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| --- |
| **RETURN WITH CAUTION** |
|  |
| **[Location]** |
| **Flood (Descriptor)** |

**A yellow background with black text

Description automatically generated**

**Issued:** [time, day, date, year]

**This will be the last warning issued for this flood in [location].**

[Insert Issuing Agency] advises people from the following area(s):

* [Add location(s) here]

can **RETURN WITH CAUTION.** You should take care when returning to the area as flood damage can be widespread.

**What we are expecting:**

* Roads and buildings have been badly damaged.
* Power and water are off in some places. These will be restored when it is safe.
* There could be more snakes, spiders, and rats inside.

**What you need to do:**

* Return to your home or business to check the damage.
* Stay away from creeks, rivers, and drains.
* Drive slowly, plan your route carefully to avoid any flooded roads and allow extra travel time.
* Never drive, walk, ride through, play or swim in flood water. If it’s flooded, forget it.
* Be aware of road hazards including mud and debris.
* Check in on your neighbours, animals, and livestock if safe to do so.
* Stay away from the area unless you live or work there, or you are helping.

**If your home or business has been flooded:**

* Make sure your property is safe before entering. Check for damage to windows, walls and the roof and be careful of potential dangers including asbestos.
* Make sure the electricity and gas are turned off before going inside. Carry out inspections inside buildings.
* If power points, electrical equipment, appliances or electrical hot water systems have been exposed to floodwater or are water damaged in any way, they must be inspected by a qualified electrician before use.
* Gas appliances and gas bottles that have been exposed to floodwater should be inspected for safety before use.
* Sandbags that have been in contact with floodwater need to be thrown away. Sturdy gloves should be worn when handling wet sandbags as they can contain chemicals, waste, and diseases from floodwater.
* Protect your health and safety; wear boots, gloves and protective clothing when cleaning up, wash your hands and clothes often, throw away food that should be kept cold or frozen if you lost power.
* If safe, clean, and dry out the building as soon as you can.

**Support and recovery help:**

* For flood emergency help, call the SES on 132 500 or download the SES Assistance Queensland app.
* Go to [insert council name and website] for clean-up and recovery information.
* Recovery services are available [insert details of organisations actively involved; ideally on the ground]:
  + Agency – Location, full address and times.
* For general relief and recovery information go to the [Get Ready Queensland website (After a Disaster)](https://www.getready.qld.gov.au/after-disaster).
* Natural disasters can affect your mental health. If you need help, call any of these groups:
  + Lifeline: Go to [lifeline.org.au](https://www.lifeline.org.au/) or phone 13 11 14.
  + Beyond Blue: Go to [beyondblue.org.au](https://www.beyondblue.org.au/) or phone 1300 224 636.
  + Kids Helpline: Go to [kidshelpline.com.au](https://kidshelpline.com.au/) or phone 1800 551 800.

**For more information:**

* Follow our local council disaster dashboard here [insert disaster dashboard link].
* Listen to your local radio [add ABC local radio or other station and frequency].
* For power outage information go to [energex.com.au](https://qldpolice.sharepoint.com/sites/EMC-PublicInfoWarnings-TQPS/Shared%20Documents/General/WARNINGS/Templates/NEW%20&%20IMPROVED%20TEMPLATES%20(SES%20INSPIRED)/Final%20Flood%20Templates%2012092024/energex.com.au) or [ergon.com.au/network](https://qldpolice.sharepoint.com/sites/EMC-PublicInfoWarnings-TQPS/Shared%20Documents/General/WARNINGS/Templates/NEW%20&%20IMPROVED%20TEMPLATES%20(SES%20INSPIRED)/Final%20Flood%20Templates%2012092024/ergon.com.au/network) [select energy provider].
* Check the latest weather, warnings, rainfall, and river heights at the [Bureau of Meteorology Queensland website.](http://www.bom.gov.au/qld/)
* Check road closures at the [QLD Traffic website](http://www.qldtraffic.qld.gov.au) or for phone service call 13 19 40.
* Check disruptions to public transport at the [Translink website](https://translink.com.au/service-updates).