

Tweed Shire Council wishes to recognise the generations of the local Aboriginal people of the Bundjalung Nation who have lived in and derived their physical and spiritual needs from the forests, rivers, lakes and streams of this beautiful valley over many thousands of years as the traditional owners and custodians of these lands.



Rous County Council Weed Biosecurity Officers required full biohazard protection against the effects of Parthenium weed. Source: Rous County Council 2020. Inset: Parthenium weed (*Parthenium hysterophorus*) produces small innocuous flowers that can have negative health effects on humans and livestock. Source: Phil Blackmore

First ever outbreak of invasive weed in the Northern Rivers

An outbreak of the highly invasive Parthenium weed has been detected on a rural property in the Tweed by Rous County Council Weed Biosecurity Officers.

It is the first time the weed has been found in the Northern Rivers region and was discovered when officers were carrying out targeted work on properties identified as high risk of Parthenium weed incursion.

The weed (*Parthenium hysterophorus*), a native of the Caribbean region, is highly invasive to the natural and agricultural environment and is known to cause severe health reactions in humans and livestock.

Once the property owner was made aware of the Parthenium, it was reported immediately and biosecurity officers were able to identify the weed and began manually removing all flowering plants and treating

any seedlings.

As Parthenium plants, flowers, seeds and pollen are known to cause respiratory and other health issues, it is advised that the public exercise extreme caution if they suspect it is growing on their property.

Report immediately, move all livestock away from that area and do not attempt to remove any plants yourself.

Parthenium is endemic in parts of central Queensland and is slowly spreading south.

If found, immediately contact Rous County Council (RCC) on 02 6623 3800 or email council@rous.nsw.gov.au

Rous County Council is Tweed Shire's weed control authority.

You can also report online at www.rous.nsw.gov.au/reportaweed or call the DPI Weed Helpline on 1800 680 244.

Find out more at www.rous.nsw.gov.au/weeds

Free water booklets for all primary school libraries

Tweed Shire Council is giving away four booklets to every primary school library in the Tweed this week to help teach the younger generation how water works and how precious it is.

The move is part of Council's sponsorship of the first ever national Water Night to be held across Australia on Thursday 22 October 2020. All Tweed residents are urged to register for Water Night to learn just how addicted they are to using their taps.

The water awareness initiative is being conducted by not-for-profit water efficiency experts Smart Approved WaterMark.

The challenge is to stop reaching for the tap and instead use just one 10-litre bucket of water for all household needs between 5pm and 5am (with the exception of drinking water, hand washing for COVID-care, religious purposes and flush if you must).

In the Tweed, our recent experience on Level 2 water restrictions from November 2019 to February this year showed that the average Tweed resident typically uses 40 to 60 litres more than Council's target of 160 litres per person per day.

Smart Approved WaterMark's research shows that 55 per cent of people say they are addicted to their taps and 69 per cent would 'freak out' if their taps stopped working.

To encourage Tweed residents to sign on for Water Night, Council has sponsored radio ads by ABC's Gardening Australia personalities Costa Georgiardi, Sophie Thomson and Jane Edmanson, who have all joined the challenge.

To register and download all the tips and aids to help switch off your water-using autopilot, go to www.waternight.com.au

Council locks in wind and solar energy agreement

Tweed Shire Council has started a 10-year Power Purchase Agreement with retailer Flow Power to supply electricity to Council's largest sites.

The agreement includes buying more than half of Council's electricity from NSW wind and solar farms.

The Power Purchase Agreement sources energy from Sapphire Wind Farm, near Glenn Innes, and the new Bomen Solar Farm, near Wagga Wagga.

Council recently adopted a new *Climate Change Policy* which sets a goal for the organisation to achieve net zero carbon emissions by 2030.

To achieve this goal, a *Renewable Energy Action Plan* has been developed. Under this plan, Council has completed a broad range of energy efficiency works and has installed more than 800kW of solar photovoltaic (PV) systems across Council facilities.

Council plans to install a further 750kW of solar PV at more sites this financial year.

