Things to Know about Flood Maps

The Moreton Bay Region includes different landscapes and terrain which may be impacted by different types of flooding. Council recognises that it is not possible to eliminate all flooding however, by checking Council’s flood maps and making yourself aware of the likelihood and potential impacts of flooding in your local area you can reduce the risks.

Types of flooding

There are four main types of flooding that can affect the Moreton Bay Region.

Overland Flow

Across all landscapes, there are many natural and man-made gullies and depressions that convey runoff during rainfall. Some of these areas can experience flooding even though they are elevated and/or a significant distance away from a river or creek.

Overland flow is generally caused by short intense bursts of rainfall (typically less than one hour in duration) and will usually dissipate shortly after the rainfall has stopped.

River, Creek and Urban Drainage Systems

This type of flooding is caused by heavy rainfall, typically lasting between one hour and one day. Sometimes this rain falls over a whole catchment or a number of catchments. This heavy rainfall causes the water levels in a river, creek or urban drainage system to rise and escape the main channel or pipe network. It may take a number of hours for these floodwaters to rise, reach a peak and then subside. This type of flooding can occur in both the coastal and hinterland parts of our region. The January 2011 and May 2015 floods are examples of this type of flood event.

Tide

The largest tides occur on a seasonal basis each year and are sometimes referred to as ‘king tides’. The Highest Astronomical Tide (HAT) is the highest predicted tide that can occur in response to the gravitational effect of the sun and the moon. A level that closely approximates HAT occurs twice a year. These tides can inundate low-lying areas along our coastline.

Storm Tide

Water levels higher than HAT can occur due to meteorological influences, such as strong winds associated with a cyclone or intense low pressure weather system. This storm surge when combined with the astronomical tide and increased wave action is called a storm tide. Storm tide can result in inundation of low-lying coastal areas.
Why you should check for flooding information

Council’s flood maps will help you understand the likelihood and potential impacts of flooding where you live or work. The maps will also help you to understand how flooding may affect other parts of your local area, such as the roads you regularly use.

Accessing the Council’s flooding information will also reveal if flooding needs to be a consideration for a proposed development.

When you should check for flooding information

You should check Council’s flood maps as soon as possible, preferably before the next time it rains. Council’s flood maps are available for viewing on-line now. They have been prepared to increase the community’s awareness of flooding so that you can make the necessary preparations and take appropriate precautions that will reduce the potential impact flooding may have on you and your lifestyle.

Note: You should periodically re-visit the website and view the flood maps again because the maps are sometimes updated with improved information and the flood extents can change.

How to check for flooding information

Council has provided three options to check flooding information.

To begin to check for flooding information you can choose between either viewing the Suburb Flood Maps or using the Flood Explorer Interactive Mapping Tool. Both of these can be viewed free online. The maps cover all suburbs in the Moreton Bay Region and displaying flood extents for a range of different sized events with different levels of flood likelihood.

For more detailed flooding information for a particular property, you can obtain a free Flood Check Property Report.

Suburb Flood Maps
View pre-prepared flood maps of whole suburbs

Suburb Flood Maps are prepared at a fixed scale to allow you to view flooding information for an area of interest. Please refer to Flood Check Fact Sheet 2 How to Interpret a Suburb Flood Map for more information.

Flood Explorer (Online)
Interactive Mapping Tool
Zoom in and out of flood maps for any location

The Flood Explorer Interactive Mapping Tool allows you to explore the region at different scales and provides interactive options to turn on and off relevant layers of flooding information. Using this tool you can easily find a property or place of interest using a search tool. Please refer to Flood Check Fact Sheet 3 How to Interpret the Flood Explorer Interactive Mapping Tool for more information.

Flood Check Property Report
An official record of flooding for a specific property

If you want to find out more about the property where you live or are planning to purchase, develop or renovate you can obtain a free Flood Check Property Report. A Flood Check Property Report is a document that will detail anticipated flood levels for the requested property where available. Please refer to Flood Check Fact Sheet 4 How to Interpret a Flood Check Property Report for more information.

Enquiries and feedback can be submitted to Council by e-mail flood@moretonbay.qld.gov.au or addressed in writing to:

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