



History of Flooding

Be flood aware

South Lismore sits on low ground along the Wilsons River. The suburb lies in a natural basin where water can remain for a long time after major floods, delaying recovery.

South Lismore remains one of the most flood-affected communities in the Lismore area, experiencing most floods since the mid-1800s. The February 2022 flood reached 14.37m, the highest on record, and caused major damage across the city.

Other major floods occurred in 1954 (12.27m), 1974 (12.19m), and 2017 (11.59m). The South Lismore levee was built in 1975 to reduce the flooding in smaller to moderate floods.

The levee provides some protection but spills over, or 'over-tops' in larger floods. In 2022, water rose more than 3m above the levee, flooding the suburb and cutting roads such as Casino and Union Streets, requiring large-scale evacuation.



South Lismore Flooding
Image credit: NSW SES

South Lismore Levee

The South Lismore levee helps protect against smaller, more frequent floods but it's not as high as the levee in the city centre. This means it gets overtopped more often. When that happens, floodwater quickly spreads through homes and businesses.

The 2022 event flooded much of South Lismore, damaging hundreds of homes and businesses and isolating residents. Less severe floods can cut local roads, block access and damage property.

While the levee helps with minor and moderate floods, South Lismore is still at high risk in major floods. It's important to be prepared and evacuate early.

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.



South Lismore flooding 2022.
Image credit: Northern Rivers Aerial Photography



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	2022 record flood. Catastrophic flooding across South Lismore.
12.27m	1954 and 1974 flood peak –extensive flooding, major residential and commercial losses.
12.19m	
11.59m	2017 widespread flooding.
10.85m	South Lismore levee overtopped; water spreads rapidly across residential and industrial areas.
10.60m	
9.70m	Major Flood Level Evacuation warnings will be issued. Frank and Union Streets may be cut by floodwater.
9.00m	Low-lying areas in South Lismore begin to flood; Casino Street, Union Street, and Three Chain Road may be affected by floodwater. Bruxner Hwy exiting Lismore may be restricted.
8.50m	
7.50m	Localised flooding in parks, sporting fields, and carparks; nuisance flooding on access routes.
7.00m	

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

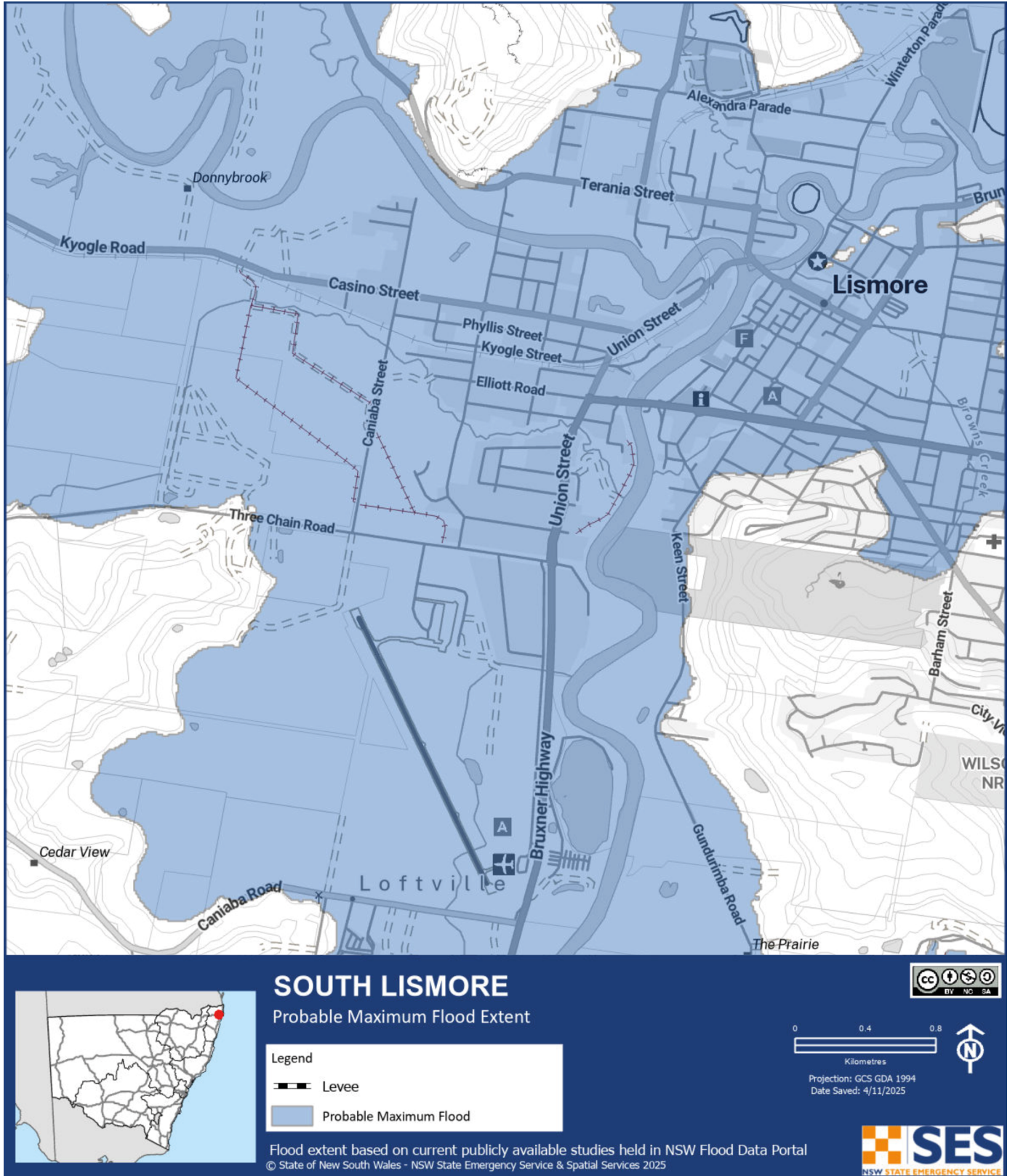


South Lismore Flood Risk

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 kit**

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 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.
 - 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) 6625 0500
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](https://ses.nsw.gov.au/northernrivers)