



# FAQS

*FLOODS: GOONDIWINDI*

**FLOOD RISK**

**LEVEE BANK**

**PREPARATION**

**ROAD CLOSURES**

**EVACUATION**





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### *Is Goondiwindi town at risk of being impacted by floods?*

As the Goondiwindi town is located on a flood plain, all residents face some risk of flooding.

However, inundation of the Goondiwindi township has not occurred in over 60 years since the Goondiwindi town levee bank was built. The levee has protected the town from many flood events, including the flood of January 2011 (10.64 metres) and 2021 (10.43 metres).

While Council is confident in the integrity of the levee bank, there is always the potential for the river height to overtop or 'breach' the levee bank - or to contribute towards a break in the levee structure.

If a levee breach or break did occur, the water would most likely spread shallowly over a large area rather than running deep. However, the impact is difficult to predict due to all the development and landscape changes in the area since the last inundation.

Council is currently working to develop updated flood models in Goondiwindi that will help to identify those who may face higher risk, plus establish a detailed evacuation plan.

The best thing to do is to be prepared, with your **individual flood plan** in place for your household.



**Generally, the biggest risk comes from high rain falls further upstream in our river catchment area.**

**However, when this happens, we generally get at least 24 hours of notice on the forecasted height of flood waters.**

# What rivers and creeks can impact Goondiwindi town?

## RIVERS

We have many intersecting rivers and waterways across our region.

The Goondiwindi town sits on the banks of the **Macintyre River**, which is fed by three main sub-catchments flowing east to west:

- 1. The **Macintyre River** itself
- 2. The **Dumaresq River** - joins the Macintyre before Goondiwindi.
- 3. The **Macintyre Brook** - joins the Dumaresq just south of Yelarbon.

The **Weir River**, to the north of Goondiwindi, also falls into this network of 'border rivers'.

Waters from both the Weir and Macintyre catchments combine on the floodplain west of Goondiwindi.

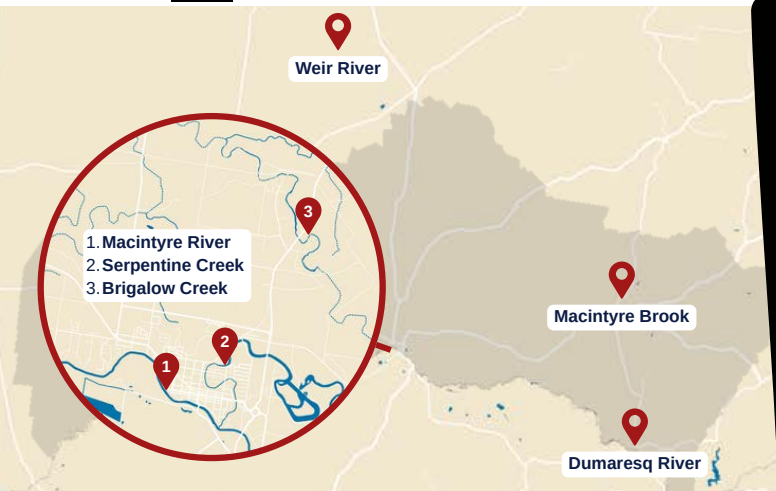
For more information about floods in our region, click [here](#).

## CREEKS

There are numerous small creeks that cross the region and can cause minor localised flooding after heavy rainfall in the catchment. This can impact roads and disrupt travel, temporarily isolating the Goondiwindi town.

Residents that live in the **Glenoak** and **Virginia Road** areas should be aware that they may be impacted by flooding of the **Brigalow Creek** - either from falls in the Brigalow catchment or from floodwaters in the Macintyre River spilling out into the Brigalow Creek.

In major flood events, residents that live near the **Macintyre River** and **Serpentine Creek** may be impacted by localised flash flooding in some streets due to flood management of the storm water system – but this should not have a major impact and should not last long after rain subsides.



## What height does the Macintyre River get to before it breaks out into Brigalow Creek?

Macintyre River gauge reading	Brigalow Creek
9.9 m	Runs
10 m	Runs into Creek
10.1 m	Flows freely

Residents that live in the vicinity of **Brigalow Creek** (e.g. **Glenoak** and **Virginia Road** areas) should be aware that they may be impacted by localised flooding from the creek, which can also cut the **Cunningham Highway**.

The impact will differ from property to property and as water levels rise. The best thing to do is to be prepared, with your individual flood plan in place for your household.



