

Walgett Shire

Local Flood Emergency Sub Plan



WALGETT SHIRE FLOOD EMERGENCY SUB PLAN

A Sub Plan of the Local Emergency Management Plan (EMPLAN)

Volume 1 of the Walgett Shire Flood Emergency Sub Plan

Endorsed by the Walgett Shire Local Emergency Management Committee

**15 August 2024
Version 3.0**

AUTHORISATION

The Walgett Shire Flood Emergency Sub Plan is a sub plan of the Walgett Shire Local Emergency Management Plan (EMPLAN). It has been prepared in accordance with the provisions of the **State Emergency Service Act 1989 (NSW)** and is endorsed by the Local Emergency Management Committee in accordance with the provisions of the **State Emergency and Rescue Management Act 1989 (NSW)**.

Authorised

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Date:

15-8-24

Endorsed

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15/08/2024

VERSION HISTORY

Version Number	Description	Date
1.0	Walgett Shire Local Flood Plan	2002
2.0	Walgett Shire Local flood Plan	August 2013

AMENDMENT LIST

Suggestions for amendments to this plan should be forwarded to:

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Amendments in the list below have been entered in this plan.

Amendment Number	Description	Updated by	Date

DISTRIBUTION LIST

Available for general use and distribution on the NSW State Emergency Service website
www.ses.nsw.gov.au

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1 OUTLINE AND SCOPE

1.1 PURPOSE

1.1.1 The purpose of this plan is to set out the multi-agency arrangements for the emergency management of flooding in the Walgett Shire Local Government Area (LGA).

1.2 AUTHORITY

1.2.1 This plan is written and issued under the authority of the [State Emergency and Rescue Management Act 1989 \(NSW\)](#) ('SERM Act'), the [State Emergency Service Act 1989 \(NSW\)](#) ('SES Act') and the NSW State Emergency Management Plan (EMPLAN).

1.2.2 This plan is a sub plan to the Walgett Shire Local Emergency Management Plan (EMPLAN) and is endorsed by the Local Emergency Management Committee (LEMC).

1.3 ACTIVATION

1.3.1 This plan does not require activation. The arrangements set out in this plan are always active.

1.3.2 The Walgett Shire Emergency Management Plan (EMPLAN) is active at all times in anticipation of the need to coordinate support and resources requested by combat agencies, including the NSW State Emergency Service (NSW SES).

1.4 SCOPE

1.4.1 The area covered by this plan is the Walgett Shire LGA. The Walgett Shire LGA and its principal towns, villages, rivers and creeks are shown in Appendix A.

1.4.2 The council area is in the NSW SES Western Zone and for emergency management purposes, is part of the Central West Emergency Management Region.

1.4.3 The plan sets out the Walgett Shire level emergency management arrangements for prevention, preparation, response and initial recovery for flooding in the Walgett Shire LGA.

1.4.4 In this plan a flood is defined as a relatively high water level which overtops the natural or artificial banks in any part of a stream, river, estuary, lake or dam and/or local overland flooding associated with drainage before entering a watercourse and/or coastal inundation resulting from super-elevated sea levels and/or waves (including tsunamis) overtopping coastline defences.

1.4.5 This plan outlines the local level arrangements for the management of downstream consequences of flooding due to dam failure, however it does not cover the management of flooding of an underground mine by inrush or other cause, which should be covered by the Mine Emergency Sub Plan for the respective mine.

1.5 GOALS

1.5.1 The primary goals for flood emergency management in NSW are:

- a. Protection and preservation of life.
- b. Establishment and operation of flood warning systems.
- c. Issuing of community information and community warnings.
- d. Coordination of evacuation and welfare of affected communities.
- e. Protection of critical infrastructure and community assets essential to community survival during an emergency incident.
- f. Protection of residential property.
- g. Protection of assets and infrastructure that support individual and community financial sustainability and aid assisting a community to recover from an incident.
- h. Protection of the environment and conservation values considering the cultural, biodiversity and social values of the environment.

1.6 KEY PRINCIPLES

1.6.1 The protection and preservation of human life (including the lives of responders and the community) is the highest priority.

1.6.2 Evacuation is the primary response strategy for people impacted by flooding.

1.7 ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

1.7.1 General responsibilities of emergency service organisations and functional areas are set out in the NSW State EMPLAN and NSW State Flood Sub Plan.

1.7.2 Specific roles and responsibilities for agencies, functional areas and organisations in relation to flooding within Walgett Shire are detailed within this plan, Appendix B and Appendix C.

1.7.3 Any agency with agreed responsibilities in this plan which are temporarily unable or no longer able to fulfil their responsibilities in response operations must, as soon as possible, notify:

- a. The NSW SES Incident Controller (for local or zone level responsibilities during response operations).
- b. The NSW SES Zone Duty Commander and/or the NSW SES Western Zone office (for regional level responsibilities outside of response operations).

1.8 PLAN MAINTENANCE AND REVIEW

1.8.1 The NSW SES will maintain the currency of this plan by:

- a. Ensuring that all supporting emergency services and functional areas, organisations and officers mentioned in it are aware of their roles and responsibilities.
- b. Conduct a minimum of one exercise every five years or within two years of the plan being reviewed.

- c. Reviewing the contents of the plan:
 - When there are changes which alter agreed plan arrangements.
 - When changes to land use strategic plans and policies increase the population at risk.
 - After a flood including recommendations from after action reviews, reports or inquiries.
 - As determined by the NSW SES Commissioner.
- d. The plan is to be reviewed no less frequently than every five years or after a significant flood event.

1.9 SUPPLEMENTARY DOCUMENTS

- 1.9.1 Supplementary and supporting material of the Local Flood Emergency Sub Plan is maintained on the NSW SES website at: <https://www.ses.nsw.gov.au/about-us/flood-storm-and-tsunami-plans/> including:
 - a. Flood Plan Glossary.
 - b. The NSW SES Dam Failure Notification Flowchart.
 - c. The NSW SES Resupply Flowchart.

2 OVERVIEW OF NSW FLOOD HAZARD AND RISK

2.1 THE FLOOD THREAT

- 2.1.1 The NSW SES maintains information on the nature of flooding and effects of flooding on the community in the Walgett Shire LGA.

3 PREVENTION/ MITIGATION

3.1 INTRODUCTION

- 3.1.1 The Floodplain Risk Management Manual outlines the NSW Government's Flood Prone Land Policy which details the framework for managing flood prone land in New South Wales. Incorporation of floodplain risk management into land use planning is one of the key means to limit the exposure to flood risks to our communities and help build long term resilience to future flood events.

3.2 LAND USE PLANNING

- 3.2.1 **Strategy:** Effective land use planning is a key focus for minimising the impacts of flooding. The NSW SES will work with land use planning and consent authorities to inform and influence the consideration of the risks arising from flood, storm and tsunami to prevent the creation of intolerable impacts of these hazards on the community.

Actions:

- a. The NSW SES will provide strategic input about land use planning matters which have or will create significant flood risk to life and/or property due to flooding.

- b. The NSW SES will provide responses to land use planning proposal referrals that have or will create significant flood risk to life and/or property due to flooding.

3.3 FLOODPLAIN RISK MANAGEMENT

3.3.1 **Strategy:** Advocate for consideration of emergency management in decision making to reduce risks to the existing community and minimise the growth in future, continuing and residual risk due to development through input to the floodplain management program.

Actions:

- a. The NSW SES will provide coordinated and consistent emergency management advice to councils and other agencies in relation to the management of land that is subject to flooding.
- b. The NSW SES will provide advice, support, technical resources and training for the NSW SES representatives to contribute effectively on Local Floodplain Risk Management Committees.

4 PREPARATION

4.1 INTRODUCTION

4.1.1 Preparation includes arrangements or plans to deal with an emergency or the effects of an emergency.

4.2 FLOOD EMERGENCY PLANNING

4.2.1 **Strategy:** The NSW SES develop, review and maintain Flood Emergency Sub Plans.

Actions:

- a. Develop and review this NSW SES Local Flood Emergency Sub Plan as required. Local Flood Emergency Sub Plans outline the specific arrangements for management of flood events within an LGA and may include cross boundary arrangements.
 - b. Review plans as per [Section 1.8](#).
- 4.2.2 Local EMPLAN Consequence Management Guides (CMGs) for flood are not required for communities covered by NSW SES Local Flood Emergency Sub Plans however may be utilised in place of Local Flood Emergency Sub Plan if agreed to by the NSW SES.

4.3 FLOOD INTELLIGENCE SYSTEMS

4.3.1 **Strategy:** The NSW SES develop and maintain a flood intelligence system to identify flood behaviour, its impact on the community and required response actions.

Actions:

- a. Gather and assess flood information for the full range of flood types and severities.
- b. Collect, collate, and assess information on the characteristics of communities at risk and the potential effects of flooding on communities at risk.
- c. Share flood intelligence information with supporting agencies.

4.4 DEVELOPMENT OF WARNING SYSTEMS

4.4.1 **Strategy:** Develop, maintain and prepare systems for the provision of flood warnings and associated warning services.

Actions:

- a. All levels of government work in partnership to develop and maintain flood warning infrastructure.
- b. The NSW SES maintains a list of the requirements for flood warnings for flood gauges in NSW (including flood classifications, warning times required and key statistics) and can be found in the supplementary document to the NSW State Flood Plan (see Section 1.9). Gauges of relevance within the Walgett Shire LGA are also listed in Volume 3 of this plan.
- c. The NSW SES will recommend new warning services and changes to warning alert levels for gauges to the NSW and ACT Flood Warning Consultative Committee.
- d. The State Government, in partnership with Local Government, is responsible for developing and maintaining flash flood warning systems for local catchments where required.
- e. The NSW SES maintains a dedicated dam failure hotline and procedures to ensure priority dissemination of dam failure warnings.
- f. The NSW SES develops and maintains warning and flood information products by:
 - Utilising flood intelligence data.
 - Developing warning and flood information products.
 - Continuously reviewing warning and flood information products.
 - Consulting with affected communities, key stakeholders, Dam Safety NSW and the NSW and ACT Flood Warning Consultative Committee and maintains Operational Readiness.
 - Participating in the development of public information and warning systems.
- g. Gauge owners adequately maintain flood warning gauges and systems, including those identified in the 'Service Level Specification' maintained by the Bureau of Meteorology (Bureau) and those identified in the 'Provision and Requirements for Flood Warning in New South Wales's maintained by the NSW SES.

4.5 BRIEFING, TRAINING AND EXERCISING

4.5.1 **Strategy:** Ensure the NSW SES, supporting agencies, functional areas and the community are prepared and familiar with the strategies and arrangements within the Flood Emergency Sub Plan and supporting documents.

Actions:

- a. The NSW SES will consult stakeholders throughout the development of plans.
- b. The NSW SES will inform stakeholders of content changes after revisions.
- c. The NSW SES will ensure their facilities and resources are maintained and operationally ready.
- d. The NSW SES will train personnel for their expected flood operation roles.
- e. The NSW SES will regularly brief stakeholders on the exercise arrangements contained in the NSW Flood Emergency Sub Plan.

4.6 COMMUNITY RESILIENCE TO FLOODING

4.6.1 **Strategy:** The NSW SES provides and maintains a flexible volunteer workforce to support community resilience.

Actions:

- a. Ensure ongoing recruitment and training of a diverse range of volunteers.
- b. Ensure pre-planning to facilitate the management of spontaneous volunteers and community members during a flood.

4.6.2 **Strategy:** The NSW SES works with individuals, communities, businesses and government agencies to build flood resilience.

Actions:

- a. Partners with and engage communities to understand and manage the risks associated with floods, including providing business continuity guidance (NSW SES Business FloodSafe), family preparedness (NSW SES Home FloodSafe) and other engagement strategies.
- b. The NSW SES will collate, assess and disseminate flood information to the community.
- c. Collaborate with individuals, businesses, government agencies and communities when developing flood intelligence, preparedness and response information.
- d. Plan for floods collaboratively with communities through community and stakeholder participation and engagement.
- e. Collaborate with community sector and recognise the needs of individuals within communities who have an increased susceptibility during floods.

5 RESPONSE

5.1 INTRODUCTION

5.1.1 Flood response operations will begin:

- a. On receipt of a Bureau Severe Weather Warning or Thunderstorm Warning that includes heavy rain or storm surge; or
- b. On the receipt of a Bureau Flood Watch or Flood Warning; or
- c. On receipt warnings for flash flood; or
- d. On receipt of a dam failure alert; or
- e. When other evidence leads to an expectation of flooding.

5.2 INCIDENT MANAGEMENT ARRANGEMENTS

5.2.1 **Strategy:** Maintain effective control of flood operations across NSW.

Actions:

- a. The NSW SES uses the Australasian Inter-service Incident Management System (AIIMS) to manage the flood response.
- b. Control of flood response will be at the lowest effective level and may be scaled to suit the incident.
- c. The NSW SES State Controller (or delegate) will appoint Incident Controllers and establish Incident Control Centres (see NSW SES facilities on map in Appendix A).
- d. The NSW SES Incident Controller, in consultation with participating supporting emergency services and functional areas will determine the appropriate breakdown of an Area of Operations into Divisions and/or Sectors in accordance with the principles of AIIMS.

5.2.2 **Strategy:** Maintain Incident Control Centre(s).

Actions:

- a. The NSW SES will operate Incident Control Centre(s) as required.
- b. The NSW SES Incident Control Centre(s) will:
 - Control resources from the NSW SES and coordinate resources of supporting emergency services and functional areas.
 - Manage incident tasking and ensure they are actioned in a timely manner.
 - Undertake response planning and determine future resourcing requirements.
 - Coordinate information flow, including warnings, public information and social media.

5.2.3 **Strategy:** Provide effective liaison between the NSW SES and supporting agencies or functional areas in accordance with the local EMPLAN.

Actions:

- a. Supporting emergency services and functional areas should provide Liaison Officers to NSW SES Incident Control Centre(s) and/or Emergency Operation Centres as required.
- b. The NSW SES will provide Liaison Officer(s) to Emergency Operations Centres as required.
- c. Where possible Emergency Operation Centres are to be co-located with the NSW SES Incident Control Centres for Flood Emergency Response.

5.2.4 **Strategy:** Coordinate resources and logistics support to ensure operational effectiveness.

Actions:

- a. The NSW SES Incident Controller will notify agencies of potential access issues between locations, for the consideration of pre-deploying of resources.
- b. The NSW SES may request resources and logistics support directly from a supporting emergency service or functional area.
- c. Wherever possible, supporting organisations are to provide their own logistic support in consultation with the NSW SES where appropriate.
- d. The NSW SES Incident Controller will control air support operations and may utilise supporting agencies in the management of aircraft.

5.3 USE OF INFORMATION AND COLLECTION OF INTELLIGENCE

5.3.1 **Strategy:** Ensure flood information is effectively utilised, communicated and collected during and post a flood.

Actions:

- a. Information relating to the consequences of flooding, response strategies, situational awareness and operational updates will be distributed by the NSW SES to supporting emergency services and functional areas listed under this plan.
- b. All supporting emergency services and functional areas and Council will accurately record and report information relevant to their activities and any real time flood information (including road closure information) to the NSW SES Incident Controller. This may be in the form of a combined Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) report, or direct from agencies where an EOC has not been established.
- c. The NSW SES may establish and operate a Joint Intelligence Unit to coordinate the collection, collation, interpretation, mapping, actioning and dissemination of information.
- d. Reconnaissance, mapping, damage assessments, intelligence validation and post flood evaluation will be coordinated by the NSW SES. This may occur post impact and continue into the recovery phase.
- e. The NSW SES may request the Engineering Functional Area to assist with the gathering of flood intelligence including (not limited to) maximum flood

extents, peak flood heights, recording major flood damage at key high velocity locations and preparation of the after-flood report.

5.3.2 **Strategy:** Ensure flood intelligence is incorporated into operational decision-making.

Action: The NSW SES will use flood intelligence, official forecasts, warnings, and flood scenario products to undertake an assessment of the predicted impact of a flood and to inform operational decision-making.

5.4 PROVISION OF INFORMATION AND WARNINGS TO THE COMMUNITY

5.4.1 **Strategy:** Timely and effective warnings are distributed to the community.

