



# Is your property flood ready?

A guide to making your property flood ready

## FARM FLOOD READINESS KIT





# WHY DO YOU NEED A FLOOD PLAN?

- You need to know what to do and when to do it to reduce damage and losses.
- Every flood is different. You need to plan for all risks and possible impacts.
- If you are prepared you will recover much quicker and be able to get back to business.
- The damage and losses caused by floods can be very high. It costs a lot of money and takes a long time to clean up your property, repair fences and feed livestock.
- It is cheaper to plan ahead and be prepared than pay the costs of repairs or lose income and production time.
- You are not guaranteed financial or farm assistance when floods occur.
- Can you afford not to have a flood plan?

The 2016 Northern Tasmanian Floods impacted some 1000 farms. Some farms suffered significant stock losses, damage to pastures, loss of crops and damage to infrastructure.



The 2022 NSW and Queensland floods have again shown how devastating flooding can be. For example, some dairy farmers have lost half their herd, as floods affected properties never impacted before. With infrastructure damaged and power lost, milking sheds could not be operated, leading to animal health and other issues. Seasonal crops have been lost.





**ARE YOU FLOOD  
READY?**

## Having a flood plan can help prevent damage and losses on your farm:

- ✗ Loss of livestock
- ✗ Destroyed equipment and infrastructure
- ✗ Debris and waste
- ✗ Loss of access to property
- ✗ Erosion
- ✗ Blocked drains
- ✗ Damaged fences



## Be prepared

Ensure your property has:

- ✓ Clear laneways and drains
- ✓ High ground with access to fodder and water
- ✓ Tools for clearing damage
- ✓ Access to generators
- ✓ Appropriate storage
- ✓ Stored fodder
- ✓ Appropriate land management systems





## When you live on a floodplain having a flood plan just makes good farming sense.

Planning will not only protect your home, property and business. You also have an obligation to protect your livestock and pets from drowning. Your flood plan doesn't have to be complicated. In fact, it needs to be as easy and straightforward as possible so that if you are away someone else can implement it on your behalf. Below are some examples of risks and actions that might be included in a flood plan.

### Know what your risks are

- complete the flood readiness checklist and identify the risks and hazards on your property

### Know what to do to

**reduce risks** - develop an action list to reduce your risks and make your property flood ready

### Know what to do when a

**flood is coming** - develop a flood plan and ensure you know where to get information about floods and warnings

Do you have livestock or other animals?

Have safe high ground with access to food, clean water and shelter.

Keep up to date with warnings and start moving livestock early.

Can your property be isolated?

Store food, clean water, battery radio, generator, fuel, first aid kit and emergency contacts.

Move necessities above expected flood levels. Make sure they remain dry.

Do you store chemicals on your property?

Store in shed off the ground so they can't be washed away.

Ensure all chemicals are stored and shed securely locked.

Use the flood readiness checklist to help you identify the risks and hazards on your property and develop an action list.

# WHERE TO GET INFORMATION ABOUT FLOODS AND WARNINGS



For  
**life threatening  
emergencies** call

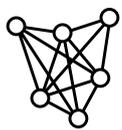
**000**



For  
**flood assistance** call

**132500**

[ses.tas.gov.au](http://ses.tas.gov.au)



TAS **ALERT**

## TasALERT

TasALERT online all hazards emergency warning and information system

[www.alert.tas.gov.au](http://www.alert.tas.gov.au)



[www.bom.gov.au](http://www.bom.gov.au)

Bureau of Meteorology – for information on rainfall, weather radar, river heights and flood predictions.



ABC Radio – for ongoing flood messages and information. More info can be found at

[www.abc.net.au/radio/listen/](http://www.abc.net.au/radio/listen/)

## What do Bureau of Meteorology warnings mean?

### Severe Weather Warning

A general warning to expect unusual conditions which may include:

- gale force winds and gusts
- heavy rainfall with potential for flash flooding
- abnormally high tides.

### Severe Thunderstorm Warning

A general warning to expect unusual thunderstorms which may include:

- large hail
- lightning
- damaging wind gusts
- heavy rainfall with potential for flash flooding.

