

During a flood

Flood Warnings are issued by the Bureau of Meteorology (BoM) when flooding is about to happen or is already happening. A Flood Warning provides a predicted flood level on a river gauge and a time at which the river will reach, exceed or peak at that level.

During a flood, there are some simple things you can do to stay safe:

- ⚠ Never drive, ride or walk through floodwater.
- ✅ Keep listening to your local radio station for information, updates and advice.
- ✅ Keep in contact with your neighbours.
- ✅ Be prepared to evacuate if necessary.

Evacuate

Evacuation Warning is early advice by NSW SES that evacuation may be necessary.

Evacuation Order is a direction by NSW SES when evacuation is necessary.

The NSW SES aims to keep people safe and minimise the risk to life and property when floods occur. Follow evacuation advice. Being prepared will allow you to respond quickly should you need to evacuate.

- ✅ Locate important papers, valuables and mementos. Put them in your emergency kit.
- ✅ Take your emergency kit with you
- ✅ Turn off the electricity and gas at the mains before you leave and turn off and secure gas bottles
- ✅ 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
- ✅ Prepare to take your pets with you
- ✅ Act early before roads to high ground are closed by floodwater.

After a flood

Keep away from flood affected areas until emergency services advise that is safe to return. These areas can be dangerous for the health and safety of you and your family. Discard all food that has come into contact with floodwater and clean and sanitise your belongings.

A local recovery centre may be established by a range of government departments and community agencies. You may be able to get advice on everything from insurance to counselling. In the event of a flood, information is available from Disaster Welfare Services on **1800 018 444** or emergency.nsw.gov.au

Stay informed

Clarence Valley Council provides information on the height at which your property may be affected by floodwater. Flood information, road closures and advice on evacuations will be broadcast over local radio stations:

94.5 FM	ABC North Coast	103.9 FM	2GF Grafton
738 AM	ABC North Coast	104.7 FM	Clarence Coast FM

Flood predictions and river height information are available from the Bureau of Meteorology. NSW SES issue flood bulletins on what may happen and safe actions. It is important to know the height that affects your business or home in terms of isolation, inundation and evacuation.

How the NSW SES helps the community

The NSW SES is responsible for the emergency management of floods in NSW. This includes planning for floods and working with communities about how to protect themselves and their property.

During floods the NSW SES will provide flood information and safety advice, can arrange for the delivery of essential supplies, conduct evacuations and undertake flood rescues.

Emergency contacts & support

Police, Fire and Ambulance - 000 (triple zero)
Life-threatening emergencies.

NSW SES Emergency Assistance - 132 500

The deaf, hard of hearing or speech impaired can call Triple Zero (000) or SES on (132 500) using the National Relay Service (NRS).

My RoadInfo
myroadinfo.com.au for local road information.

Clarence Valley Council
02 6643 0200
<https://www.clarence.nsw.gov.au/>

Live Traffic
132 701
www.livetraffic.com

Local Land Services
1300 795 299
lls.nsw.gov.au for support services where agriculture and animals are affected.

Telstra - 132 203
telstra.com.au for service disruptions in a disaster.

Bureau of Meteorology
bom.gov.au/nsw for the latest flood and weather warnings

Disaster Welfare Services
1800 018 444
emergency.nsw.gov.au for flood recovery services.

Department of Primary Industries
dpi.nsw.gov.au for support services where agriculture and animals are affected.

Essential Energy - 132 080
essentialenergy.com.au for supply and outages.



FOR EMERGENCY HELP IN FLOOD,
STORM AND TSUNAMI CALL

132 500

In life-threatening emergencies call 000 (triple zero)

For further information about flooding visit
ses.nsw.gov.au



Community FloodSafe



Grafton and
South Grafton



Are you at risk from floods?

The Clarence River is the largest coastal river in New South Wales in terms of both catchment area and discharge. It has a long history of regular flooding.

In January 2013 the Clarence Valley experienced extensive flooding. This was a flood of record at numerous locations including Grafton. Significant flooding has also occurred in 1890, 1950, 1954, 1963, 1967, 2001 and more recently 2009 and 2011.

Grafton and South Grafton have a series of levees built over the past four decades. In most years, flooding will occur outside this levee system affecting farm properties, some homes and businesses. The current levee system is designed to protect Grafton and South Grafton properties for a flood similar to that experienced in January 2013. This flood resulted in minor overtopping of low points on the levee.

Floods in excess of the levels reached in 2013 are possible and have the potential to cause major impacts on the community including large-scale evacuations. Localised heavy rainfall may cause stormwater ponding in low-lying areas within the current levee system. This is not associated with riverine flooding and is not dependent on the Clarence River being in flood.

