



History of Flooding

Be flood aware

Murwillumbah has a long history of regular flooding.

In 2022, the Tweed River caused major flooding across the catchment, with February/ March being a 'flood of record' at Murwillumbah. Other major floods happened in 1954 (before the levee was built), 1974, 1989, 2001, 2008, and 2017.

The location and geography of the Tweed Valley make flooding more likely. Rain that falls in the upper catchment is affected by a large volcanic depression called a caldera and is funnelled into three main river systems: the Oxley, Rous, and Tweed Rivers — which all affect the valley.

Murwillumbah floods when the Oxley River joins the Tweed River at Byangum.

Flooding in the Murwillumbah CBD can happen in two ways; when storm water backs up in Knox Park and causes water to pool in the CBD basin, or when floodwater rises over the CBD levee.



Murwillumbah

Image credit: Tweed Shire Council

Isolation risks

In a major flood, low-lying areas of Murwillumbah will become isolated, and some properties may experience flooding inside. Some residents and businesses need to evacuate early to avoid being isolated.

Evacuation should begin well before peak flood levels. Waiting until floodwaters reach critical levels on roads may make it too late to leave safely.

Climate change is expected to bring heavier rainfall and rising sea levels, which makes flooding worse in Murwillumbah and surrounds.

Flooding can cause serious damage to properties, close roads, disrupt services, contaminate the environment and force people to leave their homes for long periods.

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.



Wharf St Murwillumbah

Image credit: Tweed Shire Council



Flood Information: Murwillumbah Gauge

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

Height at gauge	Expected consequence
6.60m	Flooding in Murwillumbah extends west to about Nullum Street and north to Wharf Street. Floodwater depths up to 1.5m are predicted in some areas of Knox Park, the sports field to the south of the CBD and depths up to 2.5m are predicted at the eastern end of Wharf Street.
6.51m	Peak Flood Height February 2022.
6.30m	Floodwater will rise over the East Murwillumbah Levee and the Commercial Road (CBD) Levee between Condong Street and Murwillumbah Bridge. This will lead to flooding in the Murwillumbah CBD.
6.10m	Floodwater will begin to rise over the Murwillumbah Levee at the end of Bray Park, causing flooding in the Murwillumbah basin area.
5.60m	Tumbulgum Road near the intersection of Reynolds Street in East Murwillumbah floods, preventing traffic from travelling north on Tumbulgum Road.
4.91m	Tweed Valley Way is cut by floodwater.
4.90m	Floodwater may rise over the Murwillumbah Levee at Dorothy Street (also known as the Brothers Levee), causing flooding in low-lying properties.
4.80m	Major Flood Height. This height at the Murwillumbah Gauge, South Murwillumbah Levee will spill over. Properties on River Street south of Colin Street would be isolated. Properties in Bray Park will flood.
4.63m	Floodwater flows from Budd Park across Alma Street flooding the South Murwillumbah Basin. The Shell Service Station and the commercial businesses bound by Alma Street, Prospero Street and Tweed Valley Way will start to experience flooding.
4.50m	Floodwater starts to flood properties in Mooball Street and George Street in Murwillumbah.
4.00m	Moderate Flood Height, at Murwillumbah Gauge - Floodwater starts to inundate properties in low lying parts of East Murwillumbah.
3.90m	The Murwillumbah CBD Basin can experience flooding due to back up of stormwater in Knox Park, Nullum Street, King Street, Condong Street, Prince Street and Hartigan Street.
3.00m	Minor Flood Height. Murwillumbah Gauge. 50mm-150mm of rainfall over a period of 1-3 days usually results in river rises with nuisance to Minor flooding.

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.

