

# FLOODING IN PARRAMATTA

## Floodplain Risk Management



### Central River City

The Parramatta River is central to our City's identity. The river is a gathering place for locals and visitors and has been that way for thousands of years. The point along the river where fresh and salt waters meet, 'the place where eels lie down', is a place of great cultural significance.

From the earliest days, the changeable nature of the river has also meant risk of flooding. Today, our CBD is one of the most flash-flood affected areas in the country. Our challenge is to live with the river in all conditions, and to prepare our community for the risk of flooding.

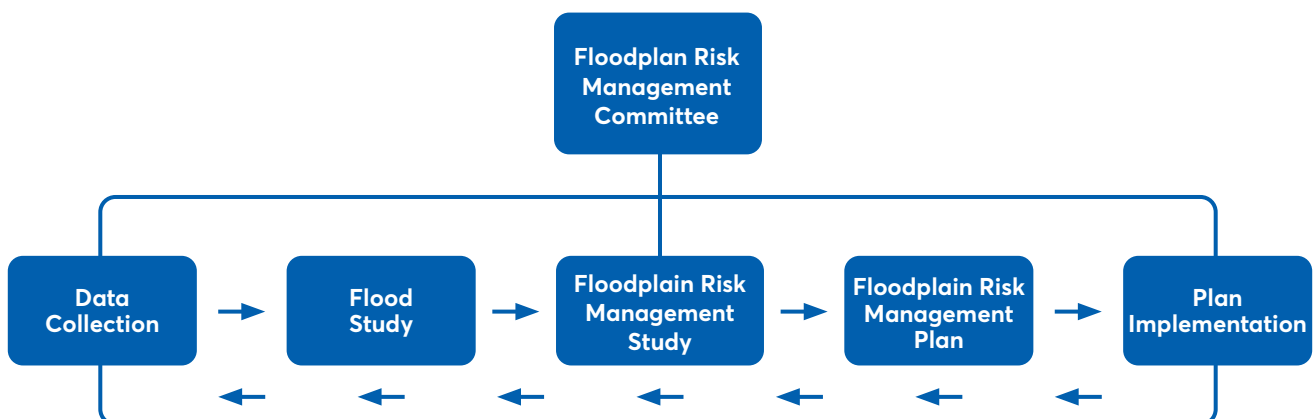
Large parts of the Parramatta Local Government Area (LGA) are prone to flooding. Although the last big floods were in 1986 and 1988, there has been significant flooding in parts of the LGA in the past few years - even in drought conditions.



### A new flood study and what it means for you

The NSW Government requires that all local councils manage flood risks within their area.

One of the first steps in the required floodplain risk management process is to prepare a flood study which shows the extent of flooding up to the largest possible flood.



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Details on the NSW Government requirements for flood modelling can be found at [environment.nsw.gov.au/topics/water/floodplains/floodplain-guidelines](http://environment.nsw.gov.au/topics/water/floodplains/floodplain-guidelines)

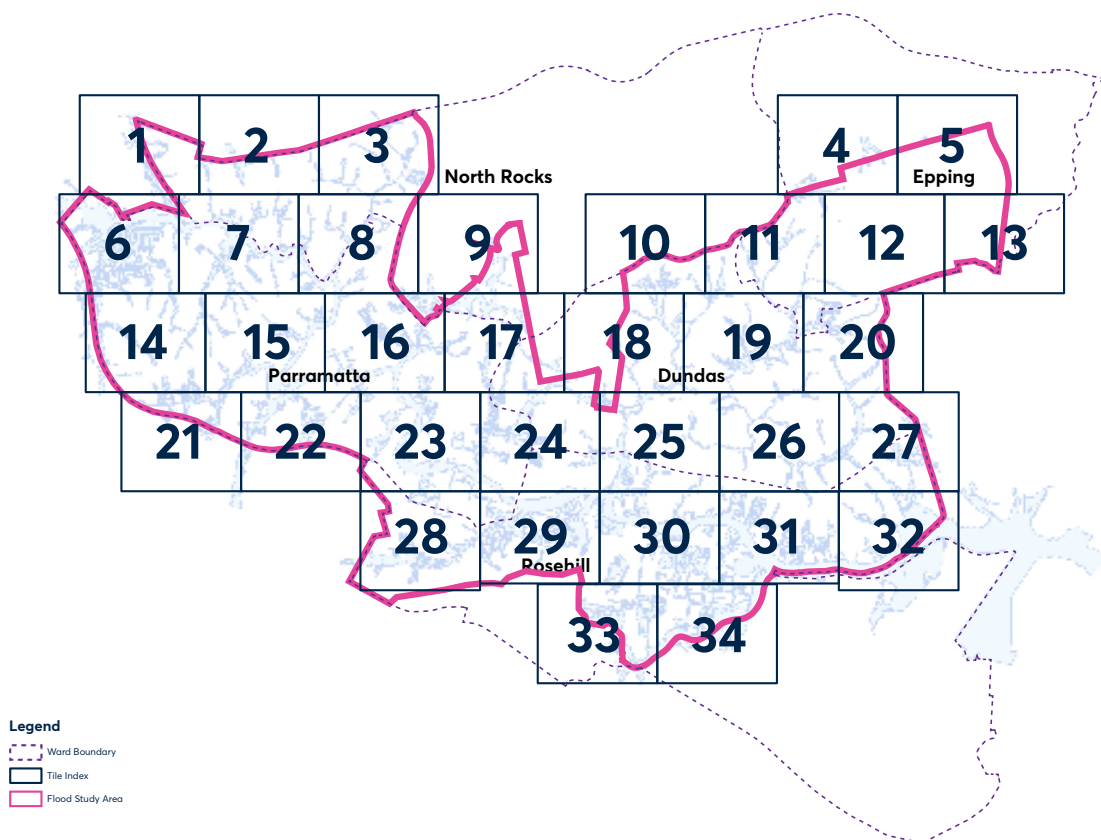
The City of Parramatta Council has commissioned a draft flood study. Using new technology, the flood study covers a large area of Parramatta (see map below) and builds on previous studies.