### Flood Watch

There is a potential for a flood to occur. You need to enact your flood plan.

### Flood Warning

A flood is expected or already occurring, you need to have everything secured and safe.

### Sheep Graziers Alert

Provides warnings of wet and windy conditions to enable sheep graziers to take action to reduce losses among newly born lambs and newly shorn sheep due to hypothermia.

**Always call 000 in life threatening situations**

# WHAT TO DO WHEN THERE IS A FLOOD

## Flood Watch

- Move livestock and horses to higher ground on or off property and make sure they have access to clean water and food.
- Ensure all animals are in a safe area where they cannot be trapped by rising floodwater.
- Remove pumps from waterways.
- Move equipment where possible – tractors, farming equipment, utes and other vehicles.
- Secure moveable objects such as shipping containers and bale feeders.
- Remove debris from paddocks – irrigation pipes, timber, scrap, metal, tools etc.
- Store all chemicals securely and out of potential floodwater level.
- Check that your emergency kit is ready – include portable radio, torch, batteries, first aid kit, food and water for five days.
- Make sure you have essential documents at hand – emergency contact list, legal documents and accounting records.
- Check on neighbours where possible.

## Flood Warning

- Always stay up to date with emergency warnings and other public messages so you know if things are likely to change and what to do.
- Stay in touch with nominated contacts.
- Seal areas around the home and other farm buildings to keep out water and vermin.
- Lock storage sheds and sandbag where necessary to prevent water entering.
- Keep pets safe and out of floodwater.
- Send staff and visitors home.
- Be prepared in the event you have to evacuate.
- If you plan to leave, leave early.

## Evacuation Warning

- Don't wait for warnings if flood waters are rising around your property.
- Act early.
- Be prepared to evacuate with your pets and emergency kit.
- Stay up to date with emergency warnings and public messages.

**NEVER ENTER FLOOD WATER**



# WHAT TO DO AFTER A FLOOD

## Livestock and horses

- If you have livestock or horses you will need to make sure they are safe and well and still have access to fodder and water.
- If any of your livestock or horses are injured contact your veterinarian.



