

YOUR HOUSEHOLD EMERGENCY PLAN

CAN WE STAY? CAN WE LEAVE? CAN WE MANAGE IF WE'RE ISOLATED?

READY CLARENCE
VALLEY

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DISCLAIMER

This resource has been prepared by the Maclean District Business Chamber for Ready Clarence Valley as general community preparedness information only. The Chamber is not an emergency service or emergency management authority. Information is based on official sources considered current at the time of publication, but emergency conditions and official advice can change rapidly. Always check and follow current warnings, directions and advice from relevant emergency services and authorities. Consider your own circumstances and seek professional advice where required. To the extent permitted by law, the Chamber and its officers, members, volunteers, contractors and project partners accept no liability for loss, damage or injury arising from reliance on this resource.

A coastal scene at sunset. In the foreground, the branches of a tree with small, silvery-green leaves hang down from the top. The background shows a beach with waves breaking on the shore under a sky with orange and yellow clouds.

PURPOSE

LIVING IN MACLEAN AND THE LOWER CLARENCE MEANS EMERGENCY PLANNING IS ABOUT MORE THAN WHETHER YOUR HOUSE IS DIRECTLY AFFECTED BY A FLOOD, STORM OR BUSHFIRE.

Maclean is built on the Lower Clarence floodplain and is protected in part by a levee system, but the levee does not make the town flood-proof. Flooding can affect surrounding roads, low-lying areas, access between communities and essential services before water directly affects your home. Severe storms can also interrupt electricity, telecommunications and road access, while bushfire presents a different risk for rural and bushland communities surrounding Maclean.

A good local emergency plan answers three questions before an emergency happens:

Can we stay safely?

If we need to leave, where will we go?

If we become isolated, can we manage?



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KNOW YOUR LOCAL HAZARDS

FOR MACLEAN AND SURROUNDING COMMUNITIES,
YOUR HOUSEHOLD PLAN SHOULD CONSIDER AT LEAST:



FLOODING

Maclean can be affected by riverine flooding from the Clarence River system as well as intense local rainfall. NSW SES notes that Lower Clarence flooding can also be influenced by tides and ocean conditions, and major floods can persist for an extended period and recede slowly.



SEVERE STORMS

Heavy rainfall, damaging winds and storms can cause local flooding, fallen trees, property damage, power outages and disrupted roads.



BUSHFIRE

Households in surrounding rural, bushland and grassland areas should have a NSW RFS Bush Fire Survival Plan as well as their general household emergency plan.



ISOLATION & LOSS OF SERVICES

An emergency elsewhere in the district may still affect your household through road closures, power outages, telecommunications failure, disrupted supplies or inability to reach work, school, medical care or other services.



**YOUR HOUSE DOES NOT HAVE TO
FLOOD FOR FLOODING TO AFFECT YOU.**

KNOW HOW AN EMERGENCY COULD AFFECT YOU

YOUR RISK IS NOT DETERMINED SIMPLY BY YOUR STREET ADDRESS.

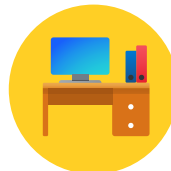
For Maclean households, flood planning is particularly important even where the house itself is relatively protected. NSW SES identifies parts of Maclean as low flood island, high flood island and rising road access areas.

Townsend is described as a high flood island with low-lying perimeter streets affected by rising water in surrounding flood-storage areas.

THINK ABOUT:



WHERE YOU LIVE



WHERE YOU WORK



WHERE YOUR CHILDREN
ATTEND SCHOOL OR
CHILDCARE



WHERE OLDER FAMILY
MEMBERS LIVE



WHERE YOU COLLECT
MEDICATION OR RECEIVE
MEDICAL CARE



WHERE YOUR
ANIMALS
ARE LOCATED



THE ROADS AND
BRIDGES YOU
DEPEND ON



WHETHER YOU RELY
ON ELECTRICITY,
TELECOMMUNICATIONS/
MEDICAL EQUIPMENT



WHETHER SOMEONE IN
YOUR HOUSEHOLD
NEEDS ASSISTANCE OR
ADDITIONAL TIME TO LEAVE





DECIDE WHERE YOU WOULD GO

DO NOT WAIT UNTIL AN EVACUATION WARNING TO HAVE THIS CONVERSATION. WRITE DOWN AT LEAST TWO POSSIBLE SAFE DESTINATIONS.