These local projects, combined with Council's intention to progressively increase its supply of renewable energy, will enable Council to achieve its interim targets of a 25 per cent reduction

of electricity-related carbon emissions by 2022 and a 50 per cent reduction by 2025.



Under Council's Renewable Energy Action Plan, Council has completed a range of energy efficiency works, including this solar installation at Bray Park Water Treatment Plant.



Last week we each used

189L a day

as at 9 October 2020

Final call for nominations

Hurry – nominations close on Friday (16 October) for the Tweed Shire Australia Day Awards.

The awards are an opportunity for the community to recognise the achievements of people and groups in the Tweed during 2020.

So this is your chance to nominate a friend, family member, community member, school or local club that deserves to be celebrated by their community. Nominations are open in the following categories:

- Citizen of the Year
- Arts and Culture Award
- Volunteer of the Year (Individual and Group)
- Sporting Achievement (Individual and Group)
- Community Event of the Year
- Young Achiever in Community Service

Nominations close at 4.30pm on Friday. To find out more and submit your nomination, visit www.tweed.nsw.gov.au/australiadaynomination

Australia Day 2021 community event organisers are also invited to apply for Council grant funding to help stage their event.

Grants of between \$300 and \$500 are available.

To be successful, applicants must be not-for-profit organisations, the event must be open to the public and held on 26 January 2021. Events must be held in a COVID-Safe way.

Visit www.tweed.nsw.gov.au/australiaday for more information and to apply. Applications also close at 4.30pm Friday 16 October.



Paying her rates in full and on time paid off for Tanja Pommersheim, who won Tweed Shire Council's \$3000 Rates Incentive Scheme for 2020.

Tanja is lucky prize winner

Tanja Pommersheim is the winner of Tweed Shire Council's \$3000 Rates Incentive Scheme for 2020.

Entry to the competition was automatic for those who paid their rates in full by 31 August 2020.

Receiving rates income early means Council can invest the funds and provide services from the interest earned.

Michael and Francine Potts were the lucky winners of Council's first quarter 2020 eNotice competition. By choosing to 'Go Paperless' and receive their notices electronically before 31 August, Michael and Francine were automatically entered into the first quarter draw and won \$1000.

By receiving your rates and water notices electronically, Council cuts back on paper notices and postal delivery charges, an environmental and monetary saving for ratepayers.

To be automatically entered into the \$1000 second quarter draw, visit www.tweed.nsw.gov.au/gopaperless and register to receive your rates and water notices electronically by 30 November 2020.

Council meetings continue to be livestreamed

Council has resolved to adopt a 'hybrid' model for Council meetings, starting from 22 October 2020.

Since April 2020, Council meetings have been held virtually and livestreamed, due to COVID-19 restrictions and concerns.

Under the hybrid model, Councillors have the option of attending the meeting in person or remotely.

The physical aspects of Council and Planning Committee meetings will be held in the Harvard Room at the Tweed Heads Administration Office. Members of the public will continue to be excluded from attending meetings in person because of COVID-19 restrictions. However, the meetings will continue to be livestreamed.

Meetings will now begin at 5.30pm, following the Public Forum which will commence at 4.30pm for the remainder of the Council term (until elections are held on 4 September 2021).

In the case of a Public Forum, where a member of the public is unable to attend via audio-visual means, the option will be given for the individual to attend in person for the Public Forum only.

To watch the livestream of the meeting or a recording the next day, visit www.tweed.nsw.gov.au/councilmeetings

Flowers stolen from Murwillumbah cemetery

Thieves are stealing flowers and pot plants from Murwillumbah Lawn Cemetery.

Cemeteries Business Manager Helen Carter has called on those responsible to stop as the thefts are “clearly wrong and disrespectful to grieving families”.

“We will be installing cameras to help deter this unacceptable behaviour,” Ms Carter said.

Anyone witnessing the theft of plants or flowers from the cemetery, should report it to Council by calling 02 6670 2400 or email tsc@tweed.nsw.gov.au

Young Tweed poets get mentoring support

Giving young poets confidence in themselves and the courage to express their thoughts and views in front of an audience is one of the rewards of mentoring for Anna Avocado.

