

Natural Hazards in Wisemans Ferry and surrounds



Photo courtesy of Destination NSW

**Local
information
sheet**

Wisemans Ferry and surrounds have experienced natural disaster emergency events in the past. These include bush fires, flooding and severe storms. If you are living or staying in this area it is important to be aware of these hazards.

It is a good idea to download the **Hazards Near Me NSW App** (go to your App store). Hazards Near Me shows current information about local emergencies, including flood, bush fire and tsunamis, and advice on what to do to stay safe.

It is common for the electricity network to be damaged and power supply to be cut during bush fires, storms and flooding. There are two electricity network operators in the area – Ausgrid to the east of Old Northern Road and Endeavour Energy to the west.

Local flood information

Wisemans Ferry is part of the Hawkesbury Nepean Valley and many tributaries contribute to floods in the valley including the Nepean River, Warragamba River, Grose River, South Creek, Colo River, and Macdonald River (NSW Government, July 2019).

Take note of weather reports and be aware of early warning signs such as:

- predictions of heavy and/or prolonged rainfall
- East Coast Lows affecting the region
- heavy, sustained rainfall is occurring in upstream catchments such as the Blue Mountains, the Southern Highlands, Goulburn and Wollondilly regions (NSW SES, May 2023)
- monitor river heights and tides, look up river heights at a gauge near or upstream of your location via Flood Knowledge Centre (bom.gov.au) look for Rain and River conditions in the Sydney Basin, or go to River Heights at disaster.hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au, or hawkesburyfloodstats.com

Wisemans Ferry has a two-tier flood classification system (moderate and major). Defined by NSW SES and with warnings provided by the Bureau of Meteorology, they aim to have 12-hour lead time. There is no classification for Minor floods.

Forecast Location	Flood Classification		
	Minor	Moderate	Major
Webs Creek (Wisemans Ferry)	n/a	3.5	4.2

Source: Bureau of Meteorology http://www.bom.gov.au/nsw/_SLS_Current.pdf

When **“Moderate”** flood occurs:

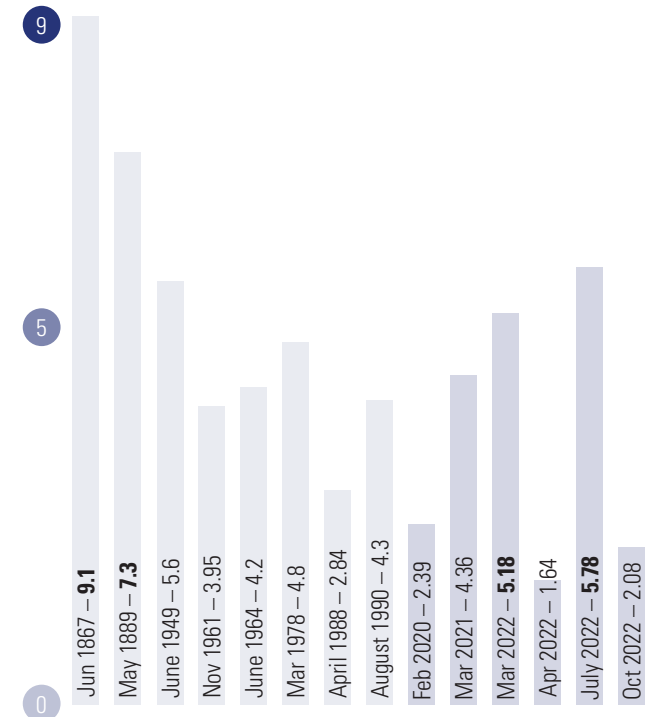
- Old Northern Road is not compromised
- Auxiliary roads like Singleton Road would be cutoff as well as isolated homes along this section

- Ferry operations are likely to be shut down, (ferry operations can be shut down due to debris in the river as well as flooding)

If a Flood Warning is issued be prepared to evacuate. Act early as roads may become congested or closed. Roads in the Lower Hawkesbury are often close to the river and are cut by relatively small floods. Tide levels have some minor impacts on flooding, especially downstream from Wisemans Ferry (NSW Government, July 2019).