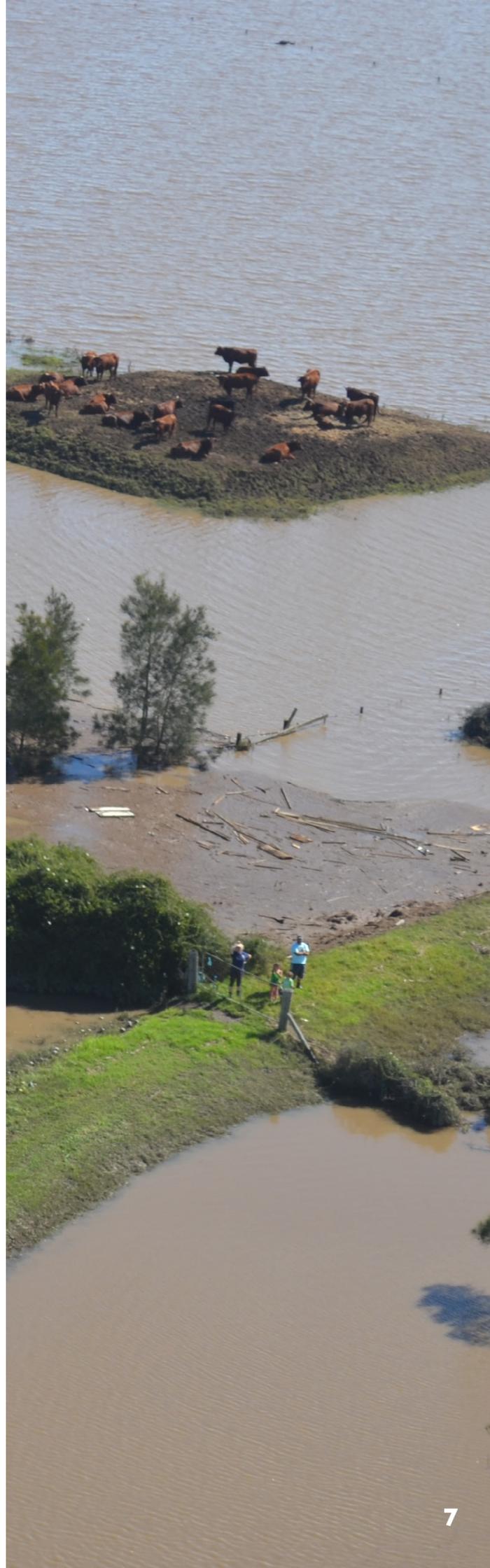
## Carcasses

- Keep records of any animal loss.
- You need to dispose of carcasses quickly. See [nre.tas.gov.au/about-the-department/flood-information](http://nre.tas.gov.au/about-the-department/flood-information) for guidance.
- Biosecurity Tasmania have advice on disposing animal carcasses.

## Cleaning up

Floodwaters can be contaminated by sewage, chemicals or other waste which can cause illness and infection. When cleaning up:

- Always wear protective clothing including gloves, boots and eye goggles.
- Follow the safety instructions on the labels of any disinfectants or products you use.
- Watch out for snakes and spiders.
- Wash your hands thoroughly and maintain hygiene.
- Watch out for sharp objects.
- Do not move anything unless it is safe to do so.
- Contact your local council about disposal of large items.
- Photograph any damage for insurance purposes.



# WHAT TO DO FROM HERE



## ENSURE YOUR PROPERTY IS FLOOD READY

### 1 Complete the Flood readiness checklist

- identify the risks and hazards on your property and develop an action list to make your property flood ready

2 **Develop your Flood plan** - identify what needs to be done when a flood is coming

3 **Share it** - identify who will put your flood plan in place if you're away

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State Emergency Service  
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# I. FLOOD READINESS CHECKLIST

Identify the risks and hazards on your property

## How flood ready are you?

Complete this flood readiness checklist to find out.

Compile the list of actions you need to carry out on the blank pages provided.

### LIVESTOCK AND HORSES

**Risk: My livestock and horses can be injured or drown**

**Solution: I have access to high ground for my livestock and horses**

- I have high ground available that can cater for all livestock.
- I have separate stables or access to portable yards for my horses which are located on high ground.
- I have identified alternative site(s) that are available for my livestock and horses, and the landowner has agreed to allow me access when a flood is likely.
- The access to my high ground is clear of debris and easy to get to. My high ground has access to fresh water supply for at least 3 days.
- My high ground has fodder available or sufficient fodder is stored on site for at least 5 days.
- My livestock and horses have used the high ground/ stables previously and are familiar with the area.
- My high ground has shading and/or a windrow.

**Solution: I have alternative arrangements to move stock**

- I have a livestock carrier or arrangements with another livestock carrier to move my livestock when a flood is likely.
- I have a horse float or arrangements for access to a horse float to move my horses when a flood is likely.
- The roads, bridges and muster routes to the property are useable in severe weather.
- The time required to move livestock/horses off my property to other locations is known.
- I will consider selling my stock.

**Solution: I am aware of the different needs of my livestock and horses**

- I know the temperament of my livestock and horses and whether they need to be separated from other animals.
- I keep a record so I know if any of my livestock/horses need extra care e.g. pregnant, vaccinations, medical treatment.
- I store my vet medicines and treatment plans where I can get them quickly in an emergency.
- I have an alternative cooling source for medicines that will need to be refrigerated e.g. 12 volt fridge.

**Solution: I can provide emergency first aid for my livestock and horses**

- I know how to provide basic first aid to my livestock.
- I have a livestock first aid kit e.g. bandages, saline solution, cool pack, antibacterial solution.
- I have contact details for my vet.
- I have transport available for carrying injured horses if needed.

