



FLOODING

What is it?

There are two types of flooding that affect our region. Firstly, riverine flooding from the Pioneer River, creeks and other tributaries and, secondly, localised flash flooding, which is overland water that exceeds the capacity of drainage structures.

Riverine flooding occurs during periods of heavy rainfall within the various catchments. The Pioneer River catchment of about 1500 square kilometres is the largest catchment within the region.

Localised flash flooding occurs during heavy rainfall in excess of drainage capabilities set by community expectations and economic sustainability. Other factors include natural blockages and human interference to drainage systems.

What are the local risks?

The region has a high risk of being impacted by flooding primarily during the “wet season”, which officially runs from November 1 to May. Flooding may or may not be associated with cyclones or severe weather events and can occur at any time of the year.

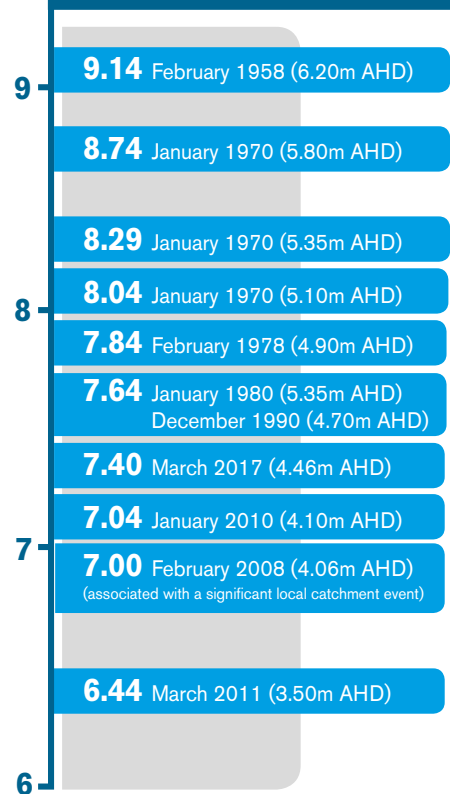
The CBD and North Mackay are protected by a river levee to a height of about 9.2m (LAT or gauge height). However, if the levee is either overtopped or fails, there would be significant inundation through the CBD and/or North Mackay. Please refer to the inundation maps for gauge heights above 9.5m.

Roads

Regularly during the wet season and other significant rainfall events, there are many roads throughout the region which are subject to flooding.

Prepare for your decision to affect others and know the dangers. All Queenslanders should be aware of the dangers connected to floodwater or swift flowing water. No-one can predict what lies underneath the surface.

Pioneer River Flood Heights at Forgan Bridge (m gauge datum)



USEFUL LINKS:

Official road closures are listed on the State Government website 131940.qld.gov.au or on council's Emergency Dashboard mackay.qld.gov.au/emergency



Pioneer River flooding and evacuation zones in Mackay

One of the largest risks of flooding in Mackay is from catchment flooding in the Pioneer River. This type of flooding is caused by prolonged or intense rainfall from severe storms, such as monsoonal rain and tropical cyclones. Coastal flooding due to storm tide events is addressed in other sections of this guide.

The Pioneer River is the largest drainage feature in the Mackay region with a catchment area of about 1560 square metres. The Pioneer River flows in an easterly direction from the Clarke and Connors Ranges to the sea at Mackay. Major creeks within the catchment include Cattle Creek, Teemburra Creek, Blacks Creek, Goosepond Creek, and Fursden Creek.

Flood levees are currently in place to protect much of the Mackay CBD and North Mackay areas. The Bureau of Meteorology issues flood warnings and river height bulletins for the Pioneer River catchment regularly during floods. When the flood level at the Forgan Bridge gauge is expected to exceed seven metres LAT, the Bureau issues predictions of flood heights for the Pioneer River at Mackay. The objective is to provide at least three to nine hours warning of flood heights above seven metres. These forecasts are updated every three hours while the river is rising.

Significant flooding in Mackay is expected when the Forgan Bridge gauge exceeds nine metres. The largest flood recorded in the Pioneer River occurred in February, 1958, and had a gauge height of 9.14 metres. Further information about the Pioneer River Catchment is available from the Bureau of Meteorology's website.

