



Guidelines for applicants 2026–27

Floodplain Management Program

Department of Climate Change,
Energy, the Environment and Water



Acknowledgement of Country

Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the lands where we work and live.

We pay our respects to Elders past, present and emerging.

This resource may contain images or names of deceased persons in photographs or historical content.

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Published by:

Environment and Heritage
Department of Climate Change,
Energy, the Environment and Water
Locked Bag 5022, Parramatta NSW 2124
Phone: +61 2 9995 5000 (switchboard)
Phone: 1300 361 967 (Environment and Heritage enquiries)
TTY users: phone 133 677, then ask for 1300 361 967
Speak and listen users: phone 1300 555 727, then ask for 1300 361 967

Email info@environment.nsw.gov.au

Website www.environment.nsw.gov.au

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Introduction

The NSW Government provides technical and financial support to local government councils and eligible public land managers under the Floodplain Management Program (the program) to manage flood risk.

The program's primary objective is to support the implementation of the *NSW flood prone land policy*. The policy aims to reduce the impacts of existing flooding and flood liability on communities, and to reduce private and public losses resulting from floods using ecologically positive methods wherever possible.

The program is administered by the NSW Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (the department).

The NSW Government recommends that local government councils and eligible public land managers manage flood risk by following the flood risk management process outlined in the *Flood risk management manual: the management of flood liable land* (DPE 2023).

Available funding

The total funding pool available for new projects under the 2026–27 funding round will be between \$7 and \$8 million. This should be considered when applying for large implementation projects.

Key timeframes for the 2026–27 funding round

Opening date for applications

Applications for the 2026–27 funding round will open on 5 March 2026.

Closing date for applications

Applications for the 2026–27 funding round will close at 5 pm on 15 April 2026.

Any application that is late, incomplete or ineligible will not be considered.

Figure 1 below outlines the key timeframes for the 2026–27 round of funding applications.



Figure 1 Timeframes for the 2026–27 round of funding

Program objectives

The program objectives are to provide technical and financial support to councils and eligible public land managers to:

- reduce the impacts of existing flooding and flood liability on communities and to reduce private and public losses resulting from floods
- make informed decisions on managing flood risk by preparing flood risk management plans (and associated background studies) under the flood risk management process
- implement flood risk management plans to reduce flood risk to both existing and future development, and reduce losses through a range of property, flood and response modification measures as outlined in the *Flood risk management manual*
- provide essential information to the NSW State Emergency Service to enable effective preparation and implementation of local flood plans for flood emergency response.

Projects that cannot demonstrate they meet the program's objectives will be considered ineligible for funding.

Eligible organisations

The following organisations are eligible to apply:

- local government councils
- county councils
- other government bodies with equivalent flood risk management responsibilities to local councils (for example, Lord Howe Island Board, Local Land Services).

Local government councils can submit joint applications, provided that:

- one council is the lead agency in terms of signing of the funding deed, managing monies and reporting on the project
- a relevant joint organisation applies for and manages the funding.

Eligible organisations can be found on the Local Government Directory.

What will be funded

Applications can be made for the projects outlined in Table 1. Categories are drawn from the *Flood risk management manual*.

Table 1 Application categories

Stage	Project category
Stage 1	1. Flood study (including data collection).
Stage 2	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Prepare or review a flood risk management study and plan. 2. Undertake a review of a range of flood risk management plans consistent with Section 4.6 the <i>Flood risk management manual</i>. This may also include: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. the development of a status report identifying eligible organisation governance, knowledge and management arrangements, and related gaps and related priorities for improvements to support eligible organisations develop their flood risk management framework b. desktop review of related flood studies, flood risk management studies, and plans for the sensitivity of flood behaviour and flood risk management decisions to climate change impacts based on existing information. 3. Undertake strategic flood risk management activities consistent with Table 2 in Section 4.3 of the <i>Flood risk management manual</i> to inform eligible organisation’s integrated planning and reporting framework, land-use planning and support NSW State Emergency Service emergency management planning. 4. Produce updated information using existing flood model results across a number of study areas to support management of flood risk consistent with the <i>Flood risk management manual</i> and Flood risk management toolkit.
Stage 3	1. Undertake investigation, design and/or feasibility study (where required) for works, new flood warning systems and voluntary purchase and/or voluntary house raising schemes identified in a flood risk management plan. This stage must be undertaken for all new flood warning systems and for works projects that are likely to exceed a total implementation cost of \$500,000, excluding GST.
Stage 4	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Implementing actions identified in a flood risk management plan (noting projects must have completed the requirements of Stage 3 where applicable), including but not limited to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. structural works such as levees, detention basins, floodgates and flow conveyance improvements (if these are extensive works requiring a high level of funding, they should be broken into stages) b. flood warning systems (it is mandatory that investigation and design of flood warning systems is undertaken before implementation of the system) c. evacuation management

