Renewing our regional flood models

WHAT WE HEARD, WHAT HAS BEEN COMPLETED AND WHAT HAPPENS NEXT

27	2023 & 2025	Regional
community submissions received	recent events used to test the models	flood mapping renewed

Why were the regional flood models renewed?
Flooding is part of life in the Cassowary Coast. Heavy rainfall, tropical cyclones, monsoonal systems, river flooding and coastal influences can affect communities in different ways across the region.

Council's previous regional flood study was completed in 2014. Since then, newer information about terrain, land conditions, major waterways and structures that influence regional flooding has become available. The region has also experienced recent rainfall and flooding events. Council used this information and current industry methods to renew the models.

This update builds on information shared during the earlier consultation and explains what has been completed and what happens next.

What is a flood model?
A flood model is a computer-based estimate of where water may travel and how deep or fast it may be during different-sized floods.

The maps show modelled possibilities—not exactly what will happen next time.

Every flood is different. The mapping does not predict the next flood and does not replace weather warnings, emergency advice or observed conditions.

What did the community tell us?
Early in the project, Council invited residents and local organisations to share photographs, videos, flood marks and observations from Tropical Cyclone Jasper in December 2023 and the February 2025 flooding.

Council received 27 community submissions, including photographs, videos, flood marks and information about flood extents, depths, timing, duration, affected locations and local flow paths. Submissions were received from communities across the region.

How was the community information used?
Where the location and timing could be confirmed, the project team compared community observations with recorded flood information and the model results. This helped validate that the models represented the broad flooding patterns experienced by the community.

Reported flooding or drainage issues will also inform future council investigations to support drainage and flood mitigation.

Thank you

Community observations provide context that gauges and mapping cannot always capture. Council thanks everyone who took the time to share their experience and local knowledge

Understanding the renewed regional flood models

WHAT THE INFORMATION CAN TELL US AND WHAT HAPPENS NEXT.

What has been completed?
Council has renewed the regional flood models using newer information about the terrain, land conditions, major waterways and structures that influence regional flooding. Updated rainfall records, recent flood observations and current industry methods were also used. The models assess a range of possible floods, including future climate conditions.

Why is this information useful?
The renewed models provide a clearer regional picture of where flooding may occur. They can help Council plan for future flooding and help community members understand the flood behaviour shown for their locality.

Does this change anything for my property now?

No. Flood mapping does not change a property's flood risk. Furthermore, completing the models does not automatically change Council's planning scheme, flood overlays, development requirements or the information applying to an individual property.

Does the study address every local flooding issue?
No. The models provide a regional picture of flooding from the major rivers and creeks included in the study. They do not assess every local drain, culvert, blockage or individual property in detail.
If your concern relates to a local drain, culvert, road or blockage, you can raise it directly with Council. Some locations may require separate local investigations.

Where can I see the results?
Selected maps from the renewed models will be displayed at the community information sessions. Council and the project team will be available to help residents locate their area and understand what the maps show.

What happens after the sessions?
Council will consider how the information may be used in future planning and public mapping. A timeframe for formal review and adoption has not yet been confirmed. Updates will be provided through Council's Your Say page.

Renewed flood model information sessions:

Community drop-in session – Tully
Time: 9:00am to 2:00pm
Date: Thursday, 8 October 2026
Location: Tully Library – 34 Bryant Street, Tully

Community drop-in session – Innisfail
Time: 9:00am to 2:00pm
Date: Friday, 9 October 2026
Location: Innisfail Shire Hall – 70 Rankin Street, Innisfail

Questions?
Visit www.yoursay.cassowarycoast.qld.gov.au/regional-flood-model-update or contact Cassowary Coast Regional Council on 1300 763 903.