During times of flood the local road network may experience disruption and access routes may be closed. These closures can include the Big River Way, Gwydir Highway, Orara Way, Summerland Way and other local roads.

If isolation is likely

If your property is likely to be isolated by floodwater, evacuating well before access is cut is your safest option. Deciding to remain at home when it is surrounded by floodwater can be dangerous.

During floods, isolated properties can lose power, water, phone lines, sewerage services and become a refuge for spiders, snakes and other animals.

If evacuation is not possible, stock at least seven days supply of non-perishable foods, medications, drinking water, fuel, in addition to feed for your animals and pets. Some properties may be isolated for longer periods and therefore require additional supplies.

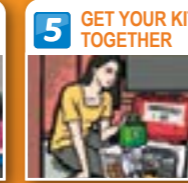
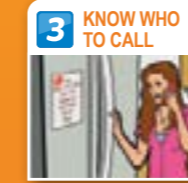


What happens in Grafton and South Grafton Floods?

Heights at gauge	Expected consequence
9.76m	Probable Maximum Flood Peak Height
8.36m	1% AEP (Annual Exceedance Probability) Height 1 in 100 chance of this level occurring each year. A flood of this height would require large scale evacuations of Grafton and low-lying parts of South Grafton
8.25m	Residents and businesses from all remaining areas of Grafton must be evacuated well before this height. All evacuation routes are closed
8.08m	Highest Flood on record - 29 January 2013. Parts of Dovedale and Northmeadow were evacuated
7.95m	Estimated height Grafton levee overtops
7.89m	Peak Height 13 March 1890
7.80m	At this height residents and businesses in low-lying Dovedale and Northmeadow need to prepare for evacuation
7.75m	Peak Height 10 March 2001
7.64m	Peak Height 12 January 2011
7.40m	Peak Height 23 May 2009
6.20m	Big River Way may close north of Grafton at Swan Creek. An alternate route north via Summerland Way from Grafton
5.90m	Big River Way may close south of Grafton at Alipou Creek. Higher access south of Grafton is available via Bom Bom State Forest
5.45m	Floodwater may start to inundate low-lying land outside the levees to the north and south of Grafton. Properties at Lawrence Rd, Great Marlow, Alumy Creek and Alipou Creek may be isolated
5.40m	Major Flood Level causes extensive flooding and/or isolation of properties, villages and towns. Big River Way may close north of Grafton Alipou Creek. A high level bypass to the north is available via Centenary Drive
5.00m	Area between Southgate and Sportsman Creek may become isolated
4.40m	Carrs Island may become isolated
3.60m	Moderate Flood Level causes flooding of low-lying areas including main roads and may require the evacuation of some areas
2.10m	Minor Flood Level causes inconvenience, closes minor roads and low-level bridges. Rural property owners should raise pumps and equipment and relocate livestock

Key Heights at Grafton Prince Street Gauge

What you can do now



BUREAU FLOOD HEIGHT TERMINOLOGY

EXCEED	The river level will definitely pass this height based on current rainfall.
REACH	Highest level expected based on current or forecast rainfall. Further rainfall or tributary inflows mean the flood level could go higher.
PEAK	Rainfall has eased or stopped, this is the highest expected river height.

When planning for floods, consider further rises when rivers are predicted to reach or exceed certain heights.

Assistance for animals

NSW Department of Primary Industries coordinate animal welfare and relief services for livestock, wildlife and companion animals. This may include assistance for animal care services and emergency fodder supply in areas affected by a flood emergency.

When flooding is likely

A Flood Watch is issued by the Bureau of Meteorology when flooding is likely. Act early should flooding occur.

RESIDENTS:

- ✓ Listen to your local radio station for information, updates and advice.
- ✓ Locate and check your emergency kit and follow your Emergency Plan. Go to ses.nsw.gov.au
- ✓ Check on your neighbours and make sure they are aware of possible flooding.
- ✓ Prepare to move pets, including agisted animals to high ground.

BUSINESS OWNERS AND MANAGERS:

- ✓ Follow your Business FloodSafe Plan, developed by working through the Emergency Business Continuity Kit on the NSW SES website ses.nsw.gov.au
- ✓ Check neighbouring businesses are aware of possible flooding.
- ✓ Back up records and store off-site.
- ✓ Make preparations to raise or relocate stock, records and equipment.
- ✓ Check the evacuation routes for your business and make sure your employees know when they are likely to close. This will ensure they can leave before flooding occurs.

RURAL PROPERTY OWNERS:

- ✓ Relocate livestock and farm equipment, including pumps to high ground.
- ✓ Check sheds and outbuildings. Raise equipment, feeds and chemicals above predicted flood levels or to higher ground.