Stage	Project category
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> d. upgrades of flood assets that have reached the end of their design life e. voluntary house raising (further information on the eligibility criteria and implementation of voluntary house raising is available in the <i>Floodplain Management Program Guidelines for voluntary house raising schemes</i> [DCCEEW 2024a]) f. voluntary house purchases (further information on the eligibility criteria and implementation of voluntary purchase projects is available in the <i>Floodplain Management Program Guidelines for voluntary house purchase scheme</i> [DCCEEW 2024b]).

NSW Flood Data Portal requirements

All reports, datasets and design and work as executed plans collected or created in the development of any flood project completed under this program must be submitted to the NSW Flood Data Portal before acquitting the project.

Application requirements

A separate application must be completed for each project through the online Grant Management System. Multiple projects cannot be included in one application.

Applicants can submit a maximum of 4 applications per funding round; these should be the applicant's highest priority projects for funding.

An additional 2 applications (maximum 6) will be considered if the applicant can demonstrate the need for all projects and the ability to effectively manage them.

Approval to exceed the 4-application limit must be sought prior to submitting the additional applications from the Manager Contestable Grants – Flood, at coastalestuary.floodgrants@environment.nsw.gov.au

When applicants submit multiple applications for funding through the program, they must identify the relative priority of each application to assist with the project evaluation process.

This is a contestable grant program where all eligible applications will be assessed against the published criteria, and funding will only be offered only to proposals that demonstrate the highest merit within available program resources.

Application prioritisation

Applicants should carefully consider their priorities when preparing an application.

Applicants are encouraged to prioritise reviews of flood risk management plans and strategic flood risk management activities consistent with Table 2 of the *Flood risk management manual* (as described under Stage 2 in Table 1 of this guide).

Prioritisation of applications for studies and works projects should balance the need for improved information to support decision making with the need to implement actions that reduce flood risk to the community.

When prioritising applications that relate to the development of studies and plans under the flood risk management process, applicants may wish to consider aspects such as:

- the level of flood risk and hazard the community faces
- the size of the population at risk
- gaps in flood information needed to manage flooding
- the potential need for flood mitigation works to reduce community risks in the area
- the potential for redevelopment and new development.

When prioritising applications for implementing recommendations outlined in flood risk management plans, applicants should consider the relative priority for implementation within a plan as well as priorities between plans, particularly where applicants have multiple management plans to implement across their local government area.

Applicants should also consider factors such as the relative effectiveness of the work in addressing flood risk, the benefit-cost ratio, and the size of the population benefiting.

An implementation project prioritisation information form is to be completed for all stages of all implementation projects, including structural works, flood warning projects, evacuation management projects, voluntary house purchase and voluntary house raising. This information is required to support prioritisation of implementation projects as part of the assessment process.

This form must be completed at each stage of implementation, for example, feasibility assessments, investigation and design, and construction or installation.

Questions from this form are now incorporated into the Flood Management Program application form in the Grant Management System for Stage 3 and Stage 4 applications. Refer to Appendix A for instructions for completing the prioritisation.

What will not be funded

Project scope and eligibility

Funding is not available for:

- **Retrospective work** – any activities that were already underway, completed, or contractually committed to before the grant was awarded or before the project work plan was approved.
- **Business-as-usual activities** – projects or activities the applicant is reasonably expected or required to undertake as part of normal operations without program funding, such as local drainage works.
- **Asset maintenance or replacement** – maintenance of assets, or replacement of assets that have not been appropriately maintained.
- **Ongoing maintenance costs** – ongoing maintenance expenses for any assets funded under the program, for example, flood warning systems.

Financial and funding restrictions

Financial and funding restrictions include:

- **GST** – the project cost must exclude GST.
- **Financial co-contribution** – must be a monetary contribution from the applicant's own revenue. It cannot include in-kind support, voluntary contributions, or funding from other parties.