YOUR DESTINATION MAY BE FAMILY, FRIENDS OR ANOTHER SAFE PLACE OUTSIDE THE AFFECTED AREA.

Do not nominate an evacuation centre as your household's automatic destination. Evacuation centres are activated according to the emergency situation. If emergency services direct you to evacuate, follow the current warning or evacuation information about where to go. Clarence Valley Council likewise directs residents to use the evacuation centre identified in the official warning or order when one is activated.

PLAN A

Where would we go?

Who lives there / who do we contact?

How would we get there?

PLAN B

Where would we go if Plan A or our normal route was unavailable?

Who do we contact?

How would we get there?

THINK ABOUT THE ROAD NOT JUST THE DESTINATION

IN THE LOWER CLARENCE, THIS MATTERS.

YOUR USUAL ROAD MAY NOT BE AVAILABLE DURING A FLOOD, STORM, BUSHFIRE OR OTHER EMERGENCY.

Before leaving, check current official warnings and road information. Clarence Valley Council provides flood-monitoring cameras at locations including Maclean Bridge and Harwood Bridge, as well as access to local flood gauges including Maclean, Tyndale, Lawrence, Oyster Channel and other Lower Clarence locations.

Council also directs residents to Live Traffic NSW for current road closures.

Never drive through floodwater because it appears familiar, shallow or because you have driven through that location previously.

If the road is flooded, forget it.



DECIDE WHEN YOU MAY NEED TO ACT

**DO NOT MAKE YOUR HOUSEHOLD PLAN:
"WE'LL WAIT UNTIL SES TELLS US TO EVACUATE."**

**OFFICIAL WARNINGS ARE CRITICAL, BUT YOUR HOUSEHOLD
CIRCUMSTANCES DETERMINE HOW MUCH TIME YOU NEED.**

Someone who...

- Has limited mobility or uses medical equipment
- Does not drive or needs substantial time to prepare
- Has young children or cares for older people
- Needs to move pets, livestock or horses
- Lives somewhere vulnerable to isolation

May need to begin acting earlier than another household.

WRITE DOWN YOUR OWN EARLY WARNING SIGNS:

We will start preparing when:

We will seriously consider leaving early when:

People we need to contact before leaving:

These personal triggers do not replace NSW SES warnings or directions. They help prevent your household leaving its decisions until conditions have already deteriorated.



PLAN FOR ISOLATION

YOUR EMERGENCY KIT AND GRAB-AND-GO BAG SHOULD BE PREPARED SEPARATELY, BUT YOUR HOUSEHOLD PLAN SHOULD IDENTIFY THE THINGS THAT CANNOT SIMPLY REMAIN PACKED PERMANENTLY.

BEFORE LEAVING CONSIDER

- ✓ MEDICATIONS
- ✓ PHONES
- ✓ CHARGERS/POWER BANKS
- ✓ WALLET/PURSE
- ✓ IDENTIFICATION
- ✓ MEDICARE INFORMATION
- ✓ ESSENTIAL MEDICAL EQUIPMENT
- ✓ IMPORTANT DOCUMENTS
- ✓ CHILDREN'S ESSENTIALS
- ✓ PET SUPPLIES
- ✓ APPROPRIATE CLOTHING
- ✓ KEYS
- ✓ OTHER HOUSEHOLD SPECIFIC ESSENTIALS



MACLEAN & LOWER CLARENCE HOUSEHOLD EMERGENCY PLAN

This resource is designed to support household preparedness and does not replace emergency service warnings, directions or advice. Conditions and emergency arrangements can change. Always use current official information during an emergency.

LIFE-THREATENING EMERGENCY: 000

NSW SES FLOOD, STORM AND TSUNAMI ASSISTANCE: 132 500

Prepared September 2026.

Local information checked against the NSW SES Clarence Valley Local Flood Plan, NSW SES Clarence Valley local flood information and Clarence Valley Council emergency information.