Anna, the 2019 Queensland Slam Poetry champion, is one of several mentors working with entrants in this year's Youth Poetry Slam, hosted by Poets Out Loud and supported by Tweed Shire Council.

The slam is open to young poets in the Northern Rivers aged 12 to 24 and this year has attracted 27 entrants from the Tweed as well as entrants from Byron and Lismore local government areas.

Council has directed NSW Youth Week funds to support the event.

As a mentor, Anna has been working with poets from Pacific Coast Christian College, Kingscliff High School and Sathya Sai College, providing guidance and encouragement in preparation for an online showcase on 1 November.

The finale this year will be held online instead of in front a live audience, due to COVID-19 restrictions.

The Youth Poetry Slam is open to individuals or teams, with video entries shown at the online event on Sunday 1 November from 3pm to 5pm. The winner will receive \$400, a trophy, their work published and a paid performance opportunity.

Poets Out Loud, directed by Sarah Temporal, is a platform for spoken word events, workshops and projects, based in the Northern Rivers.

Register for your free ticket for the online event at poetsoutloud.org

Expression of interest – clean fill

Council is calling for expressions of interest from landowners willing to accept clean fill from its construction projects.

Council would deliver the fill free of charge to the property if the trip is shorter than that to a Council disposal facility. If the trip is longer, the property owner would be charged a gap fee based on mileage.

Properties suited to accepting fill must be able to be accessed by a tandem truck. In wet weather, fill can only be delivered to properties with all-weather access.

If Council accepts a property as suitable, it will add the property to a database and contact the applicant when clean fill becomes available from a nearby worksite.

For more information or to lodge an expression of interest, visit www.tweed.nsw.gov.au/disposaloffill



Apprenticeships now available! Recruiting for 2021

Programmed, in partnership with Tweed Shire Council has opportunities for apprenticeships commencing in early 2021 in Murwillumbah and Chinderah locations.

Kick start your career in the following trades:

- Electrical Apprenticeship
- Engineering Mechanical Fitter Apprenticeship
- Engineering Mechanical Heavy Vehicle Apprenticeship

Be rewarded with:

- Paid full-time wages
- 4 weeks annual leave per year
- Certificate III level training
- PPE and uniform paid for
- Tools all provided on the job

Applications close 26 October 2020 at 3.00pm AEST.

TO FIND OUT MORE AND TO APPLY, GO TO PROGRAMMED.COM.AU/TWEEDSHIRECOUNCIL CALL 1300 440 784

Current vacancies

View current vacancies at www.tweed.nsw.gov.au/careers

Subscribe to receive Job Vacancy Alerts via email at www.tweed.nsw.gov.au/subscribe



WATER WEEK 3 Check when your water meter is read at www.tweed.nsw.gov.au/meterreading

Council's ePayment and Property Services portal launched

Individuals, developers, conveyancers and solicitors can now apply and pay online for 10 common property and rating applications at Tweed Shire Council's new ePayment and Property Services portal.

The portal also allows customers 24/7 access to pay Council rates, water rates, debtor notices and invoices online. Simply visit eproperty.tweed.nsw.gov.au

Applications and payment for the following are being accepted online:

- Development Consent Search
- Drainage Diagram (External)
- Drainage Diagram (Internal)
- Dwelling Entitlement Search
- Planning – Section 10.7 Certificate (2 & 5)

- Planning – Section 10.7 Certificate (2)
 - Pre-purchase Inspection and Report for OSSM (onsite sewage management)
 - Pre-purchase Records Search Only for OSSM
 - 603 Certificate – outstanding rates and water bills
 - Special Reads – town water connection only
- “Depending on the application, processing times may vary but time will definitely be saved by not having to attend Council's offices during opening hours,” Director Planning and Regulation Vince Connell said.
- “Also, Council officers will no longer have to input hard copy or email applications, ensuring the accuracy of the application as submitted by the applicant.”