Follow the Flood Evacuation signs, the main evacuation route from Wisemans Ferry village is heading south along Old Northern Road.

History of flooding in Wisemans Ferry



Wisemans Ferry (Webbs Creek) Flood Level (m AHD)

Key Emergency Information

Contact Numbers

Emergency Police/Fire/Ambulance 000

NSW SES 132 500 (for emergency help in flood, storm)

Ausgrid 131388

Endeavour Energy 131003

Police Assistance Line 131 444

Crime Stoppers 1800 333 000

Lifeline 13 11 14

WIRES Wildlife Rescue 1300 094 737

RSPCA 9770 7555

Important Sources of Information

Hazards Near Me NSW App

(go to your App store)

NSW Rural Fire Service (RFS)

www.rfs.nsw.gov.au

Bush Fire Information Line 1800 679 737

NSW SES - Floods, Storms, Tsunami

www.ses.nsw.gov.au

www.facebook.com/NSW.SES

Traffic and Travel Information

www.livetraffic.com

Traffic Enquiries - 132 701

Local Radio

ABC Radio Sydney 702 AM

ABC Radio Central Coast 92.5FM

Hornsby 100.1FM

Hawkesbury 89.9FM

Bureau of Meteorology

www.bom.gov.au

Hawkesbury City Council Disaster and Emergency Dashboard

disaster.hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au

Translating and Interpreting Service

131 450

Getting Prepared For An Emergency

Use the Get Prepared app

Go to your App store to download the Get Prepared App by the Australian Red Cross, it helps you create a personal emergency plan.

Emergency Document Holder

Keep important documents in one location and store them in a safe, accessible place and tell your household where it is. Scan documents and save a backup copy.

The Australian Warning System

The Australian Warning System has three levels- Advice, Watch & Act and Emergency Warning. It is good to understand these warnings:

- **Advice** - an incident has started. Stay up to date in case the situation changes.
 - Stay informed
 - Monitor conditions
 - Reduced threat: return with caution
- **Watch and Act** - conditions are changing and you need to start taking action now to protect you and your family.
 - Do not enter floodwater
 - Prepare to evacuate
 - Prepare to isolate
 - Avoid the area
- **Emergency Warning** - the highest level of warning. You may be in danger and need to take action immediately.
 - Evacuate now / Evacuate before [time]
 - Shelter now
 - Move to higher ground

(NSW SES, 2022)

Information Sources

NSW Government, July 2019, Hawkesbury-Nepean Valley Regional Flood Study Overview

NSW SES, May 2023, Hawkesbury Nepean Fact Sheet, Know the Signs

NSW RFS, February 2024, Neighbourhood Safer Places,

www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/plan-and-prepare/neighbourhood-safer-places

