

Fact Sheet

Evacuation Route Maps

Introduction

During a flood event, access to properties via road may be cut by floodwaters. This can occur relatively early in an event, well before flood waters threaten properties directly. By the time people are aware of the imminent threat of flooding, it may be too late to safely evacuate by road.

The decision on whether or not to evacuate depends on the specific circumstances of a property and its residents. Factors that may influence the decision to evacuate include:

- Current advice and directives issued by emergency services, the Bureau of Meteorology, Bundaberg Regional Council or others. Any mandatory instructions must always be followed.
- Is the property low-lying and at direct risk of inundation?
- If the property is on high-ground, are the residents prepared for a potentially lengthy period of isolation?
- Which road will be used to evacuate, and can that road be cut by flooding?

Evacuation Route Mapping

To assist the community in making informed flood evacuation decisions, Bundaberg Regional Council has prepared a series of evacuation route maps. These maps identify:

- All current evacuation centres;
- The key roads linking properties to these centres;
- The locations at which these key routes are potentially cut by flood waters early in a flood event, before the inundation of nearby properties;
- The zones of land that may be isolated by the early closure of each critical road link;
- The approximate amount of rainfall across the upper catchment that has the potential to cause flooding that subsequently closes the road at each location; and
- “Rising road” zones where the evacuation route is inundated gradually and progressively as flood waters rise.

How to Use the Maps

The community situated on or near the Kolan River and Gin Gin Creek flood plains should familiarise themselves with the evacuation maps, and understand the implications for individual properties.

Those residents located within evacuation zones affected by the 5% or 2% AEP flood events should pay close attention to all official forecasts and warnings. These zones are at risk of being isolated during relatively small flood events that may occur relatively frequently. During a large flood, these zones will be isolated early during the event and hence will have a relatively short warning time. Isolation time could be in the order of 5 – 6 days, and potentially longer if roads and bridges are damaged during an event.