Notification of integrated development application

Development Application No. DA20/0712

A development application has been lodged by Infinite Aged Care (Developments) Pty Ltd seeking development consent for demolition of existing educational establishment, two (2) lot subdivision, and seniors housing including three (3) signs at Lot 61 DP 1194165; No. 58–78 Caloola Drive, **Tweed Heads**. Tweed Shire Council is the consent authority for the application.

The proposed development constitutes 'Integrated Development' pursuant to Section 4.46(1) of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979*. The following approvals are required in this regard:

Provision	Approval	Authority
Section 100B of the <i>Rural Fires Act 1997</i>	General Approval	Rural Fire Service
Sections 89, 90 & 91 of the <i>Water Management Act 2000</i>	Water use approval, water management work approval or activity approval under Part 3 of Chapter 3	Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water (NSW Office of Water)

The development application and the documents accompanying it may be viewed on Council's DA Tracking site located at datracker.tweed.nsw.gov.au

The documents will be available for a period of 28 days from Wednesday 14 October 2020 to Wednesday 11 November 2020.

Any person may, during the above period, make a written submission to the General Manager of Council. It should also be noted that Council has adopted a policy whereby, on request, any submission including identifying particulars will be made public. Council will give consideration to the 'Public Interest' and requests for confidentiality by submitters in determining access to submission letters. However, the provisions of the *Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009* – GIPAA may result in confidential submissions being released to an applicant.

Any submission objecting to the proposed development must state the ground upon which such objection is made.

Please note – Requirements regarding Disclosure of Political Gifts and Donations

A disclosure is required to be made in a statement accompanying the relevant development or planning application by a person who makes the application. In addition, a person who makes a written submission either objecting to or supporting a relevant development or planning application must also make a disclosure if the person has made a reportable political donation.

Further information regarding Donations and Gift Disclosure are available on Council's website www.tweed.nsw.gov.au/planninginformation

Development application determinations

Notification of Development Application Determinations for the purposes of Section 4.59 of the *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* (as amended).

Application details

Approved

DA20/0278 – Alterations and additions to existing dwelling including new garage

Lot 6 DP 245952, No. 10 Somerset Avenue, **Banora Point**

DA20/0568 – Extension to rear second floor deck

Lot 1 DP 875952, No. 43 Lochlomon Drive, **Banora Point**

DA20/0605 – Carport

Lot 301 DP 1071677, No. 95 Botanical Circuit, **Banora Point**

DA20/0607 – Covered deck and carport within front building line

Lot 719 DP 850786, No. 44 Kildare Drive, **Banora Point**

DA20/0629 – Deck

Lot 173 DP 261796, No. 8 Midship Court, **Banora Point**

DA20/0567 – Use of ground floor of dwelling for habitable purposes

Lot 12 DP 31041, No. 8 Peninsula Drive, **Bilambil Heights**

DA20/0594 – Deck addition

Lot 206 DP 503929, No. 6 Cobaki Terrace, **Bilambil Heights**

DA20/0552 – Alterations and additions to existing dwelling including carport and in-ground swimming pool

Lot 8 DP 800344, No. 41 Ti Tree Avenue, **Bogangar**

DA20/0560 – Alterations and additions to existing dwelling including new front fence

Lot 243 DP 840595, No. 3 Grass Tree Circuit, **Bogangar**

DA20/0603 – In-ground swimming pool

Lot 220 DP 241367, No. 79 Cabarita Road, **Bogangar**

DA20/0614 – In-ground swimming pool and 1.8 m high front fence

Lot 38 DP 1052380, No. 4 Reef Water Circuit, **Bogangar**

DA20/0565 – Use of dwelling additions

Lot 1 DP 119104, No. 67 Burringbar Road, **Burringbar**

CDC20/0099 – Shop fitout burger restaurant/takeaway

Lot 1 Section 5 DP 29748, No. 34 Tweed Coast Road, **Cabarita Beach**

DA20/0236 – Front fence 1.8 m high and gate awning

Lot 2 SP 69077, Unit 2/No. 14 Cypress Crescent, **Cabarita Beach**

DA20/0516 – Detached carport

Lot A DP 409903, No. 34 Crabbes Creek Road, **Crabbes Creek**

DA20/0425 – Two storey dwelling with attached garage and in-ground swimming pool

Lot 1 DP 1252272, No. 42 Denman Drive, **Cudgen**

DA20/0550 – Detached secondary dwelling

Lot 7 DP 238582, No. 9 Ocean Street, **Kingscliff**

DA20/0429 – Two storey dwelling with attached garage, front fence and in-ground swimming pool