Actions:

- a. The Bureau issues public weather and flood warning products before and during a flood. These may include:
 - Severe Thunderstorm Warnings – Detailed - Issued for all capital cities and surrounding areas when individual severe thunderstorms are within range of the capital city radars.
 - Severe Thunderstorm Warnings - Broad-based - Issued for the entire Australian state or territories affected highlighting broad areas where severe storms may occur within the next 3 hours.
 - Severe Weather Warnings with reference to heavy rainfall and/or storm surge.
 - Flood Watches.
 - Flood Warnings.
- b. The NSW SES Incident Controllers will issue the following NSW SES flood Warnings aligning to the Australian Warning System:
 - Advice
 - Watch and Act
 - Emergency Warning
- c. The NSW SES liaises with the Bureau to discuss the development of flood warnings as required.
- d. The NSW SES provides alerts and deliver flood information to affected communities using a combination of public information.
- e. The NSW SES may request supporting agencies redistribute NSW SES alerts and information, including through the provision of doorknocking teams.
- f. Road closure information will be provided to the community through the following agencies/methods:
 - Local Government websites.
 - Transport for NSW 'Live Traffic' website: www.livetraffic.com or 'Transport InfoLine': 131 500. VMS messaging on roadways may also be used to advise motorists.

- g. The Public Information and Inquiry Centre will be established by NSW Police Force where required to provide information regarding evacuees and emergency information. Contact details will be broadcast once the centre is established.
- h. The Disaster Welfare Assistance Line will be established by the Disaster Welfare Services Functional Area where required to provide information on welfare services and assistance. Assistance line contact details will be broadcast once Disaster Welfare services commence.

5.5 PROTECTION OF PROPERTY

5.5.1 **Strategy:** Coordinate the protection of property from destruction or damage arising from floods.

Action: The NSW SES, supporting agencies, and community volunteers will assist the community (where resources are available, feasible and safe to do so) in:

- a. The protection of properties including critical infrastructure through flood protection systems (e.g., sandbagging) to minimise entry of water into buildings.
- b. The raising or moving of household furniture and commercial stock/equipment.

5.6 ROAD AND TRAFFIC CONTROL

5.6.1 **Strategy:** Coordinate the closing and re-opening of flood affected roads.

Actions:

- a. Walgett Shire Council will coordinate the closure and reopening of council managed roads once inspections have been carried out by the relevant authority.
- b. Transport for NSW will coordinate the closure and reopening of the state road network.
- c. The NSW Police Force may close and re-open roads but will normally only do so if the Walgett Shire Council or Transport for NSW have not already acted and if public safety requires such action.
- d. The NSW SES will assist with erecting road closure signs and barriers when time and resources permit.

5.6.2 **Strategy:** Coordinate traffic control measures in flood affected areas.

- a. The NSW SES Incident Controller may direct the imposition of traffic control measures into flood affected areas in accordance with the provisions of the *State Emergency Service Act, 1989* and the *State Emergency Rescue Management Act, 1989*.
- b. The NSW SES Incident Controller may request the Local Emergency Operations Controller provide suitable personnel to assist with traffic coordination.

5.7 PROTECTION OF ESSENTIAL SERVICES

5.7.1 Local and Region EMPLANS contain infrastructure inventories.

5.7.2 **Strategy:** Minimise disruption to the community by ensuring protection of infrastructure and supply of essential energy, utility services and lifelines.

Actions:

- a. The Transport Services Functional Area is to coordinate the provision of information about the assessment and restoration of transport network infrastructure.
- b. The Energy and Utility Services Functional Area is to coordinate the assessment and restoration of essential energy and utility services (not including telecommunications).
- c. The Telecommunications Services Functional Area is to coordinate the assessment and restoration of telecommunications and the Public Safety Network.
- d. The Engineering Services Functional Area is to:
 - Coordinate the assessment and restoration of critical public buildings for example hospitals.
 - Assessment and operation of flood protection levees.
 - Protection of property.
 - Construction and repair of levees.
 - Dam safety assessment and dam stability.
 - Water supply and sewerage operations.
 - Other critical infrastructure.
- e. The Functional Areas and the Walgett Shire Council will keep the NSW SES informed of the status of utilities and infrastructure.

5.8 EVACUATION

5.8.1 Evacuation is the NSW SES' primary response strategy for managing the population at risk of flooding.

5.8.2 Community specific evacuation arrangements are located in Volume 3 of this Plan.

5.8.3 **Strategy:** Conduct planning to ensure all evacuation constraints are considered.

Actions:

- a. Evacuations will take place when there is a risk to public safety. Circumstances may include:
 - Evacuation of people when their homes or businesses are likely to flood.
 - Evacuation of people who are unsuited to living in isolated circumstances, due to flood water closing access.

- Evacuation of people where essential energy and/or utility services are likely to fail or where buildings have been or may be made uninhabitable.
- b. The NSW SES will consider the following in evacuation decisions:
 - Duration of evacuation.
 - Characteristics of the community.
 - Numbers requiring evacuation.
 - Availability of evacuation routes and transport.
 - The ability for existing levees or other flood protection works to fulfil their intended function.
 - Time available for evacuation.
 - Evacuee management requirements.
 - Resources and delivery of evacuation information.
 - Length of isolation.
 - c. NSW SES Incident Controllers, planning and intelligence officers will carefully consider the risks involved in conducting evacuations.
 - d. All evacuation decisions will be made as per the current the NSW SES policies and procedures, and consistent with the NSW Evacuation Management Guidelines.
 - e. Potential Evacuation Centres are located in the Local EMPLAN.
 - f. The NSW Police Force will coordinate the provision of overall security for evacuated areas.

5.8.4 **Strategy:** Evacuate people pre-emptively from dangerous or potentially dangerous places and or locations created by the flood hazard to safe locations away from the hazard.

- a. The NSW SES will control and coordinate the evacuation of affected communities.
- b. The NSW SES Commissioner (or delegate) will warn communities to prepare for a possible evacuation, where circumstances allow such lead time.
- c. The NSW SES Commissioner (or delegate) will order any necessary evacuations and provide information to the community about when and how to evacuate.
- d. Support to evacuation operations may be requested from other emergency services and supporting agencies using arrangements in the local EMPLAN and supporting plans.
- e. The Health Services Functional Area will coordinate the evacuation of hospitals, health centres and aged care facilities (including nursing homes) in consultation with the NSW SES and the Welfare Services functional Area.
- f. School administration offices (government and private) will coordinate the evacuation of schools in consultation with the NSW SES and the Welfare Services Functional Area, if not already closed.

- g. Caravan Park proprietors will inform the NSW SES Incident Controller when caravan park evacuations have been completed.
- h. People who are reluctant or refuse to comply with any Emergency Warning will be referred to the NSW Police Force.

5.9 EVACUEE MANAGEMENT AND WELFARE

5.9.1 Research and experience in flood operations shows that most evacuees go to family, friends and commercial accommodation outside the impact area.

5.9.2 **Strategy:** Maintain the welfare of communities and individuals affected by the impact of a flood.

Actions:

- a. The NSW SES will provide initial welfare for evacuees where required but will hand the responsibility over to the Welfare Services Functional Area as soon as possible. The NSW SES will brief the Welfare Services Functional Area at the earliest opportunity regarding the level of assistance required.
- b. The Welfare Services Functional Area will manage evacuation centres for affected residents and travellers in accordance with the Welfare Services Functional Area Supporting Plan.
- c. Schools administration (government and private) will manage the safety of students directly affected by flooding and will work with the NSW SES in the temporary closure of schools and will coordinate with the NSW SES, the Transport and Welfare Services Functional Areas in the management of school evacuees.
- d. Disaster Victim Registration will be controlled and coordinated by the NSW Police Force with the assistance of the NSW SES and the Welfare Services Functional Area.
- e. The NSW SES will provide details of all residents assisted in evacuations to the Welfare Services Functional Area as early as possible.
- f. Where the expected remaining number of evacuees and the duration of evacuation is assessed to be beyond the capability and capacity of the established evacuation centre arrangements the State Emergency Operations Controller (SEOCN) may establish Major Evacuation Centres or Mass Care facilities.
- g. The decision to establish Major Evacuation Centres or Mass Care Facilities will be made by the NSW SES and SEOCN in consultation with members of the State Emergency Management Committee (SEMC).

5.9.3 **Strategy:** Coordinate available and accessible health services for flood affected communities.

Action: The provision of environmental health advice, assessment of public health risks and coordination of immediate mental health support will be provided by the Health Services Functional Area.

5.9.4 **Strategy:** Maintain the welfare of animals impacted by a flood.

Actions:

- a. The Agriculture and Animal Services Functional Area will coordinate the welfare of livestock, pets, companion animals and wildlife including support to primary producers, animal holding establishments and community members.
- b. The Agriculture and Animal Services Functional Area role will coordinate the evacuation, emergency care and assessment of animals, the humane destruction and disposal of affected animals and supply of emergency fodder and water (with aerial support where necessary).

5.10 FLOOD RESCUE

5.10.1 **Strategy:** Control and coordinate flood rescue of people and domestic animals.

Actions:

- a. The NSW SES will perform flood rescue, where training and equipment is suitable and where a risk assessment has indicated that the risk to rescuers is acceptable.
- b. Flood rescue operations will be conducted in accordance with the State Rescue Board NSW State Rescue Policy which sets out the framework, governance, responsibilities and requirements for the management and conduct of flood rescue in NSW.
- c. The NSW SES may request other supporting emergency services to undertake flood rescues on behalf of the NSW SES. Agencies must be authorised/accredited to undertake flood rescue operations in accordance with State Rescue Board requirements, as prescribed by the NSW SES. Supporting emergency services must supply information regarding rescues performed to the NSW SES. Notification arrangements with the NSW Police Force are outlined in the State Rescue Board NSW State Rescue Policy.
- d. Rescue agencies will conduct rescue of domestic small and large animals as per the State Rescue Board NSW State Rescue Policy (and may include large animal rescue of family horses and cows at a residence or property). The rescue of livestock (which includes commercial animals found on farming and breeding enterprises) will be coordinated through the Animal and Agriculture Services Functional Area.

5.11 RESUPPLY

5.11.1 **Strategy:** Coordinate resupply to towns and villages isolated by flooding to minimise disruption to the community.

Actions:

- a. The NSW SES will advise communities and businesses if flood predictions indicate that areas are likely to become isolated, and indicative timeframes where possible.
- b. Retailers should be advised to ensure sufficient stock is available for the duration of the flood.

- c. When isolation occurs, the NSW SES will establish loading points where retailers can instruct suppliers to deliver goods.
- d. The NSW SES will endeavour to support the delivery of mail to isolated communities but may not be able to do so according to normal Australia Post timetables.
- e. The NSW SES will assist hospitals with resupply of linen and other consumables where able.
- f. The NSW SES may request resupply assistance from supporting agencies.
- g. The NSW SES may conduct resupply operations as per the designated resupply plan for the event.
- h. Where additional supplies are required Engineering Services Functional Area be requested to coordinate the supply of goods and services in response to and recovery from the emergency.

5.11.2 **Strategy:** Coordinate resupply to rural properties isolated by flooding.

Actions:

- a. When requested, the NSW SES will establish a resupply schedule and coordinate the resupply for isolated rural properties.
- b. The NSW SES will provide local suppliers with designated loading points. Resupply items are to be packaged by the supplier.
- c. Isolated households unable to afford resupply items will be referred to the Welfare Services Functional Area for assistance.

5.12 RETURN

5.12.1 **Strategy:** Coordinate the return of communities to flood affected areas when the immediate danger to life and property has passed.

Actions:

- a. The NSW SES Incident Controller will determine when it is safe to progressively return in consultation with the relevant Emergency Operations Controller and supporting agencies considering the ongoing risk to public safety.
- b. The NSW SES Incident Controller will specify the level of access to affected communities as the following:
 - Not suitable for access; or
 - Limited access by emergency services and response agencies; or
 - Limited access by residents and/or business operators; or
 - Full access.
- c. The NSW SES Incident Controller will issue an Advice Warning advising “Reduced Threat: Return with Caution” when the immediate danger to life and property has passed for areas.
- d. The NSW SES will facilitate the return of evacuees to their homes.

5.13 END OF RESPONSE OPERATIONS

5.13.1 **Strategy:** Conclude response operations.

Actions:

- a. Response operations will conclude when:
 - There is a reduced likelihood of additional flooding within the Area of Operation and flood waters have receded.
 - All requests for assistance related to the flood have been completed.
 - The need for warning and evacuation no longer exist.
 - There is no further likelihood of rescuing people.
 - Resupply is no longer required (resupply operations may occur concurrently with the recovery phase).
 - Response to fire and hazardous material incidents have concluded (not including subsequent clean-up of contaminated sites).
 - All affected areas have had an 'Reduced Threat: Return with Caution' issued.

5.14 POST IMPACT ACTIONS

5.14.1 **Strategy:** Learnings from the event are used to inform recovery and future events.

Actions:

- a. The NSW SES will continue to engage with communities after significant floods through convening one or more community forums, workshops or other opportunities to provide communities a chance to provide feedback, address any concerns and provide input into the recovery process. These will typically include other agencies such as the Bureau, the Welfare Services Functional Area and Walgett Shire Council representatives.
- b. The NSW SES will conduct After Action Reviews, at the conclusion of response operations, which will involve all stakeholders. Findings will be shared and incorporated into improved disaster resilience planning.
- c. The NSW SES will provide information and data throughout the emergency response to inform community recovery. A report will be developed at the request of the SERCON at the conclusion of the response within an area. Should a response summary report be required it will include the following:
 - The emergency action plan in place at conclusion of the response emphasising any continuing activities including community meetings/ engagement activities.
 - Resources allocated to the emergency response and associated exit strategies.
 - Details of any areas or situations with potential to re-escalate the emergency.

- A recommendation for the conclusion of the NSW SES as lead agency to transition to the NSW Reconstruction Authority as the lead agency for recovery.
- Any actions that are incomplete or outstanding.
- Damage assessment data and Information obtained throughout the response phase which will further support the long-term recovery of communities.

d. The NSW SES will undertake/coordinate a comprehensive review of intelligence and plans following significant flood events.

5.14.2 **Strategy:** Participate in post flood data collection analysis.

Actions: The NSW SES works with relevant stakeholders and Walgett Shire Council on post flood data collection analysis including review of flood intelligence where necessary.

6 RECOVERY OPERATIONS

6.1 INTRODUCTION

6.1.1 Recovery is the process of returning an affected community to its proper level of functioning after an emergency. It will generally commence simultaneously with the response phase.

6.1.2 Recovery operations will be initiated and conducted as outlined in the NSW State EMPLAN and as further detailed in the NSW Recovery Supporting Plan.

6.2 NSW SES RECOVERY ROLE

6.2.1 **Strategy:** The NSW SES will support recovery operations and established Recovery Committees.

6.2.2 **Actions:**

- The NSW SES will provide representation to Recovery Committees as required and may have an ongoing role in the recovery phase.
- The NSW SES roles on Recovery Committees may include providing information about any continuing response, guidance on mitigation strategies and general advice and assistance to the committee as a subject matter specialist and or expert.
- The NSW SES will provide information to the NSW Reconstruction Authority to support applications to Treasury for Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements.
- The NSW SES, in conjunction with a Recovery Committee, will provide a service to support the information needs of a community immediately following a flood.
- The NSW SES, and where required supporting agencies, will assist with clean-up operations after floods, where possible when resources and personnel permit.

- f. The NSW SES may coordinate immediate relief in collaboration with SEOCON and State Emergency Recovery Controller (SERCON).

7 ABBREVIATIONS

For a full list of abbreviations refer to the NSW State Flood Plan – Abbreviations.

8 GLOSSARY

Common emergency service terminology can be found within the Australian Disaster Resilience Glossary.

Readers should refer to EMPLAN Annex 9 – Definitions.

Refer to the NSW State Flood Plan for a complete glossary of terminology used throughout this plan and within NSW SES Flood Plans.

For a full list of definitions refer to the Supporting Document - State Flood Plan Glossary
<https://www.ses.nsw.gov.au/media/2650/glossary.pdf>

9 Appendix A – Map of Walgett Shire Council Area



10 Appendix B – Roles and Responsibilities

AGENCY	RESPONSIBILITIES
NSW State Emergency Service	The NSW SES is the designated Combat Agency for floods, storms and tsunami and controls response operations. The NSW SES roles and responsibilities in relation to floods are outlined in the NSW State Flood Plan .

AGENCY	RESPONSIBILITIES
Agriculture and Animal Services Functional Area	The roles and responsibilities for the Agriculture and Animal Services Functional Area are outlined in the Agriculture and Animal Services Supporting Plan and the NSW State Flood Plan.
Australian Government Bureau of Meteorology	The roles and responsibilities for the Australian Government Bureau of Meteorology (Bureau) are outlined in the NSW State Flood Plan.
Caravan Park Proprietor(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepare a flood emergency plan for the caravan park. • Ensure that owners and occupiers of movable dwellings are aware that the caravan park is flood liable by providing a written notice to occupiers taking up residence and displaying this notice and emergency management arrangement within the park. • Ensure that owners and occupiers of movable dwellings are aware that if they are expecting to be absent for extended periods, they should: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Provide the manager of the caravan park with a contact address and telephone number in case of an emergency. – Leave any movable dwelling in a condition allowing it to be relocated in an emergency (i.e.: should ensure that the wheels, axles and draw bar of the caravans are not removed and are maintained in proper working order). • Ensure that occupiers are informed of Flood Information. At this time, occupiers should be advised to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Ensure that they have spare batteries for their radios. – Listen to a local radio station for updated flood information. – Prepare for evacuation and movable dwelling (cabins) relocation. • Ensure that owners and occupiers of caravans are aware of what they must do to facilitate evacuation and movable dwelling relocation when flooding occurs. • Coordinate the evacuation of people and the relocation of movable dwellings when floods are rising and their return when flood waters have subsided. Movable dwellings will be relocated back to the caravan park(s) by owners or by vehicles and drivers arranged by the park managers.