## THE FLOOD RISK IN GOONDIWINDI TOWN

*I don't live on the river,  
will flooding affect me?*

It's important to remember that since the Goondiwindi town is located on a flood plain, **all** residents face some risk of flooding. Some will have more risk than others.

Inundation of the Goondiwindi town has not occurred in **over 60 years**. While Council is confident in the integrity of the levee bank, if a levee breach or break were to occur, **the impact is difficult to predict** due to all the development and landscape changes in the area since the last inundation.

Council is currently working to create updated flood models in Goondiwindi that will help to identify those who may face higher risk, plus develop detailed evacuation plans using likely safe routes.

The best thing to do is to be prepared, with your **individual flood plan** in place for your household.

*What are the typical impacts of  
a flood event on the Goondiwindi  
town community?*

There has been no inundation in the Goondiwindi town since 1956 due to the Goondiwindi levee bank.

However, **road closures** are a typical disruption associated with flood events around Goondiwindi – especially the main local highways (**Barwon Highway, Cunningham Highway, Gore Highway, Leichardt Highway** and **Newell Highway**) as well as key local roads such as Kildonan Road, and more.

Road closures can lead to **temporary isolation**, supply issues and loss of services in the town. Ensure you have essential provisions (food, medication, etc.) to sustain your household for a **minimum of three days** in case of isolation and/or service disruption due to road closures.

Storm damage, flooding of low-lying areas or other localised flooding can also occur.

*Be cautious and check road conditions before you travel:*

- **Goondiwindi Region Disaster Dashboard:**  
<https://dashboard.grc.qld.gov.au>
- **QLD Traffic Flood Cameras:**  
<https://qldtraffic.qld.gov.au/cameras.html>







## How are floods classified in Goondiwindi?

### Macintyre River Bridge FLOOD HEIGHT

Minor

3 m

7.5 m

Moderate

7.5 m

9.2 m

Major

9.2 m +

## What are the historic flood heights recorded in Goondiwindi town?

Flood records in Goondiwindi extend back as far as 1886, and since then **more than 60 major floods** have occurred. In 1956, Goondiwindi experienced three major floods within six months, which prompted the building of the levee bank to protect the town - the town has not been inundated since.

Some significant historic flood events include:

<b>Jan - Feb 1956</b>	10.27 m	<b>Oct 2010</b>	8.93 m
<b>Feb 1976</b>	10.5 m	<b>Jan 2011</b>	10.64 m
<b>Jan 1996</b>	10.6 m	<b>Jan 2013</b>	8.73 m
<b>Jul - Aug 1998</b>	10.48 m	<b>Dec 2021</b>	10.43 m*
<b>Sept 2010</b>	8.83 m	*Unofficial, internal record. Not published by the Bureau.	



### *What is the Goondiwindi town levee bank?*

Built after the major floods in 1956, the Goondiwindi town levee bank stretches for 21 km along the Macintyre River floodplain. It starts roughly opposite (east of) the **Goondiwindi Aerodrome** and runs along the river circling the town and finishing just past **Town Common Road**.

The levee bank helps to prevent or reduce overland flow from the river into the township.

The levee bank varies slightly in height along the 21 km, in line with the natural contours of the riverbank. At its lowest point, the levee can confidently contain a flood of up to **11 metres**.

### *Who maintains the levee bank?*

Goondiwindi Regional Council conducts an annual levee bank inspection program, as well as regular surveys of the levee's crest to ensure the height remains adequate.

During a major flood event, when the water level is against the levee itself, Council staff patrol the levee 24/7 to ensure the integrity of the levee is maintained.

When advised, residents living along the river should open gates in their boundaries along the levee and ensure their pets are secured to assist Council staff, who will patrol the levee on quad bikes and assess the river level. Staff will be wearing helmets and Council uniform.





### *How do the Goondiwindi flood gates work?*

During a major flood event, flood gates along the levee are systematically closed to ensure water from the **Macintyre River** and **Serpentine Creek** can't back up into residential areas via the stormwater system.

The flood gates will be closed for the Macintyre River once the river reaches between heights of 6 - 8.5 metres, depending on forecast rainfall and predicted flood levels.

If the flood gates are closed and there is a downpour, Council has flood pumps in place that will be turned on to minimise localised flash flooding. Any localised flooding from the stormwater system should not have major impact and should not last long after the rain subsides.

