

Flood risk in McGraths Hill

August 2022



There is a high flood risk in McGraths Hill, which is part of the Hawkesbury-Nepean Valley. This valley has a long history of dangerous and deep flooding, because floodwaters flow into the valley more quickly than they can flow out. Heavy rain caused by an East Coast Low can lead to severe flooding in just a few days. Residents of McGraths Hill need to be prepared for floods and ready to respond to evacuation orders.

Floods can be much worse

As devastating as the 2021 and 2022 floods have been, floods can be much worse. Although smaller floods are more common, large floods can happen anytime.

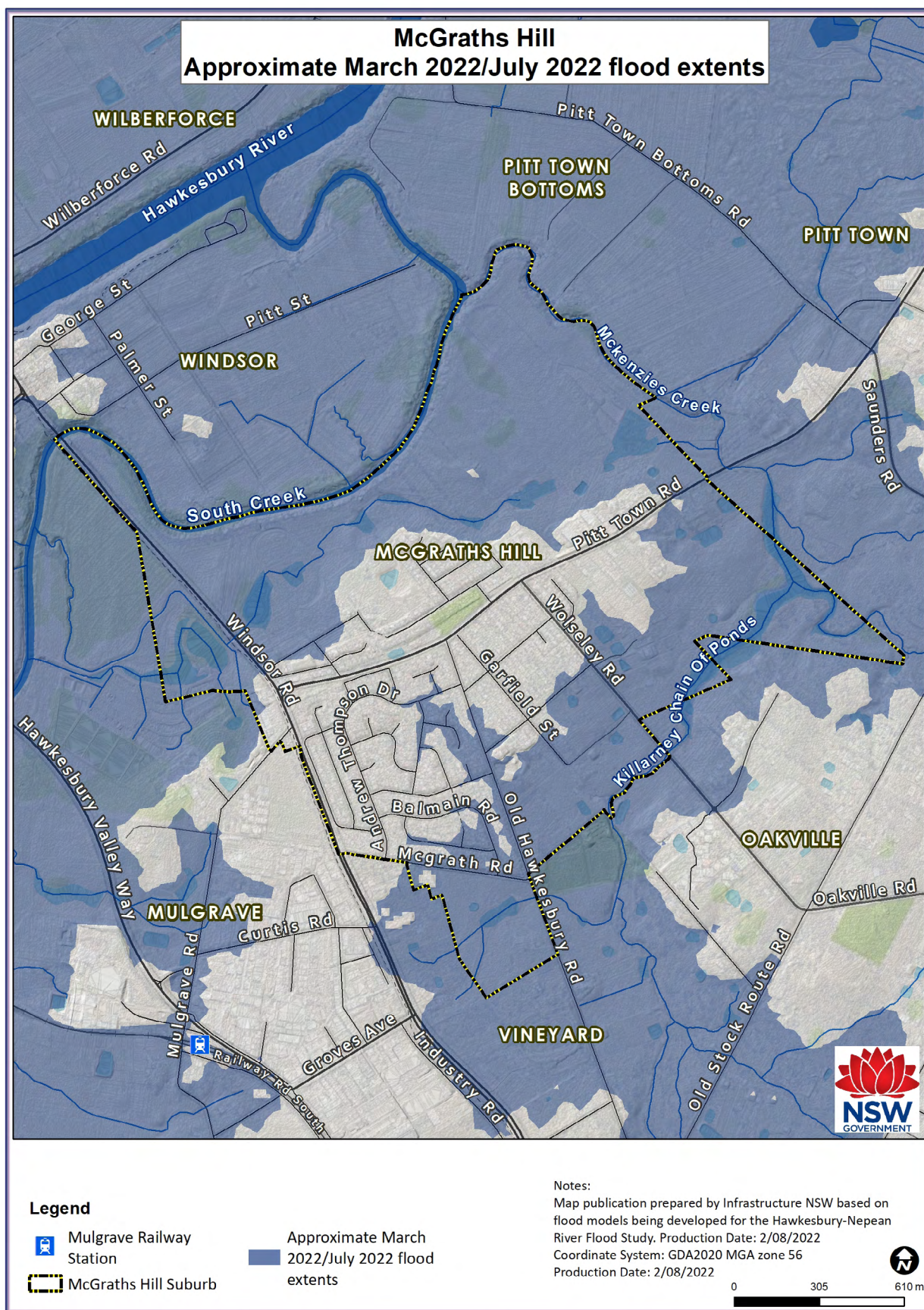
How do the recent McGraths Hill floods compare to others?

The largest flood on record for McGraths Hill was in 1867, and the largest in living memory was in 1961 (see right). This flood peaked at about 15m, 1m higher than floods in July 2022, and was about a 1 in 30 chance per year flood. If a flood like 1961 was to happen again, many hundreds of homes in McGraths Hill would be flooded and the Windsor Road evacuation route would be cut which would isolate McGraths Hill.

If a 1 in 100 chance per year flood happened (which has a 1% chance of happening each year), modelling indicates that McGraths Hill would be completely submerged and evacuation routes would be cut. There are some maps showing this flood extent on the next page, comparing it to recent floods.

