

Farm flood readiness kit

A guide to making your property flood ready

lls.nsw.gov.au

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Published by Local Land Services
July 2024
First published 2017

www.lls.nsw.gov.au

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Disclaimer: The information contained in this publication is based on knowledge and understanding at the time of writing [2024]. However, because of advances in knowledge, users are reminded of the need to ensure that information upon which they rely is up to date and to check currency of the information with the appropriate officer of Local Land Services or the user's independent adviser.

Why do you need a flood plan?

- You are not guaranteed financial or farm assistance when floods occur.
- You need to know what to do and when to do it to reduce damage and losses.
- Every flood is different. You need to plan for all risks and possible impacts.
- If you are prepared you will recover much quicker and be able to get back to business.
- The damage and losses caused by floods can be very high. It costs a lot of money and takes a long time to clean up your property, repair fences and feed livestock.
- It is cheaper to plan ahead and be prepared than pay the costs of repairs or lose income and production time.
- Can you afford **not** to have a flood plan?

The estimated agricultural damage from the NSW floods in Feb-March 2022 alone is

\$500 - \$550 million

approximately 1,400 livestock disposed, 60 Local Government areas affected & 4,500-5,000 primary producers impacted.

Having a flood plan just makes good farming sense

Planning will not only protect your home, property and business. You also have an obligation to protect your livestock and pets from drowning.

Your flood plan doesn't have to be complicated. In fact, it needs to be as easy and straightforward as possible so that if you are away someone else can implement it on your behalf.



Having a flood plan can help prevent damage and losses on your farm:

- Dead livestock
- Destroyed equipment
- Debris and waste
- Loss of access to property
- Erosion
- Blocked drains
- Damaged fences
- Landslides

Be prepared

Ensure your property has:

- Clear laneways
- High ground with access to fodder and water
- Tools for clearing damage
- Appropriate storage
- Stored fodder
- Appropriate land management systems

Always call 000 in life threatening situations

Where to get information about floods and warnings

Emergency + helping people to call the right number at the right time, anywhere in Australia. The app uses a mobile phone's GPS functionality so callers can provide emergency call-takers with their location information as determined by their smart phone. 'Emergency+' also includes SES and Police Assistance Line numbers as options, so non-emergency calls are made to the most appropriate number.



www.emergencyplus.com.au

ABC Radio for ongoing flood messages and information. More info can be found at www.abc.net.au/radio/listen/



Live Traffic NSW provides up-to-the minute news of incidents and conditions that affect your journey in Sydney and Regional NSW. www.livetraffic.com



Hazards Near Me NSW shows current information about local emergencies, including flood, bushfire and tsunamis, and advice on what to do to stay safe. www.nsw.gov.au/hazards-near-me-app



EMERGENCY ALERT.
WARNED. BE INFORMED.

You may receive a voice message sent to your landline and a text message to your mobile phone if there is an imminent threat. The message will tell you what is happening and what you need to do.

Emergency Alert Channel
www.emergencyalert.gov.au



NSW SES: 13 25 00

www.ses.nsw.gov.au

Know the official flood warning products



Advice is issued by the NSW SES to warn that there is a heightened level of threat and you should stay up to date as the situation changes.



Watch and Act is issued by the NSW SES to warn that conditions are changing and you need to start taking action now to protect you and your family.



Emergency Warning is the highest level of warning and is issued by the NSW SES to warn that you may be in danger and need to take action immediately.



Reduced Threat: Return with Caution – Advice warning is issued by the NSW SES to advise the evacuated community when the immediate danger to life and property has passed. You should take care when returning to flood impacted areas as damage can be widespread and dangerous.

What do Bureau of Meteorology warnings mean?

Flood Watch is issued by the Bureau of Meteorology and provides a ‘heads up’ that flooding is likely.

Flood Warning is issued by the Bureau of Meteorology and warns a community of flooding at a predicted height, time and location.

BUREAU OF METEOROLOGY

Flood advice

WATCH

THINK & PREPARE

- BROAD AREA OF FLOOD RISK
- EARLY ADVICE FOR POTENTIAL FLOODING
- ISSUED 1-4 DAYS BEFORE IMPACT

WARNING

TAKE ACTION

- SPECIFIC LOCATION OF FLOOD IMPACT
- MINOR MODERATE MAJOR FLOODING
- ISSUED >6 HOURS BEFORE IMPACT

KNOW YOUR WEATHER. KNOW YOUR RISK.

bom.gov.au/australia/flood

Minor flooding

If the water level reaches the minor flood level, it causes inconvenience. Low-lying areas next to water courses are inundated. Minor roads may be closed and low-level bridges submerged. In urban areas flooding may affect some backyards and buildings below floor level as well as bicycle and pedestrian paths. In rural areas removal of livestock and equipment may be required.

