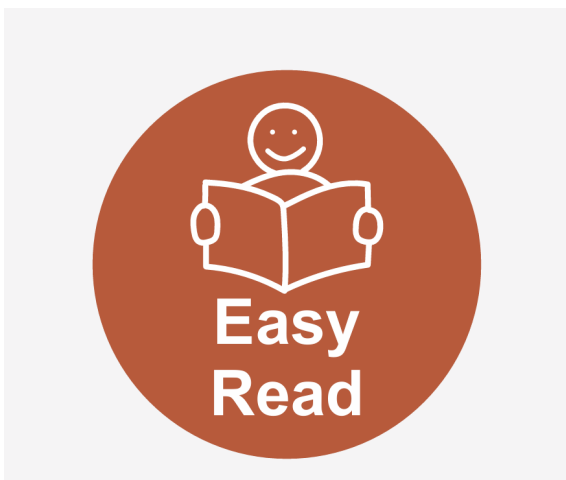




Draft Flood Policy

Easy Read Version



This publication is about Central Coast Council's Draft Flood Policy.

A policy is a document that explains how Council will make decisions.

This draft policy is not final.

Council wants to hear what the community thinks before making a decision.

This easy read version explains the main ideas.

You can read the full Draft Flood Policy for more information.

Why Council has prepared the draft policy



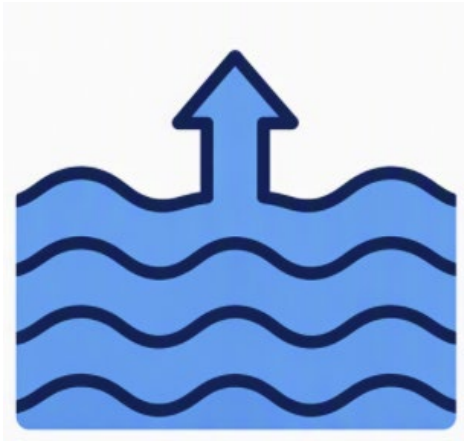
Flooding can affect people and places.

The draft policy explains Council's responsibilities for managing flood risk.

It provides a consistent way for Council to consider shelter-in-place.

It explains how Council will consider future flood risk, including climate change.

Flooding can happen in different ways



Flooding happens when water covers land that is usually dry.

The draft policy covers flooding from rivers and creeks, heavy rain flowing over land, coastal and tidal water, groundwater and flash flooding.

More than one type of flooding can happen together.

Flooding can affect people and places



Flooding can make people leave their homes.

It can stop people using roads and paths.

It can interrupt important services.

These impacts may last for hours, days or weeks.

Flood risk depends on the flood hazard and what may happen to people.

Who is responsible during a flood



The NSW State Emergency Service is also called the NSW SES.

The NSW SES leads the emergency response during floods.

Leaving the flood area is the NSW SES's main emergency approach.

People should follow official emergency warnings and directions.

Council supports the NSW SES with flood information, maps and local knowledge.

Council monitors water levels in Tuggerah Lakes and coastal lagoons.

The NSW SES leads the flood emergency response.

Leave early and never enter floodwater



Leaving the flood area means moving to a place outside the area affected by flooding.

The place must have suitable facilities to support community safety.

Flooded roads and paths are unsafe.

Floodwater can hide its depth, the edge of the road and damaged road surfaces.

If a road is flooded, stop, turn around and use another safer route.

Never walk, ride or drive through floodwater.

Isolation and shelter-in-place



Isolated means safe travel out of an area is no longer possible because of flooding.

Some communities may become isolated when roads or paths flood.

This can make leaving the area unsafe.

Shelter-in-place means moving to a higher area inside a building before the property floods.

The higher area must be above the level of the largest flood that could happen at that location.

Shelter-in-place may be considered when safe and efficient evacuation is not possible.

Shelter-in-place is not risk free



Shelter-in-place does not remove every risk.

People may lose electricity or water.

People may have limited food or may not be able to reach medical help.

Building fire, health and wellbeing risks must also be considered.

**Shelter-in-place is not suitable for every person,
building or flood.**

When Council may consider shelter-in-place



Council may consider shelter-in-place when safe and efficient evacuation is not possible.

Council will consider the type of flooding and the risks at the location.

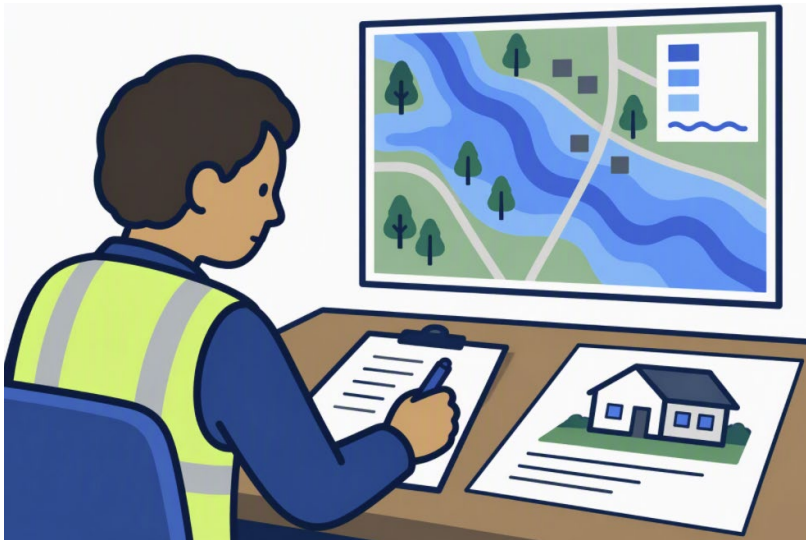
More development is not appropriate on land isolated by long-duration flooding or tidal flooding.

More development may be considered on its merits where land is isolated only by flash flooding.

Shelter-in-place is not appropriate for sensitive development or emergency facilities.

This does not mean every proposal will be approved.

Flood risk is considered in planning and development



Flood-prone land means land that may be affected by flooding.

Council considers flood risk when making planning and development decisions.

Higher-risk proposals may need to consider a wider range of flooding.

The draft policy does not mean every property or development application will have the same outcome.

Council keeps property flood information up to date



After Council adopts a flood study, Council will update its property database as soon as practicable.

The database will show whether land is subject to flood-related development controls.

This helps Council provide up-to-date information on planning certificates.

Council will plan for future flood risk



Climate change and population growth may increase the impacts of flooding over time.

Sea level rise may increase impacts in low-lying areas.

Council will consider climate change for planning, development and infrastructure on flood-prone land.

The full Draft Flood Policy contains technical planning information and sea level rise allowances.

Council will plan how communities may adapt



Adaptation pathways are plans that set out different actions Council may take over time.

The actions can change as conditions, knowledge and risks change.

Options may include changes to planning controls, development controls, infrastructure or land levels.

The timing and options will depend on the location.

Council will continue to consult the community



Council will consult the community when preparing and publicly exhibiting flood studies and flood risk management plans.

Independent community representatives will be included in Council's flood risk management consultation arrangements.

These representatives will help consider, monitor and advise Council on flood risk management issues.

Tell us what you think



You can read the Draft Flood Policy and provide feedback during the public exhibition period.

Feedback webpage: www.yourvoiceourcoast.com/draft-flood-policy

Council phone number: 02 4306 7900

Council email address: engagement@centralcoast.nsw.gov.au

This Easy Read publication explains the main ideas in the Draft Flood Policy.

You can read the full Draft Flood Policy on the 'Your Voice Our Coast' website for more information.

Your feedback will help Council finalise the draft policy.