

Flooding in Brisbane



Dedicated to a better Brisbane

A GUIDE FOR RESIDENTS



Brisbane is built on a floodplain and is known for its river, waterways and beautiful subtropical climate, but this can mean our city is prone to summer storms and flooding.

Every flood is different and while we will never be able to prevent these types of weather events, we can always be better prepared.

Brisbane City Council has implemented risk-based flood management tools to reduce the likelihood and impact of flooding.

This includes significant historical and on-going investment in flood mitigation measures by Brisbane City Council and others. However, it is important to note that the tools have limitations and cannot eliminate the risk of flooding.

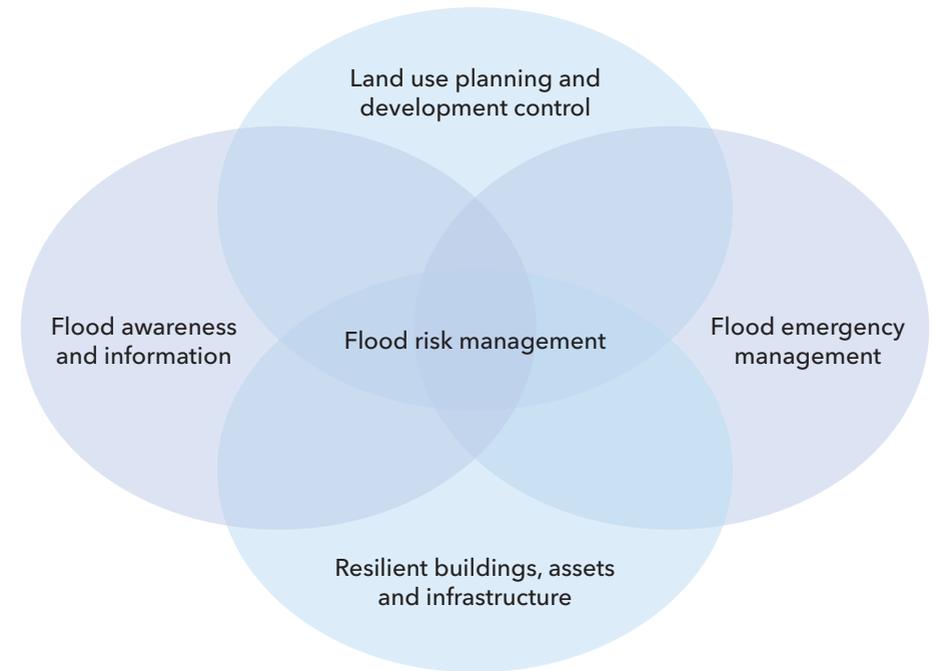
Examples include:

- 6,500 km of stormwater drainage pipes, which help manage smaller storm events.
- Waterways that were straightened, widened and/or dredged to improve flow capacity and reduce flooding of nearby areas.

- Dams and detention basins which can reduce but not eliminate the impacts of some floods.
- Land use planning and development controls to improve flood resilience of new buildings.
- Voluntary acquisition of severely flood affected homes and improvements to building flood resilience.
- Continued pro-active floodplain management planning, including identification of further feasible flood mitigation measures.

While Council continues to review and improve our flood management practices, it is everyone's responsibility to understand their flood risk and prepare for the potential of flooding in their home.

Brisbane's flood management tools



Be prepared for flooding

Don't wait until it's too late. Brisbane City Council has a range of free tools and information that can help residents understand their potential flood likelihood and how to be prepared. These include the following:

Interactive Flood Awareness Map

Check your flood risk to identify the likelihood and sources of flooding that may affect your property. Learn about the extent of Brisbane's major historic river floods.

FloodWise Property Report

Download a FloodWise Property Report for flood information related to your property.

How to prepare for flooding

Personal possessions

Consider how and where to move valuables prior to a flood event

- Store valuables and possessions (jewellery, passports, financial statements etc.) safely prior to a flood event.
- Consider where you can safely store your vehicle/s.
- If you have a home computer, back up your files regularly and keep a copy that you can easily take with you in an emergency.

Brisbane's weather

Understand Brisbane's climate and weather patterns

- Sign up for Council's free Brisbane Severe Weather Alert. Visit brisbane.qld.gov.au and search 'Be Prepared'.
- Pay attention to radio, television and online weather updates.
- Visit bom.gov.au for the latest weather updates.

Flooding and your property

Understand how water flows in and around your property and street

- Observe where water flows from and to during heavy rain. This will indicate the path of potential floodwaters.
- Consider if your property is likely to become isolated by flood water during an event and how this may impact you.
- Consider how fast-moving floodwaters may damage your home and interfere with evacuation plans.
- Consider loss of power, road closures and interruptions to public transport.
- Consider how close your property is to other Flood Awareness Map likelihood areas.
- Collect sandbags in advance if you know your property is in a flood risk area.

Building or renovating

Check Brisbane's City Plan

- You must comply with Brisbane City Plan planning requirements. Visit brisbane.qld.gov.au/planning-building
- Download a FloodWise Property Report for information about building and development for a specific property. Visit brisbane.qld.gov.au/planning-building
- If you live in a flood prone area, you should consider implementing a flood resilient design in your home to mitigate or minimise the impact of flooding. Visit sustainablebrisbane.com.au/flood-resilient-design

Insurance

Make sure you are properly insured

- Talk to your insurer and review your home and contents insurance regularly, to ensure your insurance is adequate to cover flood and storm events, as well as the full replacement value of your building and contents.

Have a plan for your family

Find out how you can be prepared for an emergency with a plan and emergency kit by visiting Council's website: brisbane.qld.gov.au and search 'Be Prepared'.

