

## MEDIA RELEASE

### **NSW North East Coast communities urged to stay vigilant ahead of potential severe weather**

With a Severe Weather Warning in place for the Northern Rivers and parts of the Northern Tablelands Forecast Districts, NSW State Emergency Service (NSW SES) is warning communities of potential flash flooding if thunderstorms hit the region.

The Bureau of Meteorology has advised that a low-pressure trough over eastern NSW is bringing humid and unsettled conditions into northeastern parts of the state this afternoon and overnight. This is expected to ease Thursday afternoon.

NSW SES State Duty Commander Nicole Hogan said localised intense heavy rainfall in these areas is possible, which may result in dangerous flash flooding and river rises.

“Locations which may be effected include Lismore, Grafton, Murwillumbah, Byron Bay, Ballina, Casino, Kyogle, Yamba and Maclean,” Ms Hogan said.

Ms Hogan also said that due to previous rainfall that has hit the area, the grounds are already very wet, creating conditions that could result in floods.

“Some areas have been saturated by previous rain, so the ability for it to absorb further rainfall is limited,” she said.

“This could result in increased run-off, which can cause dangerous and rapid onset flash flooding.

“There is also the possibility we will see further river rises across some of these locations,” she said.

There is a current Flood Watch for the Richmond and Wilsons Rivers as well as the Orara and Bellinger Rivers.

NSW SES is advising people to:

- Be aware of the current weather conditions and prepare for potential thunderstorm activity, which could result in heavy rainfall causing dangerous flash flooding and further river rises
- Be aware of low-lying areas next to water courses that might be inundated, minor roads closed, and low-level bridges submerged.
- Monitor road conditions as they could change quickly.
- Limit any unnecessary travel during thunderstorm activity.



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People are reminded to never drive, ride or walk through floodwater as this is the main cause of death during floods. People are also reminded to not allow children or animals to play in floodwater as it can contain dangerous chemicals, sewage and dead animals.

Visit [ses.nsw.gov.au](http://ses.nsw.gov.au) for more information on the [Dangers of Flash Flooding](#).

### Stay informed:

- Severe thunderstorms could produce damaging winds, heavy rainfall and large hail. All weather warnings from the Bureau of Meteorology can be found by visiting [bom.gov.au](http://bom.gov.au)
- For more information on how to prepare for flood and storm emergencies, and for current warnings from NSW SES, visit [ses.nsw.gov.au](http://ses.nsw.gov.au).
- For regular updates you can follow us on Facebook and Twitter.
- For road conditions, visit your local council website or socials and live traffic.

**Media Enquiries:** Call 1800 067 234 or email [media@ses.nsw.gov.au](mailto:media@ses.nsw.gov.au)



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