### *What do the Goondiwindi flood pumps do - do I need to worry if they are operating?*

There are a number of flood pumps located along the stormwater system. These have been installed to manage any excess stormwater collecting in the town when the flood gates are closed. Once turned on, the flood pumps pump excess stormwater back over the levee into the river.

The pumps are turned on and off throughout a flood event until the water level in the stormwater system is reduced, keeping the town dry during flood events.

If you hear the pumps start to operate, it doesn't mean that there is any issue with the levee bank - they are simply doing what they're installed to do.





## *Can Council pump water into the Goondiwindi Water Park during a flood event?*

Queensland Government rules govern how local councils access water. The state-government-issued water licence does not permit Council to open the gates during a major flood event to take water. Council will pump water into the Goondiwindi Natural Heritage and Water Park when permitted and as licences and allocation allows, aiming to pump sufficient water to reach 1.9 metres or until the allocation is exhausted.

The pump is located adjacent to the motorcross track (at the extension of Dyson Road) and pipes water to Serpentine Creek (near the cotton gin). It then follows the creek around and into the back of the Water Park.

The Goondiwindi Natural Heritage and Water Park holds approximately 1,500 megalitres, so it takes time to fill.

## *Can Council pump water into the Goondiwindi Botanic Gardens during a flood event?*

Council can only fill the Goondiwindi Botanic Gardens through the Yambocully Water Board scheme channel, which means we can only access water for the Botanic Gardens when this scheme pumps water. There is no specific height to trigger filling the Goondiwindi Botanic Gardens and this decision is based upon a range of factors.



## BEFORE A FLOOD – HOW DO I GET READY?

What can I do to prepare for a flood event in Goondiwindi town?

The best way to minimise the impacts of a flood (or any natural disaster) is to **be prepared**.

Follow the 3 simple steps to Get Ready:

## STEP 1: Understand your Risk

- Stay informed about local updates
  - Visit <http://www.bom.gov.au> for up-to-date weather forecasts and warnings.
  - Listen to your local ABC Radio on 92.7FM, 104.9FM or 747AM
  - Visit the [Goondiwindi Region Disaster Dashboard](#) for all the latest road closures, river heights, dam levels and more.

## STEP 2: Prepare a Household Emergency Plan

### STEP 3: Pack an Emergency Kit

- Remember to include essential provisions to sustain your household for a minimum of three days in case of isolation and/or service disruption due to road closures.



Download the ABC  
listen app



Download the  
Emergency + app

**For detailed information on what to do, visit the Get Ready website**

<https://www.getready.qld.gov.au/>



*Will I need to sandbag my house/business?*

Goondiwindi town has not faced inundation since 1956 thanks to the Goondiwindi levee bank – but every flood is different and not without risk.

Sandbags can reduce the impact of flooding. They won't stop it entirely, but can reduce the amount of water entering your home or business.

In the event that Goondiwindi town faced a major risk of inundation, Council will establish designated stations where sand and limited sandbags will be available. (You will need to bring your own shovel and fill your own sandbags).

Make sure to follow Goondiwindi Regional Council for the latest updates and more information.





### *How will I know if I have to evacuate?*

If you have NOT been advised to evacuate, you should shelter in place, prepare your home, and stay informed of the developing situation via:

- **Local radio** - 92.7FM, 104.9FM or 747AM
- Online channels such as the **Goondiwindi Region Disaster Dashboard** [dashboard.grc.qld.gov.au](http://dashboard.grc.qld.gov.au)
- **Council news channels** -  
[www.grc.qld.gov.au/council-news](http://www.grc.qld.gov.au/council-news)  
or [www.facebook.com/grcqlld](https://www.facebook.com/grcqlld)

**If an evacuation is directed**, you may receive notification via:

- The Emergency Alert System
- Doorknock from Queensland Police Service or other emergency services

The Emergency Alert System is a national telephone warning system, which sends a voice message to your home phone and a text message to your mobile phone. It is vital that you follow the advice in these warnings and leave early, if required, to avoid being isolated.

**Stay informed and follow the Household Emergency Plan you have already prepared - don't wait to get an Emergency Alert before you act.**

If you are concerned or live in a low-lying property, it may be best to go to a friend or relative's residence to await further updates.

Alternatively, the Evacuation Centre at the Goondiwindi Showgrounds will be opened if an evacuation is directed.





# FAQs

## *Floods: Goondiwindi*

This project is jointly funded by the Australian and Queensland governments under the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements.



**Australian Government** Queensland Government



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