

Tumbulgum flood project wins national award

NRMA Insurance in partnership with Floodplain Management Australia (FMA) has announced the Bureau of Meteorology, Tweed Shire Council, Tumbulgum Community Association, NSW SES and NSW Office of Environment and Heritage as the winner of its Flood Risk Management Project of the Year Award.

The joint project developed and implemented a new flood warning service and response plan for Tumbulgum, which is located at the confluence of the Tweed and Rous rivers.

The new flood warning service enables the community to enact their own flood evacuation plans and to leave the area before evacuation routes are impassable. The project included a cooperative and risk focused approach across all levels of government and the community.

President of Tumbulgum Community Association Jenny Kidd said that residents had been pleased to participate in the project.

“The information from the project has assisted in the development of our community plan and been shared with village residents to inform their decision-making in the next flood event,” she said.

Alex Clifton, Senior Flood Hydrologist at the Bureau of Meteorology said the project recognised both the community’s vulnerability to flooding and their unique circumstances.

“This service helps people to enact their own evacuation and protection measures before the onset of flooding, greatly reducing the risk to life, homes and property. “It’s not just Tumbulgum that will benefit from this, being able to identify what the flood waters are doing earlier, combined with the development of local response plans that can be rolled out to other local communities, means that there are benefits to towns and villages all across the Northern Rivers region,” he said.

“We are proud to have been part of this project that supports the residents of Tumbulgum and is a great example of agencies and the community working together,” said Danny Rose, Council’s Manager for Roads and Stormwater.

As the winner of the Excellence Award, the project team will receive \$10,000 to continue this important work.

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