



Extreme Flooding in Australia

What is a flood?

- A flood is an overflow of water on to land that is usually dry.
- A flood can start for many reasons, including heavy rainfall, melting snow or as a result of tropical storms in coastal areas.

After days of heavy rainfall, there has been extreme flooding in parts of Australia. Lots of different groups are working hard to help those in need of help.

The main areas affected have been in New South Wales (NSW) and in South East Queensland (QLD).

So far, around 40,000 people have been **evacuated** from their homes. In some areas, there has been recorded rainfall of around 100mm an hour.

This has caused damage to people's homes. It has also meant that roads have been cut off, rivers have overflowed and some power supplies have been affected.

Although rainfall is slowing, it is predicted that there will continue to be flooding for some days.

There have been a lot of people helping those in need. In a statement, Prime Minister Scott Morrison said that 1700 State Emergency Services (SES) volunteers are helping people in NSW. They are being supported by the fire services in those areas.

Fire and Rescue NSW says that crews have been working around the clock to help. They say already by the weekend that floodwater rescue services had "performed in **excess** of 200 rescues."

Marine Rescue NSW has been making sure people are safe too. Across the state, they have



Photo: Floodwaters.

been able to evacuate people from their homes to safety. Rescue missions included helping a 93-year-old and a pregnant woman.

It is not just humans who are being helped either. The NSW Police Force on the weekend were able to rescue eight greyhounds and a fox terrier.

The prime minister said he wanted to say thank you for the "extraordinary efforts of our volunteers and the emergency services in responding to these terrible events."

Gladys Berejiklian is the **premier** for NSW. She said on social media that she hoped people were staying safe and that she wanted to say "A huge thank you to everyone involved for all of their hard work, especially NSW SES."

Glossary

evacuated	To help someone get to a place of safety.
excess	More than expected.
marine	Relating to the sea.
premier	Politicians in charge of a state in Australia.

Questions

1. Which areas have been particularly affected by flooding?

2. In the sentence, **Although rainfall is slowing, it is predicted that there will continue to be flooding for some days..** What is meant by the word **predicted**?

3. How do you think Scott Morrison feels about the floods?

4. Tick each statement to show whether it is true or false.

	True	False
Scott Morrison is the prime minister of Australia.		
Animals are also being rescued.		
There have been around 200 SES volunteers.		
There has been heavy rainfall for days.		

5. Name two types of people who are helping in the article.

6. Summarise the key information in this article in 15 words or fewer.