

Flood risk in Londonderry

December 2022



March 2022 flooding in Londonderry

Londonderry is located in the Hawkesbury-Nepean Valley. The Hawkesbury-Nepean Valley covers a wide area in Western Sydney from Bents Basin near Wallacia to the Brooklyn Bridge. The valley has a long history of dangerous and deep flooding. This is because floodwaters flow into the valley more quickly than they can flow out, causing them to back up. Heavy rain caused by an East Coast Low can lead to severe flooding in just a few days.

Londonderry is impacted by floodwater backing up Rickabys Creek where it joins the Hawkesbury River at Windsor. Flood heights at Windsor are generally a good guide for the severity of flooding in Londonderry. Parts of the suburb can also be flooded after heavy rain in the Rickabys Creek catchment.

Floods can be much worse

On average, small floods happen more often and big floods happen less frequently. As devastating as the recent floods have been to many households and businesses in the Hawkesbury- Nepean Valley, floods can be much worse.

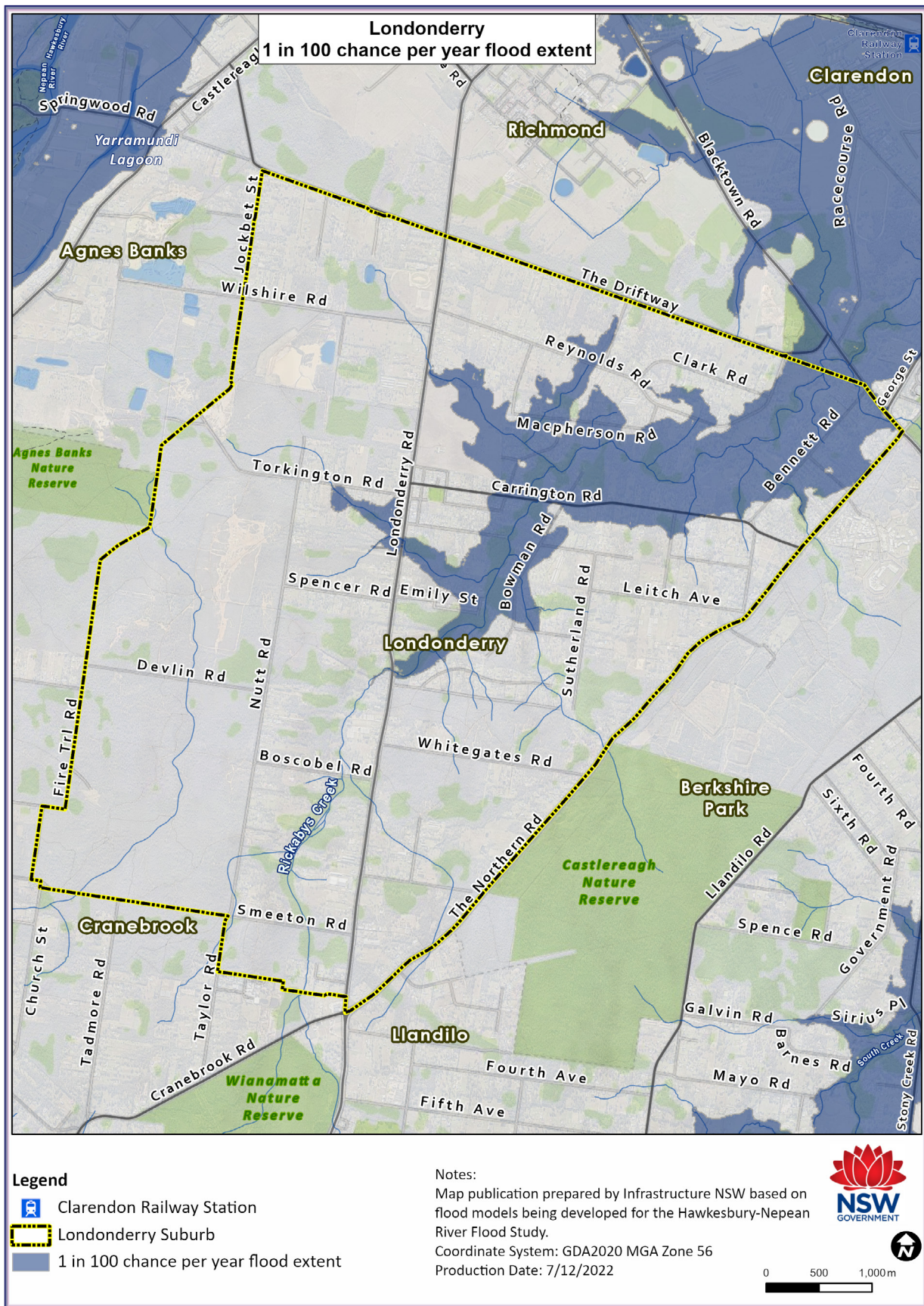
The largest flood in living memory in Londonderry was in 1961 (see historical image at right). This flood peaked at Windsor at about 15m (1m higher than floods in July 2022) and was about a 1 in 30 chance per year flood. If a flood like 1961 was to happen again, over 100 homes in Londonderry would be flooded.