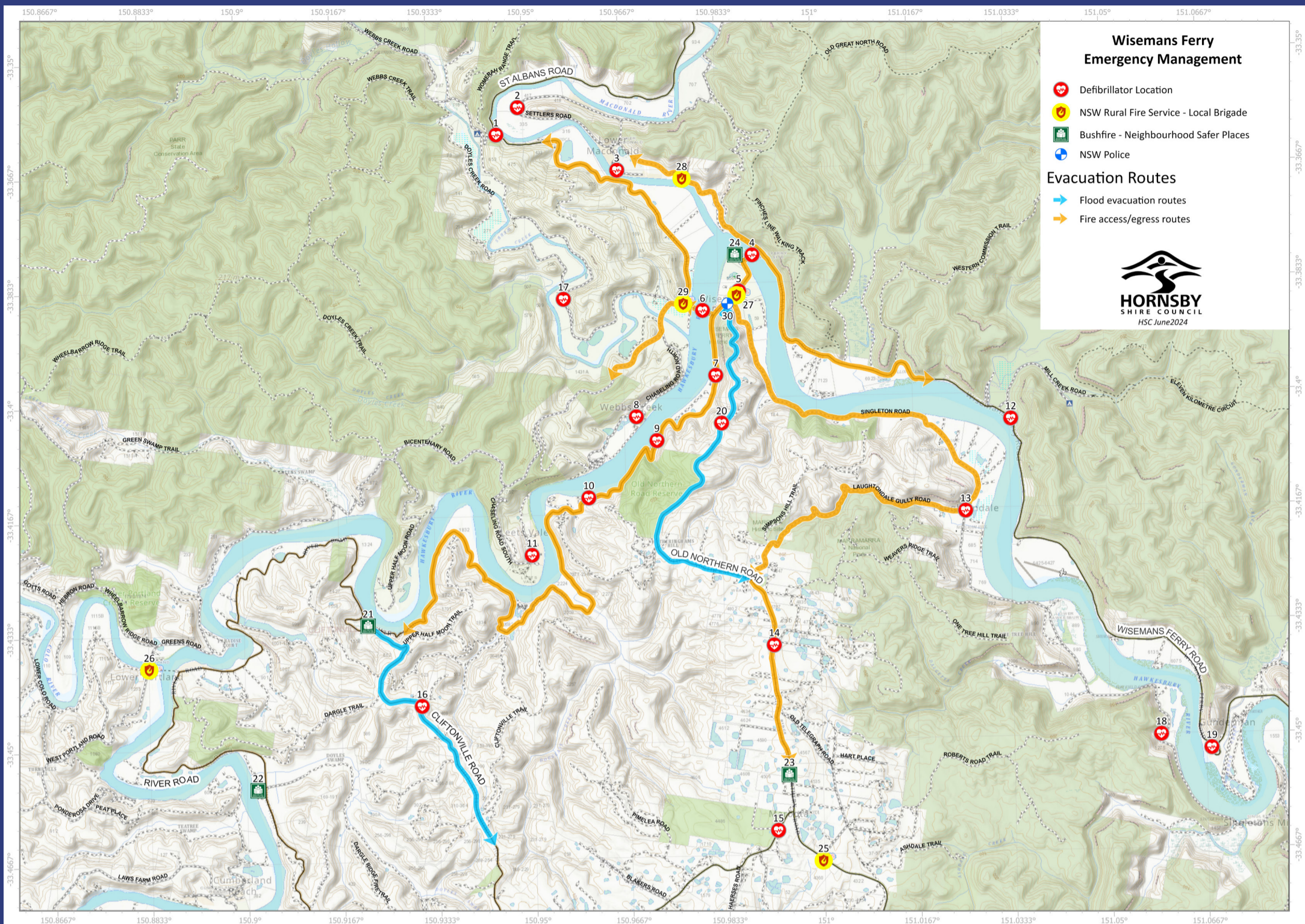
NSW SES, 2022, Our Warnings, <https://www.ses.nsw.gov.au/warnings>

Jointly funded by the Commonwealth and NSW Government under the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements



Local Area Map

The local emergency map shows the locations of emergency-related infrastructure and equipment, as well as evacuation and access/egress routes. The locations shown on the map are listed in the table.



Emergency Point: Automated External Defibrillator (AED)			
Label	Details	Latitude	Longitude
1	AED - Webbs Creek Mtn Rd & St Albans Rd	-33.36123	150.945334
2	AED - 335 Settlers Rd - CODE 2775	-33.357291	150.949154
3	AED - Walmsley Rd, Lower Macdonald - CODE 2775	-33.366685	150.966168
4	AED - Wisemans Ferry Main Ferry - Staffed 24/7 - call 0499 600 397	-33.379371	150.989322
5	AED - 5565 Old Northern Rd - CODE 2775	-33.384595	150.98689
6	AED - Webbs Creek Ferry - Staff 24/7 - call 0499 600 930	-33.387333	150.98056
7	AED - NSW Ski Gardens	-33.396805	150.982643
8	AED - Del Rio Riverside Resort - CODE 2775	-33.402611	150.968739
9	AED - Carinya Ski Ranch	-33.406132	150.972226
10	AED - Torrens Ski Park - CODE 2775	-33.414275	150.960206
11	AED - Leets Vale - CODE 2775	-33.422483	150.950189
12	AED - Mill Creek - CODE 2775	-33.403828	151.03364