AGENCY	RESPONSIBILITIES
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Secure any movable dwellings that are not able to be relocated to prevent floatation. • Inform the NSW SES of the progress of evacuation and/or movable dwellings relocation operations and of any need for assistance in the conduct of these tasks.
Childcare Centre's and Preschools	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When notified of possible flooding or isolation, childcare centres and preschools should: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Liaise with the NSW SES and arrange for the early release of children whose travel arrangements are likely to be disrupted by flooding and/or road closures. – Assist with coordinating the evacuation of preschools and childcare centres.
Dams Safety NSW	The roles and responsibilities for Dams Safety NSW (formerly NSW Dam Safety Committee) are outlined in the NSW State Flood Plan.
Department of Defence	Arrangements for Defence Assistance to the Civil Community are detailed within the State EMPLAN (section 448).
Energy and Utilities Services Functional Area	<p>The roles and responsibilities for the Energy and Utilities Services Functional Area are outlined in the Energy and Utility Services supporting plan (EUSPLAN).</p> <p>Roles and responsibilities in addition to the supporting plan are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assist the NSW SES with identification of infrastructure at risk of flood damage where resources are available. • Facilitate local utility service distribution providers (electricity, gas, water, wastewater) to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Provide advice to the NSW SES of any need to disconnect power/gas/water/wastewater supplies or of any timetable for reconnection. – Advise the NSW SES of any hazards from utility services during flooding and coastal erosion/inundation. – Advise the public with regard to electrical hazards during flooding and coastal erosion/inundation, and to the availability or otherwise of the electricity supply. – Clear or make safe any hazard caused by power lines or electricity distribution equipment. – Reconnect customers' electrical/ gas/ water/wastewater installations, when certified safe to do so and as conditions allow. – Assist the NSW SES to identify infrastructure at risk of flooding for incorporation into planning and intelligence.

AGENCY	RESPONSIBILITIES
Engineering Services Functional Area	The roles and responsibilities for the Engineering Services Functional area are outlined in the Engineering Services Supporting Plan and the NSW State Flood Plan.
Environmental Services Functional Area	The roles and responsibilities for the Environmental Services Functional Area are outlined in the Environmental Services (ENVIROPLAN) Supporting Plan.
Floodplain Management Australia	The roles and responsibilities for Floodplain Management Australia are outlined in the NSW State Flood Plan.
Fire and Rescue NSW	The roles and responsibilities for Fire and Rescue NSW are outlined in the NSW State Flood Plan.
Forestry Corporation of NSW	The roles and responsibilities for the Forestry Corporation of NSW are outlined in the NSW State Flood Plan.
Health Services Functional Area	The roles and responsibilities for the Health Services Functional Area are outlined in the Health Services Functional Area (HEALTHPLAN) Supporting Plan and NSW State Flood Plan.
Local Emergency Operations Controller (LEOCON)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitor flood operations. • If requested, coordinate support for the NSW SES Incident Controller.
Local Emergency Management Officer (LEMO)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If requested by the NSW SES Incident Controller, advise appropriate agencies and officers of the start of response operations.
Manly Hydraulics Laboratory (MHL)	The roles and responsibilities for Manly Hydraulic Laboratory are outlined in the NSW State Flood Plan.
Marine Rescue NSW	The roles and responsibilities for Marine Rescue NSW are outlined in the NSW State Flood Plan.
NSW Ambulance	The roles and responsibilities for NSW Ambulance are outlined in the Health Services (HEALTHPLAN) Supporting Plan and NSW State Flood Plan.
NSW Department of Education, Association of Independent Schools of NSW, and National Catholic Education Commission	The roles and responsibilities for NSW Department of Education, Association of Independent Schools of NSW, and National Catholic Education Commission are outlined in the NSW State Flood Plan.
NSW Department of Planning and Environment (Environment and Heritage Group)	The roles and responsibilities for NSW Department of Planning and Environment (Environment and Heritage Group) are outlined in the NSW State Flood Plan (referred to as DPIE EES).
NSW Department of Planning and Environment (Water)	The roles and responsibilities for NSW Department of Planning and Environment (Water) are outlined in the NSW State Flood Plan.

AGENCY	RESPONSIBILITIES
NSW Food Authority	The roles and responsibilities for the NSW Food Authority are outlined in the Food Safety Emergency Sub Plan.
NSW National Parks and Wildlife Services	The roles and responsibilities for the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Services are outlined in the NSW State Flood Plan.
NSW Police Force	The roles and responsibilities for the NSW Police Force are outlined in the NSW State Flood Plan.
NSW Reconstruction Authority	The roles and responsibilities for the NSW Reconstruction Authority are outlined in the NSW State Flood Plan.
NSW Rural Fire Service	The roles and responsibilities for the NSW Rural Fire Service are outlined in the NSW State Flood Plan.
Owners of Declared Dams within or upstream of the LGA	The roles and responsibilities for owners of declared dams are outlined in the NSW State Flood Plan.
Public Information Services Functional Area	The roles and responsibilities for the Public Information Services Functional Area are outlined in the Public Information Services Supporting Plan and the NSW State Flood Plan.
State Emergency Operations Controller (SEOCN)	The roles and responsibilities for the SEOCN/SEOC are outlined in the NSW State Flood Plan.
Surf Life Saving NSW	The roles and responsibilities for Surf Life Saving NSW are outlined in the NSW State Flood Plan.
Telecommunications Services Functional Area	The roles and responsibilities for the Telecommunications Services Functional Area are outlined in the Telecommunications Services Functional Area (TELCOPLAN) Supporting Plan.
Transport for NSW	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transport for NSW coordinates information on road conditions for emergency services access. • Transport for NSW coordinates the management of the road network across all modes of transport. • Transport for NSW in conjunction will assist NSW SES with the evacuation of at-risk communities by maintaining access and egress routes. • Assist the NSW SES with the communication of flood warnings and information provision to the public through Live Traffic and Social Media according to the VMS protocols and procedures. • Assist the NSW SES with identification of road infrastructure at risk of flooding.
Transport Services Functional Area	The roles and responsibilities for the Transport Services Functional Area are outlined in the Transport Services Functional Area Supporting Plan and NSW State Flood Plan.

AGENCY	RESPONSIBILITIES
VRA Rescue NSW	The roles and responsibilities for the VRA Rescue NSW are outlined in the NSW State Flood Plan.
Walgett Shire Council	<p data-bbox="507 342 687 376">Preparedness</p> <ul data-bbox="507 405 1453 1115" style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish and maintain floodplain and coastal risk management committees and ensure that key agencies are represented. • Develop and implement floodplain risk management plans in accordance with the NSW Government’s Flood Prone Land Policy and the Floodplain Risk Management Manual. • Provide levee studies, flood studies and floodplain management studies to the NSW SES. • Coordinate the development of warning services for catchments prone to flash flooding (small catchments), where appropriate. • Maintain council-owned flood warning networks and flood mitigation works. • Participate in the NSW SES-led flood emergency planning meetings, to assist in the preparation of Flood Sub Plans. • Maintain a plant and equipment resource list for the council area. • Contribute to community engagement activities. <p data-bbox="507 1137 635 1171">Response</p> <ul data-bbox="507 1200 1453 2056" style="list-style-type: none"> • Subject to the availability of council resources, assist the NSW SES with flood operations including: <ul data-bbox="555 1294 1453 1955" style="list-style-type: none"> – Traffic management on council managed roads. – Provision of assistance to the NSW SES (plant, equipment and personnel where able and requested). – Property protection tasks including sandbagging. – Assist with the removal of caravans from caravan parks. – Warning and/or evacuation of residents and other people in flood liable areas. – Provision of back-up radio communications. – Resupply of isolated properties. – Technical advice on the impacts of flooding. – Close and reopen council roads (and other roads nominated by agreement with Transport for NSW) and advise the NSW SES, the NSW Police Force and people who contact the council for road information. – Assist the NSW SES to provide filled sandbags and filling facilities to residents and business in areas which flooding is expected. • Assist with making facilities available for domestic pets and companion animals of evacuees during evacuations.

AGENCY	RESPONSIBILITIES
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Operate flood mitigation works including critical structures such as detention basins and levees and advise the NSW SES regarding their operation. • Manage and protect council-owned infrastructure facilities during floods. • Provide advice to the NSW SES and the Health Services Functional Area during floods about key council managed infrastructure such as sewerage treatment and water supply. • Advise the Environmental Protection Authority of any sewerage overflow caused by flooding. • Work with the NSW SES and the NSW Department of Planning and Environment to collect flood related data during and after flood events. <p>Recovery</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide for the management of health hazards associated with flooding including removing debris and waste. • Ensure premises are fit and safe for reoccupation and assess any need for demolition. • Provide services, assistance and advice to the State Government in accordance with the State Recovery Plan.
Water NSW	The roles and responsibilities for Water NSW are outlined in the NSW State Flood Plan.
Welfare Services Functional Area	The roles and responsibilities for the Welfare Services Functional Area are outlined in the Welfare Services Functional Area Supporting Plan and the NSW State Flood Plan.

11 Appendix C – Community Specific Roles and Responsibilities

<p>Community Members</p>	<p>Preparedness</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understand the potential risk and impact of flooding. • Prepare homes and property to reduce the impact of flooding. • Understand warnings and other triggers for action and the safest actions to take in a flood. • Households, institutions and businesses develop plans to manage flood risks, sharing and practicing this with family, friends, employees and neighbours. • Have an emergency kit. • Be involved in local emergency planning processes. <p>Recovery</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assist with community clean-up if required and able to do so. • Participate in After Action Reviews if required.
<p>Aboriginal Organisations or Groups</p>	<p>Walgett Aboriginal Lands Council 87 Fox Street, Walgett NSW 2832 Ph: (02) 6828 2426</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Act as the point of contact between the NSW SES and the communities located at Gingie Village Aboriginal Reserve and Namoi Village. • Inform the NSW SES Incident Controller about flood conditions and response needs. • Disseminate flood information, including flood and evacuation warnings, to the communities of Gingie Village Aboriginal Reserve and Namoi Village.

HAZARD AND RISK IN WALGETT SHIRE

Volume 2 of the Walgett Shire Local Flood Plan

Last Update: June 2002

ANNEX A - THE FLOOD THREAT

General

1. Flooding in the Walgett Shire Council area originates from seven major river catchments:
 - a. Border River Basin (Basin Number 416). The Border rivers including the Weir, Dumaresq, Macintyre and Severn Rivers.
 - b. Moonie River Basin (Basin No 417).
 - c. Gwydir River Basin (Basin No 418).
 - d. Barwon River Basin (Basin No. 422) - including the Condamine, Balonne and Maranoa Rivers in Queensland, which become the Narran, Bokhara, Birrie and Culgoa Rivers in NSW.
 - e. Namoi River Basin (Basin No 419).
 - f. Castlereagh River Basin (Basin No. 420).
 - g. Macquarie River Basin (Basin No. 421) - including the Macquarie and Bogan Rivers plus Marra and Marthaguy Creeks.

Border River Basin (Basin No 416)

2. The Border Rivers Basin extends from just south of Glen Innes northwards to Stanthorpe in southern Queensland and westward to Mungindi. Just above Mungindi the Macintyre and Weir Rivers join to form the Barwon River. Downstream of Boggabilla is a complete network of effluents and anabranches, which divert water from the main river. Flood waters move through the major distributaries such as Whalan Creek and Boomi River where they are joined by water from Croppa and Gil Gil Creeks, which drain a large area of plains country between the Macintyre River and the Gwydir River to the south. Floods can spread over a vast area and join those in the Gwydir Basin. Some peak flood heights at Mungindi are as follows:

- a. 1890 - 8.23 metres (Flood of Record).
- b. 1956 - 7.64 metres.
- c. 1971 - 7.62 metres.
- d. 1976 - 7.99 metres.
- e. 1983 - 7.59 metres.
- f. 1984 - 7.80 metres.
- g. 1988 - 7.83 metres.

- h. 1991 - 6.20 metres.

Moonie River Basin (Basin No 417)

3. The Moonie River rises on the Darling Downs in Queensland. After crossing into NSW it flows south through the north east corner of the Walgett Council area before joining the Barwon River upstream of Mogil Mogil. Floodwaters break out near Cambo and flow through the Mungeroo Warrambool (a series of normally dry washes) to flood an area to the west of the Bullah Scrub.

Gwydir River Basin (Basin No 418)

4. The Gwydir River rises to the west of Armidale and joins the Barwon near Collarenebri. Downstream of Moree the Gwydir is a slow moving stream with a well-developed and complex pattern of effluents and tributary creeks. Only a small percentage of water passing Moree in a normal season enters the Barwon as flow in the main channel of the Gwydir River. During floods, a wide area of floodplain is inundated with water reaching the Barwon at a number of points. Once the natural levees along the watercourses are overtopped there is nothing to stop floodwaters spreading and inundating hundreds of square kilometres of land. If the Barwon is in flood when Gwydir floodwaters reach the Barwon, they will often bypass Collarenebri, spill into the Thalaba and Pagan Creeks and not actually join the Barwon till just upstream of Walgett.

5. The peak flood level of 10.87 metres, which was reached by the Mehi River at Moree in 1955 is the highest flood level recorded at Moree. The 1971 flood was the largest in terms of volume and duration. Peak flood levels of some recent floods at Moree are as follows:

- a. 1955 - 10.87 metres (Flood of Record).
- b. 1971 - 10.3 metres.
- c. 1974 - 10.33 metres.
- d. 1976 - 10.59 metres.
- e. 1984 - 6.21 metres.

Barwon River (Basin No 422)

6. Just upstream of Collarenebri the Barwon River is joined by a number of watercourses including the Gwydir River and the Ballone Creek (one of the Barwon's distributaries). At Collarenebri, a narrow channel restricts the flow in the Barwon. Consequently, much of the Barwon floodwaters also bypass the town to the east where they join up with water from the Moomin and Gwydir and inundate a large area to the east of the river. Below Collarenebri, major floods result in overflows on the right bank with water moving into Sparkes Warrambool. This then flows south west, runs parallel to the Barwon and rejoins it below Walgett near the Ulah causeways. Just above Walgett, some floodwaters flow through the Two Mile Warrambool

between the Barwon and the Namoi Rivers with the direction of flow being determined by the relative flows of the two rivers. At Walgett the Barwon is joined by the Namoi River and below Walgett it is joined by the Macquarie River.

7. Inundation of the principally flat country below Walgett is mainly caused from the Barwon River (because of its limited channel capacity) rather than from its tributaries. However, the area is intersected by a number of watercourses, many of which flow intermittently across country during flooding. Together they form a network with floodwaters from different sources merging. For example, some floodwater flows from the Barwon into the Castlereagh River through flood runners such as Wanouri Creek and Wombat Creek.

8. Between Walgett and Angledool, floodwaters flow to the south west through a number of warrambools, principally:

- a. The 29 Mile Warrambool cuts the Castlereagh Highway to the south east of Gooraway.
- b. The Big Warrambool takes overflow from the Narran River and Twelve Mile Swamp Creek. It flows in a south west direction, crossing the Castlereagh Highway near Gooraway and joins the Barwon upstream of Horse Shoe Lagoon.
- c. Some floodwaters leave the Narran River upstream of Angledool and flow into Lake Angledool. They then cross the Castlereagh Highway at Weetaliba Waterholes, fill the normally dry Coocoran Lake, flow south into the Grawin Watercourse and then south west to flood the Rotten Plains area.

9. The Narran River floods an area down the western side of the Council area from the NSW/QLD border to the Narran Lake. During most floods, weir gates at St George (QLD) are used to maintain a peak level at Angledool of about 1.7 metres. This can last for some weeks at a time. During larger floods the Narran Lake can overflow and floodwaters reach the Barwon River.

The Namoi River (Basin No 419)

10. The MacDonald (or Namoi) River rises on the New England Plateau to the east of Tamworth. By the time it reaches Narrabri it has been joined by the:

- a. Peel River, which drains an area to the east and south of Tamworth;
- b. Manilla River, which drains an area to the north west of Tamworth;
- c. Mooki River, which drains the southern part of the Liverpool Plains; and
- d. Cox's and Moales Creeks.