Lot 22 DP 1145386, No. 75 Cylinders Drive, **Kingscliff**

DA20/0475 – Alterations and additions to existing dwelling

Lot 53 DP 237400, No. 11 Valiant Street, **Kingscliff**

DA20/0546 – Carport and deck addition

Lot 3 DP 1078376, No. 615 Nobbys Creek Road, **Nobbys Creek**

DA20/0415 – Alterations and additions to existing dwelling

Lot 62 DP 774633, No. 1149 Dulguigan Road, **North Tumbulghum**

DA20/0577 – Shed

Lot 13 DP 817161, No. 12 Kyndalyn Court, **Nunderi**

DA20/0208 – Two lot subdivision and demolition of existing tennis court

Lot 4 DP 1146380, No. 77 Overall Drive, **Pottsville**

DA20/0470 – Two lot strata subdivision

Lot 1 SP 83688, Lot 3 SP 83688, Unit 1/No. 18 Elizabeth Street, **Pottsville**

DA20/0558 – Dwelling with attached double garage and retaining walls

Lot 562 DP 1076975, No. 7 Echidna Street, **Pottsville**

DA20/0602 – Additions to existing dwelling

Lot 217 DP 1037521, No. 133 Overall Drive, **Pottsville**

DA20/0612 – In-ground swimming pool

Lot 425 DP 1159521, No. 2 Lindwall Avenue, **Pottsville**

DA20/0101 – Demolition of existing four sheds, one green house, one double carport and the construction of one shed for residential use and home business – office

Lot 41 DP 870680, No. 606 Pottsville Road, **Sleepy Hollow**

DA20/0450 – Alterations and additions to existing dwelling

Lot 48 DP 792238, No. 1 Vista Close, **Terranora**

DA20/0563 – Dwelling with attached garage and retaining walls

Lot 427 DP 1252575, No. 24 Altitude Boulevard, **Terranora**

DA20/0564 – Additions to existing dwelling including a shed

Lot 1 DP 263200, No. 1A Carrington Court, **Terranora**

DA20/0520 – Above ground container pool

Lot 1 DP 624442, No. 104 Riverside Drive, **Tumbulghum**

DA20/0536 – Dwelling addition

Lot 3 SP 51119, Unit 1/No. 32 Keith Compton Drive, **Tweed Heads**

DA20/0566 – Earthworks and retaining walls

Lot 1 DP 327727, No. 4 Terranora Terrace, **Tweed Heads**

DA20/0501 – Change of use to artisan food manufacturer, internal fitout and associated signage including A-frame sign

Lot 6 SP 32649, Unit 6/No. 12 Machinery Drive, **Tweed Heads South**

DA20/0615 – In-ground swimming pool

Lot 70 DP 259616, No. 26 Blundell Boulevard, **Tweed Heads South**

DA20/0551 – Shed

Lot 15 DP 1017336, No. 31 Silkwood Terrace, **Tweed Heads West**

The above development determinations are available for public inspection free of charge at the Planning and Regulation Division, Murwillumbah Civic Centre, during ordinary office hours or viewed on Council's DA Tracking site located at datracker.tweed.nsw.gov.au

A beautiful way to remember



The Tweed Valley Cemetery at Eviron offers a range of services and arrangements in a beautiful and peaceful location.

With a wide range of garden and lawn sites suitable for family or individual memorials, Tweed Valley Cemetery can provide for burials, cremations and ash interments in a caring and respectful manner.

The cemetery also offers a naturally beautiful and unique outdoor option to celebrate the life of a loved one, overlooking the duck pond and picturesque gardens.

Services and wakes can be held onsite in the historic non-denominational chapel.

Beautiful options are also available for burials and interment at the Tweed Heads Lawn Cemetery and General Cemetery and the Murwillumbah Lawn and General Cemetery.

