

Mangrove and Mooney Mooney Creeks Flood Study Engagement Summary



Between Monday 27 October and Monday 23 November, Central Coast Council sought feedback for a Mangrove Creek and Mooney Mooney Creek flood study.

The flood study is part of Council's commitment to keep the community safe and well-informed about flooding by regularly updating Flood Studies and Floodplain Risk Management Plans for all creeks, lakes, lagoons and catchments across the Central Coast.

Community members were invited to share feedback through the Your Voice Our Coast webpage, which featured an online submission form, and a comprehensive FAQ section to address common queries and explain project details. Council received eight submissions.

Key themes from the engagement include:

- **Flood event experiences** in the last five years in relation to Mangrove Creek, Ourimbah, the Hawkesbury River and Warragamba Dam.
- **Flood warnings and up-to-date information**
- Concern about **Mangrove Mountain waste facility as a health hazard** during flood events.

The key engagement outcomes and insights are further analysed in the following pages.



How you connected



A total of **8** online submissions received



Your Voice Our Coast
75 views



Letter sent to **354** local residents



Engagement Results

Of the eight respondents to the online survey, all were over the age of 50, with most respondents being between the ages of 70-74 (n=3).

Flood event experiences

When asked about flooding awareness within the Mangrove and Mooney Mooney Creek catchment, most respondents (n=6) reported being aware of flooding within the Mangrove and Mooney Mooney Creek catchment, with four (n=4) indicating they were aware and two (n=2) somewhat aware. Two (n=2) respondents stated they were not aware of any flood events.

Most respondents (n=10) had not experienced flooding in either the Mangrove and Mooney Mooney Creek catchment or from stormwater and smaller creeks. Three respondents (n=3) reported flooding in the main catchment, and three (n=3) reported flooding from stormwater or smaller creeks.

"Don't know the date exactly but it was the last two flood events on the Hawkesbury – I think maybe around 4-5 (ish) years ago. Didn't particularly notice events on Mooney Creek but the Hawkesbury was very swollen – no tidal movement noticeable just constant high water – the highest I've ever seen – halfway up my lawn at Marlow (still a fair way from the house though). Mangrove Creek was also very swollen and receiving a lot of water from its catchment (Popran Creek etc). I parked my car at Spencer and I had great difficulty getting out of the valley along Wisemans Ferry Road as the road was flooded at various depths between Spencer and the beginning of the rise towards Mangrove Mountain."

"Burns Road Creek viaduct."

"Mangrove Creek April 2015, July 2022 and May 2025."

"Water over road and flashing sighs at Burns Road and Enterprise Drive did not stop cars trying to go through – at least one was unsuccessful and had to be towed. Perhaps signs on Pacific Highway north and south might help if there is a next time."

"For both major flooding events (2021 and 2022) everything rose together – the creeks and the river – flooding in Mangrove Creek cause the flooding of Wiseman's Ferry Road."

When asked if any Mangrove and Mooney Mooney Creeks flood areas should be reduced, respondents said yes (n=2) others (n=6) said no, or didn't know or had not been affected by flooding. Specific areas suggested to be reduced include:

- Wisemans Ferry Road between Spencer and the beginning of the rise towards Mangrove Mountain,
- Burns Road,
- Enterprise Drive at Ourimbah.

The respondents provided insights into how they would respond to flooding.

In response to a flood, four (n=4) people said they would remain in the catchment area while three (n=3) said they would await instruction from emergency services and Council. One (n=1) respondent said they would evacuate early to an official evacuation centre. (Fig 1).

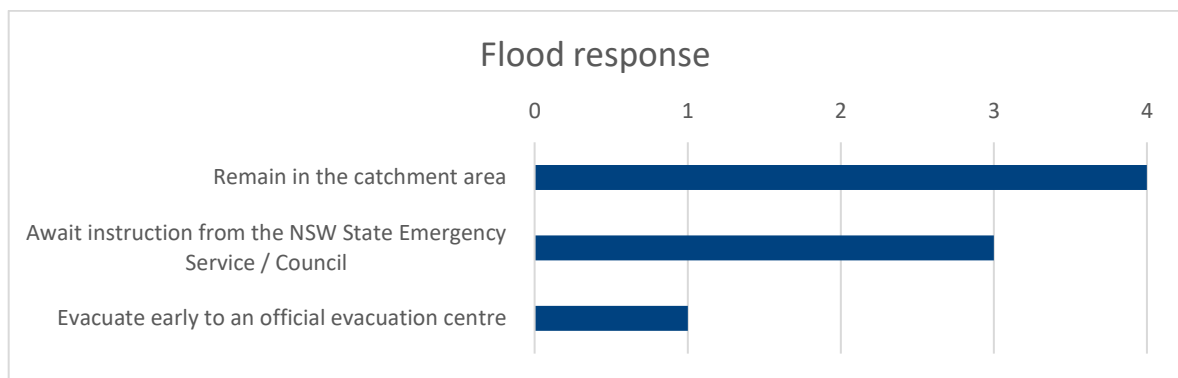


Figure 1: Response to flooding Source: Survey on Your Voice Our Coast, 27 October to 23 November, 8 respondents

Flood warnings and up-to-date information

In relation to flood warnings, (n=3) respondents said they would be guided by predicted flood levels, (n=2) would seek information about road closures and (n=2) and would wait for an evacuation notice (Fig 2) while another respondent (n=2) uses a combination of information sources such as ABC radio, tv, neighbourhood networks, Internet/Google.