11. Between Narrabri and Walgett there is an extensive riverine area in which the Namoi River becomes a slow moving stream joined by Bohena and Baradine Creeks on its left bank and a number of watercourses that drain the Pilliga Scrub area. The

area features a number of billabongs, branches and effluent streams. The main effluents are Pian Creek and Gunidgera Creek - both of which leave the right bank of the Namoi near Wee Waa and rejoin later. The Pian Creek does not rejoin the Namoi until just upstream of Walgett, although most floodwater flows back into the Namoi rather than directly into the Barwon River. Flooding in this riverine area can be extensive and last for up to three weeks. At the lower end of the valley, flood behaviour can also be significantly affected by flooding in the adjacent Gwydir and Castlereagh River Basins.

12. A considerable amount of floodwater leaves the Namoi River and bypasses Walgett to the south through:

- a. Shepherds Warrambool, which leaves the Namoi near its junction with Baradine Creek and flows west to join the Castlereagh River.
- b. Cumberdoon Warrambool, which breaks out of the Namoi some 8 km below Goangra and carries floodwater across to the Castlereagh River.
- c. Pocketewa Warrambool, which leaves the Namoi just upstream of Walgett and flows around to the south of the town.

13. The largest flood to occur in the lower Namoi Basin was in 1955. It was also the highest flood at Narrabri since 1910 but at Bugilbone and Goangra it has been exceeded by more recent floods because of higher flows in the Barwon River. The 1971 flood was not only a major event; it was very damaging because of its long duration. Because of multiple peaks from the major tributaries it was the second highest flood at Narrabri. Further downstream the flooding was worsened by concurrent flooding in the Pilliga streams and a Moderate flood on the Barwon. This combination resulted in record levels at Goangra. The 1974 flood differed again with levels from Narrabri downstream being somewhat less than the 1971 flood levels.

The Castlereagh River (Basin No 420)

14. The Castlereagh River rises in the Warrumbungle Range near Coonabarabran and can flood up to one third of its valley, particularly in the lower reaches. Downstream of Coonamble, the Castlereagh is joined by three major tributaries (Teridgerie or Terembone Creek, Mowlma Creek and Nedgera Creek) none of which contribute much to flows in the river except during floods when both the Mowlma and Nedgera Creeks are fed by overflows from the Castlereagh.

15. Flooding in the lower reaches of the Castlereagh is considerably influenced by flows in the adjacent Barwon and Namoi Rivers. Here, watercourses such as Shepherds Warrambool, Cumbadoon Warrambool, Wanouri Creek and Wombat Creek carry floodwaters from these other rivers to join those from the Castlereagh. Depths of inundation are generally shallow and the direction of overland flow can be greatly influenced by the condition of crops and pastures, fence lines and flood mitigation works carried out by land-holders.

The Macquarie River (Basin No 420)

16. Upstream of the Council boundary, the Macquarie River enters the Macquarie Marshes. This swampy area of indistinct flow channels covers thousands of hectares. It acts as a storage basin and reduces flood flows downstream. However, significant flooding can still occur along the Macquarie River between the Marshes and the Barwon River and through overflows such as Mullins and Black Swamps in the south eastern corner of the Shire. Marthaguy and Marra Creeks, both of which carry floodwaters from the Macquarie, make flooding in this area worse.

Weather Systems and Flooding

17. Flooding can occur at any time of the year, but the weather systems that cause it vary considerably from season to season. The major flood-producing regimes are as follows:

- a. **Summer.** Very heavy daily falls result from the penetration of cyclonic low-pressure systems from Northern Australia. Intense short-duration rainfall occurs and flooding is the result. Such intrusions are not annual events, however, and summer flooding is sporadic.
- b. **Winter.** High monthly totals may result from a series of well-developed troughs associated with southern depressions which cross the area from west to east. These troughs rarely produce high daily rainfall but can bring substantial falls over longer periods. It is the **sequence** of events rather than individual ones that cause floods to occur.

18. There is no single clear-cut flood season. There are, however, some differences in the seasonal pattern of flooding between the various river systems. The Macquarie and Bogan systems have weak tendencies towards a concentration of flood occurrences during the winter months of June, July and August. Several floods have been recorded in October and a few in the months of January and February.

19. The Castlereagh and Barwon-Namoi systems, located further to the north, are less influenced by the southerly depressions that occur in winter and consequently these rivers tend more frequently to experience floods during the summer months. Rainfall is highest between November and February, the averages for these months being roughly twice those of the winter months in many locations. Often the summer rainfall is not spread through the season, however; and very short-term cyclonic rains are quite common and create serious flooding.

20. Periodically, high-intensity but short-duration convective thunderstorms cause flooding over limited areas. These are summer events concentrated in the months between November and March, but they rarely cause noticeable flood events in the major rivers.

Characteristics of Flooding

21. Flooding in the Walgett Council area has three main characteristics:

- a. The area is contained completely within the Barwon/Darling River valley and most floods in the area originate some distance away. Therefore, there is usually adequate warning time to prepare the community and to check the adequacy of structural mitigation measures in advance of flooding.
- b. The area is generally flat and is intersected by a number of significant rivers and creeks plus numerous smaller tributaries (locally known as Warrambools) which flow intermittently across country during flooding. Together they form a network with floodwaters from different sources merging. This can result in a significant portion of the Council area being inundated during large flood events, with many roads cut and isolation being a significant problem.
- c. Flood waters usually flow at low velocities, often taking months to pass a particular location. Although this causes little structural damage it means that protective levees are required around towns and many rural properties. It also means that they may be isolated for weeks at a time.

Flood travel Times

22. Some indicative flood peak flow timings are as follows. Note that these may vary significantly due to the nature of extreme flood events, the complicated inter-action of the river systems converging in the area, and the changing nature of land use in the area.

23. **Barwon River.** The indicative travel times between centres along the Barwon River are shown in the following table:

From	To	Travel Time
Goondiwindi	Mogil Mogil	14 days
Mungindi	Mogil Mogil	5 days or more
Mogil Mogil	Collarenebri	1 to 2 days
Collarenebri	Walgett	5 days or more

Table 1 - Indicative flood travel times for the Barwon River

NB: There is evidence that travel time from Goondiwindi to Walgett could be as little as 14 days. This highlights the variable nature of the above listed travel times.

24. **Moonie River.** The travel times between Gundabloui to Mogil Mogil varies from 1 ½ - 3 days.

25. **Namoi River.** The indicative travel times between centres along the Namoi River are shown in the following table:

From	To	Travel Time
Gunnedah	Walgett	14-15 days
Narrabri	Walgett	12-13 days
Bugilbone	Walgett	9 days.

Table 2 - Indicative flood travel times for the Namoi River

Flood History

26. **Introduction.** The flat plains of the Walgett Shire have been subjected to numerous floods that have covered large tracts of land resulting in isolation of the villages and towns.

27. **Collarenebri.** Since the gauging commenced on the Barwon River at Collarenebri on 1 August 1889 there have been 27 floods recorded. Only two of these floods have been classified as major floods exceeding 8.5 m. These were recorded on 1 August 1910 (8.56 m) and 21 February 1976 (8.89 m).

28. **Walgett.** Floods have been observed at Walgett since 1886 when a gauge was installed on Dangar Bridge (Walgett gauge, AWRC No 422001). The 1890 flood, which reached a peak height of 13.84 m on the Walgett gauge, is the largest flood to have occurred at Walgett since records have been kept for this gauge. Since the gauge commenced operation there have been 46 floods recorded at Walgett, 19 of these have been major floods. The largest of these floods were experienced in February 1976, January 1974, August 1950, February 1971 and September 1998. A chart depicting the major floods that have occurred at Walgett is shown in the following chart:

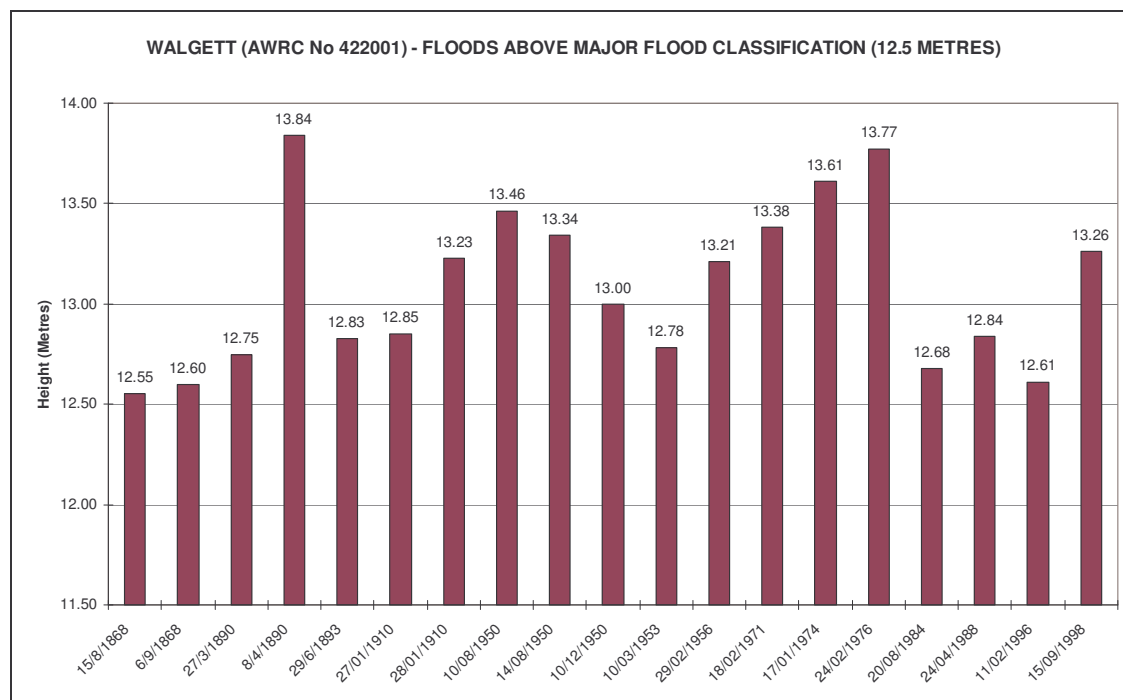


Figure 1 - Floods above the major flood classification at Walgett

Floods of February – March 1971

29. After weeks of above average rainfall across the northern parts of NSW, the catchments of the Namoi, Gwydir, Macquarie and Castlereagh rivers were saturated and rivers, creeks and lagoons were full. On the 28 January 1971, a heavy rain depression moved across the north west of the state causing heavy rainfalls across all of these catchments.
30. Rain continued to fall on 30th January and aggravated the flood problem. By late Saturday afternoon, it was realised that large discharges from Keepit Dam, together with water from the Peel, and near record volumes in the Mooki River and Cox's Creek, would cause major flooding along the Namoi River.
31. In the lower Namoi Valley, where the topography is almost flat floodwaters spread over millions of hectares. Many farms and homesteads were isolated and food drops by RAAF, Army, and private aircraft were arranged.
32. Flooding was severe in the upper and central sections of the Gwydir River Valley but the most serious flood problem was along the lower reaches of this valley where floodwaters from the Gwydir-Mehi rivers and numerous watercourses spread over thousands of square kilometres of land.
33. Heavy and continuous rain also fell over the catchments of the Macquarie, Hogan, Talbragar and Castlereagh rivers and districts along the lower Macquarie and Castlereagh rivers experienced widespread major flooding.
34. As floodwaters moved further downstream, the town of Walgett, which is situated at the confluence of the Namoi and Barwon Rivers, and protected by a system of levees, prepared to meet a flood of major proportions.
35. RAAF Hercules aircraft delivered additional tents for evacuees and a portable three-phase emergency lighting plant for the Walgett Hospital. By the end of the day practically all evacuees outside Walgett were accommodated in an emergency "tent city", with sewerage, electricity and water facilities provided. Walgett Shire Council staff constantly patrolled the levee banks.
36. On the 10th February, members of the team installed a radio set at Collarenebri and arranged for the installation of another set at Rowena. Sanitary equipment arrived by RAAF aircraft for delivery to Collarenebri.
37. On the following day, the Shire Headquarters became fully operational. Sub-Local Headquarters were established at Collarenebri and Burren Junction. A helicopter made available by the RAAF made a number of sorties, and transported urgently required supplies to Burren Junction. Crews of the helicopter also assisted in the restoration of power in many areas.
38. During the next week, areas of inundation became progressively worse. Many requests were received for food and fodder drops, restoration of power supplies, and evacuation of persons on medical grounds. Health authorities at Collarenebri found it necessary to set up an evacuation centre in the shire hall. As a result considerable

medical equipment was ordered from State Headquarters, and subsequently delivered to the town by RAAF aircraft.

39. By the 17th February, all roads and rail links to Walgett were severed. The only means of access to the town was by aircraft. Approximately 59,020 kg of freight was transported during Walgett's isolation.

40. The river at Walgett reached a peak height of 13.36 m in at 6:00 a.m. on the 18th February 1971 but the town was virtually unaffected, due to the levee system that protected it.

41. The river remained steady at the peak level until the 21st February. Thereafter it fell by about 0.03 m a day. Conditions did not return to normal until the middle of March 1971.

Floods of January – February 1974

42. During the latter half of 1973, the far west and north west areas of New South Wales experienced an excellent season so far as rainfall was concerned. Near record rainfall fell in October 1974 and the trend of well above average falls continued through to the end of December. The land had reached absorption point and the record-breaking rains in January 1974, brought extensive and rapid run-off. The first flood warnings were received and disseminated on Friday, 4th January 1974.

43. The diagram below shows the storm rainfalls recorded in New South Wales for eight days ending at 9:00 a.m. on 14th January 1974:

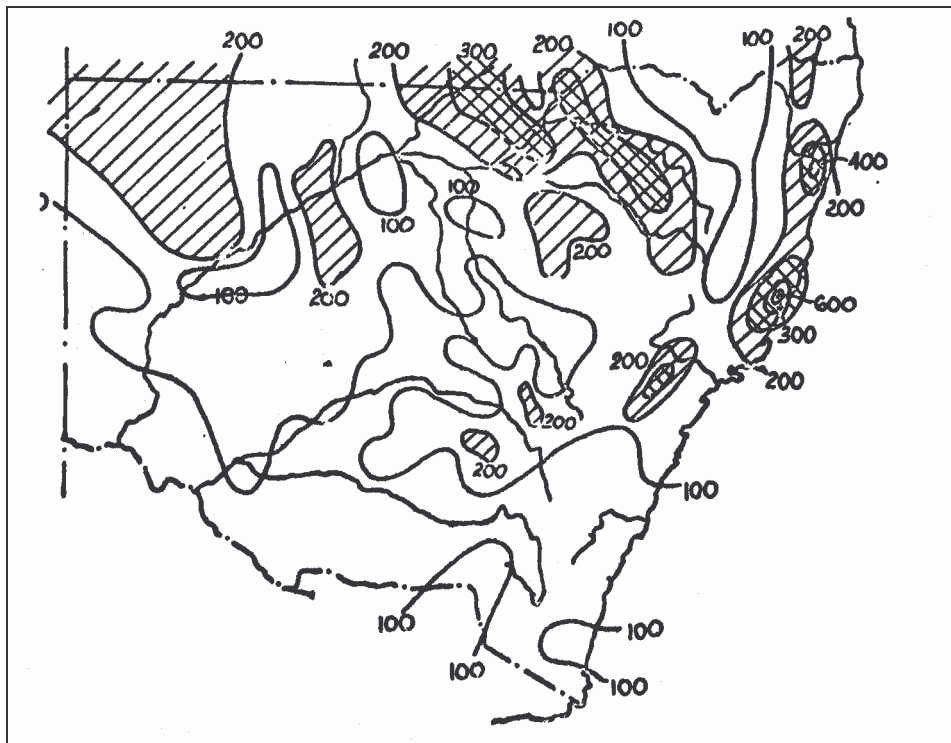


Figure 2 - Rainfall map for period ending 14 January 1974

44. The heavy rainfalls across the north western parts of NSW resulted in major flooding along the Namoi, Barwon, Gwydir, Macquarie and Castlereagh river systems.
45. The Barwon River peaked at Collarenebri at 8.28 metres (0.22 m below major flood level) at 09:00 a.m. on 15 January 1974 and 13.61m (0.23 m above the 1971 level and 1.11m above the major flood classification) at Walgett at 11:59 p.m. on Thursday, 17th January 1974.
46. During this flood, the Aboriginal Mission in Collarenebri was completely evacuated and approximately 200 evacuations took place from areas outside the levees at Walgett.
47. As was the case during the 1971 floods, one of the most pressing operational problems proved to be the requirement for vast amounts of foodstuffs to be continually airlifted into isolated towns over fairly lengthy periods of time. Towns such as Narrabri, Wee Waa, Burren Junction, Goodooga, Lightning Ridge, Collarenebri, Walgett, Brewarrina and Bourke were supplied in this way for periods of up to one month. Also, numerous food drops were conducted to isolated homesteads in all affected inland Divisions by means of special airdrop containers.
48. The levee banks system surrounding Walgett contributed greatly to the success of the local flood operation as it enabled the town to function with a minimum of disruption and all normal services were able to be maintained. Some leaks occurred in the levee but the engineering staff from the Walgett Shire Council, which maintained a 24-hour patrol of the complete system, quickly repaired these. Wave action on the levees caused some erosion to take place, but this was minimised by the use of plastic sheeting that was constantly inspected and adjusted wherever necessary.
49. Following a conference on 12th January, of representatives of authorities based in Walgett, it was decided to prepare additional lines of defence by constructing a further restricted levee bank on higher ground within the town to cover sections of the town and especially the airstrip. The prime intention was to endeavour to keep the airstrip dry at all costs.
50. Throughout the emergency all sections of the bank remained sound and held all water from the town.