Did you know?

There is much to consider when it comes to funerals. Early planning can help ease the strain and ensure your family understands your wishes. Here are some of the things you'll need to think about:

- For a burial, you'll need a plot and a coffin (the coffin can be made from a number of different materials – cardboard is fine)
- For a cremation, you'll also need a coffin (again cardboard is also fine)
- The lowest cost farewell is a direct delivery cremation (no service, no attendance)
- There's nothing stopping you having a 'live wake' – a party to celebrate your life while you're still here to enjoy it – or having your friends and family celebrate your life in whatever way is meaningful to them
- You may wish to get a funeral director or celebrant to help with arranging the funeral
- Think about an environmentally friendly coffin or ashes container
- Optional extras include a church or chapel ceremony, catering, service booklets, flowers, newspaper notice, etc.
- You can also bring your loved one home for up to five days, without embalming in most cases. The body is kept on a refrigeration plate.

Ask a funeral director or call us on **02 6670 2400**
or visit www.tweed.nsw.gov.au/cemeteries



WATER NIGHT

Thursday 22 October 2020
5pm-5am

No taps. One bucket.

**How often do you use tap water?
- it's more than you think**

WATER NIGHT

Sign up at www.waternight.com.au

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02 6670 2400 or 1300 292 872

@ tsc@tweed.nsw.gov.au

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PO Box 816, Murwillumbah NSW 2484

www.tweed.nsw.gov.au

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**THE TWEED SHIRE
HAS FLOODED BEFORE.**

IT WILL HAPPEN AGAIN.



For flood's sake

Prepare yourself for storm season

In the Tweed, if 300mm of rain falls within 24 hours, expect significant flooding.

Short bursts of much less rain can bring flash floods, particularly in the Hinterland and low-lying residential areas of Tweed Heads.

Then, in Tweed Heads, Chinderah and the Coastal Villages, the worst flood will come when there is significant rain coupled with an ocean storm surge or king tide.

So, what's your flood trigger to:

- lift your property from any under-storey?
- move your vehicle?
- pick the kids up from school?
- leave?

A survey of 800 central Murwillumbah residents in early 2018 found that very few of them understood their flood risk or would respond quickly to an order to evacuate or evacuate at all.

In March 2017, had it rained for a few more hours, the Murwillumbah CBD and East Murwillumbah flood levees would have been completely overtopped and the areas behind them inundated with up to four metres of water. The Dorothy William Street levee was overtopped and that area was under two to three metres of water.

Watch a video on how a flood unfolds in the Murwillumbah CBD on Council's website at

www.tweed.nsw.gov.au/floodriskmanagement#floodinfrastructure

Meanwhile, the March 2017 flood left South Murwillumbah looking like a war zone. And while many riverside residents stayed put feeling they would be safe in their elevated houses based on their past experiences, the floodwaters raged just below their floorboards in the dead of night.

The South Murwillumbah levee was badly damaged in 2017 and has since been repaired. Nevertheless, it will only protect the community from a small flood.

Outlook for the season

The Bureau of Meteorology says that after a dry start to spring we could be in for a wetter-than-average September to November, thanks to a La Niña effect expected to dominate bringing enhanced chances of rain across much of eastern Australia.

In the Tweed, while rainfall in April and May was well below average, June was right on point with 102.8mm against the average of 105.5mm and July was well above average with 155.8mm against an average of 62mm.

In the seven months to the end of July, we have received almost our entire average annual rainfall at 1407.4mm at Bray Park against the average of 1571mm.

Know your risk

**If the land slips
so can your vehicle**

New residents are more vulnerable

New residents are likely to be more vulnerable in a flood than those who have lived in the Tweed for a long time.

To know your risk, new residents are encouraged to talk with their neighbours about floods of the past and learn what natural flood signs they should watch for.

Warnings from nature most often are the first warnings. Warning signs could include rain for many hours; pooling and ponding water; rushing roadside gutters; dry watercourses running; livestock moving to higher ground; rising creeks and rivers.