Moderate flooding

If the water level reaches the moderate flood level, the area of inundation is larger. Main traffic routes may be affected. Some buildings may be affected above floor level. Evacuation may be required. In rural areas removal of livestock is necessary.

Major flooding

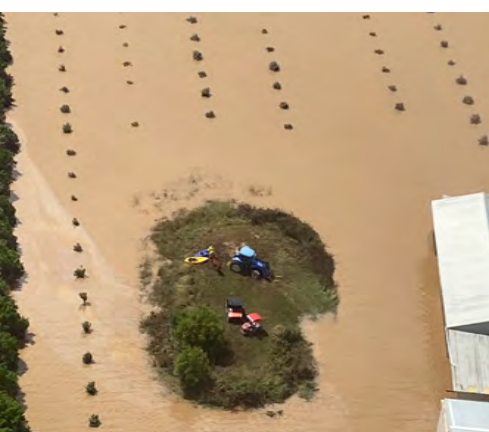
If the water level reaches the major flood level large areas are inundated. Many buildings may be affected above floor level. Properties and towns are likely to be isolated and major rail and traffic routes closed. Evacuation may be required. Utility services may be affected.



Bureau of Meteorology for information on rainfall, weather radar, river heights and flood predictions. www.bom.gov.au



What to do when there is a flood



Flood watch

- You have an obligation to ensure the safety and wellbeing of your livestock
- Move livestock and horses to higher ground on or off property and make sure they have access to clean water and food
- Ensure all animals are in a safe area where they cannot be trapped by rising floodwater
- Remove pumps from waterways
- Move equipment where possible – tractors, farming equipment, utes and other vehicles
- Secure moveable objects such as shipping containers and bale feeders
- Remove debris from paddocks – irrigation pipes, timber, scrap, metal, tools etc
- Store all chemicals securely and out of potential floodwater level
- Check that your emergency kit is ready – include portable radio, torch, batteries, first aid kit, food and water for five days
- Make sure you have essential documents at hand – emergency contact list, legal documents and accounting records.
- Check on neighbours where possible

Flood warning

- Always stay up to date with emergency warnings and other public messages so you know if things are likely to change and what to do
- Stay in touch with nominated contacts
- Seal areas around the home and other farm buildings to keep out water and vermin
- Lock storage sheds and sandbag where necessary to prevent water entering
- Keep pets safe and out of floodwater
- Send staff and visitors home
- Be prepared in the event you have to evacuate
- If you plan to leave, leave early

Emergency warning

- Act early
- Be prepared to evacuate with your pets and emergency kit
- Stay up to date with emergency warnings and public messages



Never enter flood water

What to do after a flood

Livestock and horses

You have an obligation to ensure the safety and wellbeing of your livestock.

- Check that your animals still have access to fodder and water
- Notify Local Land Services if any stock are missing
- If any of your livestock or horses are injured contact your veterinarian

Carcasses

- Keep records of any animal loss
- You need to dispose of carcasses quickly. You can do this by composting on site or burial.
- Information about disposing of carcasses can be provided by Local Land Services
- NSW Agriculture and Biosecurity also has guidelines for disposal of deceased stock available online

Cleaning up

Floodwaters can be contaminated by sewage, chemicals or other waste which can cause illness and infection. When cleaning up:

- Always wear protective clothing including gloves, boots and eye goggles
- Follow the safety instructions on the labels of any disinfectants or products you use
- Watch out for snakes and spiders.
- Wash your hands thoroughly and maintain hygiene.
- Watch out for sharp objects
- Do not move anything unless it is safe to do so
- Contact your local council about disposal of large items and asbestos
- Photograph any damage for insurance purposes
- NSW health also has information on cleaning up after a flood available online



What to do from here

Ensure your property is flood ready

1.

Complete the Flood Readiness Checklist:

Identify the risks and hazards on your property and develop an action list to make your property flood ready

2.

Develop your Flood Plan:

Identify what needs to be done when a flood is coming

3.

Share it:

Identify who will put your flood plan in place if you're away



Flood readiness checklist

Identify the risks and hazards on your property

How flood ready are you?

Complete this flood readiness checklist to find out. Compile the list of actions you need to carry out on the blank page provided.

