



History of Flooding

Be flood aware

Mullumbimby is located where the Brunswick River meets Mullumbimby Creek. The town can flood from these two waterways, as well as from Saltwater and Chinbible Creeks.

Mullumbimby has a history of significant floods, including the devastating 2022 floods that cut power and communications, damaged homes, businesses, roads, bridges, and affected local water supply.

Floodwater can spread widely across the floodplain, leaving parts of the community isolated. Rising high tides can also hold water back, causing water levels to rise. Flash flooding is also a risk to roads and low-lying 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.

Flood impacts

Climate change is expected to bring heavier rainfall and higher sea levels, which will make flooding worse in Mullumbimby and nearby areas. Flooding in Mullumbimby can happen quickly and once roads are cut, evacuation may be impossible. In some floods, nearby hinterland areas will be isolated. Homes are at risk of flooding.

Localised heavy rainfall can cause flash flooding and road closures. Many roads are prone to flooding, including, Coolamon Scenic Drive (Tunnel Road), Jubilee Avenue (which limits access to Myocom Road) Mullumbimby Road and Saddle Road.

It is important for households and businesses to have an emergency plan. Many Mullumbimby residents may lose access to evacuation routes which can lead to isolation.



Station St Mullumbimby, 2022 floods
Image credit: Jeff Begovic



Station St Mullumbimby, 2022 Floods
Image credit: Jeff Begovic



Flood Information: Federation Bridge Gauge

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

Height at gauge	Expected consequence
5.01m	Significant flooding within the Mullumbimby CBD. 1% AEP (Annual Exceedance Probability) flood level, meaning there is a 1 in 100 chance of this level occurring each year.
4.98m	2022 Flood Peak From this height the Mullumbimby East Evacuation route may close at Dalley and Queen Street.
4.64m	Locally recorded Mother's Day Flood 10 May 1987. Many local roads and homes were impacted.
4.50m	Major Flood Height Flooding impacts low lying homes in Argyle Street, Anne Street, New City Road, James Street, King Street and Queen Street. Station Street is impacted by flooding.
4.40m	Saltwater Creek backwater may surround the eastern area of Mullumbimby and progressively fills in towards the CBD. Floodwater enters Heritage Park, Burringbar Street and Tyagarah Street. Roads into Mullumbimby become impassable and are likely to isolate residents in the town.
4.36m	Peak Height March 2017 Flooding of properties in around Mullumbimby CBD.
4.00m	River breaks its banks near the Mullumbimby High School. Low lying houses in New City Road may be at risk of flooding. A number of additional streets may become flooded, which include -Main Arm Road near Chincogan Landscapes/Christian School, Coral Avenue, Clays Road, Lomandra Lane. Mill Street near Ross Industrial Estate, Brunswick Terrace, Left Bank Road, Melaleuca Drive, Tuckeroo Avenue, Coolamon Scenic Drive, Jubilee Avenue (High School), Argyle Street, James Street, King Street, Ann Street, New City Road, Queen Street, Brunswick Road.
3.91m	Mullumbimby South Evacuation Route may close at Jubilee Avenue near Mullumbimby Golf Club. Wilsons Creek, Myocum and Mullumbimby Creek areas may become isolated.
3.50m	Moderate Flood Height Floodwater causes local road closures and isolation. Main Arm Road and Left Bank Road are likely to be impassable. Water may inundate Tincogan Street. The left bank area of Mullumbimby Road becomes isolated.
2.50m	Minor Flood Height. The road to Upper Main Arm above the Palmwoods junction may become impassable, isolating Upper Main Arm.

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.

