

## Introduction to flood emergency planning

### Speed read

- A flood emergency plan is a set of agreed arrangements that provide a framework for the management flooding.
- A flood emergency plan links to wider floodplain risk management strategies and is informed by flood studies and risk analysis.
- The planning process involves all stakeholders likely to implement the plan and includes wider community engagement.

### Key points

**Australia has a long history of flooding.** Flood risks are changing, as cities and towns expand and the climate changes.

**A flood emergency plan can address several types of flooding,** including:

- large, regional scale floods that occur as water rises and falls as floods move from catchment headwaters
- floods occurring in small catchments that are fast to rise and fall
- local flash flooding in urban areas which can occur in a matter of minutes
- coastal flooding from storm tides
- overland flooding resulting from rainfall runoff.

**A flood emergency plan outlines the progression of emergency management functions and the parts that each person will play.** This includes defining the roles and responsibilities of different agencies and outlining the strategies for the performance of key flood management capabilities.

**Key outcomes of the flood planning process should include a documented plan** and a strong understanding and ownership of arrangements by all stakeholders that may be needed to manage a flood emergency.

**Depending on the flood risk, consider specific arrangements** for flood prediction and warnings, evacuation, resupply, property protection, flood rescue, road closures and management and transition to recovery.

**Special environments also need to be considered** including those with flash flooding risk, dams, coastal flooding risk, levee protected communities and vulnerable developments and events.

### Take action

- Review the history of flooding in your local area, or the history of an area that is relevant to your group or organisation.
- Watch the Flood Emergency Planning for Disaster Resilience [Handbook Showcase Webinar](#)
- Check out the companion document [Application of the Total Warning System to Flood](#).

### More information

- [Flood Emergency Planning for Disaster Resilience](#) (AIDR 2020)
- [Managing the Floodplain](#) (AIDR 2017)
- [Emergency Planning](#) (AIDR 2020)
- [Community Engagement for Disaster Resilience](#) (AIDR 2020)
- [Systemic Disaster Risk](#) (AIDR 2021)