Livestock and horses

Risk: My livestock and horses can be injured or drown

Solution: I have access to high ground for my livestock and horses

I have high ground available that can cater for all livestock

I have separate stables or access to portable yards for my horses which are located on high ground

I have identified alternative site(s) that are available for my livestock and horses, and the landowner has agreed to allow me access when a flood is likely

The access to my high ground is clear of debris and easy to get to. My high ground has access to fresh water supply for at least 3 days

My high ground has fodder available or sufficient fodder is stored on site for at least 5 days

My livestock and horses have used the high ground/ stables previously and are familiar with the area

My high ground has shading and/or a windrow

Solution: I have alternative arrangements to move stock

I have a livestock carrier or arrangements with another livestock carrier to move my livestock when a flood is likely

I have a horse float or arrangements for access to a horse float to move my horses when a flood is likely

The roads, bridges and muster routes to the property are usable in severe weather

The time required to move livestock/horses off my property to other locations is known

I will consider selling my stock

Solution: I am aware of the different needs of my livestock and horses

I know the temperament of my livestock and horses and whether they need to be separated from other animals

I keep a record so I know if any of my livestock/horses need extra care e.g. pregnant, vaccinations, medical treatment

I store my vet medicines and treatment plans where I can get them quickly in an emergency

I have an alternative cooling source for medicines that will need to be refrigerated e.g. 12 volt fridge

Solution: I can provide emergency first aid for my livestock and horses

I know how to provide basic first aid to my livestock

I have a livestock first aid kit e.g. bandages, saline solution, cool pack, antibacterial solution

I have contact details for my vet

I have transport available for carrying injured horses if needed

Fences and gates

Risk: I could lose fencing

Solution: My fences are in the most appropriate location to allow flood waters to pass without damage

My fencing is made from appropriate and sturdy materials

My fencing has no gaps or breaks and is in good repair

My fencing is free of debris and weeds

My gates are secure and can easily be opened when needed

My neighbour (or other emergency nominee) have the keys/codes to my gates

In flood times my gates are unlocked to allow access for emergency vehicles

I have the tools and enough materials to do emergency repairs to my fences and gate

Objects that can be washed off or onto my property

Risk: Moving objects can cause injury and damage my property and fences

Solution: My property is clear of objects that can be moved by flood waters

My property is free of waste and unused items that can cause hazards e.g. tractor parts, car bodies, bale feeders, piles of wire, old fence posts, tools, skip bins

The shipping containers on my property are secured so they will not be washed away by flood waters

My vehicles are parked in a secure place where they cannot be washed away by flood waters. e.g. ute, tractor, car, caravan, trailer

Risk: Objects can be washed onto my property and cause damage or injure livestock

Solution: I know what could be washed onto my property and take action to prevent it

I am aware of what the hazards are on the properties around mine that could be washed onto my property and cause damage

I have arrangements with my neighbours to take action to prevent livestock/horses being washed onto my property e.g. unlock gates, cut fences

I monitor what is in the catchment that could wash onto my property and take action to have them maintained or removed e.g. noxious riparian weeds, car bodies

Chemicals and fuel

Risk: Chemicals and fuel stores can be damaged or washed away by flood waters and leak

Solution: My chemicals and fuels will not be affected by flood waters

I have removed all old and unnecessary chemicals, waste oil and fuel from my property

I have an inventory of all chemicals and fuel on my property

All chemicals and fuels are stored in a secure, lockable shed with adequate ventilation

All chemicals and fuel are stored off the ground

My fuel tanks are secured to the ground

The place where my chemicals and fuel are stored is waterproof or, I have sandbags available to prevent water from entering

Emergency information and flood plan

Risk: If I don't know what to do when a flood is coming I put myself, my livestock and my property at risk of injury and damage

Solution: I know when a flood is likely and what to do

I have a list of emergency contact numbers and sources of information about floods including on the radio and internet

I am part of a phone tree for passing on information to neighbours and other people in the community about what is happening

I understand what the warnings mean that are given by NSW SES and BoM

I know the local triggers that mean a flood is likely e.g. river heights, rain levels in other areas

I have a flood plan and know what to do at different warning levels and triggers e.g. move pumps, start moving livestock

I have a nominated person to put my flood plan in place if I am away from my property and they have agreed to do this

Prepare to be isolated

Risk: My property can become isolated

Solution: I have enough supplies to last 5 days

I have enough clean water for drinking to last 5 days

I have enough non-perishable food that doesn't need to be cooked or stored in a fridge for 5 days, or I have alternative cooking and cooling e.g. gas, bbq, 12 volt fridge

I have a first aid kit and enough medicines for 5 days

I have all the contacts I need in an emergency e.g. written list, stored in phone. I have a battery-operated radio

I have alternative power sources for my electricity and my phone e.g. generator and fuel, solar power, two way radio, inverter

I have a torch and batteries or other source of lighting e.g. solar power lights. I have enough blankets and warm clothes stored in a dry area plus sandbags or alternative

I have enough food, water and all the things I need for my pets

I have a safety distress sheet or similar so I can alert people and emergency services that I need help e.g. V sheet

Prepare to be evacuated

Risk: I might be evacuated and have to stay somewhere else for a few days

Solution: I have a plan for what needs to be taken

My legal and important documents (e.g. birth certificate, passport) are stored in a waterproof sleeve and kept in a place where I can quickly access them