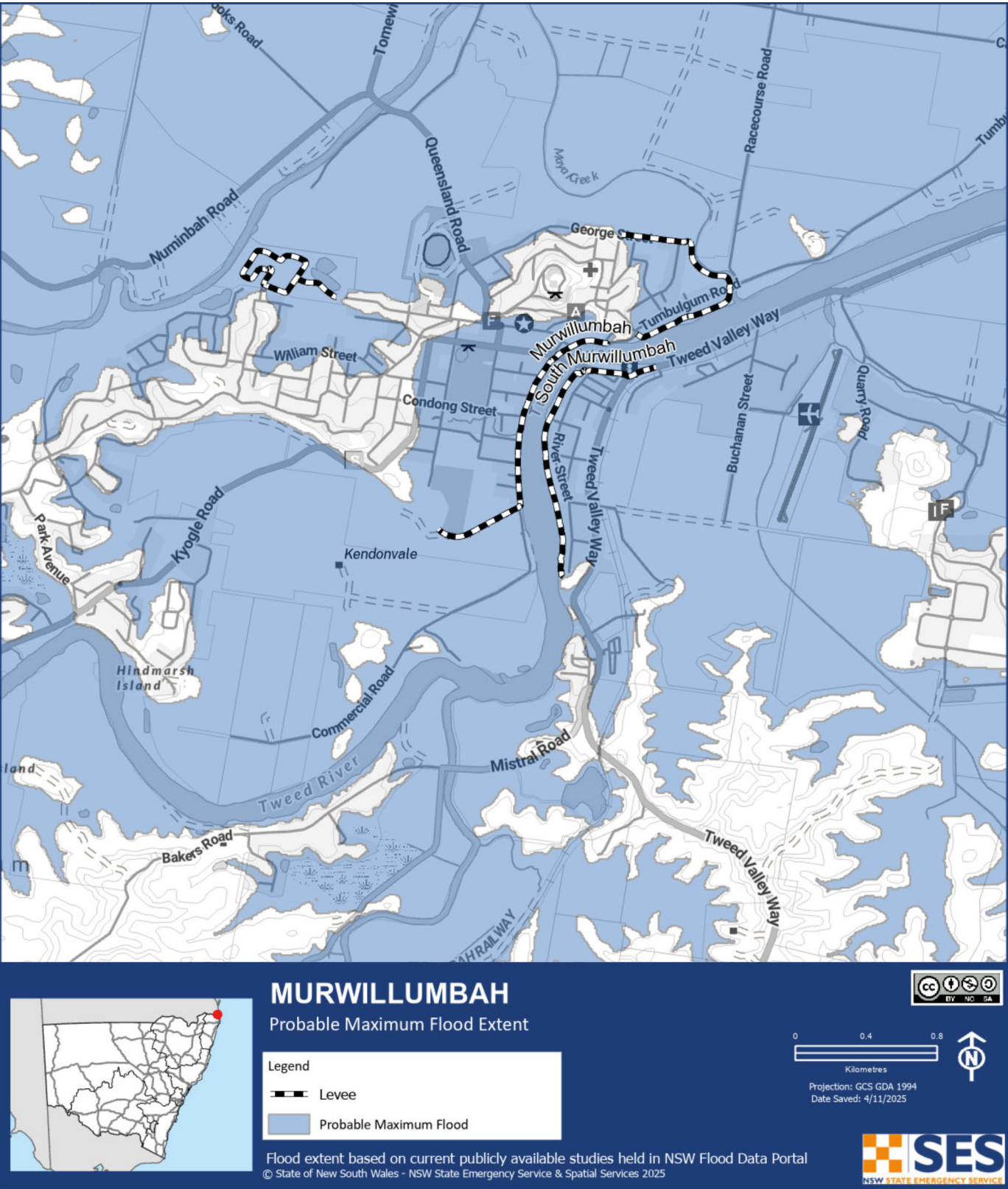


Murwillumbah CBD Flood Risk

Probable Maximum Flood (PMF)

Probable Maximum Flood 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 Murwillumbah gauge, the PMF is estimated to exceed 10.37m.



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 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

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

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)