Administrative and management costs

Funding is not available for:

- **Internal operational costs** – all internal costs (including on-costs) related to the applicant's core activities, unless otherwise approved by the department's Grants Branch. Core activities include:
 - preparing study briefs
 - reviewing proposals and tenders
 - researching and copying records
 - attending meetings
 - administering the contract and grant
 - accounting costs
 - staff costs associated with liaising with the public and with government agencies.
- **Project management costs** – not eligible unless the council receives special consideration or where a group of councils is working in partnership.

- **Data management activities** – data management undertaken within the applicant’s own systems.

Specific items and activities

Funding is not available for:

- **Contingencies or unspecified budget items** – items not directly linked to eligible project activities. These should not be included in the application or work plan.
- **Road warning signage for traffic management** – unless the signage is a necessary component of broader flood mitigation works.
- **Compensation or reimbursement** – payments to individuals, businesses, or landowners for losses, including those related to land acquisition, easements, or changes in land use (excluding Voluntary House Purchase and Voluntary House Raising programs).
- **Stand-alone land acquisition** – except in the circumstances outlined in point 11 of the *Guidelines for Voluntary Purchase*. Land acquisition must be part of a broader project that directly contributes to flood mitigation outcomes and program objectives.
- **Routine operational or maintenance costs** – including ongoing staffing, asset maintenance, or other business-as-usual activities.

Funding priorities

Generally, the highest priority will be given to the following projects:

- **Flood studies and flood risk management studies** – including new studies, reviews, or plans where existing communities face flood risk that is not yet fully understood or managed, or where there are significant development pressures.
- **Next stage of an in-progress mitigation work** – where the proposed stage is directly dependent on a stage currently underway (for example, the next stage of a levee project, or works required to offset impacts from a levee being constructed).
- **High-priority mitigation works** – mitigation works that are identified as a high priority in flood risk management plans adopted by applicants.

Funding contribution requirements

Funding contribution requirements

Assistance under the program is \$2 from the government for every \$1 provided by the applicant (from applicant revenue), except where special consideration is provided.

Contributions to the project from other funding sources (not applicant revenue) must be deducted from the total project cost before applying the funding ratio, except for voluntary house raising.

Special consideration

Some local government councils are eligible for special consideration based on a methodology that takes into account the council's financial capacity and the size of the funded project.

The applicant's financial capacity is assessed based on its per capita general-purpose grants under the Local Government Financial Assistance Grants, as established by the Local Government Grants Commission. Eligibility for special consideration is determined in advance using the approved methodology.

If special consideration is awarded, the applicant is eligible to:

- an increased government contribution towards the cost of the project (automatically assigned within the Grant Management System)
- claim project management costs undertaken either:
 - internally by council staff
 - externally (selected by a competitive process and funded as a specific cost).

If seeking project management, costs are to be included in the project application.

The adjusted funding ratios will be visible to applicants in the application form and will flow through to the project workplan and budget. Applicants are not required to apply separately for special consideration.

Partnerships

Where a group of local government councils is working together in partnership (either under the lead of one council or a relevant joint organisation), the lead council or joint organisation can claim up to 20% of the total project cost for project management.

Eligible project management costs include:

- **Project-specific staff** – funding may be used to employ a project manager or staff member hired specifically for the project through a competitive recruitment process. Funding cannot be used to pay existing staff who will manage or work on the project as part of their usual duties, unless approved in writing by the department's Grants Branch.

- **Administrative costs** – administrative tasks directly related to the funded project, including:
 - preparing study briefs
 - reviewing proposals and tenders
 - researching and copying records
 - attending meetings
 - administering the contract and grant
 - accounting costs
 - staff costs associated with liaising with the public and with government agencies.

Governance and assessment

NSW Grants Administration Guide

The program is delivered in accordance with the *NSW Grants Administration Guide*, ensuring consistent governance, transparency and accountability across all stages of the funding lifecycle.

Application eligibility

Applications will be checked to confirm eligibility and completeness. Late or incomplete applications will not be considered for funding and will not progress through the assessment process.

Eligible applications will be reviewed by departmental technical staff and progressed to the assessment panel for assessment.

