



Flood Guide

Chinderah

October 2025

History of Flooding

Be flood aware

Chinderah has a long history of flooding. Every year, severe weather events such as low-pressure systems, cyclones or ex-tropical cyclones cause minor, moderate and major floods.

Significant floods have happened before in 1954, 1974 and 2017. The 2022 flood was a 'flood of record.' It caused widespread damage to properties, homes and caravan parks and disruption to the community. In June 2005, a low-pressure system stalled over the Queensland border causing torrential rain and flash flooding, road closures, power and communication outages.

Chinderah is mostly impacted by riverine flooding. This happens when peak flood levels occur at the same time as high tides or storm surges. The water can't escape through the river mouth to the sea. This causes it to become trapped and makes flooding worse.

NSW SES may not be able to rescue you during floods. Plan and prepare so that you can take safe actions during floods.



Chinderah

Image credit: Tweed Shire Council

Flood impacts

Flooding is a certainty in Chinderah.

Chinderah is mostly impacted when peak river flood levels occur at the same time as high tides or storm surges. The water can't escape to the sea, and it becomes trapped making flooding worse.

Most Chinderah caravan parks are on low ground next to the Tweed River. In heavy rain, the low-lying roads that are the main exit routes from Chinderah can be cut by flood water and prevent access to the M1. The safest option is always to leave the area early.

Climate change is expected to bring heavier rainfall and higher sea levels, which will make flooding worse in Chinderah and nearby areas.

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.



Barneys Point Bridge

Image credit: Tweed Shire Council



Flood Information: Chinderah gauge

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

Height at gauge	Expected consequence
3.10m	Peak Height - February 1954.
2.97m	Peak Flood Height 2022 flood.
2.25m	Peak Flood Height 2017 flood.
2.00m	Major Flood Height. Chinderah is isolated and most of Chinderah, including caravan parks and the industrial area, is flooded. Some houses will have water inside. If floodwaters keep rising, flooding could become extremely deep and dangerous, and once all evacuation routes are cut off, people may become trapped. All remaining road access to Chinderah is lost at this height.
1.80m	Chinderah is isolated except for limited access from Waugh Street to Kingscliff. Lanes on the M1 at Chinderah begin to be flooded. Large areas of Chinderah experience flooding with depths up to 1.5metres in low lying areas adjacent to the Kingscliff drain.
1.70m	Moderate Flood Height. Low lying properties continue to flood in the Chinderah area, including the lower areas of most caravan parks. Ingenia Holiday Park should be evacuated before 1.8m. If residents leave too late evacuation routes may be cut off.
1.55m	Floodwaters are starting to 'overtop' or rise over Chinderah Bay Drive, Wommin Bay Road and Chinderah Road. Waugh Street is still clear. The Tweed River is beginning to flood low-lying areas and some caravan parks.
1.50m	The following caravan parks should all be evacuated before this height. <ul style="list-style-type: none">Chinderah Village Tourist Caravan ParkTweed Ski LodgeTweed River Hacienda Holiday ParkHomestead Holiday ParkRoyal Pines Tourist Retreat If residents leave too late evacuation routes may be cut off.
1.40m	Minor Flood Height. Roads in Chinderah begin to flood from this height. Local access roads, including Chinderah Road and Chinderah Bay Drive close early. Water tracks from the Chinderah boat ramp towards the M1 north of Waugh Street.
1.30m	

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 isolate
- Prepare to evacuate
- 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

