closed.

At 5.0 metres fast flowing flood waters begin to inundate the CBD and nearby residential areas. A gauge height of 6.0 metres results in dangerous, fast flowing water up to 2 metres deep with up to 120 residential properties inundated. This was the flood height reached in February 1991.

If you live in a low lying area near the Inverell CBD, deciding to remain in your home during a flood could be dangerous. Even if your home is not actually inundated, it may become a refuge for vermin, snakes and spiders. There may be no water, sewerage, power, telephone or other services. You may be unable to call for help. You need to know what to do for yourself – and where to turn for help.

Stay informed

The Inverell Shire Council has information on how flooding may affect your property. A copy of the Inverell Local Flood Plan is available at the Inverell Shire Library and at the Inverell Shire Council.

A copy of 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 predictions will be issued by the Bureau of Meteorology with input from the Inverell SES. Flood information including forecasts of flood heights at the Ross Hill Bridge gauge, road closures, livestock and equipment warnings, advice on property protection methods and (if necessary) evacuations will be broadcast over the following local radio stations:

2NZ	Inverell	1188	AM
GEM FM	Inverell	95.1	FM
ABC New England/ North West	Tamworth	648	AM

When flooding of the CBD and nearby residential areas is likely, announcements will be preceded by the broadcast of the Standard Emergency Warning Signal (SEWS). Mobile public address systems in police vehicles travelling through residential areas near the CBD may also be used.

Warnings will advise:

- the height the flood waters are expected to reach at the Ross Hill Bridge gauge
- the time the maximum flood height is expected
- the areas likely to experience flooding
- what people in these areas can do to protect belongings and stay safe

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 should you evacuate
- Check if neighbours need help
- Locate and prepare pets for possible evacuation

During a flood

- Avoid driving or walking through flood water – these are the main causes of death during floods. Flood water may be deeper or faster flowing than you think and contain hidden snags and debris. Crossing flooded bridges is dangerous and should not be attempted
- Keep listening to a local radio station for further information and advice
- Keep in contact with your neighbours
- Be prepared to evacuate if advised

Floods are a time when the Inverell community joins together



If you need to evacuate

- Take your emergency kit with you
- Turn off the electricity, gas and water as you leave
- You will be advised which evacuation centre to go to
- Don't leave your pets behind – they may die. Put them on leads or in approved pet containers. Dogs should be muzzled.

When you evacuate

Be ready to leave quickly after being advised of likely flooding. You must leave well before roads to high ground are closed by flood water. If you remain you risk being trapped in fast-flowing, debris laden water.

Should you need to evacuate, proceed as follows:

- From the CBD to Holy Trinity and/or Macintyre High School
- From the Ross Hill area to Inverell High School
- From the Edward St area to Inverell High School
- From Belgravia to Holy Trinity School
- From the Southside area to the Southside Community Centre

Help will be available if you need it at the evacuation centres located at which will be established by the Department of Community Services (DoCS) and staffed by representatives from community agencies.

Help available from the evacuation centre includes:

- Temporary accommodation
- Financial assistance
- Personal support
- Refreshments and meals
- Clothing and personal needs
- Contacting family and friends

Recovering from a severe flood

A local recovery centre will be established by the Department of Community Services (DoCS). This centre will be staffed by representatives from a range of government departments and community agencies to help you return to normal living. At the recovery centre you will be able to get advice on everything from insurance to counselling.

If there is a flood, information will also be available from the DoCS State Disaster Recovery Centre on 1800 018 444.