Assessment panel

The State Flood Mitigation Assessment Committee, an independent panel that includes expert and stakeholder representation, will assess and prioritise applications on a statewide basis.

Projects recommended for funding are provided for consideration and approval by the appropriate department delegate.

Details of successful applications will be placed on the department's website and the NSW Government's Grants and Funding Finder. All applicants will be notified in writing of the outcome of their application.

Privacy

The department uses the information provided by applicants to process and assess applications. While applications are not generally made public, they may be disclosed if required by the *Government Information (Public Access) Act 2009* or other legal obligation.

Additionally, the department may share this information for the purpose of evaluating or auditing its grant programs. If there is a need for strict confidentiality due to commercial sensitivity or personal privacy, applicants should clearly indicate this in their submission.

Probity

The department is committed to strong governance, transparency and integrity across the program and all funded projects. All funded projects must comply with the legal and regulatory requirements outlined in the funding deed and must follow recognised governance and project management standards.

Assessment criteria

Essential criteria

All applicants must be able to demonstrate:

- the project meets the objectives of the Floodplain Management Program
- capacity to deliver the project, past grants management history, available resources and financial commitment, proposed timeframe, and whether the project is realistic based on completion of prerequisite consultant briefs, preconstruction work or approvals
- commitment to maintain any works in a condition suitable to meet its design intent for the design life
- the project is consistent with the intent of the *NSW flood prone land policy* and the flood risk management process outlined in the *Flood risk management manual*.

Projects must meet all 4 essential criteria to be eligible for funding.

Other criteria

Applications will also be assessed on:

- the extent to which the project is cost-effective in addressing one or more of the program's priorities
- the technical feasibility, effectiveness and efficiency of the risk mitigation solution as examined through scoring of information on projects provided in the implementation project prioritisation form. (Note, these criteria are specific to investigation and design, works projects and voluntary house purchase/voluntary house raising projects. See Appendix A for instructions on completing the form for more details)
- the level of community support
- the priority of the project stage regarding the relevant adopted flood risk management plan (if applicable)
- the need to manage flood risk in the area and how effectively the application demonstrates addressing the risks.

An application will be awarded a reduced ranking if it is not well thought out, if its flood risk management objectives or outcomes are unclear, if it demonstrates insufficient planning, or if its budget is unrealistic or poorly justified.

The deed must be signed by the general manager (or someone with delegated authority) within 45 days of the formal grant offer.

Project implementation

This is a contestable grants program, and applications are assessed competitively based on the information provided at the time of application. Applicants are therefore expected to carefully consider project scope, timing, budget and delivery approach upfront, as significant changes during implementation may raise fairness considerations for other applicants who were assessed against the same criteria.

While some flexibility is available through the variation process, projects should not be designed on the assumption that substantial changes to delivery timeframes, scope or funding will be supported after approval.

Timeframe

The department receives an annual funding allocation for the program, with limited capacity to carry over funds to future financial years. Applicants should take this into account when planning their projects.

Projects should be completed within 3 years of the grant offer. If the project involves implementation of an action and is likely to extend beyond 3 years, the applicant is encouraged to consider staging it. The Grant Management System will not allow applications to be submitted beyond a 3-year timeframe.

Requests for timeline variations may be considered; however, applicants should note that variations which result in changes to approved payment dates or shift funding into future financial years are strongly discouraged, as they can impact on the department's ability to manage funds for future funding rounds. This risk should be carefully considered during project design and scheduling.

Budget

While the department may consider requests for additional funding beyond the amount originally awarded, such requests will be considered only in exceptional circumstances. Applicants should not assume that additional funding will be available and should ensure their project scope, budget and risk management arrangements are achievable within the funding requested at the time of application. Requests for additional funding are assessed on their merits and are not intended to function as standard contingency funding.

Funding deed

Successful applicants must enter a funding deed that stipulates all funding obligations and conditions.

The deed will need to be signed by the general manager (or someone with delegated authority) within 45 days of the formal grant offer.

It is the responsibility of applicants to ensure all individuals involved in a project funded under this program are aware of the funding conditions and their responsibilities under the terms of the deed.

The project will be tracked and managed against the workplan, which must be kept current by the grant recipient, in consultation with the department, throughout the funded period.

The funding deed issued as part of the grant offer is provided in standard form and will not be amended before execution. Applicants should carefully review the deed at the time of offer to ensure they can meet the approved project scope, budget, and delivery timeframe before accepting the grant.

