



Update: Wonga Beach Community Preparedness Session 12 Nov 2025

A presentation by JB Pacific, Flood Engineer Specialists provided an overview of the Wonga Beach Flood Study and Drainage Assessment.

Key Objectives included

- Flood Risk Understanding: Develop detailed models to map flood behaviour, including depth, extent, and velocity for a range of flood events.
- Mitigation and Adaptation: Assess and guide the implementation of sustainable flood mitigation options.
- Community Protection: Support emergency response by reducing the impact of flooding in the Wonga Beach area allowing residents and tourist greater accessibility during flood events
Gathering Community Mapping Intel (Community conversations in early 2026)

In 2026, Council aims to improve flood mapping data, through **capturing local insights and lived experience intel**. This will enable Council to be better informed of the local issues and therefore the possible mitigations and nature-based solutions. More information to follow in the new year.

Weather IQ Update:

- **Weather intelligence** expert Chris Nitopoulos (Nitso) from WeatherIQ detailed the events leading up to the flooding associated with Tropical Cyclone Jasper and provided tools and insights into local weather forecasting.

Recordings can be viewed on [Council's website](#) or Councils YouTube channel

- [Video 1: 2023 Flooding](#)
- [Video 2: Spotting the signs](#)



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Emotional Preparedness Session

David Younger, Psychologist wrapped up the session with an overview on how the rational decision-making part of our brains can be affected during stressful situations like disaster events.

The resource from the Australian Psychological Society gives a deeper understanding on how we can prepare psychologically for natural disasters.
<https://psychology.org.au/for-the-public/psychology-topics/disasters/preparing-for-disasters>
(see the information sheet tab).

Framework to consider:

1. **Anticipate:** that the disaster will likely be stressful & challenging, which is entirely normal.
2. **Identify:** Specific thoughts & feelings
3. **Manage:** Use strategies to support yourself e.g., strength-based talk, trusting yourself.
4. **Engage:** with at least one other person, support & help each other vs feeling alone & panicked.

New proposed projects through Councils Local Resilience Action Plan (LRAP)

- Improve Storm Water Drainage in Wonga to prevent flooding of roads and residences as identified in the 2023 Wonga Beach Flood Study and Drainage Assessment Flood Study.
- Development of a Douglas Shire property level flood information portal to ensure the broader benefits of flood studies and risk assessments are realised.
- These projects have been endorsed by Council, and the Disaster Management Unit will continue to seek funding sources to realise these important projects.



Drainage Works Update

Annual Trunk Drainage Works (Southern Section)

- The Civil Operation team had completed trunk drainage cleaning in Wonga Beach in September; these are the unlined open drains that run through the centre of the community
- These works are completed each year in preparation to the wet season

Trunk Drainage Works (Northern Section)

- The section downstream from Giblin Street to the outlet is zoned as a conservation zone to preserve the surrounding environment and maintain ecological values
- A Flora Survey was undertaken and a number of individuals of the species *Bruguiera x hainesii* plants which are listed as Critically Endangered under the Nature Conservation Act 1992 were identified within the drain, to the north of the bridge at Giblin Street
- No clearing of vegetation is permitted in this zone without the express permission of the Department of the Environment, Tourism, Science and Innovation
- A Protected Plant Permit and Impact Management Plan has been lodged with the relevant department, the Department of Environment, Tourism, Science and innovation (DETSI) for review and approval to conduct drainage works.

Council is proposing the following works to ensure effective drainage and flood mitigation at Wonga Beach

- **Drain Clearing:** Strategically remove any blockages and trim back potentially dead or falling trees that could impede flow and cause backup during the wet season
- **Outlet Access:** Open the outlet prior to commencing works to identify blockages and improve accessibility for clearing debris/logs lying on the creek bottom, assisting with operational efficiency
- **Permit Request:** Council is actively seeking approval for a permit to open the beach outlet side in the event of a declared emergency
- This measure will allow the release of pressure to mitigate potential flooding of nearby residents on an ongoing basis.

These actions are intended to annually maintain the drainage network capacity and efficiency, reduce flood risk, improve immunity and safeguard the community.