



History of Flooding

Be flood aware

In February and March 2022, the Richmond River at Broadwater rose to 6.27m, breaking the previous record of 4.58m set in 1954. It was also much higher than the floods in April 1988 (3.26m) and March 2017 (2.94m).

Floodwaters spread through River Street, Wharf Street, Rileys Hill Road, and low-lying areas near the school and NRMA Park. Roads like Rileys Hill Road and Evans Head Road were cut off, leaving Broadwater and Rileys Hill isolated for several days.

Dozens of homes lost power and were flooded as water remained high for nearly a week. For residents who lived through 2022, while this is not the biggest flood that may occur, it is now the reference point for future flood risk – and it shows why acting before roads close is vital.



Broadwater Floods 2022

Image credit: Kylie Bateman, Indy NR

Flood impacts

Broadwater has no levee protection. It sits in a low reach of the Richmond River and is affected by tides and the Bagotville Barrage.

When the gauge at Broadwater exceeds 3m, roads close rapidly and the town becomes isolated.

At 3.2–3.3m, Rileys Hill Road will become impassable.

At around 3.3m, Evans Head–Broadwater Road closes east of the Sunrise Caravan Park, resulting in the complete isolation of Broadwater. Strong currents and hidden obstacles make boat use dangerous at any time during flood conditions.

Every flood is different. While NSW SES can provide guidance on what may occur in future floods, it's important to remember that predictions are not guarantees.

Understand your flood risk, be prepared and make a plan.



Broadwater 2022 Floods Aerial view

Image credit: Chas Storer



Flood Information: Broadwater Gauge

This information is gathered from historical flood data, local flood plans, and flood studies.

Height at gauge	Expected consequence*
6.27m	Feb Mar 2022 flood. Highest on record. Extensive flooding occurred throughout Broadwater and surrounding areas. Rileys Hill and Broadwater isolated for nearly a week; power and road access lost.
4.58m	Feb 1954 flood. At this height, the majority of Broadwater is impacted by flooding, particularly around Pacific Hwy, Rileys Hill Road, Pitt Street, Little Pitt Street, George Street and Wharf Street.
3.30m	Evans Head-Broadwater Road east of Sunrise Caravan Park closed –last road out of Broadwater.
3.26m	April 1988 flood –major flooding with roads cut and yards flooded.
3.20m	Rileys Hill Road impassable both north and south of Rileys Hill resulting in isolation of Rileys Hill and surrounds. Evacuation of this area must be completed prior to this height.
3.00m	Water breaks banks along Wharf Street. Pacific Highway affected near school and Fischer Street.
2.94m	Mar 2017 flood –Moderate to minor property flooding and road closures.
2.74m	Bagotville Barrage overtops (spills over) which means that Dungarubba and Kilgin communities need to prepare for isolation.

* Broadwater is not a forecast location under the Bureau of Meteorology

Australian Warning System (AWS)

The Australian Warning System (AWS) is a national approach to help everyone easily identify the type of hazard and warning level. You may not always receive an official warning. If you notice the natural signs like rushing or pooling water, and heavy or prolonged rainfall- don't wait, leave low-lying areas if it's safe to do so.



Advice

There is a heightened level of threat. Stay up to date as the situation changes.



Action Statements

Stay informed
Monitor conditions

Reduced threat -
Return with caution



Watch and Act

Conditions are changing and you need to start taking action now to protect you and your family.



Action Statements

Do not enter floodwater
Prepare to evacuate

Prepare to isolate
Avoid the area



Emergency Warning

You may be in danger and need to take action immediately.



Action Statements

Evacuate now /
Evacuate before (time)

Shelter now
Move to higher ground



Download the Hazards Near Me app

Hazards Near Me NSW

shows current information about local emergencies, including floods, storms and tsunamis, and advice on what to do to stay safe.

Set your **Watch Zones** and stay informed with notifications for new incidents and when information changes.

