

KINGSTON DISTRICT COUNCIL FACT SHEET 6

COASTAL ADAPTATION STRATEGY (CAS)

FLOOD PREPAREDNESS



Background

Whilst the CAS and inundation maps are prepared to reflect future risks, storm preparedness and community awareness could help to reduce the impacts of flooding on private residences in the short term across the coastline.

If there's a chance you could be affected by inundation, it's important to make preparations. ABC Emergency has put together a list of things you should do to be prepared and if the worst happens, this is provided as part of this fact sheet for information.

Property owners are encouraged to develop a flood emergency plan, with assistance available on the state website: <https://www.sa.gov.au/topics/emergencies-and-safety/prepare-for-an-emergency/emergency-plan>

Plan for an emergency: Flood

Prepared by ABC Emergency

Accessed via: <https://www.abc.net.au/emergency/plan-for-emergency-flood/12412050>

Before a flood

Prepare your home

- Refer to the SA website for general maintenance and flood preparation tips: <https://www.sa.gov.au/topics/emergencies-and-safety/prepare-for-an-emergency/prepare-your-home>
- If you could be cut off by floodwaters, make preparations and ensure your family know the plan if a flood were to occur.
- Work out what the safest route to leave your property will be.
- Organise sandbags and sand.
- Tune in to your local ABC Radio station (ABC South East SE 1161kHz AM) and keep listening for advice and warnings. You can [listen online](#) or via the [ABC listen app](#).

What should you do when you hear a flood warning?

- Identify the safest route to your nearest relief centre; leave well before roads are closed by water.
- Get ready to move vehicles, outdoor equipment, garbage, chemicals and poisons to higher locations.
- Work out which indoor items you want to put in a higher spot.
- Think about what you will do with the contents of your fridge and freezer.

- Check your emergency kit and make plans to keep your pets safe.
- Let friends, family and neighbours know what your plans are.

What to do if you need to evacuate

- Along with your emergency kit, pack warm clothing, essential medications, valuables, personal papers, mobile phone and charger, photos and mementos in waterproof bags.
- If you can't take your pets with you, decide how you will look after them.
- Raise furniture, clothing and other valuables onto beds, tables and into roof spaces.
- Empty freezers and refrigerators, leaving doors open.
- Turn off power, water and gas.
- Lock your home and take the safest evacuation route out of the area.
- Don't drive in water of unknown depth and current.
- **Remember: Walking through floodwater is very dangerous.**

Whether you stay or go

- Put sandbags in the toilet bowl and over all drains; this will stop sewage back-flow.

During a Flood

- Avoid driving, walking, swimming or playing in floodwater.
- If you are caught in floodwater, call for help immediately.
- If you have to walk through floodwater, do so very carefully — wear solid shoes and use a stick to check depth and current.
- Avoid drains, culverts and water that is knee-deep or higher.
- Stay well away from fallen powerlines — electrical current passes easily through water.
- Floodwater may contain sewage, so take precautions.
- Identify your nearest relief centre and the safest route to get there, but only go if you are sure it is safe.
- Let family and friends know where you are and where you are going.
- Keep listening to your local ABC Radio station on a battery-powered radio, listen online or via the ABC listen app for updates and instructions.
- Got information that could help others? Get in contact with your local ABC Radio station and tell them what you can see; reliable first-hand knowledge can help others in the community.

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After a Flood

- Stay tuned to your local ABC Radio station on a battery-powered radio, listen online or via the ABC listen app for official advice and warnings.
- Don't return home until authorities have said it is safe to do so.
- Don't allow children to play in or near floodwater.
- Avoid entering floodwater — it is dangerous.
- If you must enter floodwaters, wear solid shoes and use a stick to check depth and current.
- Stay away from drains, culverts and water that is knee-deep or higher.
- Don't turn on your gas or electricity until it has been checked by a professional; the same goes for appliances.
- Don't eat food which has been in floodwater.
- Boil tap water until supplies have been declared safe.
- Watch for trapped animals.
- Beware of fallen powerlines.
- Take lots of photos of all damage for insurance claims.
- Let your family and friends know where you are.

In case you become separated from loved ones during an emergency, Red Cross manages Register.Find.Reunite, a national registration and enquiry service. When the service is activated, people can register at redcross.org.au or in person at an evacuation or relief centre. You can also use the website if you are unable to contact a loved one who may have been affected.

Emergency Services

If you need assistance during a flood event, call your local State Emergency Service (SES) on 132 500 or 000 in a life-threatening situation.

Remember that Emergency Services will be receiving a very high volume of calls for help and may not be able to get to you immediately. Being as prepared as you can be will assist you in an emergency situation.

Survival Kit

Prepared by Red Cross

Accessed via: <https://www.abc.net.au/emergency/plan-for-emergency-survival-kit/12412048>

Emergency agencies recommend having a kit ready with items that will help you survive and recover from a disaster.

You should keep your kit in a handy location, in a container or bag that's big enough to add extra items when you're

responding to a specific disaster. Set an annual reminder on your phone or calendar to check your emergency kit.

Basic Items

- **Radio:** battery-powered, wind-up or solar-powered radio. Mark on the dial the frequencies of ABC Radio and other local services.
- **Light:** a waterproof torch is good, and consider a backup windup version that doesn't need batteries, plus candles with waterproof matches or glow sticks.
- **Drinking water:** consider having 10 litres per person to last three days.
- **Food:** dried and long-life food to last three days, include a can opener and utensils.
- **Spare batteries:** for all devices (check batteries every six months).
- **Toiletries:** including soap, handwash gels, alcohol wipes, toilet paper, tissues, toothpaste and sanitary items.
- **Cash:** enough to meet basic needs for a few days.
- **First aid kit:** including guide book.
- **Waterproof bags:** for valuable items and documents
- **Copies of essential documents:** such as prescriptions and insurance details. You can also store this on a portable hard drive, give a copy to a trusted person, and/or upload to cloud-based storage.
- **Emergency survival plan:** Your written bushfire, cyclone, flood or emergency survival plan, including contact numbers of family or neighbours.
- **Protective blankets and clothing:** suitable for likely emergencies in your area such as long-sleeved natural-fibre shirts for bushfire areas, protective footwear or rubber boots in flood areas. Sunscreen, insect repellent and wide-brimmed hats are also useful.

If you need to relocate, include:

- Prescription medications;
- Toiletries and a change of clothes;
- Mobile phone charger;
- ATM cards and credit cards;
- Important documents or valuables including passports, wills, photos, jewellery, insurance papers or mementoes.

Don't forget people with special needs in your family:

- Mobility aids;
- Nappies and supplies for infants;
- Encourage children to pack familiar things that will bring them comfort in times of stress such as a favourite toy;
- Items to keep your pets comfortable including a leash, basket, travelling cage and pet food.