



Robyn Parker MP

Minister for the Environment

Minister for Heritage

MEDIA RELEASE

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NSW GOVERNMENT PROTECTING COMMUNITIES FROM FLOOD DEVASTATION ACROSS THE STATE

Environment Minister Robyn Parker today announced \$3.5 million in grants to local councils to plan for and reduce the risks and impacts of flooding on their local communities.

Ms Parker said this funding for Councils was another way the NSW Government was supporting communities to prepare for extreme events well in advance of them occurring.

"It is difficult for us to contemplate flooding given the widespread fire devastation across the State but it is important that Councils are given the support they need to put measures in place that protect their communities from these events," Ms Parker said.

"Flooding in urban and rural NSW costs our economy about \$250 million each year, and that's apart from the severe emotional distress to individuals and communities that can result.

"This builds on the \$24 million allocated by the NSW Government last year for projects now being implemented by councils to protect the people of NSW against the devastation caused by flooding.

"The flooding in recent years in Western and Northern NSW reminds us of how damaging it can be.

"Twenty-one councils will receive funding to assist 24 projects to plan for flooding and to build and maintain infrastructure to reduce the impacts on their area.

"Councils will also contribute their own funds to the projects – in most cases with the NSW Government providing \$2 for every \$1 provided by councils."

Minister Robyn Parker said that it is expected that additional flood grants will be made later in the year under the Natural Disaster Resilience Program, which is jointly funded by the NSW and Commonwealth Governments.

"Many communities across NSW will benefit from grants under the NSW Floodplain Management Program."

Examples of new projects to be funded include:

- \$140,000 to Tweed Shire Council for a flood study of the Murwillumbah CBD.
- \$171,000 to Urana Shire Council for a flood study of the townships of Urana, Morundah, Boree Creek, Oaklands and Rand.
- \$900,000 to Kogarah Council for a project to construct a naturalised channel to reduce flooding and to provide environmental benefits to water quality.

Ms Parker praised local councils for undertaking the work they do to protect their local communities.

“The NSW Government is proud to support councils with funds and expertise to help them prepare and minimise the risk to their communities,” Ms Parker said.