

When you are cut off by flood waters

- The SES will seek to supply essential food and medicines by floodboat or helicopter, but daily supply of these items will not be possible
- Be prepared for snakes, spiders, mosquitoes and other insects to seek refuge in your house and sheds
- Avoid driving over flooded bridges or roads or wading or swimming across flooded streams. These actions are the main causes of death during floods



Driving through flood water is dangerous because it is difficult to judge the depth and speed of the water

Keep this guide handy and refer to it when you hear of flooding on the Macleay River

Where can I get more information?

The Kempsey Shire Local Flood Plan is available in all council libraries. It describes the arrangements that guide responses to flood emergencies in the Kempsey area.

The SES and Kempsey Shire Council can provide information on how to protect yourself and your property from floods.

FOR EMERGENCY HELP IN FLOODS AND STORMS, CALL THE SES ON

132 500

Kempsey SES	6562 2228
Kempsey Shire Council (office hours)	6562 6077
Police	000
Ambulance	000

Better FloodSafe than Sorry!

This brochure has been prepared for your protection by the State Emergency Service and Kempsey Shire Council.



FloodSafe between Georges Creek and Sherwood



What is the flood problem here?

Flooding causes the following effects:

- Farm land is inundated
- Gravel extraction is halted
- Bridges close, cutting people off for weeks

Rainfall in the upper Macleay catchment will close a number of low-level bridges across the Macleay River and its tributaries at relatively low stream levels.

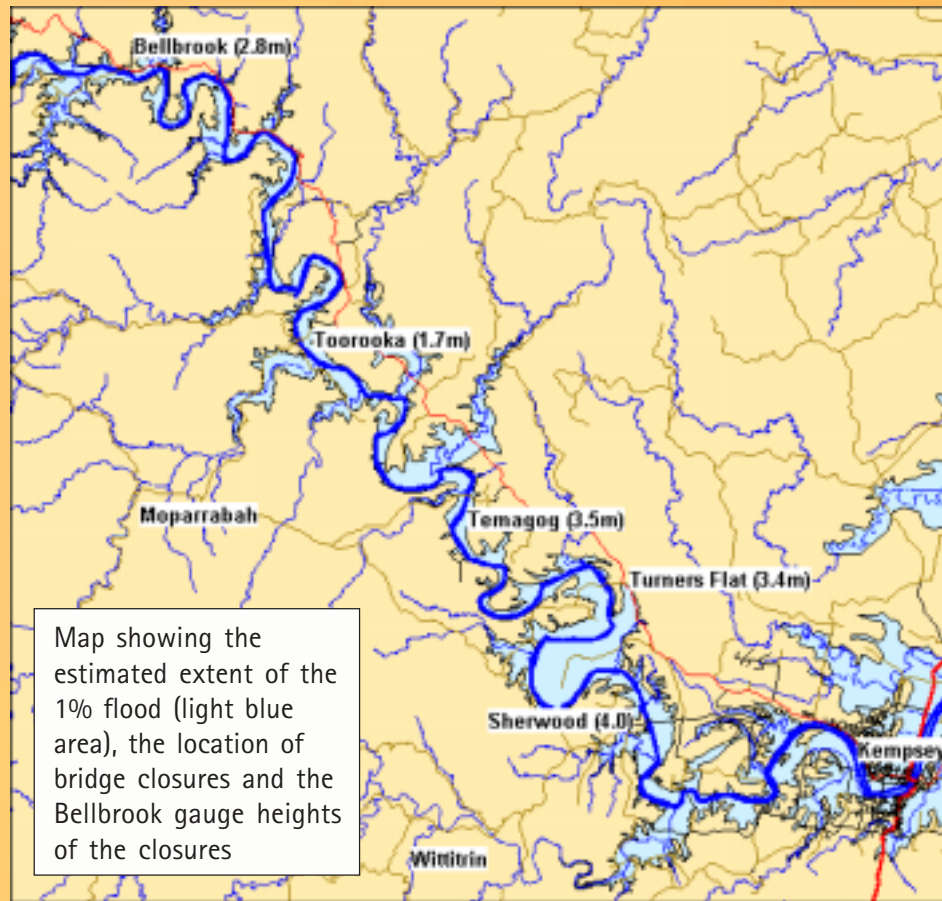
The flood heights that will normally close bridges on the Macleay are shown in the table below. The heights, measured in metres, relate to the Bellbrook gauge.

Approximate travel times for flood peaks are also shown. Generally, the larger the flood the shorter the travel time.

Bridge closure	Gauge height	Flood peak travel time*
Bellbrook Bridge	2.8m	4-8hrs
Toorooka Bridge	1.7m	6-12hrs
Temagog Bridge	3.5m	8-14hrs
Turners Flat Bridge	3.4m	10-16hrs
Sherwood Bridge	4.0m	12-20hrs

*The times indicate how long the flood peak takes to travel downstream from Georges Creek

The Moparrabah Bridge (Parrabel Creek) and Wittitrin Causeway (Dungay Creek) are also closed by floods.



How will we know when a flood is coming?

- During and after heavy rain, the State Emergency Service provides an information service about existing and likely flood impacts
- Information is broadcast on ABC Mid North Coast, 2MC/ROX FM and TANK FM. It is wise to have a battery-powered radio and fresh batteries in case the power fails
- A phone call to Kempsey Shire SES will confirm what is broadcast

What can we do to be ready?

- Always have enough non-perishable food, essential medications and other necessities to last two weeks. Don't forget pet food
- Make sure pumps on the river can be easily and quickly lifted
- Arrange for the Post Office to release your mail to the SES for delivery during floods
- Make sure that school children have school books and exercises at home so they can continue school work after the roads are closed

- Have a good first aid kit, torches, spare batteries and candles
- If you are a farmer, be ready to raise pumps and move livestock
- If you are a gravel pit operator, be ready to move equipment to higher ground
- When you hear of a rising flood, decide whether family members should go to Kempsey, stay in Kempsey or come home.