Floods of January – March 1976

51. During the latter half of January 1976, following extensive rain caused by tropical cyclone "David", areas of the north and north west of New South Wales were subjected to a major flood situation. In early February, when the worst had appeared to have passed, a complex depression developed in Central Australia. As this low moved into the northern part of the State and southern Queensland, further heavy falls caused the already serious situation to escalate into a major flood which, in some centres, was the most severe this century.
52. The diagram below shows rainfall totals (in millimetres) for the month of January 1976. Shaded areas indicated the extent of flooding as at the end of this month.

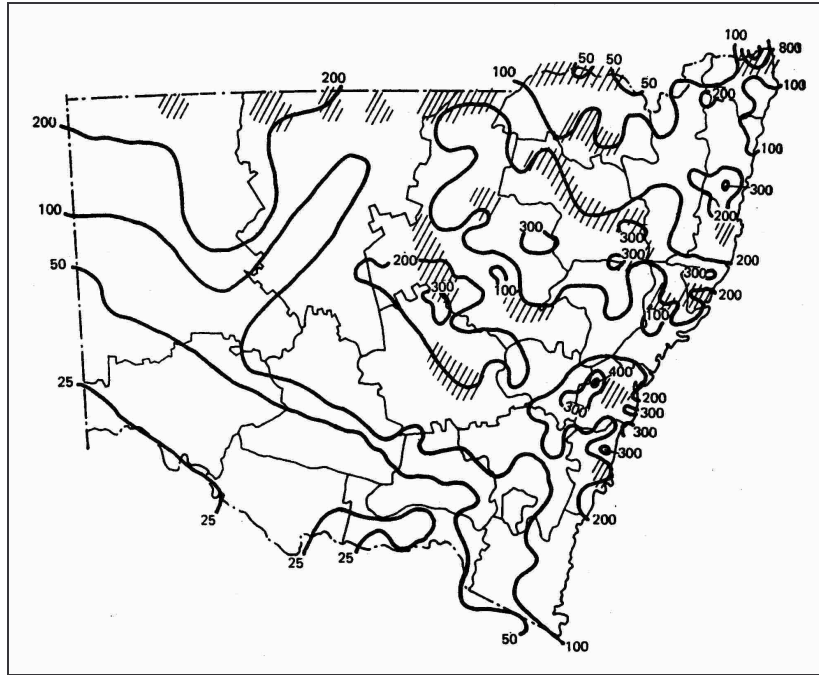


Figure 3 - Rainfall totals for January 1976

53. During February, a series of depressions along the south Queensland coast maintained heavy rainfalls over the catchments of the northern rivers resulting in further moderate flooding along the Clarence River and major flooding of the Wilson/Richmond River at and downstream of Lismore.

54. The rainfall total (in millimetres) for the month of February 1976 is shown in the following diagram. Shaded areas indicate the extent of flooding as at the end of this month.

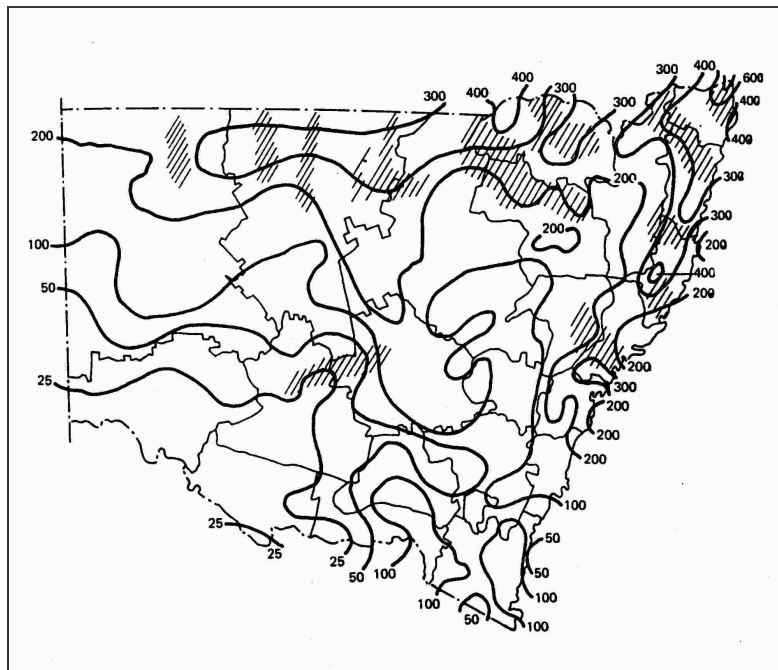


Figure 4 - Rainfall totals for February 1976

55. The heavy rainfalls across the north western parts of NSW resulted in major flooding along the Namoi, Barwon, and Gwydir river systems. On this occasion, there were only minor floods on the Macquarie River system and moderate floods on the Castlereagh.
56. Heavy rain on the catchment of the Namoi River system during the period 22-25 January 1976 led to major flooding at Tamworth, Gunnedah, Narrabri and Wee Waa.
57. At Moree, floodwaters from the Gwydir and Mehi river systems peaked on 12 February 1976 and resulted in the flooding of Moree and extensive tracts of rural land downstream.
58. Further to the north, record flooding along the Macintyre River resulted in the evacuation of Yetman and caused major inundation of Boggabilla, Goondiwindi and Mungindi. The Barwon River peaked at Mungindi on 19 February 1976.
59. As the flood peak moved downstream to Collarenebri, the whole town became inundated with water at depths varying from 0.7 to 1.4 m when the river there peaked at 8.89 metres on 21 February 1976. Practically all of the houses in Collarenebri were affected. Approximately 405 people were evacuated from Collarenebri and the surrounding area to Coonamble and Moree as a precaution against anticipated public health problems. 248 evacuees (141 adults and 107 children) were transported to Narrabri by car then to Moree by train. At Moree, these evacuees were accommodated in tented accommodation set up at the Moree Showground. 157 evacuees (78 adults and 59 children) were airlifted in four sorties of RAAF Caribou aircraft to Coonamble where they were accommodated in tented accommodation at the Coonamble Showground.
60. Large quantities of emergency supplies of food, chemicals, drugs and medicine were airlifted to Walgett and Lightning Ridge and other isolated communities. An extensive fodder dropping operation was undertaken using RAAF C130 Hercules aircraft operating out of Moree.
61. The flood peaked at 13.77m at Walgett on Thursday 24 January 1976 at 11:18 a.m. The levee surrounding Walgett contributed greatly to the success of the local flood operation as it enabled the town to function with a minimum of disruption with all of its normal services being maintained. It also provided a base from which isolated towns, such as Lightning Ridge and Goodooga, could be supplied by airlifts of food and other essential supplies.

Floods of August – October 1998

62. This flood event was in fact two separate floods, a continuous Namoi flood coupled initially with Castlereagh flooding, followed by Barwon floodwaters. Both events tended to prolong the flood effects in broad areas between Pilliga, Burren Junction and Walgett, and between Walgett, Carinda and Miralwyn. Prolonged rainfall and flooded tributaries significantly affected other areas including those between Walgett, Collarenebri and Burren Junction.

63. The flood was characterised by early rainfall in April and subsequent periods keeping the ground saturated during the winter months. Ground cover during the period was minimal, being between the end of the cotton season and preparations for the wheat season. Bare ground in the Pilliga Forest caused by the major Coonabarabran fires in December 1997 is suspected to have played a significant role in runoff from this area.

64. Subsequent and frequent rainfall over the upstream catchments led to multiple flood peaks across the Walgett Shire over a continuous three-month period. During this time, the Walgett Shire Local SES Headquarters reacted to 21 different flood peak changes at Goangra, immediately upstream from Walgett, and 14 different flood peak changes at Walgett. The Barwon River remained above the minor flood level from 1 August 1998 until 6 October 1998. Peak heights recorded were:

a. Collarenebri:

- 6.89 m on 17 August 1998.
- 8.03 m on 11 September 1998.

b. Walgett:

- 12.05 m on 9 August 1998.
- 12.21 m on 21 August 1998.
- 13.26 m on 15 September 1998 (0.51m below the 1976 peak height).

65. The floods threatened Walgett and a number of isolated rural properties. More than 76 isolated rural properties and the communities at Lightning Ridge, Collarenebri, Carinda, Rowena, Cumborah, Grawin/Glengarry, Come by Chance, and Namoi, Gingie and Walli aboriginal villages were directly affected and supported from Walgett.

66. The estimated crop losses for Walgett and Cryon silos were in the order of 104,000 hectares from 233,000 hectares that were sown (ie 45% loss).

67. Stock losses were limited to 5,000 sheep and 500 head of cattle.

68. Damage to community assets, particularly roads, exceeded \$11M.

Flood Mitigation Systems

69. Walgett is protected by an 8.6 km ring levee. The levee was initially constructed in 1960 to a level equal to the 1890 Flood of Record plus 0.6 metre freeboard. The freeboard on the north eastern section was increased to 0.9 metres following the floods of 1971, 1974 and 1976. Details of the levee are shown in the following table:

Metres AHD	Walgett gauge at Dangar Bridge (metres)	Comment
132.25	13.70	Estimated imminent failure level (IFL), 1992 PWD Levee Audit.
132.32	13.77	1976 flood height
132.39	13.84	1890 flood height
132.40	13.85	1% AEP flood level
133.42 – 134.02	14.87 – 15.47	Crest height; low point between Castlereagh Highway and the industrial area.

Table 3 - Walgett levee details

ANNEX B - EFFECTS OF FLOODING ON THE COMMUNITY

General

1. The Walgett Shire Council area covers 22,007 square kilometres and includes the urban areas at Burren Junction, Carinda, Collarenebri, Cumborah, Come by Chance, Grawin (including Western Opal Fields), Lightning Ridge, Rowena and Walgett. According to the 1996 Census the Shire population is 8,550 persons. The majority of the population, about 7,050 people, resides in towns, villages and urban localities within the Shire. The remaining 1,500 people are mostly rural residents.
2. The area of New Angledool is in the Brewarrina Shire Council area. However, it is located immediately across the Narran River from Angledool and is liable to isolation from Brewarrina. A local arrangement exists whereby flood operations in this area will be controlled by the Walgett SES Local Controller.
3. The Walgett district is a major producer of wool, beef cattle, fat lambs, sheep studs, wheat and, more recently, cotton. Large tracts of rural land are inundated during floods by both riverine flooding and from overland flooding from numerous watercourses. To complicate matters, the floodplain usage is undergoing a major change as the agricultural sector moves more towards wheat and cotton farming.
4. The shire area, in the main, comprises level "black soil" alluvial plains that render many roads impassable after only 10 mm of rain. A big feature of flooding in the Walgett Shire Council area is that of isolation of many urban areas and rural properties by road for extended periods of time.

Angledool

5. Angledool and surrounds can be isolated from Walgett by flood levels of about 2.6 metres. Roads can be cut for periods of up to three months during major floods similar to those of 1976 and 1983. New Angledool on the northern side of the Narran River is on high ground but it can also be totally isolated. About 100 homesteads in the area can also be isolated and require resupply.

Burren Junction (Population – about 115)

6. Although not usually flooded, Burren Junction can be cut off from Wee Waa to the east by flooding along the Namoi River and Pian Creek. As floods move downstream it can then be cut off from Walgett.

Carinda (Population – about 100)

7. Carinda is not usually flooded. However, large areas of rural land are inundated during major floods and the village is isolated by road from Walgett, Brewarrina, Quambone, Coonamble and Warren during major floods.

Collarenebri (Population 544 – 1996 Census)

8. Collarenebri is a small township located on the northern bank of the Barwon River. It is 792 km north west of Sydney, 75 km north east of Walgett and 145 km west of Moree.
9. Collarenebri is not protected by levees and a few houses near the weir need evacuation during minor floods. By the time the major flood height of 8.5 metres is reached, the outer areas of the town are flooded. In 1976, floods reached a height of 9.0 metres. Most roads in the town were inundated, most houses had water below the floors and about 405 people were evacuated from Collarenebri and the surrounding area to Coonamble and Moree as a precaution against anticipated public health problems. About 260 of these people were evacuated from the town.
10. The airport can be protected by a temporary levee. However, high clearance vehicles and/or flood boats are required for transport between the airport and the town.
11. The effects that are likely to occur at Collarenebri are shown in the following table:

Height	Remarks
4.50	Water over the 11 Mile causeway closes the Collarenebri to Mungindi road (RR457). Locals often use a bush track around the ridges to detour the closure. An alternative route may be available via Watercourse road in the Moree Shire.
4.70	Water over the causeway in Maitland Street.
4.80	Water breaks out of the Barwon River near "Old Pokataroo" about 10 km east of Collarenebri (GR 658673) and Grawin Creek commences to flow. Floodwaters flow cross-country around Collarenebri and rejoin the Barwon about 18 km downstream near "Eurol" (GR 648672). Note: When the river is at a 'banker' (about 7 metres) this breakout takes about a third of the flood volume around Collarenebri. It is water from this breakout that encircles Collarenebri and eventually floods the town commencing at about 8.53 metres.
5.50	Water over the causeway in Maitland Street cuts off road access to three houses in lower Maitland Street (adjacent to the Barwon River Weir). This is the only escape route by road for the residents. Water flows to the west filling low-lying areas SE of Collarenebri.
6.10	Barwon River breaks its banks near the rear of the RSL Club and commences to flow and spread eastwards cross-country. Floodwaters encroach on the Walli Aboriginal Reserve ('The Mission').
6.50	Water in the yards of the three houses in lower Maitland Street. Water across the Moree road (Gwydir Highway - SH12) about 5 km from Collarenebri. Highway remains open with caution.
6.70	Floodwaters close the Collarenebri to Walli Aboriginal Reserve at the turn off cutting it off to light vehicular traffic. Still accessible by high clearance 4WD vehicles.
6.80	The Moree road (Gwydir Highway - SH12) is closed to light traffic

Height	Remarks
	due to fast flowing water across the road and pavement damage under the water.
6.89	Peak height 17 August 1998.
7.00	<p>The access road to the Walli Aboriginal Reserve is closed to all vehicles. The reserve is cut off from Collarenebri by road and the occupants are ferried to Collarenebri and back via boat. There are about 30-40 people living on the reserve and the majority of the houses are built up on mounds.</p> <p>The Barwon River continues to break out east of Collarenebri and flow into the Grawin Overflow. Floodwaters progressively close SR1 ('Frankston Road'), SR5 (Cryon Road), SR67 ('Camp Road') and SR94 in quick succession. "Eurlah", "4G" (cotton farm), "The Wilgas", "Scrubby Park", "Trelawnry", "Franston", "Morven Vale" and "Lansdowne" isolated.</p> <p>The Collarenebri to Moree road (Gwydir Highway - SH12) is closed about 4-6 km east of Collarenebri. The Collarenebri to Burren Junction road (MR329) is also closed.</p> <p>Access to Walgett remains open but there is no road access to Moree, Mungindi or Rowena. Alternative routes are available for some rural residents in the Rowena area via Burren Junction to Wee Waa etc.</p> <p>Coppock Creek backs up and flows over the Gwydir Highway (Collarenebri to Walgett) about 3 km south of Collarenebri (GR 504295). Highway remains open with caution.</p>
7.20	Estimated height water enters the lowest house in lower Maitland Street.
7.24	Water over the Seven Mile causeway on MR329. Stores ferried from Collarenebri to "Old Pokataroo" and then across the Seven Mile to meet property owners isolated in the pocket.
7.30	<p>The Collarenebri to Walgett road (SH12) is closed to light vehicles at Coppock Creek. Locals use bush tracks over the ridge as a bypass. It may be possible to construct a temporary bypass to maintain road access between Walgett and Collarenebri.</p> <p>In past events, water closed the highway at the 23 Mile Warrambool about 3 days later.</p>
7.74	Peak height 7 February 1996. During this event about 50 people on outlying rural properties were isolated from Collarenebri by road for about a week. Most were self sufficient and able to commute via boat. The Walli Aboriginal Reserve was not evacuated. The occupants of the three homes in lower Maitland Street were evacuated but the homes were not flooded.
8.03	Peak height 11 September 1998.
8.23	Water may come up the culvert in front of the Police Station in Walgett Street. In past events the Walgett Shire Council has

Height	Remarks
	sandbagged this culvert as a precautionary measure.
8.50	Major flood level. Estimated height water enters the Chemist Shop in Wilsons Street.
8.53	Floodwaters from the Barwon River enter the low-lying areas of Collarenebri and enter yards of houses in George and Albert Streets and continue to flow towards Narran Street. Floodwater starts to enter the outer edges of Collarenebri from the north, south and west and creates shrinking flood islands in town.
8.80	Water on low point of airport runway.
8.89	Peak height 21 February 1976. In this event, floodwater surrounded Collarenebri and inundated the low-lying areas of town on the eastern, northern and western edges of town. The three homes in lower Maitland Street were flooded by water half way up the houses. Only small islands of high ground remained above the floodwater that inundated about two thirds of the town. The town septic system failed. The airport remained operational to RAAF Caribou aircraft and access to the airport could only be maintained with the construction of earthen levees. Floodwater encroached on the southern end of the airport just short of the tarmac. Iroquois helicopters used the Bowling Club green as an LP. NB: The green was sandbagged to keep floodwater out.
8.94 – 9.04	Estimated height water progressively enters the Collie Mechanical Services building in Wilson Street; the last house at the northern end of Wilson Street and the last house at the western end of Herbert Street; the Collarenebri Post Office and, finally, the old bakery shop (Denyer and Son) in Wilson Street.
9.14	Estimated height water enters the Walgett Street entrance of the Collarenebri Hospital, Police Station (Walgett/Earl Streets), Anglican Church (Wilson/Queen Streets), Bowling Club (Walgett Street) and Denyers General Store (Wilson Street).
9.30	Estimated height that all roads in Collarenebri would be under water and the majority of houses would be flooded. Hospital beginning to flood (highest ground).