Then, there's the official warnings. The Bureau of Meteorology issues Flood Warnings and Flood Watches, Severe Thunderstorm Warnings and Severe Weather Warnings, while NSW SES adds local information and issues Flood Bulletins, Evacuation Warnings and Evacuation Orders.

The scope of the BoM's agreed flood-warning service does not include warnings for local overland and/or rapid onset creek (flash) flooding. This is particularly relevant for the Tweed Shire, given the multitude of creeks that run down its valleys.

Residents should not wait for official flood warnings but should act on the warnings of nature.

Know your risk

Don't cross to the other side

Photo courtesy of C Reeves, Bradwell SES

Prepare

1. Know where to go

- A high and dry evacuation point close by that you can get to quickly.
- A friend or relative outside the area.

2. Know when to go

- What natural warning signs should trigger you to act?
- Where have past floodwaters come to on your property? Mark them for quick reference.
- What roads get cut and when? What's your escape route?

3. Know who to call:

- friend or family
- local SES – 132 500
- triple zero (000) in a life-threatening situation.

4. Know your plan

All residents need to have a Home Emergency Plan. A template to guide you can be found on the State Emergency Service website at www.seshomeemergencyplan.com.au

5. Get your kit together

At all times have:

- a battery-powered radio tuned to ABC North Coast FM 94.5 (your emergency channel)
- a battery-powered torch
- spare batteries
- containers for drinking water
- candles and waterproof matches
- a first aid kit
- a waterproof bag for valuables.

If you are likely to be safe at home but cut off for days:

- food for several days
- medications.

If your home is likely to be flooded and you need to leave:

- cash (ATMs go down)
- important documents, including insurance policy, contact numbers/photos
- medications/scripts
- shoes/clothes.

6. Check your insurance

The insurance industry in Australia defines flooding as:

The covering of normally dry land by water that has escaped or been released from the normal confines of:

- any lake, or any river, creek or other natural watercourse, whether or not altered or modified; or
- any reservoir, canal, or dam.

All new home and contents insurance policies in Australia include flood cover, however many choose to opt out of flood cover, exclude flood from business policies or choose not to insure at all. Cover for stormwater will not generally extend to include flood events. Policy holders should understand the difference and upgrade their policy if flood cover is required. If an initial quote is too expensive, shop around. For more information, see understandinsurance.com.au/types-of-insurance/flood-insurance

How high can the rivers rise?

There are a number of river gauges throughout Tweed Shire that measure the depth of the water at all times.

Since records began, the maximum heights of the rivers at gauge locations are:

Town/village	Metres	When
Uki	12.9	2017
Tyalgum	11.0	1989
Chillingham	6.8*	2017
Murwillumbah	6.4	2017
Tumbulgum	4.0	2017
Chinderah	2.9	1954
Tweed Heads	2.2	1954

*Chillingham Gauge has moved. New readings do not correlate with historic levels.

There are now three gauges that Bureau of Meteorology flood warnings will predict river heights for, namely:

1. Murwillumbah Gauge (located in front of the Murwillumbah Civic Centre)
2. Barneys Point Gauge (located on the old highway bridge abutment in Chinderah Village), and
3. Tumbulgum Gauge (located at the southern end of the village adjacent to Government Road).



Levee system

Tweed Shire Council owns and maintains the Tweed's flood levee system.

Residents should know levees do not protect against all floods. If a big enough flood occurs, any levee can be overtopped. Also, while levees are designed to keep river water out, during a flood they keep local rainwater in and act like a dam as the drainage outlets to the river are closed. To view a map of Council's levee system visit www.tweed.nsw.gov.au/floodriskmanagement#floodinfrastructure

Tweed Shire urban flood levee capacities

Flood Protection Capacity (AEP) (chance of being overtopped each year)	Flood Protection Capacity (classification) (scale of flood protected against)	Nearby river gauge(s)	Levee overtops when river gauge exceeds (m AHD)
Murwillumbah CBD levee			
1%	Major flood	Murwillumbah	6.2
		Murwillumbah Bridge	5.8
Dorothy-Williams Streets levee			
1%	Major flood	Kynumboon	4.8
East Murwillumbah levee			
1%	Major flood	Kynumboon	5.0
		Murwillumbah	6.4
South Murwillumbah levee			
20%	Minor flood	Murwillumbah	4.8
		Murwillumbah Bridge	4.8
Tweed Heads South levee			
5%	Moderate flood	Dry Dock	1.8
		Barneys Point	2.0

What's your flood trigger?

