

## What should we do if we have to evacuate?

- Place moveable belongings on tables, beds and benches, with electrical items on top
- Gather up medicines, financial documents and personal items (including mementoes and photo albums) and take them with you
- If possible, check to see if your neighbours need help
- Listen to a local radio station for information
- Take three days' supply of clothes for each person
- Take your pets with you. Agriculture NSW will arrange for their care if necessary
- Turn off the electricity and gas
- Make your way to the evacuation centre: the SES will advise where this is
- Contact the SES on 132 500 if you need transport or other help
- When evacuating, avoid entering flood waters if possible. Driving and walking into floods are major causes of death during times of flooding

*Farmers should take early action to move livestock and equipment to safety.*

Keep this guide handy and refer to it when you hear a flood warning for 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 in Kinchela, Jerseyville and surrounding areas



## What is the flood problem here?

- Kinchela, Jerseyville and the nearby communities of Kinchela Creek and Rainbow Reach are all on floodplains
- Flooding can come from the Macleay River, Belmore River, local rainfall and the sea. Houses are sometimes threatened. Evacuation routes can be cut even in non-severe floods
- A flood reaching 5.2 metres at the Kempsey Traffic Bridge gauge will result in general overbank flooding and cut the roads
- The 1949 flood reached 7.92 metres at the Kempsey Traffic Bridge gauge. The March 2001 flood peaked at about 7.0 metres there
- Because of variable oceanic influences, the predicted level at Kempsey is not always a good indication of the severity of flooding in Kinchela, Jerseyville and nearby
- Higher and more severe floods than that of 1949 are possible
- Elevated houses are not safe havens in severe floods because of water supply, sewerage, power and telephone failure



The map shows the estimated extent of the 1% AEP flood. There is a 1% chance each year that the lower Macleay floodplain will experience a flood of this size. Such a flood will occur, on average, every 100 years. Lesser floods also inundate extensive areas.

## How will we know when a flood is coming?

- Bureau of Meteorology flood warnings will be broadcast over ABC Mid North Coast, 2MC/ROX FM and TANK FM
- Listen to one of these stations for information. It is wise to have a battery powered radio and fresh batteries in case the power fails
- Flood warnings will give actual current heights at various upstream gauges and predicted heights at the Kempsey Traffic Bridge gauge. The SES will indicate the likely consequences at the predicted heights and advise appropriate actions

## What can we do to be ready?

- Prepare a family or business flood plan. This plan should indicate which items need to be raised or relocated and what you will need to do if you have to evacuate. The SES can provide information to help you prepare your plan
- Put your plan where you can be sure to find it when a flood is approaching

The key to being ready is recognising the danger and knowing what you can do to manage it.

This includes realising that evacuation may be necessary in the more severe floods.