Table 4 – Possible Flood Effects at Collarenebri

Gingie Village

12. Gingie Village is an aboriginal community located about 5 km north east of Walgett on the north side of the Barwon River. The village consists of 14 houses and it is protected by an earthen ring levee.

13. The main access to the village is via an asphalt section of Shire Road 64 (SR64) which turns off the Kamilaroi Highway north of the Dangar Bridge. This access is lost when the river reaches 11.60 metres on the Walgett gauge. An alternate route is via the dirt section of the same road, which links up with the Castlereagh Highway.

14. At 12.72 metres on the Walgett gauge, the Gingie Village road (SR64) is closed and Gingie Village is isolated by road.

Grawin/Glengarry (Population – about 800)

15. Flooding on the Rotten Plain can cause roads in those areas to be cut. However, access to Cumborah usually remains open.

Lightning Ridge (Population 3,353 – 1996 Census)

16. Lightning Ridge is not flooded but it can become isolated by road and require resupply during major floods. It should be noted that whilst the official census puts the population at 3,353 people, the real population could be as high as 7,000 people.

Namoi Village (Population – about 75)

17. Namoi Village is an aboriginal community located about 1 km from Walgett. It consists of 22 elevated houses and a population of about 75 people.

18. The village was evacuated in 1976. However, since then all of the houses in the village have been elevated and are now well above this flood level. Houses in the village were not flood-affected in the 1998 flood (peak height 13.26 metres on 15/9/98) and most of the population remained in the village throughout the flood.

19. The only road access into the village may be lost when the Walgett gauge reaches 11.8 metres.

Rowena (Population – about 19)

20. Rowena may be isolated to the north by flooding in Thalaba Creek and to the south by Pian Creek.

Walgett (Population 2,094 – 1996 Census)

21. Walgett is located by the Namoi River, about 3 km upstream from its junction with the Barwon River, in northern NSW. It is 696 km north-west of Sydney via Wee Waa (which is 124 km east) and 114 km north of Coonamble. It is 135 m above sea level. Walgett gets its name from an aboriginal word meaning “River Crossing”.

22. Walgett is protected by levees initially constructed in 1961 to a level equal to the 1890 Flood of Record (13.84 metres on the Walgett gauge) plus 0.6 metres freeboard. The freeboard on the north eastern section was increased to 0.9 metres following the floods of 1971, 1974 and 1976. Crest levels vary between 133.42 metres AHD (14.87 metres on the Walgett) and 134.02 metres AHD (15.47 metres on the Walgett gauge). Flood records for Walgett relate to the Walgett gauge at the Dangar Bridge 5 km downstream from Walgett.

23. There is an area of small acreage farms upstream of Walgett on the southern side of the Namoi River. Although much of the area can be inundated, the houses are built on raised pads and should not need evacuation.

24. The Roonthebend Caravan Park is located on the north bank of a billabong on the Namoi River about 3 km north of Walgett. The park only caters for mobile vans, which are relocated into Walgett when flooding is predicted. Within the park is the

park office/manager's residence, the owner's residence and a nursery. The park office/manager's residence is elevated and flood water reached a level just beneath its floorboards at the peak of the 1998 flood (13.26 metres at the Walgett gauge). The owner's residence is protected by an earthen levee.

25. The Walgett saleyards located about 2 km north of Walgett on the eastern side of the Castlereagh Highway and the large grain storage facilities located about 5 km north of Walgett on the western side of the Castlereagh Highway, are protected by earthen levees.

Walli Village

26. The houses in Walli are built on raised pads, which put flood levels above the 1% AEP (1:100 years) flood height. Even during major floods, problems are usually limited to isolation and provision of essential supplies. Voluntary evacuation can be expected.

Road Transport

27. Walgett and the surrounding district is serviced by three highways:

- a. **Castlereagh Highway (SH55).** The Castlereagh Highway runs south to Gilgandra and north to the Queensland border then on to St George (Gilgandra – Coonamble – Walgett – New Angledool – Hebel – Diranbandi – St George). This highway also provides road access to Lightning Ridge and Goodooga. It links up with the Canarvon and Moonie highways at St George.
- b. **Gwydir Highway (SH38).** The Gwydir Highway branches of the Castlereagh Highway about 13 km north of Walgett. It is a two-lane sealed highway that links Walgett to the eastern seaboard (Walgett – Collarenebri – Moree – Inverell – Glenn Innes – Grafton).
- c. **Kamilaroi Highway (SH37).** The Kamilaroi Highway is a two-lane sealed highway that runs east to west through Walgett (Bourke – Brewarrina – Walgett – Cryon – Burren Junction – Wee Waa – Narrabri).

28. The majority of the other roads in the Walgett Shire area are 'black soil' roads that are impassable to normal vehicles after 10mm of rain and to emergency four-wheel drive or multi-tyred vehicles when the roads become saturated.

Road Closures

29. Roads that may be affected by flooding are detailed in the following table:

Road	Designation	Location of Closure
Castlereagh Highway Walgett/Coonamble	SH18	Various floodways between Walgett & Shallow Creek (6km south) may close road to light traffic.
Castlereagh Highway Walgett to Angledool	SH18	The Castlereagh Hwy may close at the Pagan/Eumanbah causeway 8km north of Walgett due to safety reasons. This is a highly formed road subject to erosion by floodwaters. Regardless, this road is usually closed at night. The closure of this road cuts off communities north of Walgett and the towns of Lightning Ridge and Collarenebri from Walgett and may contribute to their total isolation by road.
Kamilaroi Highway Walgett to Brewarrina	SH29	Dangar Bridge overflow. Travellers will not be able to directly access Walgett from Cumborah or Brewarrina via Dangar Bridge. An alternative route may be available via Gingie Aboriginal Reserve until 12.7 metres during dry floods. Ulah Waterway. Borumbil/Whiskey Creek, Boorooma Creek (The Big Warrambool).
Kamilaroi Highway Walgett/Burren Junction	SH29	Adjacent "Birdwood" (7km east Walgett) closes to light traffic after heavy rain
Gwydir Highway Walgett to Collarenebri	SH12	Coppock Creek backs up and flows over the Gwydir Hwy about 3km south of Collarenebri (GR504295).
Gwydir Highway Collarenebri to Moree	SH38	About 4-6km north of Collarenebri.
Walgett to Carinda	RR333	Impassable after rain.
Carinda to Warren	RR333	Macquarie River at Bells Bridge 12km west Carinda.
Burren Junction to Wee Waa	SH29	Closed from Wee Waa end at ? m
Burren Junction to Gwydir Highway	RR329	Seven Mile causeway on MR329. Stores ferried from Collarenebri to "Old Pokataroo"

Road	Designation	Location of Closure
		and then across the Seven Mile to meet property owners isolated in the pocket.
Burren Junction to Pilliga	SR103	Numerous floodways.
Pilliga to Coonamble	RR383	Numerous floodways.
Carinda to Quambone	RR202	Macquarie and Castlereagh River overflows.
Castlereagh Highway turn off to Lightning Ridge	RR426	May be affected only in extreme events closer to town.
Lightning Ridge/Collarenebri	MR426	Closes after 10mm. All dirt.
Walgett/Cumborah	MR402	Refer Kamilaroi Highway Walgett/Brewarrina. Closes also at Big Warrambool after heavy rain.
Cumborah/Lighting Ridge	RR402	5km from Castlereagh Highway after moderate rain.
Kamilaroi Highway to Cryon	SH29	Pian Creek bridge. In the August 95 floods the bridge approaches were undermined. There are no reasonable alternate routes.
Kamilaroi Highway Cryon/Burren Junction	SH29	Various causeways close road to light traffic.
Collarenebri/Mungindi	RR457	Various causeways close road to light traffic.

Table 5 - Road Closures

30. A map of the road network servicing the Walgett Shire Council area is attached as Map 5.

Airfields

31. **Burren Junction.** Council owned/operated, poorly maintained gravel strip. No fuel.

32. **Carinda.** Rarely used, poorly maintained, grass strip. Aircraft land on purposely widened sealed public road adjacent to village. No fuel.

33. **Collarenebri.** Council owned and operated gravel, day only strip. No fuel, no agent. Access to town is flood affected except to high clearance vehicles.

34. **Glengarry.** 1300m locally maintained day only gravel strip. No fuel. Aircraft to buzz strip to clear it of wildlife.

35. **Lightning Ridge.** Council owned and operated sealed, 24-hour strip. Fuel available in bunker storage and local agent.

36. **Walgett.** Council owned and operated sealed, 24 hour, strip. No fuel/no local agent. Limited aero club storage only.

SES RESPONSE ARRANGEMENTS FOR WALGETT SHIRE

Volume 3 of the Walgett Shire Local Flood Plan

Last Update: June 2002

ANNEX C - GAUGES MONITORED BY THE WALGETT SES

Gauge Name	Type	AWRC No	Stream	Flood Classification		
				Min	Mod	Maj
Mungindi *	Telemeter	416001	Barwon River	6.1	6.7	7.2
Mogil Mogil *	Telemeter	422004	Barwon River	7.5		8.3
Collarenebri *	Telemeter	422003	Barwon River	5.8	7.9	8.5
Caloola		100075	Barwon River			
Walgett *	Telemeter	422001	Barwon River	11.2	12.0	12.5
Walgett (Namoi Bridge)	Manual	419057	Namoi River	7.3	8.2	9.1
Walgett (Hannafords)	Manual	422009	Barwon River	11.2	12	12
Combadero	Manual	422008	Barwon River			
Caramia	Manual	422020	Barwon River			
Gundablouie	Telemeter	417001	Moonie River			
Bugilbone *	Telemeter	419021	Namoi River	4.9	5.5	
Goangra *	Telemeter	419026	Namoi River	5.5	6.7	7.8
Hornabrook	Manual	419048	Namoi River			
New Angledool *	Manual	422928	Narran River	1.8	2.0	2.3
Carinda	Telemeter	421012	Macquarie River	2.8	3.4	3.7
Carinda (Marthaguy Creek)	Manual	421011	Marthaguy Creek	3.0	3.4	3.85
Old Pockataroo	Manual	422018	Grawan Creek			
Dirranbandi (Hebel Rd) Narran River	Telemeter	422206	Narran River			
Dirranbandi (Balonne Minor) (Q)	Manual	422926	Balonne River	4.0	4.0	5.0
Coomalah		10102	Pian Creek			
Waroonga		10410	Thalaba Creek			

Note:

1. The Bureau of Meteorology provides flood warnings for the gauges marked with an asterisk (*).

ANNEX D - DISSEMINATION OF SES FLOOD BULLETINS

The Macquarie SES Division Headquarters distributes SES Flood Bulletins and other flood related information (including Flood Warnings) to the following regional media outlets:

Television Stations:

Station	Location
Prime	
ABC	
WIN	
Capitol	

Radio Stations:

Station	Location	Frequency	Modulation
NOWFM	Moree		FM
2CUZ FM	Bourke		
2CR (ABC)	Orange	549	AM
2DU	Dubbo	1251	AM
2GZ	Orange		
2MG	Mudgee		
2MO	Gunnedah	1080	AM
2WEB	Bourke	585	AM

Newspapers:

Name	Location
Daily Liberal	Dubbo

Other Agencies:

- Australia Post.
- Roads and Traffic Authority (RTA).
- NRMA.
- State Rail Authority (SRA).
- Ambulance (Regional Office).
- SES Divisional Headquarters:
 - Central West SES Division.
 - Far West SES Division.
 - Lachlan SES Division.

- Namoi SES Division.
- North West SES Division.

- Tourist Information Centre, Dubbo.
- NSW Fire Brigades.
- NSW Rural Fire Service Brigades.
- Shire Councils.

ANNEX E - TEMPLATE EVACUATION WARNING MESSAGE FOR [ENTER NAME OF AREA]

Evacuation Warning for []

Date/Time of Issue: []

Authorised By: []

The Bureau of Meteorology has predicted a flood level of [] metres at [] (*place*) at [] (*time*). This means that the following area(s) may be inundated [].

It is recommended that you prepare to evacuate/for evacuation within the next [] hours. If you leave it later, the roads may be congested or closed.

To prepare for evacuation, you should:

- Raise belongings by placing them on tables, beds and benches. Put electrical items on top. Some items may be able to be placed in ceilings.
- Gather medicines, personal and financial documents and mementos together to take with you.
- Listen to radio stations [] for further information and to confirm this warning.
- If possible, check to see whether your neighbours need help.
- Make arrangements for care of pets or other animals.

If evacuation is necessary:

- Turn off the electricity, gas and water.
- Take three days' supply of clothes with you.
- If you have a car, drive to the evacuation centre at [] (*specify route if appropriate*).
- If you don't have a car, buses will operate where possible on normal routes. Special transport can also be provided on request if necessary, telephone [].
- So that you can be accounted for, it is important that you register at the evacuation centre.
- After registering, you may go to the house of a friend or relative. Alternatively, accommodation will be arranged for you.
- The Police will provide security for your property while you are away.

ANNEX F - EVACUATION ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE WALGETT SHIRE COUNCIL AREA

Situation

1. The majority of flooding in the Walgett Shire Council area originates some distance away. The area is generally flat and is intersected by a number of significant rivers and creeks plus numerous smaller tributaries (locally known as Warrambools) which flow intermittently across country during flooding. Together they form a network with floodwaters from different sources merging. This can result in a significant portion of the Council area being inundated during large flood events, with many roads cut and isolation being a significant problem. Flood waters usually flow at low velocities, often taking months to pass a particular location. Although this causes little structural damage it means that protective levees are required around towns and many rural properties. It also means that they may be isolated for weeks at a time.
2. The most dangerous threat within the Walgett Shire Council area is the failure of the protective levee at Walgett or the inundation of Collarenebri. Either of these events would bring about the requirement for large-scale evacuations.
3. Walgett is protected from inundation of floods up to 14.73 metres on the Walgett gauge (a metre above the 1% AEP flood level) by a ring levee. The Walgett airport is located within inside the levee. The estimated IFF for the levee is 13.70 metres.
4. Widespread inundation of township of Collarenebri begins when flood waters reach 8.53 metres on the Collarenebri gauge. The majority of the houses in the township are inundated at 8.89 metres and everything is flooded when the flood waters reach 9.3 metres. In major floods of this magnitude, it is possible that the entire township will have to be evacuated to Moree or Lightning Ridge by air.
5. The aboriginal communities are protected by earthen ring levees and the majority of the houses are elevated. In practice, it is usual for a number of residents of the Gingie, Namoi and Walli communities to evacuate using their own resources when they are aware of impending flooding. In the early stages of a developing flood, representatives of the SES, DoCS and the aboriginal communities will visit these areas and discuss the need for evacuations with the appropriate community leaders.
6. Many of the rural properties are protected by earthen levees and the residents tend to 'sit out' the flood. It is not expected that general evacuations will be required from rural properties within the Council area. However, individuals may decide to evacuate their properties of their own volition ahead of the impending flood. A lot of the children on these properties attend boarding schools and universities and they may require transportation.
7. On receipt of a flood warning for Walgett, the Roonthebend Caravan Park will be closed and the vans relocated inside the Walgett levee.