Different communities will have different flood triggers. Even different people in the same community will have different flood triggers depending on their age, mobility, health, whether they have young children or a reliable vehicle and other factors.

Remember, every flood is different so you cannot rely solely on past experience.

To identify your flood triggers, check out the examples below to see if they might be relevant to your situation.

Flood trigger	Action
BoM releases a Moderate Flood Warning for Murwillumbah	Move possessions from under storey or ground floor to upper floor
When local gauge reaches 1.8m AHD and it's still raining	Move vehicle to high ground
When it's been wet for days and 300mm is predicted tomorrow in the upper catchment	Move possessions from under storey or ground floor to upper floor or raise stock
When Moderate Flooding is predicted for Chinderah	Leave and stay with a friend or relative
When Major Flooding is predicted for Murwillumbah	Evacuate to a designated evacuation centre



Who does what

The NSW State Emergency Service is the lead agency during floods and storms. NSW SES issues Flood Bulletins, Evacuation Warnings and Evacuation Orders. Flood Bulletins advise you of what is expected, the local consequences and how to prepare. An Evacuation Warning tells you to prepare to evacuate and an Evacuation Order tells you when and where to go. For more information go to www.ses.nsw.gov.au

The Bureau of Meteorology (BoM) is the official weather watcher and forecaster. It issues Severe Thunderstorm Warnings, Severe Weather Warnings, Flood Watches and Flood Warnings. Visit www.bom.gov.au

ABC Radio is the official emergency channel. Tune to ABC North Coast 94.5 FM or ABC Gold Coast 91.7 FM. Council is responsible for closing local roads (not the Pacific Highway) when they are deemed unsafe or when directed by the Police or SES. Council also updates MyRoadInfo, which is the source of truth for road closures and road hazards in the Northern Rivers (but remember there can be a lag in reporting road hazards and closures due to the difficulty of getting information when roads into the Tweed's valleys can be cut early by both floodwaters and landslips).

Your local Community Action Team

After the 2017 March flood when many residents were caught out by just how quickly the flood unfolded, NSW SES proposed setting up a new volunteering opportunity for local residents to become more flood resilient and self-reliant.

Two Community Action Teams (CAT) have now been officially formed in the shire and both have drawn up a set of actions to help their communities prepare and respond to a flood or storm emergency.

Uki residents can contact their CAT group by telephoning Brendan Esposito on 0488 299 971.

Tumbulgum residents can contact their CAT group by telephoning Sandy Copley on 0403 375 400.

Several other communities are in the process of setting up their own CAT. For more information, please call the SES's Janet Pettit on 0407 261 359.

Apps to help you

Download these apps to your mobile device for quick access in a flood emergency:

- Bureau of Meteorology – www.bom.gov.au/app
- MyRoadInfo – itunes.apple.com/au/app/myroadinfo/id935611878?mt=8
- Tweed Shire Council – m.tweed.nsw.gov.au
- Emergency+ – emergencyapp.triplezero.gov.au



Useful links

The BoM has a series of AskBoM short videos to help you understand its language. Check out this one on [Understanding Flood Classifications](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gKDPgp5Ds9s) at www.youtube.com/watch?v=gKDPgp5Ds9s

The SES website at www.ses.nsw.gov.au has a lot of valuable information on getting ready for storm season and knowing your risk. It also shows you how to make a Home Emergency Plan.

For those who want an in-depth understanding of flood behaviours in the shire, Council's Tweed Valley and Coastal Creeks flood studies and associated risk management plans can be found on Council's website at www.tweed.nsw.gov.au/flooding

And don't forget Council's Emergency dashboard, which is updated with the latest information in any emergency situation including flooding – emergency.tweed.nsw.gov.au