Scan the QR code to download

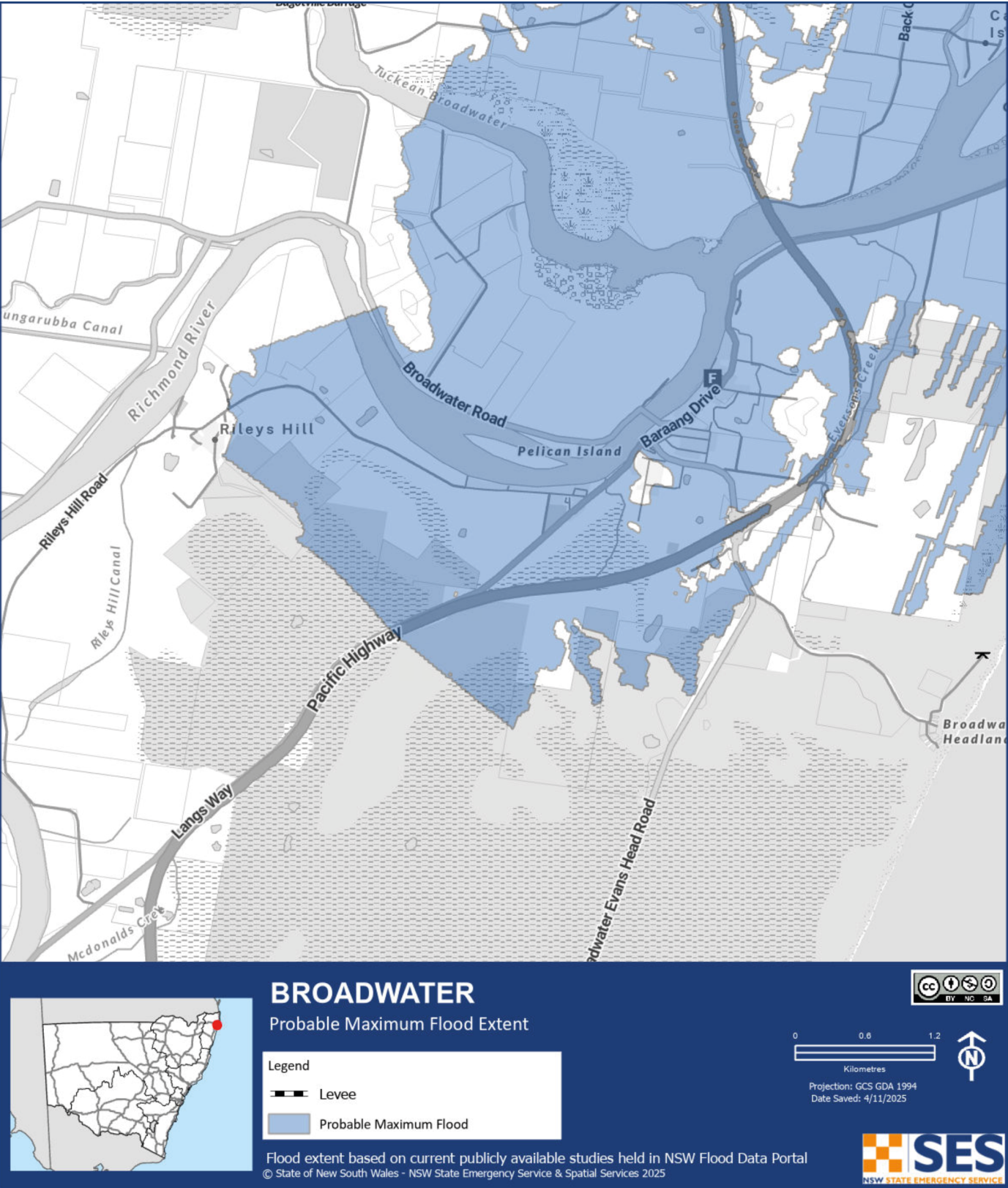


Broadwater Flood Risk

Probable Maximum Flood (PMF)

Probable Maximum Flood (PMF) is the largest flood that could conceivably be expected to occur at a particular location, usually estimated from probable maximum rainfall. The PMF defines the maximum extent of flood prone land, that is, the floodplain.

The PMF for Broadwater is estimated to be 10.20m.



If a flood exceeds the extent indicated on this map, NSW SES is not liable for any loss suffered as a result of reliance on this map.

Get Prepared in the Richmond Valley Floodplain

These actions will help prepare your household for floods.
Being prepared can save lives.

How to prepare for flood:

☒ Know where to get updates and warnings

- Bureau of Meteorology: local weather updates.
- NSW State Emergency Service (NSW SES): information on floods and storms.
- ABC Radio: the official emergency broadcaster.

☒ Prepare an emergency bag

What to pack:

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

☒ Make a plan if you need to evacuate

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.

☒ 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 emergency bag

- 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.
- Make your way to relatives or friends if you can.
- Official evacuation centres will be announced at the time of the emergency.

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

Police, Fire and Ambulance

Triple Zero (000) for life-threatening emergencies.

NSW SES

132 500 for emergency assistance in a flood, storm or tsunami.

LiveTraffic

livetraffic.com for local road information.

Richmond Valley Council

Customer Service (02) 6660 0300
council@richmondvalley.nsw.gov.au

Richmond Valley Disaster Dashboard

richmondvalleycouncil.disasterdashboards.com/

Radio Stations

ABC North Coast – 94.5FM / 738AM
2LM – 104.3FM
COW FM – 107.9FM
Richmond Valley Radio – 88.9FM

Local Land Services

1300 795 299
lls.nsw.gov.au



To learn more visit
ses.nsw.gov.au/northernrivers