Mission

8. The NSW SES is to arrange and control the evacuation of areas at risk of flooding in order to ensure the safety of residents.

Execution

9. **Control.** The NSW SES will control evacuations required as the result of flooding. If there is a possibility that Collarenebri or Walgett have to be evacuated the Walgett SES Local Controller will discuss the need for special control arrangements with the Macquarie SES Division Controller.

10. **Conduct.** Evacuations will be controlled by the Walgett SES Local Controller and conducted by Police, SES, RFS and Walgett Shire Council personnel in four phases:

- a. Phase 1 - Warning.
- b. Phase 2 – Withdrawal.
- c. Phase 3 – Shelter.
- d. Phase 4 – Return.

11. **Coordinating Instructions.**

- a. **The decision to evacuate.** The responsibility for issuing any general evacuation order during flooding rests with the Walgett SES Local Controller who exercises his/her authority in accordance with Section 22(1) of The State Emergency Service Act 1989. However, the decision to evacuate will usually be made after consultation with the Local Emergency Operations Controller, the Macquarie SES Division Controller and the community leaders of the Gingie, Namoi and Walli aboriginal communities.
- b. **When evacuation should occur.** As far as possible, evacuation will be carried out before inundation occurs.
- c. **Self-motivated evacuation.** Some people will make their own decision to evacuate earlier and move to alternative accommodation using their own transport. These evacuees will be advised, via the media, to inform the Police or SES of their evacuation and their temporary address.
- d. **Evacuation triggers.**
 - **Inundation of Collarenebri.** The first house in Collarenebri is flooded at about 7.00 metres (Collarenebri gauge). Inundation of the township starts at about 8.53 metres and is complete by 8.89 metres.
 - **Levee Failure – Walgett.** The most likely event to trigger the decision to undertake a large-scale evacuation from Walgett

would be evidence of a possible failure or overtopping of the levee. The imminent failure level (IFL) of the levee is estimated to be 13.7 metres (in relation to the Walgett gauge). During the flood of August/September 1998 the Barwon River peaked at 13.26 and, other than normal and expected seepage, the integrity of the levee was never threatened. The crest height of the levee ranges from 14.87 metres at the low-point between the Castlereagh Highway and the industrial area to 15.47 metres (in relation to the Walgett gauge). The Walgett levee is shown in Map 2.

12. Phase 1 – Warning

- a. **Evacuation warnings.** On the receipt of flood warnings predicting major flooding; the Walgett SES Local Controller will consult as necessary to determine the level of the threat and the need to consider evacuations. As soon as possible after the decision to evacuate is made, the Walgett SES Local Controller will issue evacuation warnings to the ‘at risk’ residents, indicating what people should do before evacuating and when actually doing so.
- b. **Content of Evacuation Warnings.** A template guide to the content of evacuation warning messages is at Annex E. These are disseminated via:
 - The radio and TV stations listed in Annex D.
 - Door-knocks by emergency service personnel.
 - Public address systems from emergency service vehicles.
 - Telephone.
 - UHF-CB radio.
 - SES Flood Bulletins.

13. Phase 2 – Withdrawal

- a. **Introduction.** Withdrawal involves the actual removal of the community/individuals from dangerous or potentially dangerous areas to safer areas.
- b. **Movement.** Evacuees are to be encouraged to move using their own transport where possible. The Walgett SES Local Controller will arrange transport for those people without their own vehicles.
- c. **Special Needs Groups.** The Walgett and Collarenebri Hospitals maintain a list of special needs groups.
- d. **Animals.** Evacuees with their own transport will be encouraged to take their companion animals such as cats, dogs and horses with them as

they evacuate. These animals will therefore be transported by car, truck or horse float along the evacuation routes designated in this plan. Companion animals so shifted will be collected from their owners at evacuation centres and taken to facilities to be arranged by NSW Agriculture. Due to safety restrictions, it may not be possible to allow companion animals to accompany their owners when being transported via aircraft or flood rescue boats. In these cases provision will be made for animals to be picked up as the people are evacuated. Arrangements will also be made to pick up animals that are left behind. Assistance animals (guide dogs, hearing assistance animals, etc) will remain in the care of their owners throughout the evacuation. This includes transport and access into evacuation centres etc.

- e. **Doorknocking.** Field teams conducting doorknocks will record and report back the following information back to the Operations Centre:
- Addresses and locations of houses doorknocked and/or evacuated.
 - The number of occupants.
 - Details of support required (such as transport, medical evacuation, assistance to secure house and/or property and raise or move belongings).
 - Details of residents who refuse to comply with the evacuation order.
- f. **Refusal to evacuate.** Field teams should not waste time dealing with people who are reluctant or refuse to comply with any evacuation order. These cases should be referred to the Local Emergency Management Operations Controller who will arrange for Police to ensure their evacuation.
- g. **Security.** The NSW Police will provide security for evacuated premises.
- h. **Airports.**
- **Walgett.** The Walgett airport is located within the Walgett levee and remains operational throughout periods of major flooding up to 14.73 metres on the Walgett gauge. The airport is capable of supporting RAAF C130 aircraft.
 - **Collarenebri.** In 1976, the Collarenebri airport remained operational to RAAF Caribou aircraft until 8.9 metres. However, there was a need to sandbag the sides of the access roads to keep it open. Flood waters started to encroach on the low-point at the southern end of the airfield at 8.8 metres.

14. Phase 3 – Shelter

- a. **Evacuation centres.** The usual purpose of evacuation centres is to meet the immediate needs of victims, not to provide them with accommodation. Evacuees will be advised to go to or be taken to the nearest accessible evacuation centre, which may initially be established at the direction of the Walgett SES Local Controller but managed as soon as possible by the Department of Community Services. Any or all of the following sites may be used as evacuation centres:
- Walgett:
 - Apex Park (north of town), Fox Street.
 - Rotary Park (south end of town), Fox Street.
 - RSL Hall, Fox Street.
 - Collarenebri:
 - The Club car park, Walgett Street.
 - Collarenebri Airport, Collarenebri – Lightning Ridge road.
 - Namoi Reserve:
 - Community Hall.
- b. **Large-scale Evacuations of Collarenebri and Walgett.** In the event of large-scale evacuations from Collarenebri or Walgett, evacuees will be evacuated to:
- Walgett to Dubbo (alternative Coonamble); and/or
 - Collarenebri to Walgett (alternative Moree).
- c. **Action on arrival.** On arrival, evacuees will be:
- registered;
 - medically checked, if necessary; and
 - provided with their immediate welfare needs.
- d. **Registration.** The NSW Police will ensure that all evacuees are registered on arrival at the designated evacuation centres and details of the registrations are to be sent to the Western Region Command at Dubbo by the quickest means available.

15. Phase 4 – Return

- a. Once it is considered safe to do so, the Walgett SES Local Controller will authorise the return of evacuees to their normal or alternative place of residence. This decision will be made in consultation with appropriate officers in regard to matters such as the electrical safety of buildings.
- b. The return will be controlled by the Walgett SES Local Controller and may be conducted, at his/her request, by DoCS.

Administration and Logistics

16. **Transport and storage.** Transport and storage of furniture from flood threatened properties will be arranged as time and resources permit.

17. **Support provided at evacuation centres.** The expected duration of the evacuation will dictate the need for and level of facilities and support at the evacuation centres. If evacuations are expected to be of a short duration, evacuees may be provided with short-term accommodation at the centres. However, if they are expected to last for longer than 24 hours, evacuees will be encouraged to go to alternative accommodation or stay with friends where possible. Alternatively, accommodation will be arranged for them in hotels, motels or by billeting.

Control Arrangements

18. **Control.** The Walgett SES Local Controller will control small-scale evacuations. If the evacuations operations escalate beyond the capabilities of local resources control may be handed over to the Macquarie SES Division Controller.

ANNEX G - RESUPPLY REQUIREMENTS AND OPERATIONS

Situation

1. During periods of flooding; towns, villages and rural properties in the Walgett Shire Council area can be isolated for prolonged periods and will require resupply.
2. The three main highways that are used as the main supply routes for Walgett and the surrounding areas are the Castlereagh, Gwydir and Kamilaroi highways. All of these highways are subject to inundation of varying levels and are often closed to all but emergency vehicles during periods of major flooding.
3. The majority of the other roads within the Walgett Shire Council area are “black soil” roads that are impassable to normal vehicles after 10mm of rain and to emergency four-wheel drive or multi-tyred vehicles when the roads become saturated.

Mission

4. The NSW SES is to coordinate resupply operations during periods of flooding in order to sustain people located in isolated towns and villages or isolated on rural properties.

Execution

5. **General.** Rural residents can become isolated on outlying properties even before the onset of flooding due to the “black soil” roads becoming impassable. People on these isolated properties may not have had an opportunity to stock up and may require resupply early in a flood event.
6. **Concept of Operations.** During periods of major flooding the normal mode of resupply will be maintained for as long as practicable. The main supply routes will be kept open to essential and emergency vehicles for as long as it is safe to do so. Once these routes are closed (either by the road owner, the Police or SES) the delivery of essential foodstuffs, fuel, urgent medical supplies and stores to Walgett will be coordinated by Macquarie SES Division using aircraft operating out of Dubbo, Narrabri and/or Moree. From there, the Walgett SES Local Controller will coordinate the delivery of these supplies to outlying areas via the most practicable method.
7. **Normal Supply Arrangements.**
 - a. **Walgett.** Storekeepers in Walgett normally source their supplies from Dubbo, Bathurst or Sydney. These stores are usually delivered by road transport using the Newell Highway and Castlereagh highways.
 - b. **Northern Part of Walgett Shire.** The following communities source their supplies from Brisbane and southern Queensland:

- Angledool,
 - Collarenebri,
 - Lightning Ridge,
 - Merrywinebone,
 - Pokataroo, and
 - Rowena.
- c. **Eastern Part of Walgett Shire.** The following communities source their supplies from Narrabri:
- Burren Junction,
 - Come By Chance, and
 - Pilliga.
- d. **Western Part of Walgett Shire.** The outlying properties located in the western part of the shire source their supplies from Walgett.
- e. **Carinda.** Storekeepers and residents in and around Carinda source their supplies from Tamworth, Coonamble and/or Warren.
8. **Main Supply Routes.** Normally, goods are shipped by road via any of the following main supply routes:
- a. **Castlereagh Highway (Route 55).** The Castlereagh Highway links Walgett to Dubbo to the south (Dubbo - Gilgandra - Coonamble - Walgett) and St George, Queensland (St George - Dirranbandi - Hebel - New Angledool - Walgett) to the north. The northern section of the highway provides road access to Lightning Ridge.
 - b. **Kamilaroi Highway (Route 37).** The Kamilaroi Highway links Walgett to Bourke to the west (Bourke - Brewarrina - Walgett) and Narrabri to the east (Narrabri - Wee Waa - Burren Junction - Cryon - Walgett).
 - c. **Gwydir Highway (Route 38).** The Gwydir Highway links Walgett to Moree (Moree - Collarenebri).
9. **Pre-Stocking.** If flood predictions indicate that areas are likely to become isolated, the Walgett SES Local Controller will advise businesses (normally through the Walgett Shire Council) and, where possible, rural residents that they should stock up.
10. **Dependency.** Almost all of the towns and villages in the Walgett Shire will require resupply during periods of major flooding. About 76 rural properties will require resupply by air, predominantly by helicopters. Based on the experiences of the

1998 flood event, it is estimated that the weekly tonnages to be moved by air would be as follows:

- a. Walgett - 15 tonnes;
- b. Lightning Ridge - 15 tonnes; and
- c. Collarenebri - 5 tonnes.

11. **Resupply Procedures.** When isolation occurs, storekeepers and rural residents on isolated properties will be expected to place orders on suppliers where they have a line of credit and to instruct those suppliers to package their goods and deliver them to loading points designated by the SES. Similarly, essential services (eg. hospitals) will make arrangements to acquire their resupply needs from the normal sources and have the supplies delivered to the designated loading point. The SES will arrange for the stores to be conveyed to designated distribution points within the Walgett Shire Council area for delivery via the most appropriate and practical means. Due to the extent of flooding and its impact on the road system, stores and equipment will usually be transported by air using both fixed wing and rotary wing aircraft.

12. **Vetting Committee.** When isolation occurs the SES will establish a vetting committee to ensure that only essential goods are ordered. The committee will consist of representatives from the SES, Walgett Shire Council, Police, DoCS, retailers and the aboriginal community. The committee will ensure that businesses requesting supplies are not using the flood as a means of restocking free of charge and also that load space in resupply vehicles and aircraft is optimally used (ie no wasted capacity).

13. **Essential Items.** As a guide, the priorities for the resupply of essential items are:

- a. **Priority 1 - Subsistence Items and Operational Supplies.** Foodstuffs (including animal food for companion animals), water, health and welfare items and items for the maintenance of morale (eg. newspapers).
- b. **Priority 2 - Pharmaceutical and medical supplies (including hospital linen).**
- c. **Priority 3 - Petrol, Oils and Lubricants (including AVTUR and AVGAS).**
- d. **Priority 4 - Repair parts for essential machinery.**
- e. **Priority 5 - General Stores.**

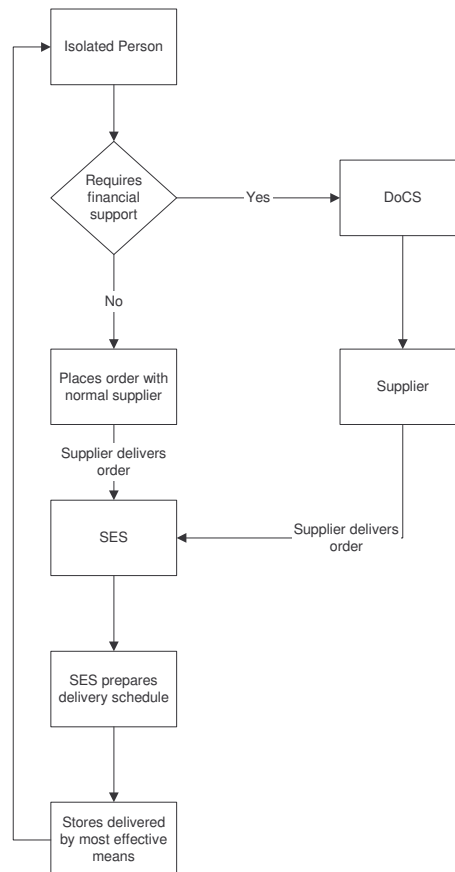
14. **Operational Supplies.** The SES will also coordinate the resupply of operational supplies such as sandbags, sandbagging machines, plastic sheeting and chemicals for disease or pest control.

15. **Mail.** At the request of Australia Post, the SES will deliver mail to isolated communities. However, it may not be possible to do so in accordance with normal Australia Post timetables.

16. **Hospital Linen and Medical Stores.** The SES will arrange for the delivery and resupply of linen and other medical stores (including oxygen bottles) from Dubbo. These stores will initially be delivered to the Walgett District Hospital. Medical staff at the Walgett Base Hospital will liaise with the Walgett SES Local Controller to arrange for delivery to the hospitals at Collarenebri, Lightning Ridge and Goodooga. As a guide, it is estimated that there are 48 bags of linen (approximately 960 kg) to be moved twice per week. It should be noted that Walgett is in a designated 'Ross River' area. During periods of flooding there may be a requirement to transport pesticide for combating the spread of mosquitos.

17. **Pharmaceutical Supplies.** Pharmaceutical and medical supplies are sourced from Orange.