### FENCES AND GATES

**Risk: I could lose fencing.**

**Solution: My fences are in the most appropriate location to allow flood waters to pass without damage**

- My fencing is made from appropriate and sturdy materials.
- My fencing has no gaps or breaks and is in good repair.
- My fencing is free of debris and weeds.
- My gates are secure and can easily be opened when needed.

- My neighbour (or other emergency nominee) have the keys/codes to my gates.
- In flood times my gates are unlocked to allow access for emergency vehicles.
- I have the tools and enough materials to do emergency repairs to my fences and gate.

### **OBJECTS THAT CAN BE WASHED OFF OR ONTO MY PROPERTY**

**Risk:** *Moving objects can cause injury and damage my property and fences*

**Solution:** *My property is clear of objects that can be moved by flood waters*

- My property is free of waste and unused items that can cause hazards e.g. tractor parts, car bodies, bale feeders, piles of wire, old fence posts, tools, skip bins.
- The shipping containers on my property are secured so they will not be washed away by flood waters.
- My vehicles are parked in a secure place where they cannot be washed away by flood waters. e.g. ute, tractor, car, caravan, trailer.
- I can move my vehicles to a high area off my property if required.
- My farm tools and machinery are stored in a secure place where they cannot be washed away by flood waters.
- My round bales are stored in a secure area where they cannot be washed away by flood water.

**Risk:** *Objects can be washed onto my property and cause damage or injure livestock*

**Solution:** *I know what could be washed onto my property and take action to prevent it*

- I am aware of what the hazards are on the properties around mine that could be washed onto my property and cause damage.
- I have arrangements with my neighbours to take action to prevent livestock/horses being washed onto my property e.g. unlock gates, cut fences.
- I monitor what is in the catchment that could wash onto my property and take action to have them maintained or removed e.g. noxious riparian weeds, car bodies.

### **CHEMICALS AND FUEL**

**Risk:** *Chemicals and fuel stores can be damaged or washed away by flood waters and leak*

**Solution:** *My chemicals and fuels will not be affected by flood waters*

- I have removed all old and unnecessary chemicals, waste oil and fuel from my property.
- I have an inventory of all chemicals and fuel on my property.
- All chemicals and fuels are stored in a secure, lockable shed with adequate ventilation.
- All chemicals and fuel are stored off the ground.
- My fuel tanks are secured to the ground.
- The place where my chemicals and fuel are stored is waterproof or, I have sandbags available to prevent water from entering.

### **EMERGENCY INFORMATION AND FLOOD PLAN**

**Risk:** *If I don't know what to do when a flood is coming I put myself, my livestock and my property at risk of injury and damage*

**Solution:** *I know when a flood is likely and what to do*

- I have a list of emergency contact numbers and sources of information about floods including on the radio and internet.
- I am part of a phone tree for passing on information to neighbours and other people in the community about what is happening.
- I understand what the warnings mean that are given by SES and BoM.
- I know the local triggers that mean a flood is likely e.g. river heights, rain levels in other areas.
- I have a flood plan and know what to do at different warning levels and triggers e.g. move pumps, start moving livestock.
- I have a nominated person to put my flood plan in place if I am away from my property and they have agreed to do this.

## PREPARE TO BE ISOLATED

**Risk:** *My property can become isolated*

**Solution:** *I have enough supplies to last 3 days*

- I have enough clean water for drinking to last 3 days.
- I have enough non-perishable food that doesn't need to be cooked or stored in a fridge for 3 days, or I have alternative cooking and cooling e.g. gas, bbq, 12 volt fridge.
- I have a first aid kit and enough medicines for 3 days.
- I have all the contacts I need in an emergency e.g. written list, stored in phone. I have a battery-operated radio.
- I have alternative power sources for my electricity and my phone e.g. generator and fuel, solar power, two way radio, inverter.
- I have a torch and batteries or other source of lighting e.g. solar power lights. I have enough blankets and warm clothes stored in a dry area plus sandbags or alternative.
- I have enough food, water and all the things I need for my pets.