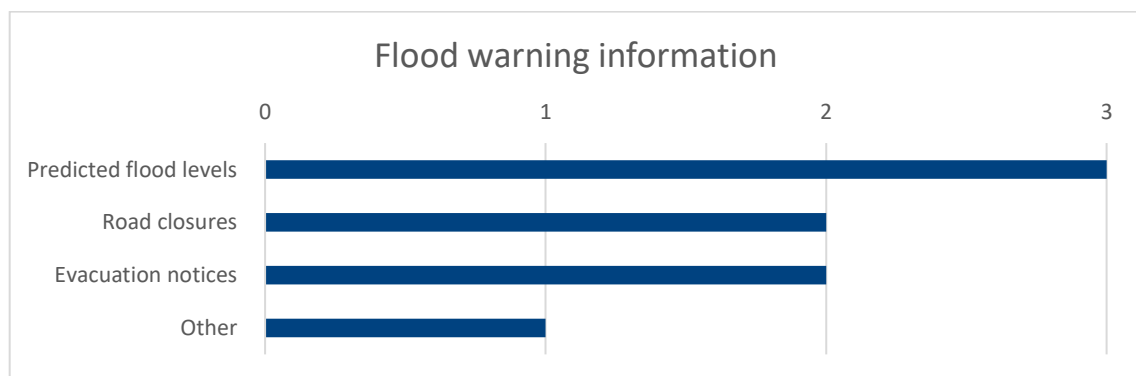


Figure 2: Flood information Source: Survey on Your Voice Our Coast, 27 October to 23 November, 8 respondents

The most popular information resource survey respondents (n=3) would use were different forms of mobile applications. Other respondents each chose local radio, word of mouth, the Central Coast Council website and neighbourhood networks or no single source. (Fig 3).

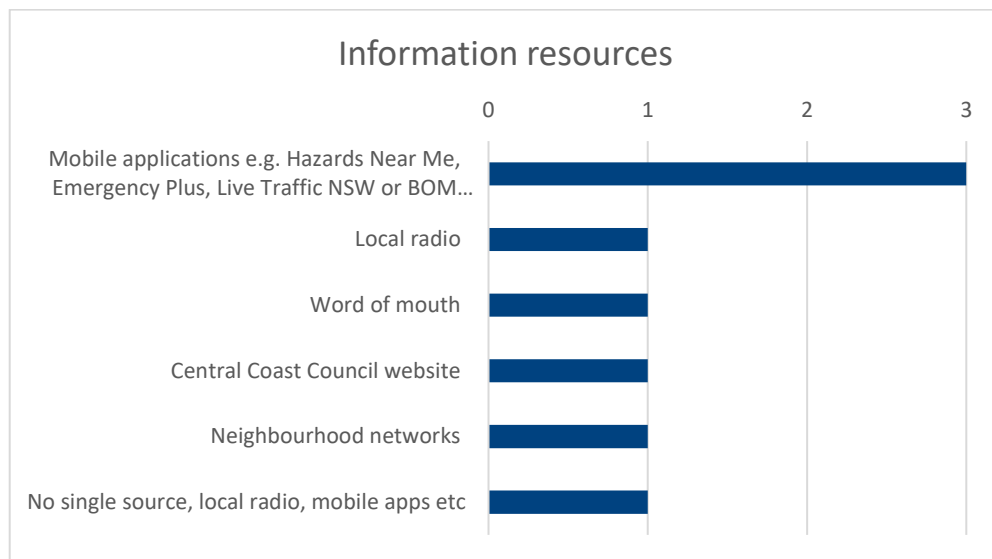


Figure 3: The most popular flood information resources Source: Survey on Your Voice Our Coast, 27 October to 23 November, 8 respondents

Respondents expressed a strong view of needing proactive flood warnings, with as much time possible, expressed through the following quotes below.

"Road flood warnings could be improved."

"Our experience primarily with Sydney Water and the way they manage Warragamba Dam is that they don't do enough proactive, pre-emptive, early release of flood waters in response to forecast major rainfall events. Especially when dams are already very close to capacity. This would lower the impacts of flooding by adding extra non flood level water into the system when the levels are already relatively low by comparison to releasing or allowing water to escape when river systems are already flooding which exacerbates flood heights and extends flood durations."

Mangrove Mountain waste facility

One respondent (n=1) was concerned about the Mangrove Mountain waste facility, and its contamination of surrounding waterways.

"Mangrove Mountain illegal waste facility releases leachates into the underground aquifer and downstream Ourimbah Creek tributaries and possibly Catchment dams. This is a significant health hazard exacerbated by an untold multiple during periods of heavy rain and flooding. This facility needs to be relocated."

Council Response

Theme	Theme summary	Council's response
Flood event experiences	Residents shared information about their flood experiences	This information will assist in developing the new Flood Study.
Flood warnings and up-to-date information	Diverse views in how residents be guided by flood warnings, their response and which information resources they would use and find useful.	Council guidelines will be updated to reflect the diversity of views.
Concern about Mangrove Mountain waste facility	Resident was concerned that during heavy rain and flooding, the facility releases leachates into the underground aquifer and downstream Ourimbah Creek tributaries and possibly Catchment dams.	This concern will be forwarded to the appropriate group within Council.

What's next?

Council is currently reviewing all feedback received and will incorporate this in a new Flood Study to be released late next year. This Flood Study will inform a future Floodplain Risk Management Study and Plan for the Mangrove Creek and Mooney Monney Creek catchment areas. This will guide Council's actions to reduce flood risk in the area.

The final plan will go on public exhibition for community comment and then be presented to Council for formal adoption. As this project progresses, any relevant updates will be available on www.yourvoiceourcoast.com/mangrove-creek-and-mooney-mooney-creek-flood-study.

For more information on Central Coast flooding, search **Community experiences** 'Flooding' at centralcoast.nsw.gov.au.