Where changes to project scope, budget or delivery timeframe are required during project delivery, these may be considered through an application for variation. Variations are assessed on their merits and will only be approved when justified and consistent with the program's objectives. Applicants should note that approval of a variation is not guaranteed, and projects should not be designed on the assumption that material changes will be supported after the funding deed has been executed.

Additional guidance

Pit and pipe survey

Flood risk management primarily addresses riverine and local overland flooding.

In a limited number of cases this may involve an assessment of the capacity and performance of trunk drainage systems. This may require a limited survey of the trunk drainage system, which is eligible for funding. However, broader surveys of minor and feeder drainage systems are not funded. Surveying for asset management purposes is also ineligible for funding.

The extent of the drainage system surveyed will need to be justified by the applicant, commensurate with the risk, to ensure that the survey incorporated in the study is fit for purpose. As a guide, trunk drainage systems are considered to involve pipes with a minimum diameter of 0.75 m.

Floor level survey

Floor-level surveys may be undertaken using a range of methods, depending on the intended end use of the information and the terrain.

The intent may range from assessing flood damage to providing more specific advice to the community.

The applicant should consider the intended purpose and methodology relevant to their situation and include a suitable budgetary allowance as part of the application. If a highly specific and detailed floor-level survey is required, the application should include a strong justification for this level of detail.

Flood detention basin upgrades

Applications for flood detention basin upgrades must demonstrate that the purpose of the work is to address flood risk rather than compliance with dam safety requirements. Priority for upgrade will be given to flood detention basins that applicants can demonstrate were originally funded under the program.

Stormwater drainage

Applicants seeking to undertake stormwater drainage works must demonstrate the work required to manage flood risks to people and property. This would typically involve trunk drainage works rather than upgrading a drainage system to address nuisance flooding or to meet serviceability or capacity standards.

Community consultation

Community consultation is an integral part of the flood risk management process.

The methodology used for community consultation will vary depending on the type and scale of the study, the area of concern, the needs of the community and the general methods applicants may use to consult the community.

All applications for flood studies and flood risk management studies and plans are to include an appropriate budgetary allowance that considers the scope and scale of consultation appropriate for the study.

Detailed descriptions of what will be involved in the consultation are required for all projects if costs are to be included as a component of the grant funding.

Evacuation management or flood warning systems

For projects dealing with evacuation management or flood warning systems, applicants must provide written evidence of support from the NSW State Emergency Service or Bureau of Meteorology. This must be uploaded at the time of application submission.

Contacts for assistance

Assistance with applications

For assistance with grant applications, contact the relevant office listed in Table 2.

Table 2 Contact details for assistance with grant applications

Region	Telephone
Greater Sydney	02 8837 6097
Hunter/Central Coast	02 4320 4206
Inland (previously North West/South West)	02 4927 3102
North East	02 8289 6318
South East	02 4224 4174

General administration enquiries

For general grant administration enquiries, contact the Grants Branch – Flood on 02 9895 6494 or by email at coastalestuary.floodgrants@environment.nsw.gov.au

General technical enquiries statewide

For general technical information enquiries statewide, contact the Flood Team – Marine, Coastal, Estuaries and Flood at FloodTeam@environment.nsw.gov.au

Other programs

The department also offers a Coastal and Estuary Grants Program. For further information, please see the Coastal and Estuary Grants Program’s webpage (see links in the ‘More information’ section).

The NSW Environmental Trust offers a range of other environmental grants for local government. For further information, please see the NSW Environmental Trust website.

Appendix A: Instructions for completing the implementation project prioritisation information form

The implementation project prioritisation information form assists in the prioritisation of Stage 3 and Stage 4 projects. It is to be completed when submitting any application under this program. The form includes a number of project information sheets.

Sheet 1 and **Sheet 2** are to be completed by all applicants. In addition:

- **Sheet 3** should be completed, where applicable, for integrated schemes and structural works projects
- **Sheet 4** should be completed, where applicable, for evacuation management improvement projects
- **Sheet 5** should be completed, where applicable, for flood warning improvement projects
- **Sheet 6** should be completed, where applicable, for voluntary house raising projects
- **Sheet 7** should be complete, where applicable, for voluntary house purchase

Sheet 1 provides preliminary data. This is usually available from the relevant flood study and/or flood risk management study and indicates the extent of the flood problem to which a community is exposed. Questions C2 to C6 provide an outline of the impact of the flood on the community.