## PREPARE TO BE EVACUATED

**Risk:** *I might be evacuated and have to stay somewhere else for a few days*

**Solution:** *I have a plan for what needs to be taken*

- My legal and important documents (e.g. birth certificate, passport) are stored in a waterproof sleeve and kept in a place where I can quickly access them.
- My scripts are up to date and my medicines are stored in a place where I can quickly access them.
- I have an emergency bag which includes clothes, toiletries and medicines ready to take with me if I am evacuated.
- I have a secure waterproof place to store my important personal belongings e.g. photos, mementos.
- I have emergency contacts, devices (laptop, mobile phone) plus food and vaccination details for pets.

## CLEAN UP AND REPAIRS AFTER THE FLOOD

**Risk:** *If I don't know what to do after a flood I can't get things back to normal*

**Solution:** *I have a plan for what needs to be done after a flood*

- I have enough tools and materials stored to fix essential fences and clear trees and branches that have fallen on my property.
- I have arrangements with my neighbours and other farmers to share tools and work together to fix things that are dangerous or unsafe.
- I have the appropriate cleaning products and protective clothing to clean up areas affected by contaminated water from septic tanks, chemical or fuels.
- I know what to do with livestock carcasses and who to contact if I need help.
- My livestock can be clearly identified if they are found off my property e.g. NLIS devices or tags.
- I have an inventory of all heavy machinery, vehicles and major equipment on my property.
- I have sufficient fodder stored if my pastures are damaged, unsafe or unable to be used by livestock.
- I will consider selling my stock if I don't have sufficient fodder.

## ENSURING MY BUSINESS CAN CONTINUE TO OPERATE

**Risk:** *I am a Primary Producer and I can't continue production if I don't have all the things I need*

**Solution:** *I have alternatives for the essential services and things I need*

- I have essential business documents stored in a safe, waterproof area and back ups of electronic documents.
- I have a generator or alternative source of power.
- I have an alternative power source for my mobile phone, computer and other business equipment.
- I have enough essential materials and resources stored to keep my business running for 5 days.
- I have important supplier and distributor contacts available.
- I have a business continuity plan which identifies alternatives for what I will do if I cannot use my normal systems for transport, IT, supplies, storage and staff.

## Flood readiness action plan

Make a list of any actions or tasks from the checklist that you need to undertake to make your property flood ready.

<b>RISKS</b>	<b>ACTION STEPS / TASKS</b>	<b>RESOURCES</b>	<b>DATE OF COMPLETION</b>	<b>COMPLETED</b>
	<i>What will be done?</i>	<i>What additional resources do you need?</i>	<i>When will you complete this task?</i>	<i>Tick this box once the task is completed</i>
Livestock and horses				
Fences and gates				
Objects that can be washed onto my property				
Chemicals and fuel				
Emergency information and flood plan				
Prepare to be isolated				
Prepare to be evacuated				
Clean up and repairs after a flood				
Ensuring my business can continue to operate				

## 2. FLOOD PLAN

Identify what needs to be done when a flood is coming

### What will you do when it floods?

It is important that you are prepared in the event of a flood and have a flood plan developed for your farm. Your flood plan needs to include as much information as possible about all the actions that need to be done to respond quickly in the event of a flood. Remember to involve your nominee, neighbours and family as they will also need to be familiar with your flood plan if you are away or unable to put it in place yourself. This template is designed to help you develop your flood plan. Refer to the 'Is your property flood ready?' brochure for guidance.

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Property name

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Property address

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GPS Long:

Lat:

Lot/DP

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### When a **FLOOD WATCH** is announced I will:

Stay up to date with what is happening (e.g radio, internet) by:

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Make sure my livestock, horses and other animals have been moved to high ground and have access to food and clean water by:

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Make sure my fences are secure and my gates can be opened by others by:

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Relocate or secure equipment/objects (e.g. pumps, tractors, bale feeders) on my property by:

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Secure my chemicals and fuels by:

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Make sure my property and livestock are safe from movable objects or threats from other properties by:

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When a **FLOOD WARNING** is announced I will:

Stay up to date with what is happening (e.g. radio, internet) by:

