

Fact Sheet

Definitions of Flood Mapping Layers



Flood Extents 1 in 100 Year

A 1 in 100 year flood is **not** an actual flood event. This terminology is used to describe a hypothetical flood that statistically has a 1 in 100 chance of occurring in any given year. Similarly, a 1 in 20 year event has a 1 in 20 chance of occurring per year. You'll often here of real life flood events being related back to their likelihood of occurrence. For instance, the March 2022 flood reached 1.35 metres above sea level in Tuggerah Lakes. Statistically, this equates to a 1 in 5 year flood event for this particular area.

It is important to remember that if a 1 in 100 year flood event occurred tomorrow, it is not to say than an equivalent flood can't occur in the proceeding 99 years.

Flood Precincts

The following Flood Precincts are referred to by the Development Provisions in the Central Coast Development Control Plan (DCP) 2022 (Chapter 3.1.4). It is also relevant to Clause 5.21 and 5.22 of the Central Coast Local Environmental Plan (LEP) 2022. These precincts assist Council in determining what types of development are appropriate given the nature of flooding locally.

Precinct 1: Probable Maximum Flood – the Probable Maximum Flood (PMF) is the area of land that is likely to be inundated during the largest flood that could conceivably occur at that particular location. It is also sometimes referred to as the extent of Flood Prone Land.

Precinct 2: Flood Planning Level – flood related development controls apply for residential development at or below the Flood Planning Level. This is the area affected by the 1 in 100 year flood PLUS an additional freeboard (typically 0.5m but may vary), which is a factor of safety used to set minimum floor levels. This is why the Flood Planning Level layer covers a broader extent compared to the 1 in 100 year flood layer. Depending on the location, a planning allowance for sea level rise may also be added in addition to the 0.5m freeboard.

Precinct 3: Flood Storage – those areas that are important for the temporary storage of floodwaters during the passage of a flood The extent and behaviour of flood storage areas may change with flood severity increase the severity of flood.

Precinct 4: High Hazard – areas where there is significant danger to personal safety in a 1 in 100 year flood. Evacuation by trucks is considered difficult, able-bodied adults would have difficulty in wading to safety, and buildings may experience structural damage. This area includes floodways (areas where a significant discharge of water occurs) and deep flood storage areas.

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1 in 100 Year Hazard (H1-H6)

While 'High Hazard' is referred to in our flood precincts for planning purposes, it is also important to know what risks are present for practical emergency management purposes. Flood hazard is a way of determining the relative vulnerability of the community and its built assets. Based on the depth and velocity of floodwaters, the following categories have been delineated across the entire Central Coast Local Government Area, where H1 represents the lowest flood hazard and H6 represents the most severe flood hazard. These categories have been defined as follows:

- **H1** – generally safe for people, vehicles and buildings
- **H2** – unsafe for small vehicles
- **H3** – unsafe for vehicles, children and the elderly
- **H4** – unsafe for vehicles and people
- **H5** – unsafe for vehicles and people. Buildings require detailed design and construction.
- **H6** – unsafe for vehicles and people. All building types considered vulnerable to failure

As there are different mechanisms of flooding, our hazard layers have been split up into four separate layers. These can be switched on and off depending on what you are interested in.

The same categories have also been applied to the PMF. You can expect the PMF hazard categories to be more severe than the 1 in 100 year hazard as the PMF is defined as the largest flood that could conceivably occur.

Flood Emergency Response

These layers have been developed for use during flood emergencies when the Bureau of Meteorology (BoM) and NSW State Emergency Services release real time flood data. You can also use this information to better understand your flood risk: you can search for your property address and check how your property would be affected by different lake levels. For more information, click on the 'Flooding Information' icon which sits on the right-hand edge of the tool bar in Council's Online Mapping.



Flood Mapping Updates

Council's flood mapping is continually updated as new information becomes available.



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