Sheets 2 to 5 provide detailed and specific data required for projects seeking funding for flood risk management works, including structural works and evacuation management.

Sheets 6 and 7 provide detailed information on voluntary house raising and voluntary house purchase projects. This data is used to determine the effectiveness and efficiency of the project in reducing flood problems and meeting associated objectives, so these can be compared on a statewide basis.

Information should be provided in relation to the flood on which the flood-planning level is based or, if this is not available, the largest known historical flood unless otherwise requested.

Project assessment

Section 1: All categories of applications

- **C1. Source of flood information** indicates the source of flood information used to answer the questions. Where the department does not have a copy of the relevant studies and other documentation – such as reviews of environmental factors, environmental impact statements or design reports and drawings – or the documentation is not available through the NSW Flood Data Portal, a copy will be requested to assist in an impartial check of the data provided.
- **C2. Flood behaviour and impacts in area** identify some important factors affecting the existing flood risk.
- **C3. Scale of problem – number of dwellings affected** provides an indication of the number of people affected by flooding.
- **C4. Scale of problem – percentage of dwellings flooded** provides an indication of the scale of the problem from a local perspective.
- **C5. Scale of problem – occurrence of over-floor flooding** looks at the frequency of damaging flooding and gives an indication of the regularity, and therefore the ongoing impact, of flooding on the community.
- **C6. Scale of problem – evacuation requirements** indicate the degree of evacuation problems to which the community is exposed.

Section 2: Detailed data – all categories of applications

- **C7. Community involvement in project** investigates the degree of project development in accordance with the principles of the *Flood risk management manual*.
- **C8. Strategic planning in place** investigates the degree to which strategic planning is being used to control new development and redevelopment in the floodplain.
- **C9. Benefit cost ratio of proposed works** considers the economic efficiency of the project in reducing flood damages.
- **C10. Community flood awareness** examines the accessibility of flood information to the community and activities undertaken by councils in providing information.
- **C11. Environmental assessment and enhancement** considers how the project has dealt with environmental impacts and addresses ecologically sustainable development principles and identifies whether it includes environmental enhancements.

Section 3: Specific data – integrated schemes and structural works only

Integrated schemes are projects that involve a range of structural work components or measures that work together as an integral scheme to provide flood benefits. Structural works aim to reduce the frequency and impacts of floods. The benefits of these works or an integrated scheme would generally significantly outweigh those of individual components.

Please answer these questions based on the planning flood (typically 1% annual exceedance probability (AEP)) – one-in-100-year average recurrence interval (ARI) – flood or where no 1% AEP has been determined for the flood of record) for the urban area benefitting from the project, unless stated otherwise.

- **C12. Average damage per dwelling*** examines the existing damage level in the town based on average (determined from actual rather than potential) damage per dwelling that is likely to occur without the proposed management measures.
- **C13. Average annual damage* (AAD) per dwelling** examines the cost of flooding per dwelling across a range of floods, not just the planning-level flood. This provides an indication of the long-term cost of flooding to the community.
- **C14. Percentage reduction in AAD per dwelling** examines the efficiency of the project in reducing damage from a range of events on a per dwelling basis.
- **C15. Social improvements resulting from project** examines the degree to which the project has addressed the social impacts of flooding.

Section 4: Specific data – projects to improve evacuation management only

Evacuation management improvement projects are structural measures that aim to improve evacuation from an area by increasing the capacity and security of primary evacuation routes from the community or area where the current capacity is insufficient to evacuate within the available timeframe. The benefits of the improvements would generally outweigh their costs.

Please answer these questions based on the planning flood (typically 1% AEP – one-in-100-year ARI – flood or, where no 1% AEP has been determined, for the flood of record) for the urban area benefitting from the project unless stated otherwise.