If a 1 in 100 chance per year flood happened (which has a 1% chance of happening each year), modelling indicates that around 200 homes would be impacted. Maps showing this flood extent are on the next page, comparing it to recent floods.

The largest flood on record for Londonderry was in 1867, peaking at 19.7m at Windsor, and was similar to a 1 in 500 chance per year flood. Big, rare floods do happen!

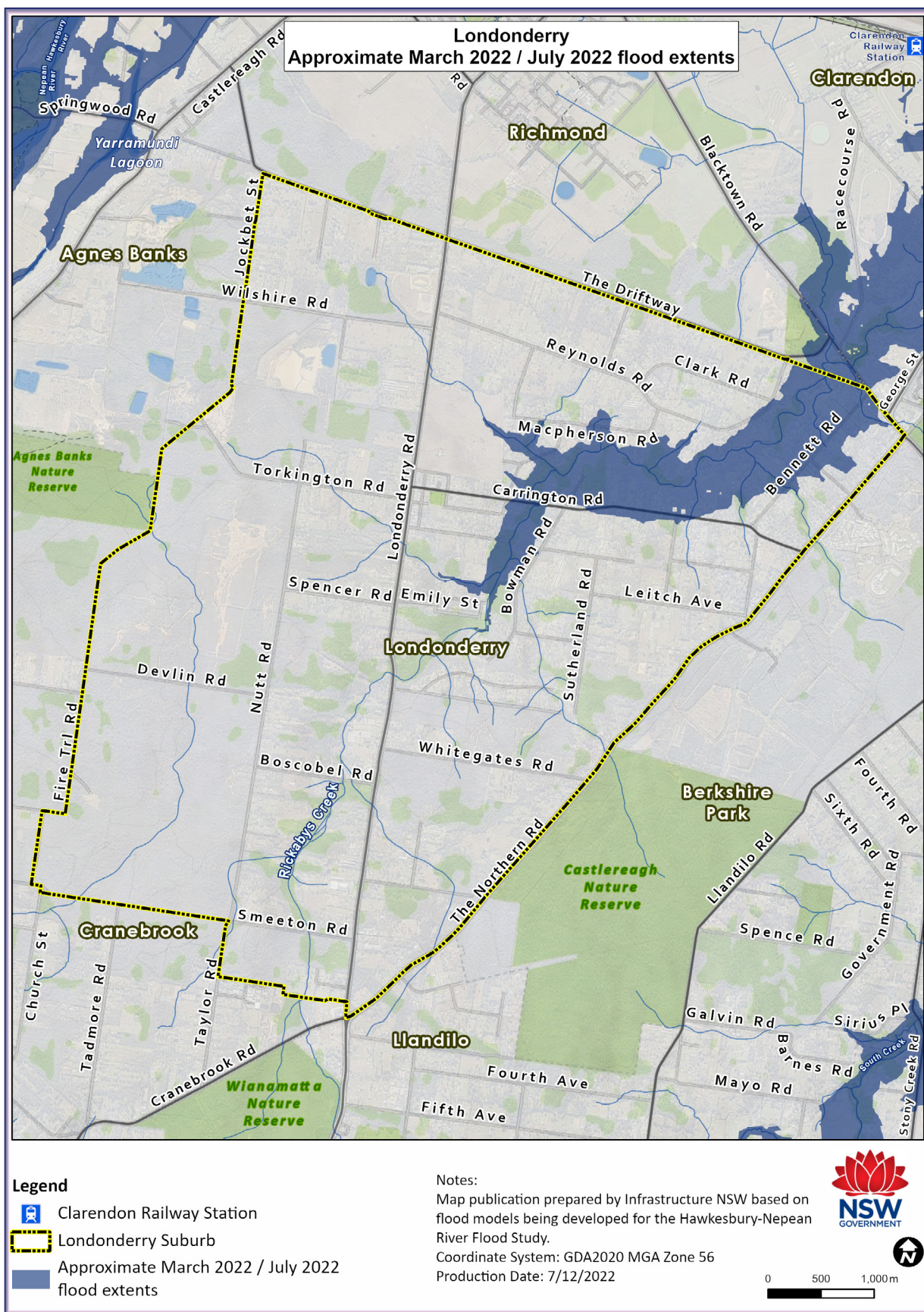


Historical flooding in Londonderry



**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.

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, an emergency broadcaster or your local radio: 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.



For more tips on how to prepare scan the QR code



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