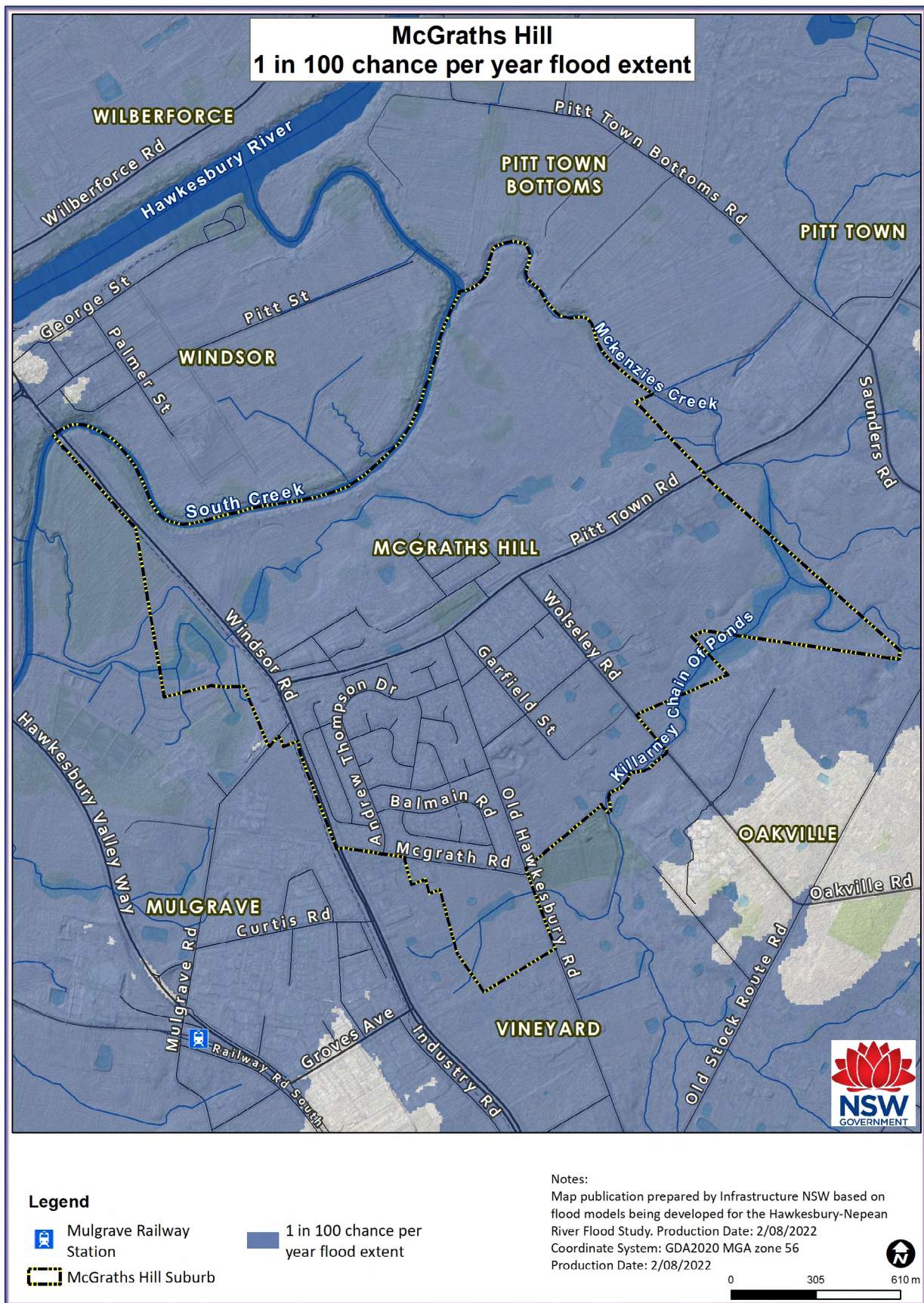


Black and white aerial photo of McGraths Hill flooded in 1961



**It's important to follow
NSW SES advice**

It's not safe to stay home during a flood. Even if floodwater doesn't enter your home, evacuation routes could be cut. Then you could be trapped without power, telecommunications and other essential services. This could last for multiple days.



It's important to listen to the NSW SES as floods can rise very quickly and driving through floodwater is very dangerous. It can prevent you seeing the road clearly, can make your vehicle unstable, and can also contain objects which pose dangers. You must evacuate before evacuation

roads are cut. This is especially important in McGraths Hill which during floods can become a flood island.

Keep up to date with flood information by following the NSW SES on social media and visiting their website.

How to prepare for a flood

Know where to get updates and warnings

Bureau of Meteorology, local weather updates:
Visit www.bom.gov.au or download the BOM app

NSW State Emergency Service (NSW SES), information on floods and storms:

Visit www.ses.nsw.gov.au and on social media including Facebook – www.facebook.com/NSW.SES

ABC Radio, the official emergency broadcaster:
Listen at reception.abc.net.au and ABC Listen app.

Prepare a Get Ready to Go kit

1. Health care items like medications and prescriptions
2. Copies of your important documents (hard copies or stored digitally)
3. Important valuables and momentos
4. Important phone numbers
5. Battery powered radio and torch
6. Clothing and personal items

Make a plan for evacuation

Know where you will go, how you will get there, what evacuation routes you can use, what you will do with your animals, and how you will manage your health

Visit www.ses.nsw.gov.au/yourfloodplan for more information and tips.

Find how to plan for your animals here – www.getreadyanimals.nsw.gov.au

Share your plan

Talk with your relatives, friends, and neighbours about what you will do if you need to evacuate.

What to do during a flood



Follow NSW SES Flood Advice and Emergency Warnings

- Listen to your local ABC radio station for up to date flood information and advice
- Follow advice from NSW SES if you are asked to evacuate, don't wait until it is too late.



Take your Get Ready to Go kit

This should include your medications, prescriptions and any assistance equipment.



Take your animals

Put them on leads or in pet carriers.



Know where to go

Follow advice on evacuations and check live traffic information. Visit www.ses.nsw.gov.au and www.livetraffic.com or the Live Traffic app.



Look out for each other

Share information with family, friends, and neighbours and help each other or those who may need assistance.



Key contact information



www.ses.nsw.gov.au



138 737 for general enquiries



132 500 for emergency assistance during a flood



000 for life threatening emergencies

www.ses.nsw.gov.au