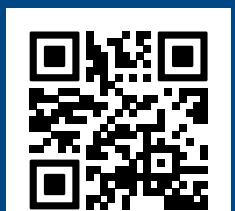


Download the Hazards Near Me app

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

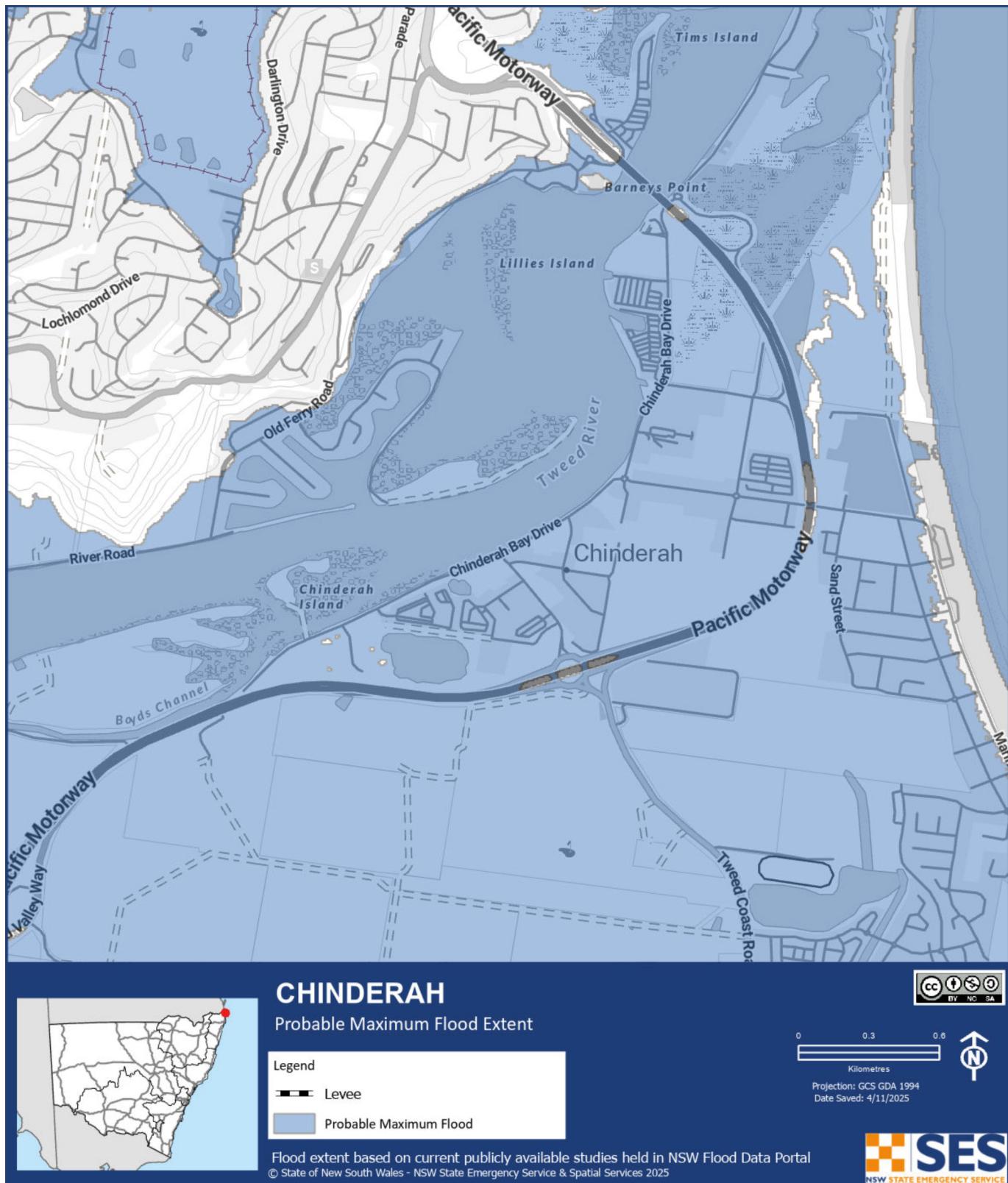


Chinderah Flood Risk

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 largest flood that could occur in this area (PMF) is 7.12m at the Chinderah Gauge.



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 Tweed 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 momentos.
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

Tweed Shire Council

(02) 6670 2400
tweed.nsw.gov.au

Tweed Shire Disaster Dashboard

<https://emergency.tweed.nsw.gov.au/home>

Radio Stations

ABC North Coast - 94.5FM / 738AM
ABC Gold Coast - 91.7FM
SEA FM - 90.9
Triple M Gold Coast - 92.5FM



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

Local Land Services

1300 795 299
lls.nsw.gov.au