13	AED - Corner Laughtondale Gully Rd & Singleton Rd - CODE 2775	-33.417114	151.025532
14	AED - 4765 Old Northern Rd	-33.436181	150.991903
15	AED - PF Formations - CODE 2775	-33.463173	150.992016
16	AED - 509 Cliftonville Rd	-33.444144	150.930609
17	AED - Webbs Creek Rd - CODE 2775	-33.385316	150.956485
18	AED - Ford's Farm - CODE 2775	-33.450106	151.058784
19	AED - 5943 Wisemans Ferry Rd, Gunderman - CODE 2775	-33.452187	151.067513
20	AED - Hawkins Lookout	-33.403773	150.98349

Emergency Point: Bushfire - Neighbourhood Safer Place (NSP)			
Label	Details	Latitude	Longitude
21	NSP - Cliftonville Lodge Resort - Kiosk Building, 1558 River Road, Lower Portland	-33.432324	150.921486
22	NSP - Dargle Ski Park - 351-353 River Road, Lower Portland	-33.455937	150.901832

23	NSP - Maroota Public School - Maroota Public School	-33.455094	150.994082
24	NSP - Wisemans Ferry Park - Wisemans Ferry Park	-33.379317	150.986349

Emergency Point: Rural Fire Service - Brigade Station (RFS)			
Label	Details	Latitude	Longitude
25	RFS - Maroota Rural Fire Brigade	-33.46771	150.999733
26	RFS - Lower Portland-Hawkesbury Rural Fire Brigade	-33.438112	150.88337
27	RFS - Wisemans Ferry Rural Fire Brigade	-33.38522	150.986506
28	RFS - Lower Macdonald Rural Fire Brigade	-33.368108	150.977379
29	RFS - Lower Macdonald Sub Rural Fire Brigade	-33.386313	150.97723

Emergency Point: NSW Police			
Label	Details	Latitude	Longitude
30	POLICE - Wisemans Ferry Police Station	-33.386409	150.984898

Local bush fire information

Greater Sydney is one of the most bush fire prone areas in Australia and Hornsby Shire is one of the most vulnerable with 34% of properties identified as Bush Fire Prone. Over the decades several large bush fire events have threatened the Wisemans Ferry and surrounding communities. Each bush fire has a different set of circumstances, and the community is encouraged to plan for different situations that may eventuate and change rapidly.

There are key emergency access and egress routes around Wisemans Ferry:

- on the **northern side** of the River
 - Wisemans Ferry Road
 - St Albans Road
 - Settlers Road
- on the **southern side** of the River:
 - River Road
 - Old Northern Road
 - Singleton Road

Connectivity is determined by ferry operability.

The proximity of these roads to bushland increases risks, as evacuating residents/tourists and responding emergency services can be cut off by fire. If a bush fire starts near you, go early and let someone know where you are headed.

The nearest Neighbourhood Safer Places are listed below. A Neighbourhood Safer Place is a building or an open space that may provide for improved protection of human life during the onset and passage of a bush fire, these are located at:

- Wisemans Ferry Park, 5602-5624 Old Northern Road, Wisemans Ferry
- Maroota Public School, 4540 Old Northern Road, Maroota
- Cliftonville Lodge Resort Kiosk Building, 1558 River Road, Lower Portland
- Dargle Ski park, 351-353 River Road, Lower Portland

Neighbourhood Safer Places are a place of last resort during a bush fire emergency. They are to be used when all other options in your bush fire survival plan can't be put into action safely. (NSW RFS, February 2024)