

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

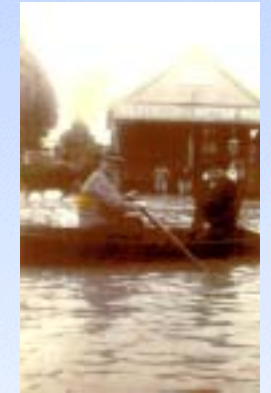
132 500

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 Smithtown, Gladstone and surrounding areas



What is the flood problem here?

- The communities of Smithtown, Gladstone, Austral Eden, Belmore River, Bellimbopinni and Clybucca are all located on floodplains
- Water escapes from the Macleay River at a height of 5.2 metres on the Kempsey Traffic Bridge gauge and starts to inundate the lower floodplain areas and cover the roads. This means that evacuation routes are cut
- From about 6.0 metres, houses are threatened. By 7.5 metres, virtually all properties in these areas will be flooded and many houses will have water over their floors
- Elevated houses are not safe havens in severe floods because of water supply, sewerage, power and telephone failure
- The 1949 flood reached 7.92 metres at the Kempsey. Higher and more severe floods are possible
- The March 2001 flood peaked at about 7.0 metres at the Traffic Bridge gauge



Barnard St flooded, March 2001

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.



An SES floodboat and crew providing transport for a medical emergency at flood-bound Gladstone, March 2001