

Lower Bellinger and Kalang Rivers Floodplain Risk Management Study & Plan

A Floodplain Risk Management Study and Plan is currently being prepared examining flooding caused by the Bellinger and Kalang

The Floodplain Management Process

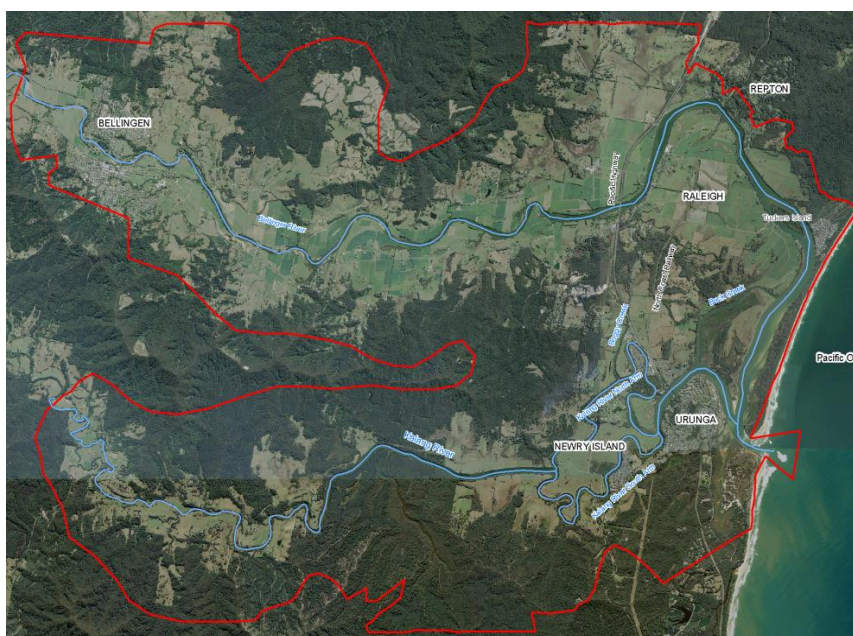
Bellingen Shire Council is carrying out a Floodplain Risk Management Study and Plan under the NSW Government’s Flood Prone Land Policy. The primary objective of the Policy is to reduce the impact of flooding and flood liability on owners and occupants of flood prone land and to reduce losses from flooding. The Policy provides for technical and financial support by the State Government through four sequential stages:

- 1. Flood Study**
Determine the nature and extent of the flood problem
- 2. Floodplain Risk Management Study**
Evaluates management options for the floodplain in respect of existing and proposed development.
- 3. Floodplain Risk Management Plan**
Formal adoption by Council of a plan of management for the floodplain
- 4. Implementation of the Plan**
Construction of flood mitigation works to protect existing development and use of Local Environmental Plans to ensure new development is compatible with the flood hazard.



The Floodplain Risk Management Study and Plan is phase two and three of the four step process listed above. The Study will investigate mitigation options to reduce the impact of flooding over a range of floods of varying magnitudes.

The Study Area



The Bellinger and Kalang Rivers are located within Bellingen Shire Council area. The total catchment areas of both rivers is 1,110 km².

This study is looking at the nature and extent of the flood problem on the Bellinger River from Lavenders Bridge at Bellingen, 2.5km upstream of Brierfield Bridge on the Kalang River and down to the river entrance near Urunga.

During heavy rain, the capacity of the river systems to convey runoff can be exceeded, resulting in flow over the floodplain, across roads and through private properties.

Lower Bellinger and Kalang Rivers Floodplain Risk Management Study



Community involvement in this Study is important. The Lower Bellinger and Kalang Rivers Floodplain Management Committee will oversee this Study and includes members from Council, Office of Environment and Heritage, the State Emergency Services and local residents.

You are also invited to simply drop in to Council's administration centre at 33-39 Hyde Street, Bellingen during business hours to discuss the Study.

What's Happening Now?

This Floodplain Risk Management Study will investigate appropriate flood management options. A computer model has determined the extent and nature of flooding in the Study Area. The first stage of the study was a revision on previous computer modelling done in the region and to update it with the latest information. Mitigation options will be assessed and we are seeking feedback from the community.

How can I have my say?

This newsletter forms part of our community consultation program to involve the community in the process. You can find out more information at https://www.wmawater.com.au/community-consultation/BK_FRMS, including draft reports and newsletters as they become available. A public exhibition of the study will take place when a draft is complete.

An information session will be conducted to allow the community to ask questions about the upcoming study and provide information on their own experiences. A flexible format where community members can drop in at any time during the session allows those who would like to have a conversation about flooding to attend. These will be held at the following locations:

- The Council administration Centre Bellingen (33-39 Hyde Street, Bellingen)
- Bonville Street, Urunga

We encourage everyone to provide comments and feedback on any aspect of the study. The local knowledge and personal experiences of residents and business operators are an important source of information.

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