



## Flood Guide

# Lismore CBD

October 2025

## History of Flooding

### Be flood aware

Lismore has a long history of flooding and is one of the most flood prone areas in Australia.

Since 1850 there have been about 155 floods, ranging from low levels to destructive events. The 2022 flood peaked at 14.37m and is believed to be the highest flood on record in Lismore causing catastrophic damage across the city.

The catchment above Lismore has several major creeks that feed into the Wilsons River and Leycester Creek, which join at Lismore. The highest floods occur when both the Wilsons and Leycester are in major flood. Leycester creek causes more flooding.

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.



Lismore CBD flooding  
Image credit: Alex Clarke

### Lismore CBD Levee

A levee was built in 2005 to protect the Lismore CBD from minor and moderate riverine flooding. However, the levee has spilled over, or 'overtopped' three times since construction, most notably during the catastrophic February 2022 flood which impacted businesses, properties and cut critical evacuation routes. Less severe floods between 10.6m and 10.8m in height have also caused overtopping.

Flooding in the Lismore CBD and Basin area can also occur before the levee overtops. Intense local rainfall can cause flooding, isolating parts of the CBD by cutting roads like Dawson Street and flooding car parks.

Localised rainfall and surface runoff can cause Browns Creek to rise, leading to flooding within the CBD basin.



Dawson Street Lismore flooding  
Image credit: Alex Clarke



# Flood Information: Wilsons River Rowing Club Gauge

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

Height at gauge	Expected consequence
14.37m	<b>2022 record flood.</b> Catastrophic flooding across CBD and surrounding suburbs.
12.20m	1954 flood peak –extensive flooding, major residential and commercial losses.
11.60m	Floods comparable to 1974 (12.15m) and 2017 (11.59m); widespread flooding.
11.00m	
10.85m	<b>CBD levee overtopped</b> –water spreads rapidly, flooding CBD streets and businesses and evacuation routes are cut.
10.60m	
9.70m	<b>Major Flood Level.</b> Extensive isolation. Low-lying homes start to flood and increased risk to property.
7.20m	<b>Moderate Flood Level.</b>
6.00m	Many roads are flooded. Dawson Street cut near Lismore Centra Tourist Park.
5.70m	Many roads are flooded. Junction Street (Southern end of Keen Street in CBD Lismore) may be cut by back-up water from Gas Works Creek.
4.20m	<b>Minor Flood Level.</b>
4.20m	All car parks alongside the Wilsons River are subject to early onset flooding.
3.20m	

# 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

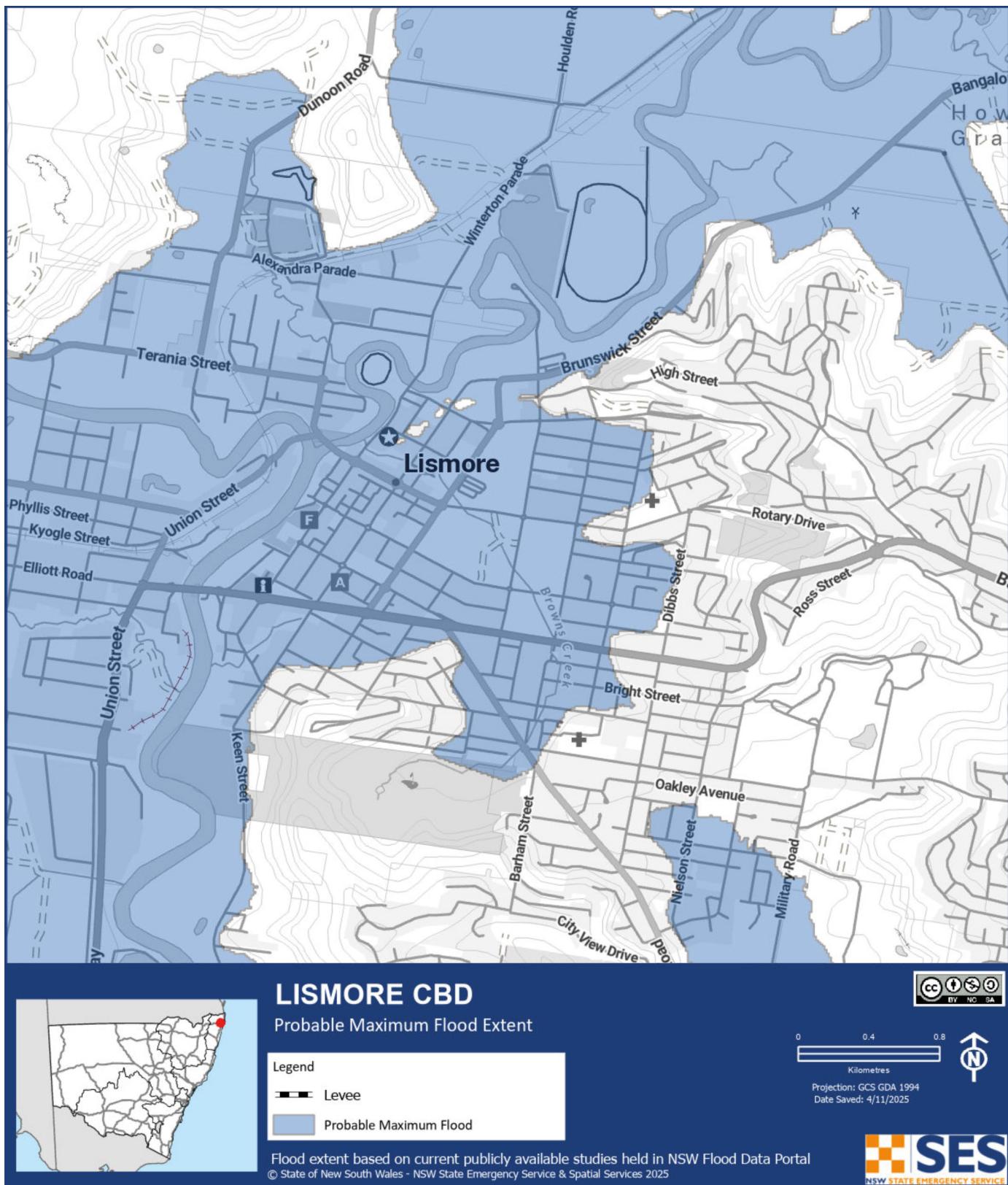


# Lismore CBD Flood Risk

## 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.

At the Wilsons River Rowing Club gauge, the PMF is estimated to be 16.55m.



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 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

### Lismore City Council

(02) 6643 0200

Lismore.nsw.gov.au

### Lismore City Council Disaster Dashboard

Disaster.lismore.nsw.gov.au

### Radio Stations

ABC North Coast – 94.5FM / 738AM  
River FM – 92.9FM  
2LM – 104.3FM  
ZZZ FM – 100.9FM

### Local Land Services

1300 795 299  
lls.nsw.gov.au



To learn more visit  
[ses.nsw.gov.au/northernrivers](http://ses.nsw.gov.au/northernrivers)