

# Floods

Floods can develop very quickly or very slowly, affect small areas such as a single suburb, or vast areas that cross state boundaries



## What can you do now?

- Find out what the flood risks are in your local area and the type of flooding you may be exposed to
- Not sure if you live in a flood prone area? Check with your local emergency management agency or ask your local council for flood maps
- Check if your home and contents insurance policies, or your business policies, cover flood. Not all insurers offer flood cover
- Know the height at which your home, business or property could be affected by floodwater
- Prepare a flood plan
- Think about raising the floor level of your home to reduce the risk of water entering and causing damage to its structure and your possessions
- Familiarise yourself with your local council's emergency management plan or flood-awareness information
- Get more information on flood preparation from Emergency Management Australia [www.ema.gov.au](http://www.ema.gov.au)
- Have waterproof bags ready to protect clothing and important documents from water damage. Keep these with your emergency kit
- Planning renovations or extensions? Think about choosing building materials that have a higher water resistant rating

## Quick tips When a flood watch is issued

- Follow the advice of local emergency services
- Leave low-lying homes and businesses before flooding begins
- Move all valuable items from lower floors to higher floors, if time allows
- Use sandbags. Placed correctly, these can help to reduce the impact of flooding during low-level flood events