The flood study uses modelling to demonstrate various sized flood events from the smallest to the largest possible flood. The study shows where flood water is likely to cause inundation and calculates the likely depth of any water.

Council uses this information to make planning decisions, to protect the community and inform flood mitigation works.

Homeowners are also advised if their property is subject to planning and development controls in relation to flooding.

More importantly, the new flood information will enable residents to stay safe and be better prepared to deal with flooding. Those likely to be greatly affected by flooding can make informed decisions around a flood and evacuation plan, and other considerations such as insurance.



### What is a flood study? Why do we need one?

A flood study, along with data collection, is the first step in understanding the flood risk in a Local Government Area (LGA).

A flood study is a technical investigation of flood behaviour and allows Council to identify the risks from different sized floods from small floods up to the largest possible flood. The study models the likely path of floodwaters and the likely depth.

This helps in managing buildings across our City and Council assets as well as in planning for future development. A flood study also helps keep our community safe.

A flood study helps emergency managers to understand local flooding and its possible impacts on people's safety.

In addition to helping State Emergency Services, a flood study can be used by residents to gain a better understanding of flood risk to their property. Residents might use information in the flood study to develop their own flood response plan that they can use to protect themselves and reduce flood damage. SES Service provides information on preparing a flood plan visit [ses.nsw.gov.au/disaster-tabs-header/flood](https://ses.nsw.gov.au/disaster-tabs-header/flood)

### What does the study tell us?

Modelling of the local catchment system, including overland flooding, is the key to improving Council's existing flood information. Overland flooding is flooding caused by water flowing over land caused by local runoff during and after rain, perhaps from drains and stormwater systems, rather than overflowing water from a river, stream or dam.

A flood study provides Council with an understanding of flood risk so it can manage existing development and plan for future development.

The Draft Flood Study helps us determine where water flows in heavy storms, how deep the water can become and how dangerous the flows are. A flood study not only looks at the current flood risk but also future flood risks including those that may result from climate change.

As flood modelling techniques have been updated, new technologies provide us with the ability to more accurately determine the hydraulic flood conditions within the catchment area.

Flood models now map mainstream flooding from rivers and creeks and also examine flooding that can come from local stormwater drains and from the local overland catchment.

This flood study has provided the opportunity to use new 2D flood modelling software to better determine the behaviour of flood water.

Flood Studies also help emergency services (e.g. NSW State Emergency Services [SES], Police) understand the impacts on people's safety when various levels of flooding occur and help landowners to understand their flood risk so they can be better prepared for flooding.



### Is my property now flood affected?

Around 12,378 land parcels have been identified as having a flood risk. Risks vary across the LGA but it is important you are aware of potential flooding to your home.

You can review the 2023 Draft Flood Study along with Frequently Asked Questions and accompanying maps at [participate.cityofparramatta.nsw.gov.au/flood-study](https://participate.cityofparramatta.nsw.gov.au/flood-study)

Council is also interested in hearing from you about your flood experiences and any feedback you may wish to provide on the model. Be sure to get your submission in before **30 October 2023**.

### How you can be involved:

- Book a phone appointment to speak with Council's flood team.
- Pre-book a meeting at a community information session. Bookings can be made through Council's Participate Parramatta page: [participate.cityofparramatta.nsw.gov.au/flood-study](https://participate.cityofparramatta.nsw.gov.au/flood-study)
- Provide feedback on the flood model and flooding you have experienced see [participate.cityofparramatta.nsw.gov.au/flood-study](https://participate.cityofparramatta.nsw.gov.au/flood-study)
- Write to Council via email [FloodSmart@cityofparramatta.nsw.gov.au](mailto:FloodSmart@cityofparramatta.nsw.gov.au) or to **Chief Executive Officer (attention Flood team) PO Box 32 Parramatta NSW 2124**

### I have a question

For more information on the flood study and to speak with a member of Council's Flood Study team call **1300 617 058** or email [FloodSmart@cityofparramatta.nsw.gov.au](mailto:FloodSmart@cityofparramatta.nsw.gov.au).