18. **Resupply of Isolated Properties.** There are at least 76 rural properties that require resupply during periods of flooding. The Local Controller maintains a list of these properties and their geographical coordinates. The SES will coordinate the resupply of isolated properties. Rural residents will liaise with the Walgett SES Local Controller to ensure that the items they seek are essential to their well being or livelihood. The Local Controller will coordinate the resupply of approved items and establish a delivery schedule. Property owners are responsible for sourcing the supplies and arranging finance. People who claim to be or are considered to be in necessitous circumstances and require financial assistance are to be referred to DoCS. A flow chart outlining the resupply system for isolated properties is shown below:

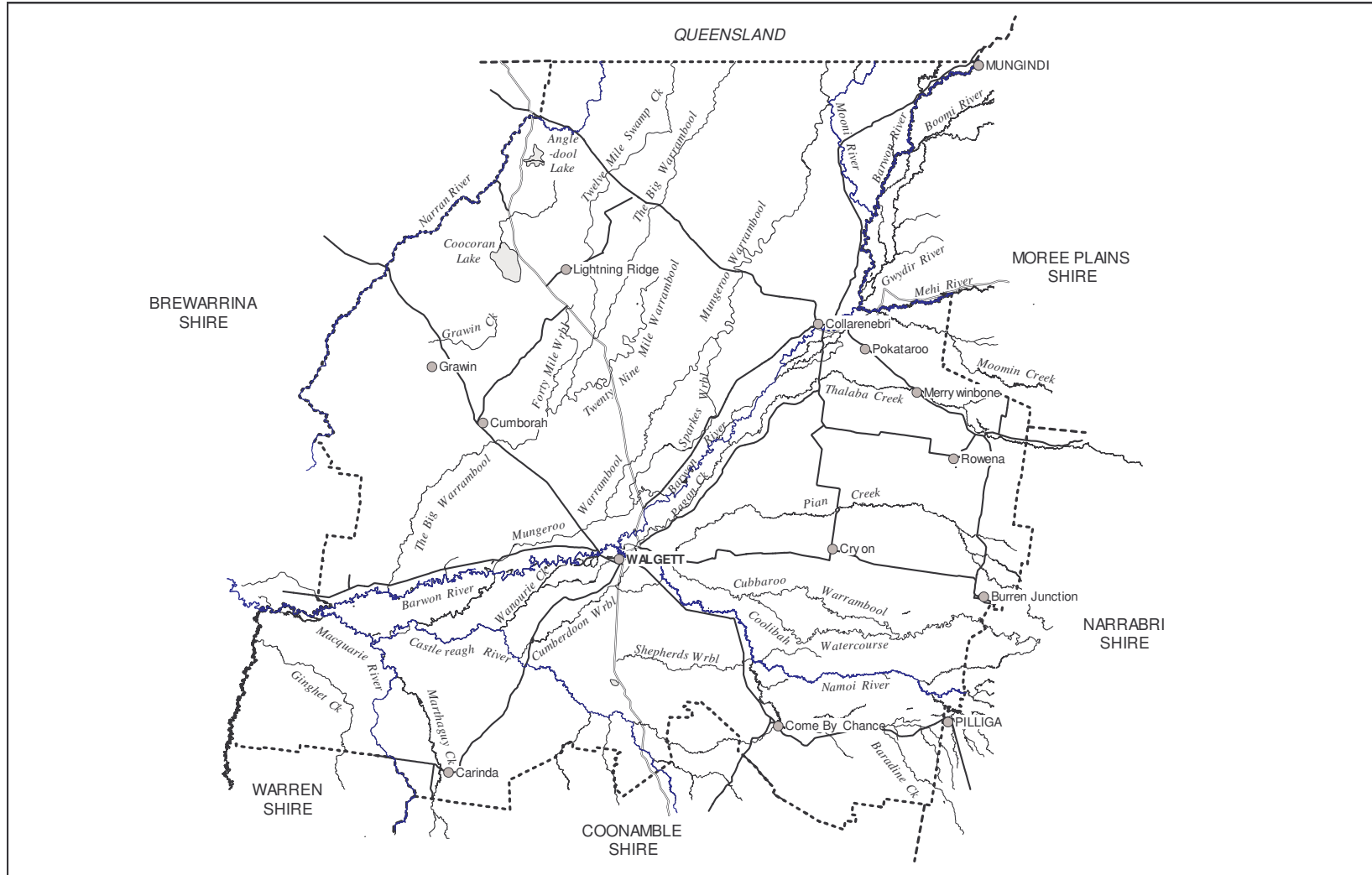


19. **Personnel Movement.** Where possible, the SES will assist isolated communities or properties with the movement of people to and from isolated areas. This includes property owners who require access to their property, school children and/or university students who need to get to or return from boarding schools or universities and members of the isolated communities who have to attend medical appointments etc. Each request will be considered on its merit.

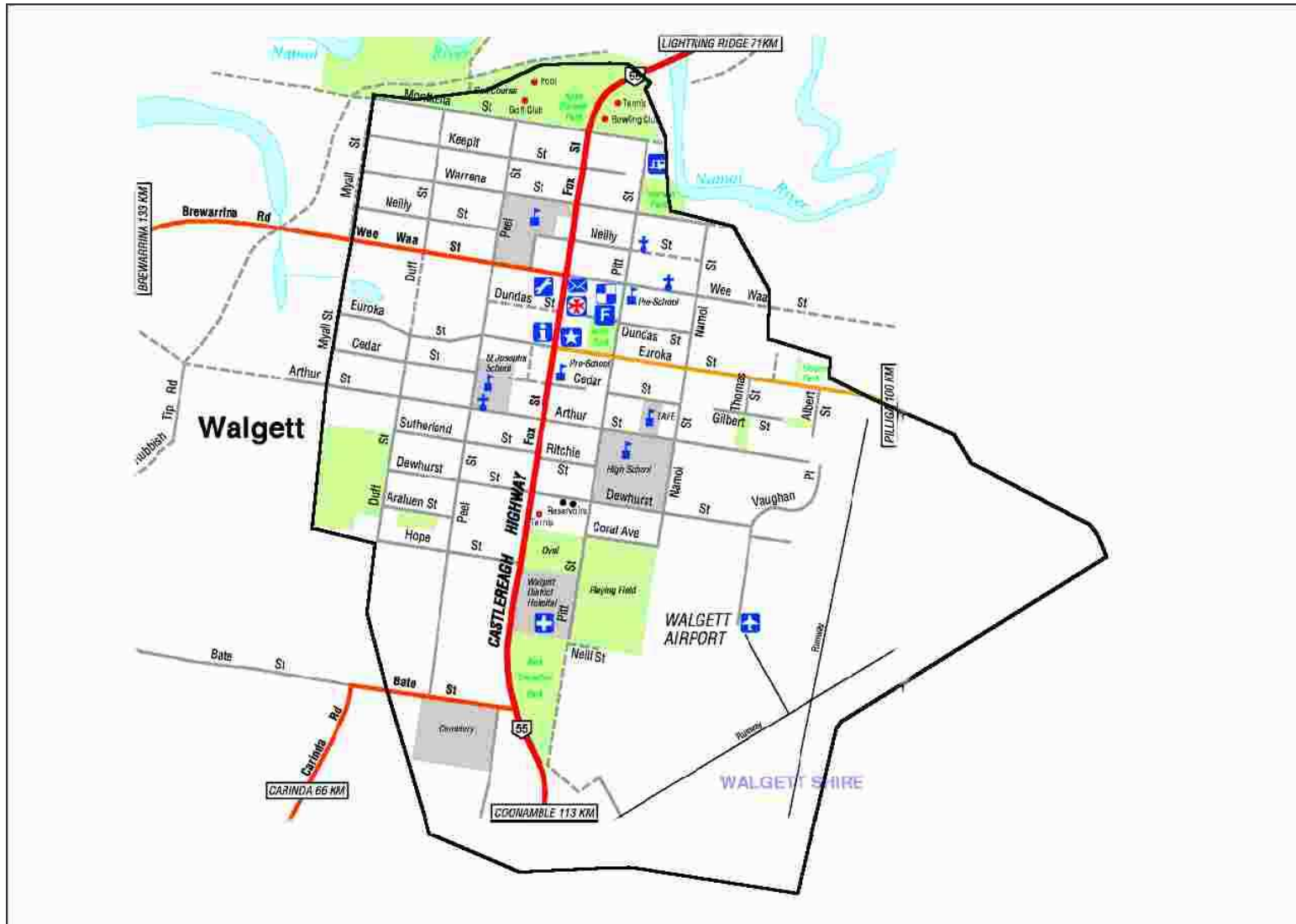
20. **People in Necessitous Circumstances.** Some people in the isolated communities or on isolated properties may find themselves in financial difficulty or dire circumstances. People in this situation should be directed to liaise with DoCS who will arrange for the necessary assistance.

21. **Air Resupply.** When isolation by road is predicted, the Walgett Local Controller will liaise with the Macquarie SES Division Controller who will make arrangements with the SES State Headquarters for air resupply. If air resupply is authorised the concept is that a loading point will be established at Dubbo and/or Moree. Suppliers will be responsible to pack and deliver the approved stores to a nominated loading point from where it will be delivered to Walgett by fixed wing aircraft operating on scheduled flights. From Walgett the stores will be delivered to the retail outlets in Walgett or transhipped to either light aircraft or helicopters for delivery to the outlying communities in accordance with pre-determined delivery schedules.

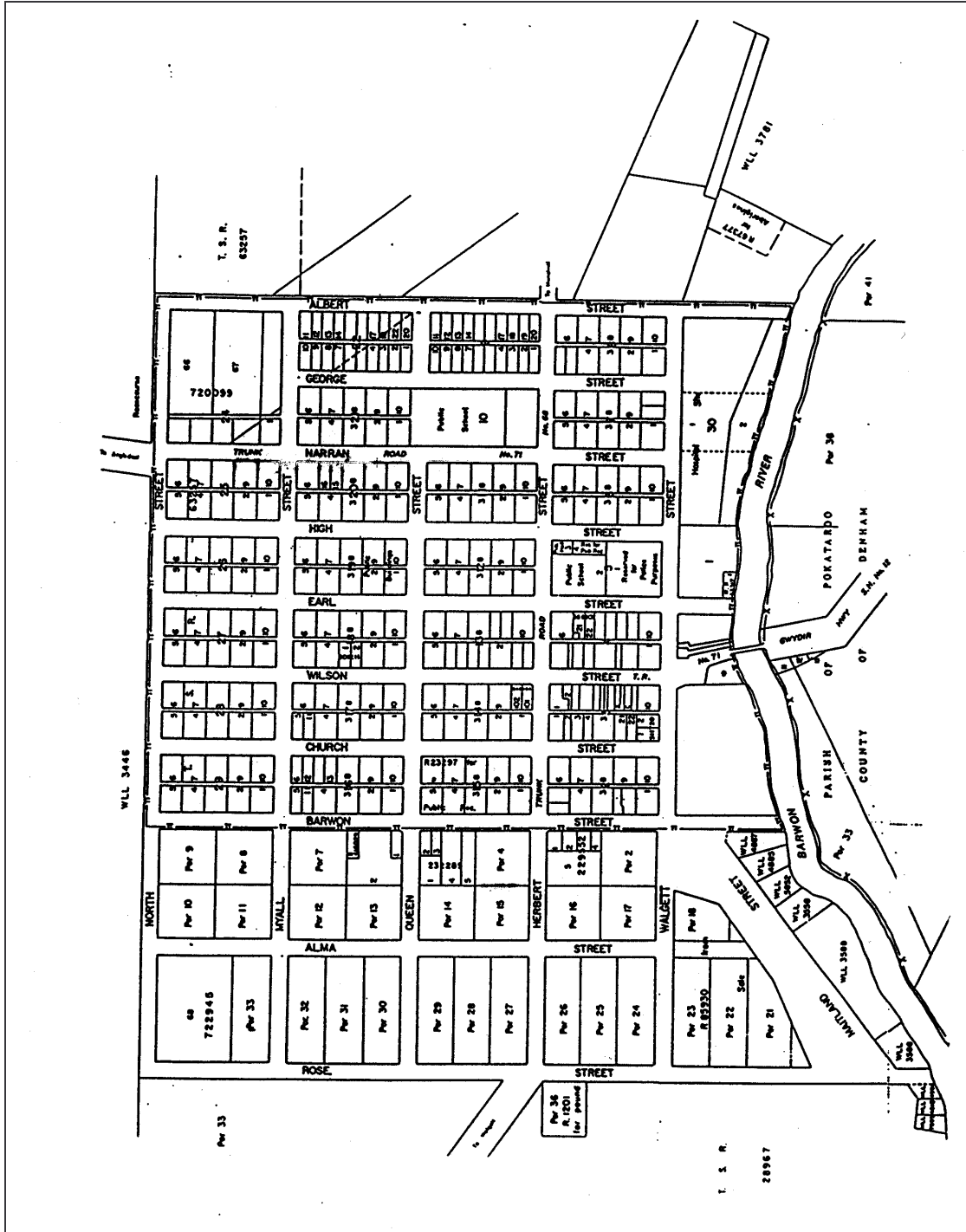
MAP 1 - WALGETT SHIRE COUNCIL AREA



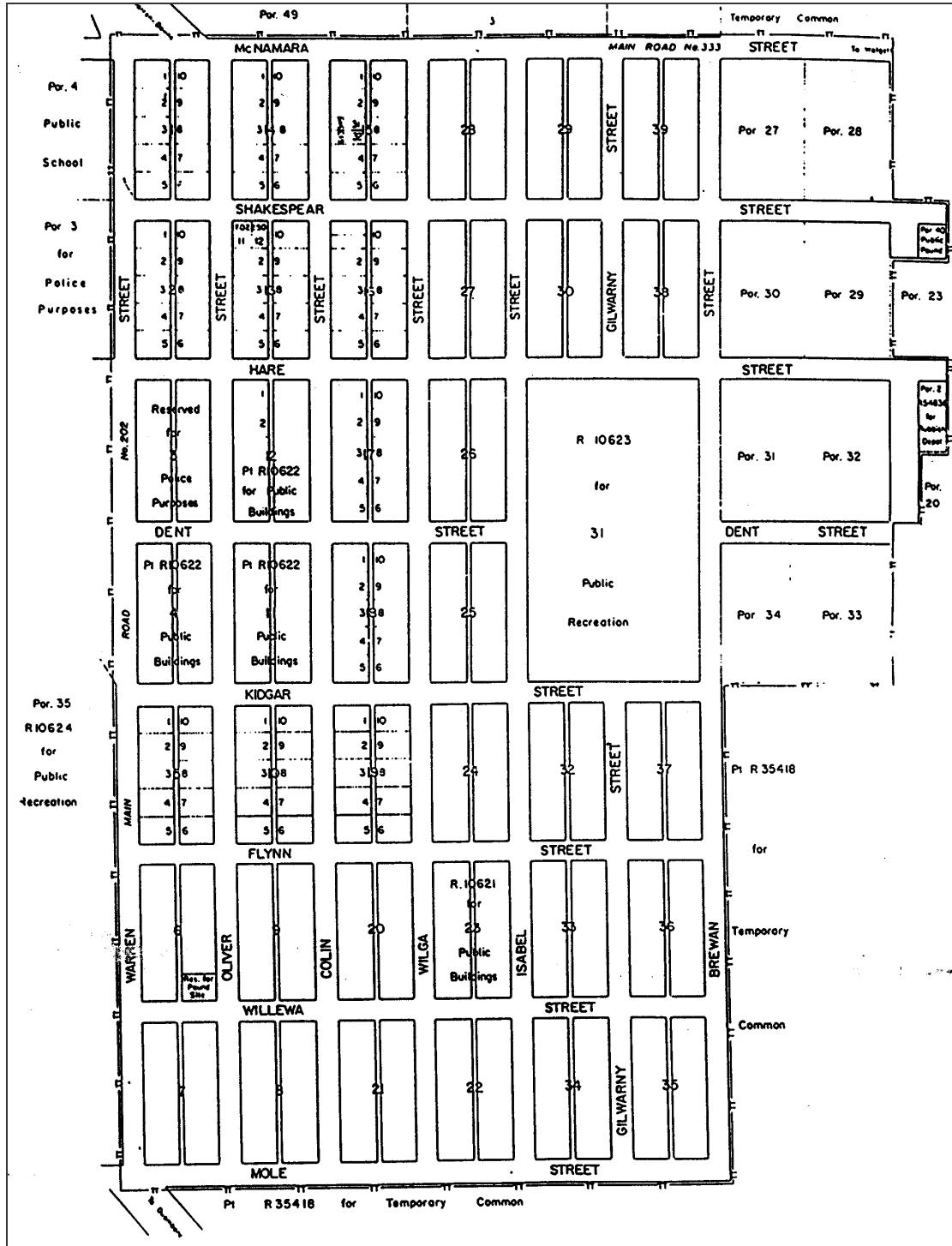
MAP 2 - WALGETT



MAP 3 - COLLARENEBRI



MAP 4 - CARINDA



MAP 5 - ROAD NETWORK WITHIN THE WALGETT SHIRE COUNCIL AREA

