

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. AgricultureNSW 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



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 Kempsey.

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!

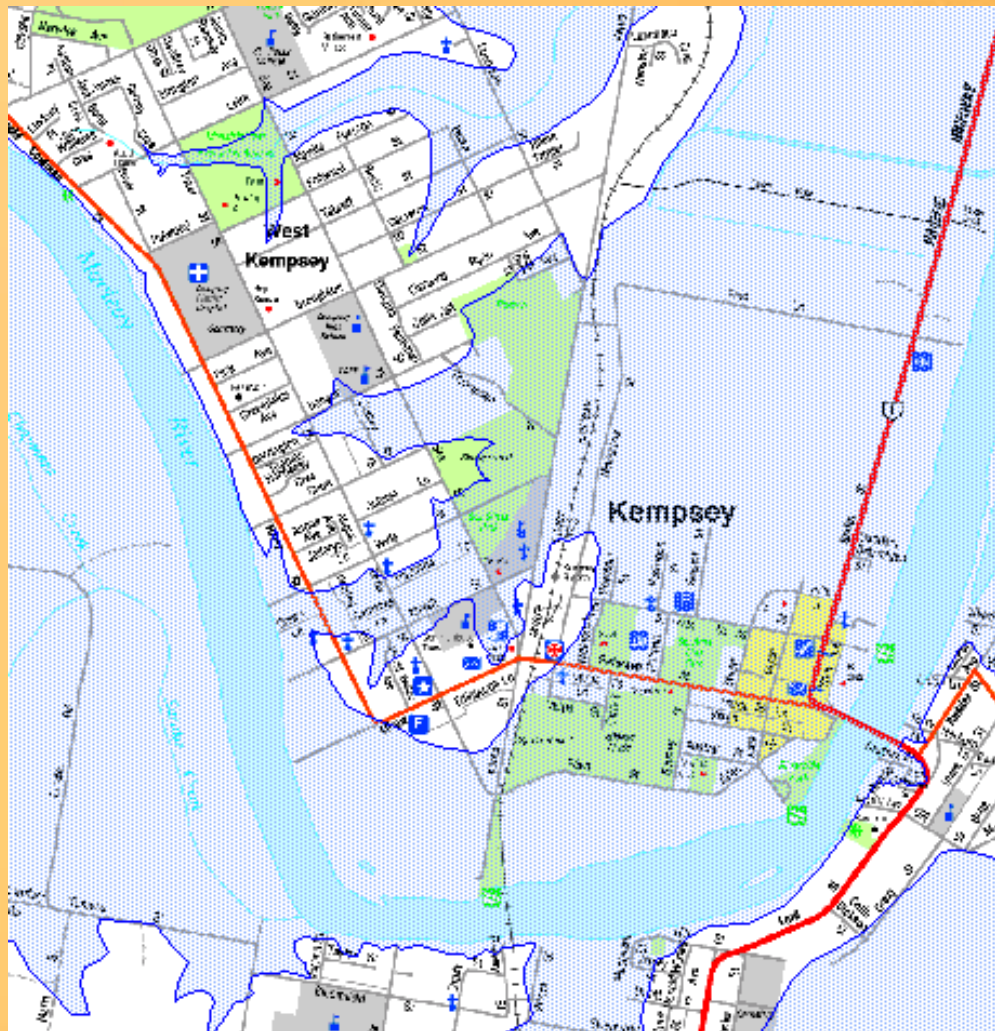
This brochure has been prepared for your protection by the State Emergency Service and Kempsey Shire Council.



FloodSafe in Central and West Kempsey

What is the flood problem here?

- Unfortunately, much of Kempsey is built on a floodplain and severe flooding is possible despite the levees
- A flood of 6.15 metres at the Kempsey Traffic Bridge gauge will cause water to flow over the Eden St levee and cause the CBD to fill rapidly
- Properties south of Eden St are threatened before water flows over the Eden St levee
- The 1949 flood, which reached 7.92 metres at the Traffic Bridge gauge, flooded all of central Kempsey and the much smaller 2001 flood almost did the same thing
- Low-lying parts of West Kempsey begin to be flooded at about 7.0 metres, which is about the peak height reached in March 2001
- More severe floods than the 1949 one are possible



Map showing the estimated extent of the 1% flood (similar to the 1949 flood)

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

How will we know when a flood is coming?

- Bureau of Meteorology flood warnings will be broadcast over ABC Mid North Coast Radio, 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 for residents and business people

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