

# RESILIENT VALLEY, RESILIENT COMMUNITIES



## THE HAWKESBURY-NEPEAN VALLEY FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

### Why do we need a Flood Strategy?

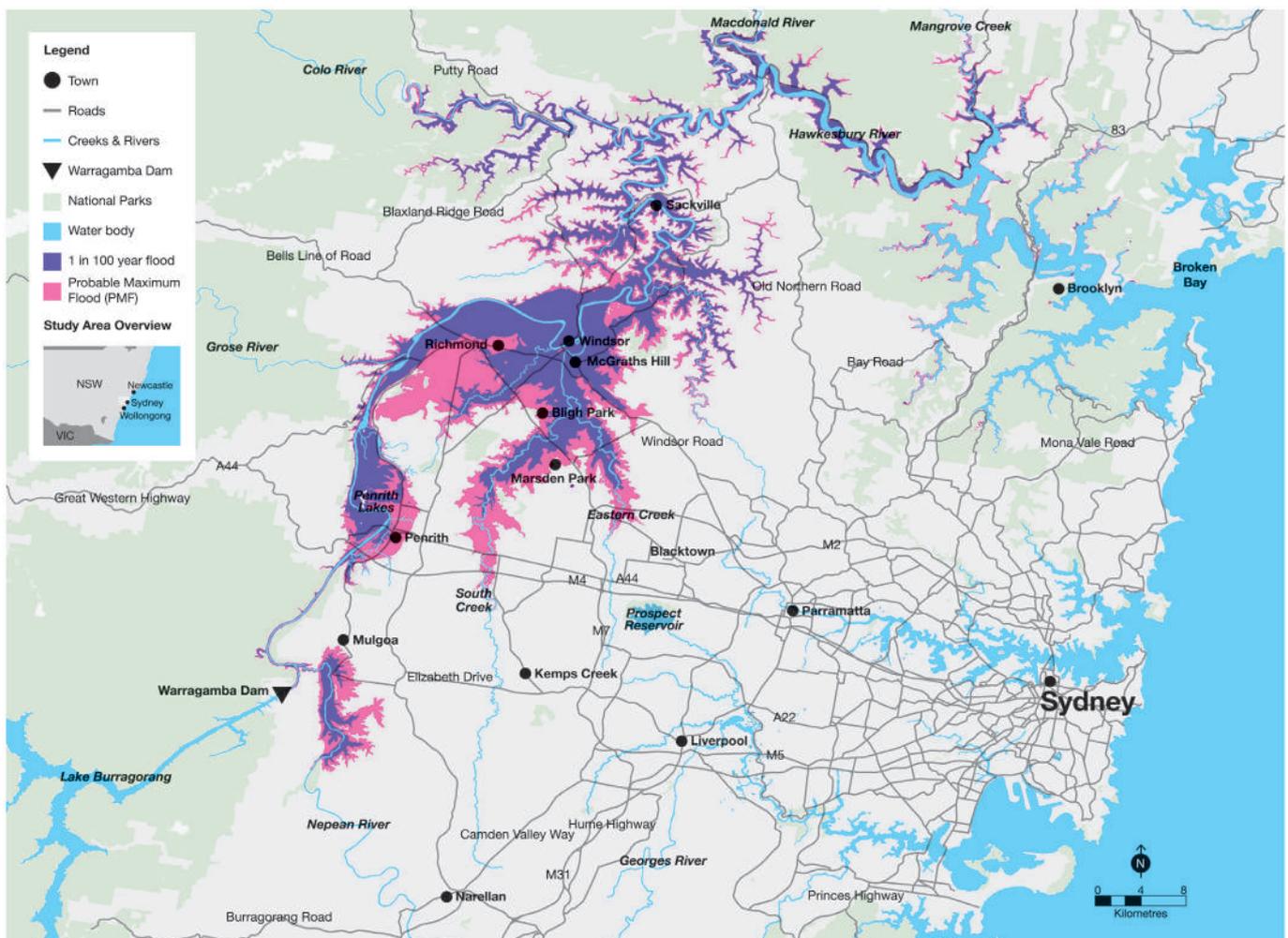
The Hawkesbury-Nepean Valley has a long history of widespread flooding. Since European settlement, there have been about 130 moderate to major floods at Windsor. Population is growing in the valley and without further action, flood risk will increase over time.

Resilient Valley, Resilient Communities – the Hawkesbury-Nepean Valley Flood Risk Management Strategy (the Flood Strategy) details how the NSW Government, local councils, businesses and the community will work together to reduce and manage flood risk.

**The Flood Strategy aims to reduce risks to life, property and impacts on the community from regional floods now and into the future.**

### What area does the Flood Strategy cover?

The Flood Strategy covers regional flooding from Bents Basin near Wallacia to the Brooklyn Bridge. This is around 425 square kilometres of floodplain mainly in Penrith, Hawkesbury, The Hills Shire and Blacktown local government areas.



The Hawkesbury-Nepean Valley Floodplain – Base data courtesy of the NSW State Emergency Service

### Reducing flood risk – no single, simple solution

The Hawkesbury-Napean Valley has the highest flood exposure in NSW because of:

- the unique landscape can create deep and extensive floods
- the evacuation road network is constrained
- large and growing urban population
- the community is largely not aware of and prepared for flooding.

There is no simple solution to reduce flood risk. Flood experts have investigated options in detail over the past four years. The investigation concluded that a mix of actions is needed to reduce flood risk in the valley.

#### These actions include:

- a proposal to raise Warragamba Dam wall to reduce flood risk downstream
- better flood forecasting
- more integrated land use planning at a regional level
- new flood evacuation signage
- better flood information for the community
- ongoing improvements to emergency management.

**Nothing can stop flooding completely in the valley. People will always need to evacuate when directed, to protect lives in a flood emergency.**

### Raising Warragamba Dam wall to reduce flood risk

Warragamba is Sydney's largest water supply dam. It provides around 80% of greater Sydney's water supply. It is not designed or operated to stop or manage floods.

The Flood Strategy proposes to raise Warragamba Dam for flood mitigation. This would make 'airspace' behind the dam wall to temporarily hold back and slowly release floodwaters.

Raising Warragamba Dam Wall for flood mitigation would:

- significantly reduce the risk to life downstream
- reduce flood damages by around 75% on average
- provide more certainty about how much time there is to evacuate.

### Delivering the Flood Strategy

The first phase of the Flood Strategy is being delivered from 2016 to 2020. It includes a business case for the raising of Warragamba Dam wall and delivery of the other Flood Strategy actions.

Depending on environmental and planning approvals, the next phase will involve building the raised Warragamba Dam wall. Construction is expected to take around four years.

For more information about the Flood Strategy visit [www.insw.com](http://www.insw.com)

### Get ready for flooding

If you live or work in the valley, know your flood risk and be prepared.

Find out more about how to prepare for a flood on the NSW State Emergency Service website [www.ses.nsw.gov.au](http://www.ses.nsw.gov.au)

For emergency help in floods and storms call 132 500.  
In life-threatening emergencies call 000 (triple zero).