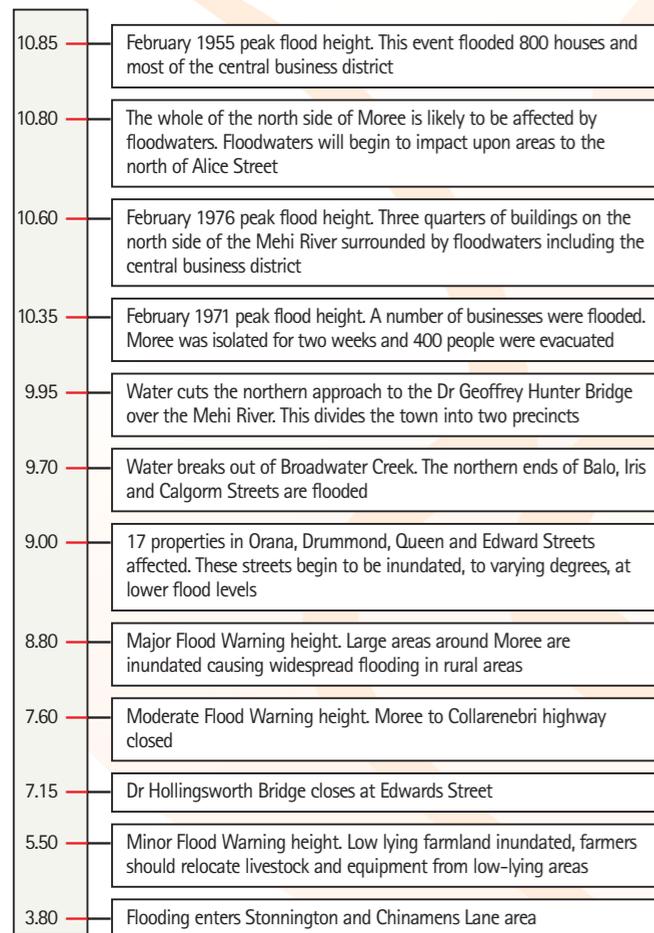


What happens in Moree town floods?



Key heights in metres (AHD) at the Moree gauge

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

SES Flood Bulletins provide information on what may happen at the predicted flood 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 the supplies necessary for your household
- Rubber gloves
- Candles and waterproof matches
- A waterproof bag for valuables
- Emergency contact numbers
- Copies of any home 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



Every family and business should make an emergency kit.

How the SES can help you

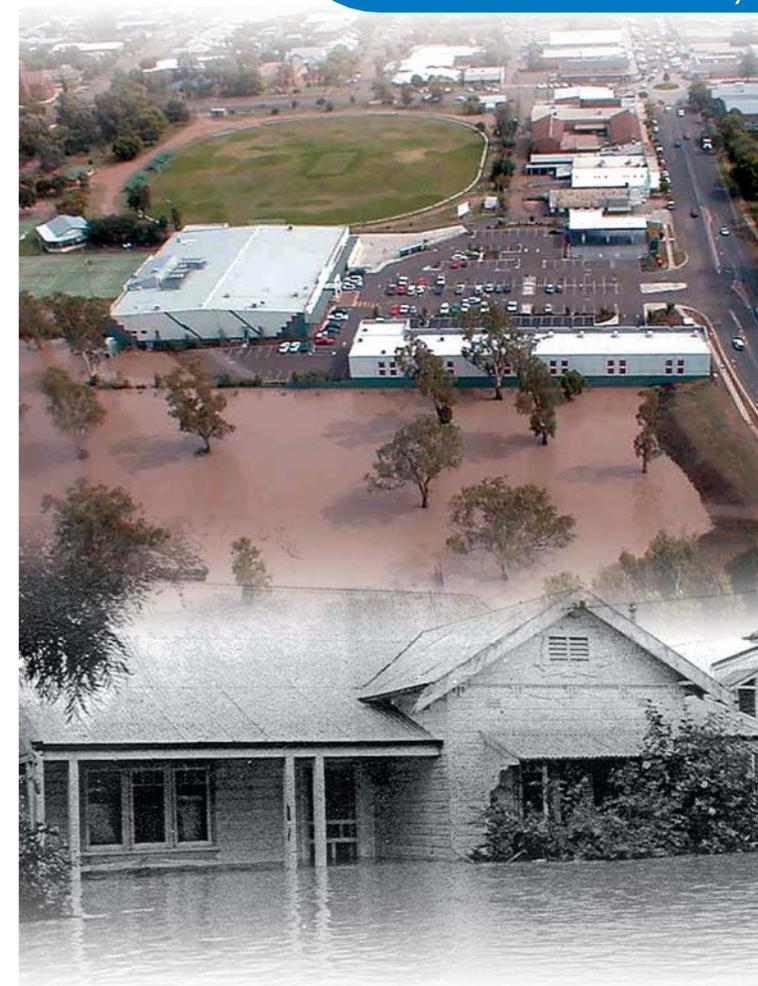
The State Emergency Service is responsible for dealing with flood emergencies in NSW. This includes planning for floods and educating people about how to protect themselves and their property.