- Prepare an emergency kit.
- Have emergency numbers easily accessible.
- Consider your pets. They may need short-to-long term alternative shelter away from your home during a flood.
- Plan multiple evacuation routes. Some roads may be cut off by floodwaters.





Free sandbags are available for collection 24 hours a day, seven days a week from September to March, and also when there is severe weather predicted.

Sandbag collection locations:

- Darra South Depot, 38 Shamrock Road
- Lota Depot, 58 Herbert Street
- Morningside Balmoral Depot, 9 Redfern Street
- Newmarket SES Depot, 66 Wilston Road
- Zillmere North Depot, 33 Jennings Street

Never drive through or enter floodwaters.

Know your flood risk: understand the four flood types

The Flood Awareness Map includes flooding from all sources: creek, river, overland flow and storm tide. All floods are different and may occur from one or a combination of these four sources.

Creek flooding

Happens when intense rain falls over a creek catchment. Run-off from houses and streets also contributes to creek flooding. The combination of heavy rainfall, run-off and the existing water in the creek causes levels to rise.



River flooding

Happens when widespread, prolonged rain falls over the catchment of a river. As the river reaches capacity, excess water flows over its banks causing flooding. River flooding downstream can occur hours after the rain has finished.



Overland flow

Run-off that travels over the land during heavy rainfall events. Overland flow can be unpredictable because it is affected by localised rainfall and urban features such as stormwater pipes, roads, fences, walls and other structures. The actual depth and impact of overland flow varies depending on local conditions but it generally occurs quickly.



Storm tide flooding

Happens when a storm surge creates higher than normal sea levels. A storm surge is caused when a low pressure system or strong onshore winds force sea levels to rise above normal levels. The impact from storm tide or storm surge is increased during high tides and king tides and can affect low-lying areas close to tidal waterways and foreshores.



Floodwater may rise very slowly and be slow moving. This is normally associated with Brisbane River flooding, which occurs after prolonged periods of heavy rain across the whole catchment. Floodwater can also rise very quickly, be very fast moving and then recede quickly. This is normally associated with creek flooding.

Many properties unaffected by previous major Brisbane River flood events may still be at risk from other sources of flooding including creek, storm tide and overland flow.

Even if you live on top of a hill, heavy rain can cause localised flooding.

How to use the Flood Awareness Map

Brisbane City Council's Flood Awareness Map is for general awareness about the possibility of flooding on a property. It also provides information on different types of flooding and historic flooding. The Flood Awareness Map was built from the latest flood studies and models endorsed by Council.

The Flood Awareness Map now includes a February 2022 historic flood extent (based on river and creek information only). Regularly updating the Flood Awareness Map ensures that residents and businesses have access to the best available flood information to be prepared for potential flood risks.

| High flood likelihood (5%) | Medium flood likelihood (1%) |
|--|--|
| <p>This is considered regular. There is a 1 in 20 chance (5% likelihood) of this type of flooding happening in any year.</p> <p>Action: Residents are strongly advised to prepare for flooding to minimise the impact on their home and property.</p> | <p>This is considered to be irregular. There is a 1 in 100 chance (1% likelihood) of flooding occurring in any year.</p> <p>Action: Residents are advised to prepare for flooding to minimise the impact on their home and property.</p> |
| Low flood likelihood (2%) | Very low flood likelihood (0.05%) |
| <p>This is considered rare. There is a 1 in 500 chance (0.2% likelihood) of flooding occurring in any year.</p> <p>Action: Residents should consider how flooding may affect their local area to minimise the impact on their home and property.</p> | <p>This is considered a very rare or an extreme event. There is a 1 in 2000 chance (0.05% likelihood) of flooding occurring in any year.</p> <p>Action: Residents should consider how flooding may affect their local area to minimise the impact on their home and property.</p> |

| Overland flow | High impact |
|--|---|
| <p>Overland flow can occur in this area.</p> <p>Action: Residents are strongly advised to learn about overland flow paths surrounding their property to be prepared and help minimise the impact on their home and property.</p> | <p>There is a 1 in 20 chance (5% likelihood) of flood occurring in any year. The overland flow is generally unsafe for people, vehicles and buildings.</p> <p>Action: Residents are strongly advised to prepare to minimise the impact on their home and property.</p> |
| Medium impact | Low impact |
| <p>There is a 1 in 50 chance (2% chance) of flood occurring in any year. The overland flow is generally unsafe for people, vehicles and buildings, however these hazards are experienced less frequently than in high impact areas.</p> <p>Action: Residents are strongly advised to prepare to minimise the impact on their home and property.</p> | <p>There is a 1 in 100 chance (1% chance) of flood occurring in any year. The overland flow is generally safe for people, vehicles and buildings, however these hazards are experienced less frequently than in high impact areas.</p> <p>Action: The overland flow is generally safe for people, vehicles and buildings, however, certain areas can experience greater hazards.</p> |





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Find out more information on how to be prepared, visit brisbane.qld.gov.au and search 'Be Prepared'.

During a flood you may need to contact a range of people and services for help. Keep these numbers in your list of important contacts:

- Medical providers (doctors or hospital, health fund)
- Service providers (phone, electricity and internet providers)
- Financial providers (bank, insurance provider, real estate agent).

Council will also update its **Emergency Dashboard** frequently during a flood or other emergency events, visit brisbane.qld.gov.au for more information.

Emergency contact details

- **Life threatening emergencies** 000
- **Police/fire/ambulance** (mobiles 000 and 112)
- **State Emergency Service (SES)** 123 500
- **Energex** 13 19 62
- **Brisbane City Council** 3403 8888

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