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Keep in contact with neighbours and other landholders by:

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Make sure I am prepared for being isolated or evacuated by:

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My decision **to EVACUATE** will be based on:

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I have nominated to enact my floodplan if I am away:

Nominee name:

Phone:

Address:

Make sure my livestock, horses and other animals can remain safe on high ground and well when I am away by:

Make sure people know I have left and where I will be staying, including my nominee(s) by:

If I stay I will need the following items, which I have packed together in a kit in an accessible location in my house or shed: a generator or alternative, radio and batteries, torch or alternative, first aid kit, emergency numbers, sandbags or alternative, and enough non-perishable food to last 3 days.

Item	Location in house

If I need to evacuate, I must take the following items with me, which I have packed in a water-proof container or bag: clothes and toiletries, medications, documents (legal, identification), photos, emergency contacts, food and vaccination details for pets, devices (laptop, mobile phone etc).

Item	Location in house

Family, friends and neighbors who need to know I am evacuating:

Name	Contact

I will stay at:

Option 1	It will take	minutes/hours to get there
Option 2	It will take	minutes/hours to get there

Other instructions:

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Use this page to draw diagrams or maps or to write extra instructions if needed.

Use this page to draw diagrams or maps or to write extra instructions if needed.

### 3. FLOOD NOMINEE

Identify who will put your flood plan in place if you're away

#### What if you are away when it floods?

Complete this form and give it to your nominee. You may also want to give your nominee a copy of your Flood Plan. If you are not living on your property, or will be away when there is a flood watch or warning, who will be there to put your flood plan in place?

Make sure your property can be made flood safe even when you are away by:

- Nominating a person who will be responsible for putting your flood plan in place when you are away. Make sure they are willing to help, know what to do, where things are stored and how you can be contacted.
- Go through your flood plan with your nominee—on paper and in the paddock.

#### Important...

If you are going to be away from your property you need to have an emergency nominee who knows your flood plan and what to do. This could be a family member, farm manager or neighbour.

### Property information

Property owner's name

Phone

Mobile

Email

I have a detailed flood plan for the property listed below (complete a separate sheet for other properties you have).

Property name

Property address

Property Use

GPS

Lot/DP

Long:

Lat:

I give permission to my flood nominee (below) to implement my flood plan. They have been given a copy of my detailed flood plan and are willing to assist.

Nominee Name

Phone

Mobile

Alternative Nominee (if available)

Phone

Mobile

# Summary of Flood Plan instructions

## LIVESTOCK AND ANIMALS

### I agist livestock on my property

Owner's Name	Phone	Mobile
Alternative Nominee (if avail)	Phone	Mobile

### Livestock and animals on my property

Type:	Number of each	Type:	Number of each
Type:	Number of each	Type:	Number of each
Type:	Number of each	Type:	Number of each
Type:	Number of each	Type:	Number of each

My high ground is located at:

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My alternative high ground is located at:

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The owner of the alternative property is:	Name	Contact
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My transport carrier is:	Name	Contact
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It will take approximately (hrs) to move all my livestock.

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Additional fodder is stored at:

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A first aid kit is stored at:

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**Instructions for moving livestock and animals:** eg At flood watch, open gates and make sure laneways are clear. Fill water trough. Move livestock to northern high ground. Have emergency fodder ready.

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# FENCES AND GATES

Nominee has been provided with the key/code for my gates if I am away:

yes

Codes or instructions:

If necessary the following fences can be cut:

I have tools and material for emergency fence and gate repair stored at:

# CHEMICALS AND OTHER MOVEABLE OBJECTS

I have the following chemicals and fuels on my property:

My chemicals are stored in:

My fuel is stored:

My sandbags are stored:

I have the following vehicles on my property:

My vehicles are stored:

I have the following heavy equipment on my property:

My heavy equipment is stored:

It will take approximately \_\_\_\_\_ (hrs) to move all my vehicles and heavy equipment.

Instructions for moving vehicles and heavy equipment:

Use this page to draw diagrams or maps or to write extra instructions if needed.

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