- **C16. Flood behaviour and impacts** examines these aspects in the area serviced by the evacuation route. These include the conditions at the location, the potential for isolation, the logistics of evacuation and the hazard associated with the evacuation route.
- **C17. Evacuation management improvements resulting from project** examines whether community evacuation arrangements are in place to support self-evacuation, whether external evacuation resources are still required to support evacuation and whether the area will no longer be isolated in the full range of floods.
- **C18. Scale of evacuation problem** indicates the number of people requiring evacuation to provide information on the scale of the problem.
- **C19. Social improvements resulting from project** examines the degree to which the project has addressed the social impacts, such as flood depths over the evacuation route, arrangements to reduce community impacts and warning strategies in place.

Section 5: Specific data – projects to improve flood warning only

Flood warning projects aim to improve the availability of flood warnings to communities, their reliability, the potential to predict floods, and the accuracy of flood predictions.

Please answer these questions based on the defined flood event (typically 1% AEP – one-in-100-year ARI – flood or, where no 1% AEP has been determined, for the flood of record) for the urban area benefitting from the project unless stated otherwise.

- **C20. Flood behaviour and impacts** in the area where flood warning is proposed.
- **C21. Flood warning** examines the feasibility and likely effectiveness of flood warning projects and identifies who will issue the warning.
- **C22. Flood warning** – scale of problem examines the current shortcomings in the existing flood warning system, if any system exists.
- **C23. Social improvements resulting from project** examines the degree to which the project has addressed the social impacts.

Section 6: Specific data – voluntary house raising schemes only

Voluntary house raising schemes aim to reduce the frequency of above-floor flooding to reduce the scale of damage to households. Occupants still need to follow community emergency management arrangements, which generally include evacuation before the area is cut off by floodwaters. The benefits of the scheme would generally significantly outweigh the benefits of individual components.

Please answer these questions based on the planning flood (typically 1% AEP – one-in-100-year ARI – flood or, where no 1% AEP has been determined, for the flood of record) for the urban area benefitting from the project unless stated otherwise.

- **C24. Average damage per dwelling*** examines the existing damage level in the town based on average (determined from actual rather than potential) damage per dwelling that is likely to occur without the proposed management measures.
- **C25. Average annual damage* (AAD) per dwelling** examines the cost of flooding per dwelling across a range of floods, not just the planning-level flood. This indicates the long-term cost of flooding to the community.
- **C26. Suitability of location and benefits** examines the area's suitability for voluntary house raising and the benefits it provides.
- **C27. Percentage reduction in AAD per dwelling** examines the efficiency of the project in reducing damage from a range of events on a per dwelling basis.

Section 7: Specific data – voluntary house purchase projects only

Voluntary house purchase schemes aim to permanently remove at-risk people from high-flood-hazard areas where it may not be feasible or economical to mitigate the effects of flooding.

Please answer these questions based on the planning flood (typically 1% AEP – one-in-100-year ARI – flood or where no 1% AEP has been determined for the flood of record) for the urban area benefitting from the project unless stated otherwise.

- **C28. Flood behaviour and risks** examines the flood behaviour, considers the purpose of purchase and the risks to life in the properties being proposed for purchase.
- **C29. Average annual damage* (AAD) per dwelling** examines the cost of flooding per dwelling across a range of floods, not just the planning-level flood. This provides an indication of the long-term cost of flooding to the community.
- **C30. Suitability of alternatives** examines where other suitable alternatives may exist.
- **C31. Social improvements resulting from project** examines the degree to which the project has addressed social impacts.

***Guidance Note:** Answers relating to questions C12, C13, C24, C25 and C29 should be scaled to current year damages by conversion of damage information from the date of the study to the current date using the latest information from the Australian Bureau of Statistics.

References

DCCEEW (NSW Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water) (2024a) *Guidelines for the voluntary house raising scheme: Floodplain Management Program*, DCCEEW, Parramatta, NSW.

DCCEEW (2024b) *Guidelines for the voluntary house purchase scheme: Floodplain Management Program*, DCCEEW, Parramatta, NSW.

DPE (Department of Planning and Environment) (2023) *Flood risk management manual: the management of flood liable land*, DPE, Parramatta, NSW.

More information

Relevant webpages referred to in the text are as follows:

- [Coastal and estuary grants](#)
- [Floodplain management grants](#)
- [Floodplain Management Program](#)
- [Flood risk management manual](#)
- [Flood risk management toolkit](#)
- [Grant Management System](#)
- [Local Government Directory](#)
- [NSW Environmental Trust](#)
- [NSW Flood Data Portal](#)
- [NSW Government Grants and Funding Finder](#)