Scan the QR code to download

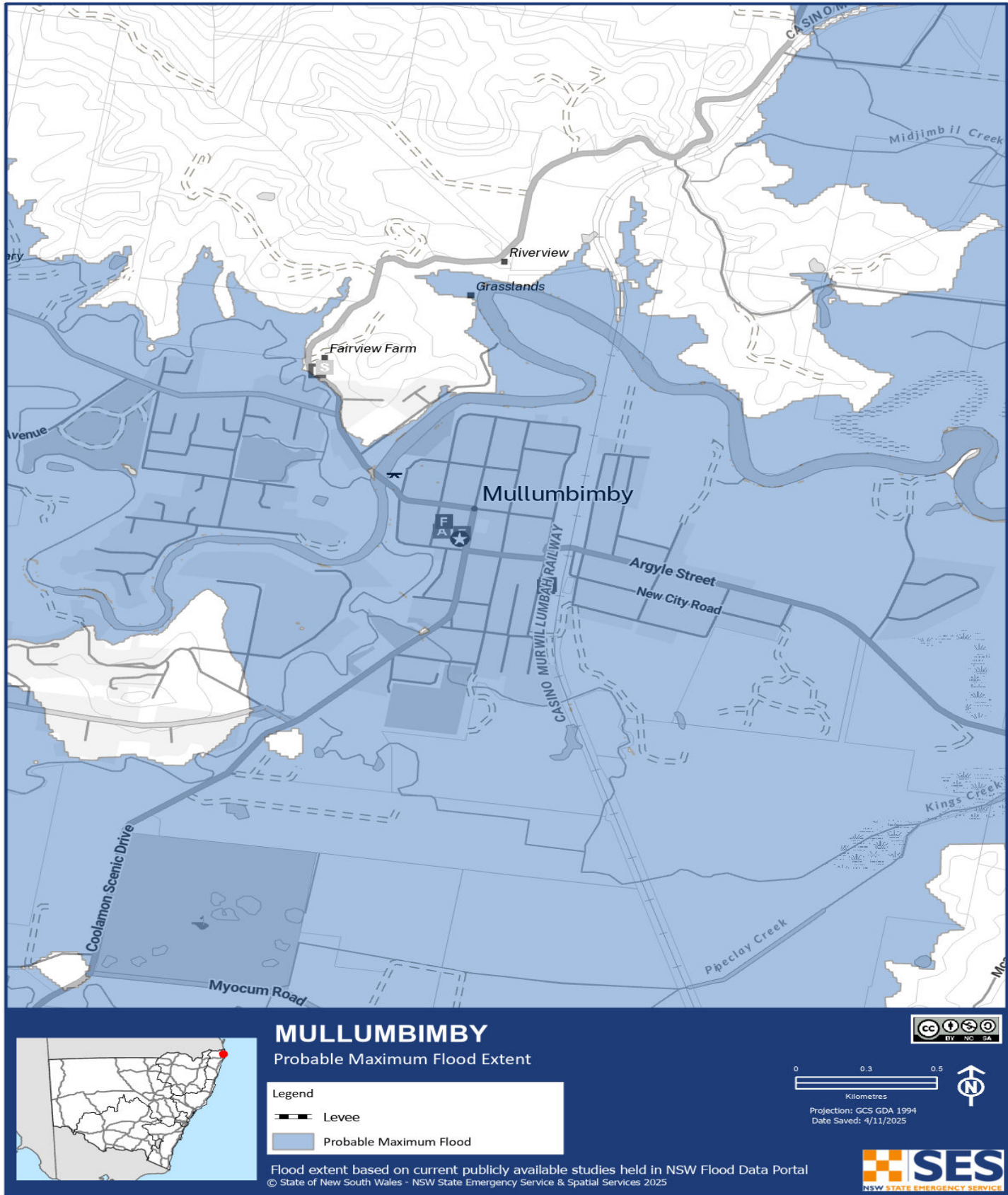
Set your **Watch Zones** and stay informed with notifications for new incidents and when information changes.



Mullumbimby 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 Federation Bridge Gauge, the PMF is estimated to be 6.41m.



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 Brunswick River Catchment

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

Byron Shire Council

(02) 6626 7000

Byron Shire Emergency Dashboard

<https://emergency.byron.nsw.gov.au/>

Radio Stations

ABC North Coast – 94.5FM / 738AM
Bay FM – 99.9FM
Triple ZZZ – 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)