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

www.ses.nsw.gov.au

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

SES web site	www.ses.nsw.gov.au
Moree SES	02 6757 3333
Moree Plains Shire Council (business hours)	02 6757 3222
Moree Plains Shire Council website	www.mpssc.nsw.gov.au
Bureau of Meteorology website	www.bom.gov.au



Protecting yourself
from a flood



Top photo: Floodwaters encroach on Moree town centre
Bottom photo: Submerged house in Queen Street in the 1976 flood



Are you at risk from floods?

Much of the residential area of Moree is located on flood liable land adjacent to the Mehi River. During large floods, up to 1000 houses and most of the business district may be affected by floodwater which is deep, full of debris and fast flowing. Major floods have occurred around Moree in 1946, 1950, 1955, 1956, 1971, 1974, 1976, 1998 and 2001.

In the flood of February 1955 the river reached 10.85 metres at the Moree gauge on the Mehi River. Some 800 houses and nearly all businesses in the CBD were flooded with the town isolated for several weeks. Since that time further residential development at risk of flooding has occurred at Greenbah, Stonnington and at the end of Kamilaroi Drive.

The main flood prone area of the town is the northern precinct. The 1976 flood reached a peak flood height of 10.6m. If a similar flood occurred again it would inundate some 340 houses and 70 commercial premises above floor level, mainly in the northern precinct. Raised houses would be surrounded by floodwater several metres in depth.

Normally you will have two days notice of a coming flood, though shorter warning times are possible. If floodwaters are predicted to break out of the Mehi River and enter the town, you should use the available time to prepare your home for the possibility of flooding. It is essential that you do not leave preparations to the last minute.

Deciding to remain in your home even if it is raised is dangerous. If you remain you may experience rapidly rising, fast flowing floodwater. Your property may become a refuge for vermin including snakes and spiders. Services such as power, water, telephone, sewerage and gas may be unavailable for up to a week. In any emergency, that occurs after you are isolated you may be unable to call for help.

Stay informed

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

Moree Plains Shire Council may be able to provide information on the height at which your property is flooded and when your evacuation route is cut.

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:

2VM	AM 1530
NOW FM	FM 98.3
ABC 2NWR	FM 99.1

If evacuation of residents from towns and villages becomes necessary, the SES and other emergency services may doorknock to advise residents and businesses on what to do.

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



Transport disruption from flooding



Moree Town Bridge

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.

- 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
- 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 (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 Moree gauge.

Never walk, drive or ride 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 instructed to evacuate

- Take your Emergency Kit with you
- Turn off the electricity as you leave and turn off and secure gas bottles
- Don't leave your pets behind - they may die. Put them on leads or in pet containers. Dogs should be muzzled.
- You will be advised of which evacuation centre to go to and what roads to take

When you evacuate

You must leave well before roads to high ground are closed by flood water.

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

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.