My scripts are up to date and my medicines are stored in a place where I can quickly access them

I have an emergency bag which includes clothes, toiletries and medicines ready to take with me if I am evacuated

I have a secure waterproof place to store my important personal belongings e.g. photos, mementos

I have emergency contacts, devices (laptop, mobile phone) plus food and vaccination details for pets

Clean up and repairs after the flood

Risk: If I don't know what to do after a flood I can't get things back to normal

Solution: I have a plan for what needs to be done after a flood

I have enough tools and materials stored to fix essential fences and clear trees and branches that have fallen on my property

I have arrangements with my neighbours and other farmers to share tools and work together to fix things that are dangerous or unsafe

I have the appropriate cleaning products and protective clothing to clean up areas affected by contaminated water from septic tanks, chemical or fuels

I know what to do with livestock carcasses and who to contact if I need help

My livestock can be clearly identified if they are found off my property e.g. NLIS devices or tags

I have an inventory of all heavy machinery, vehicles and major equipment on my property

I have sufficient fodder stored if my pastures are damaged, unsafe or unable to be used by livestock

I will consider selling my stock if I don't have sufficient fodder

Ensuring my business can continue to operate

Risk: I am a primary producer and I can't continue production if I don't have all the things I need

Solution: I have alternatives for the essential services and things I need

I have essential business documents stored in a safe, waterproof area and back ups of electronic documents

I have a generator or alternative source of power

I have an alternative power source for my mobile phone, computer and other business equipment

I have enough essential materials and resources stored to keep my business running for 5 days

I have important supplier and distributor contacts available

I have a business continuity plan which identifies alternatives for what I will do if I cannot use my normal systems for transport, IT, supplies, storage and staff

Flood readiness action plan

Make a list of any actions or tasks from the checklist that you need to undertake to make your property flood ready.

Risks	Action steps / tasks <i>What will be done?</i>	Resources <i>What additional resources do you need?</i>	Date I will complete this by	✓
<i>Livestock and horses</i>			/ /	
			/ /	
			/ /	
<i>Fences and gates</i>			/ /	
			/ /	
			/ /	
<i>Objects that can be washed onto my property</i>			/ /	
			/ /	
			/ /	
<i>Chemicals and fuel</i>			/ /	
			/ /	
			/ /	
<i>Emergency information and Flood Plan</i>			/ /	
			/ /	
			/ /	
<i>Prepare to be isolated</i>			/ /	
			/ /	
			/ /	
<i>Prepare to be evacuated</i>			/ /	
			/ /	
			/ /	
<i>Clean up and repairs after a flood</i>			/ /	
			/ /	
			/ /	
<i>Ensuring my business can continue to operate</i>			/ /	
			/ /	
			/ /	

Flood plan

Identify what needs to be done when a flood is coming

What will you do when it floods?

It is important that you are prepared in the event of a flood and have a flood plan developed for your farm. Your flood plan needs to include as much information as possible about all the actions that need to be done to respond quickly in the event of a flood. Remember to involve your nominee, neighbours and family as they will also need to be familiar with your flood plan if you are away or unable to put it in place yourself. This template is designed to help you develop your flood plan.

Property name			
Property address			
GPS Long:	Lat:	PIC	Lot/DP

When a **flood watch** is announced I will:

Stay up to date with what is happening (e.g radio, internet) by:

Make sure my livestock, horses and other animals have been moved to high ground and have access to food and clean water by:

Make sure my fences are secure and my gates can be opened by others by:

Relocate or secure equipment/objects (e.g. pumps, tractors, bale feeders) on my property by:

Secure my chemicals and fuels by:

Make sure my property and livestock are safe from movable objects or threats from other properties by:

When a **flood warning** is announced I will:

Stay up to date with what is happening (e.g. radio, internet) by:

Keep in contact with neighbours and other landholders by:

Make sure I am prepared for being isolated or evacuated by:

My decision to **evacuate** will be based on:

I have nominated to enact my floodplan if I am away:

Nominee name:

Phone:

Address:

Make sure my livestock, horses and other animals can remain safe on high ground and well when I am away by:

Make sure people know I have left and where I will be staying, including my nominee(s) by:

If I stay I will need the following items, which I have packed together in a kit in an accessible location in my house or shed: a generator or alternative, radio and batteries, torch or alternative, first aid kit, emergency numbers, sandbags or alternative, and enough non-perishable food to last 5 days.

Item	Location in house

If I need to evacuate, I must take the following items with me, which I have packed in a water-proof container or bag: clothes and toiletries, medications, documents (legal, identification), photos, emergency contacts, food and vaccination details for pets, devices (laptop, mobile phone etc).

Item	Location in house

Family, friends and neighbours who need to know I am evacuating:

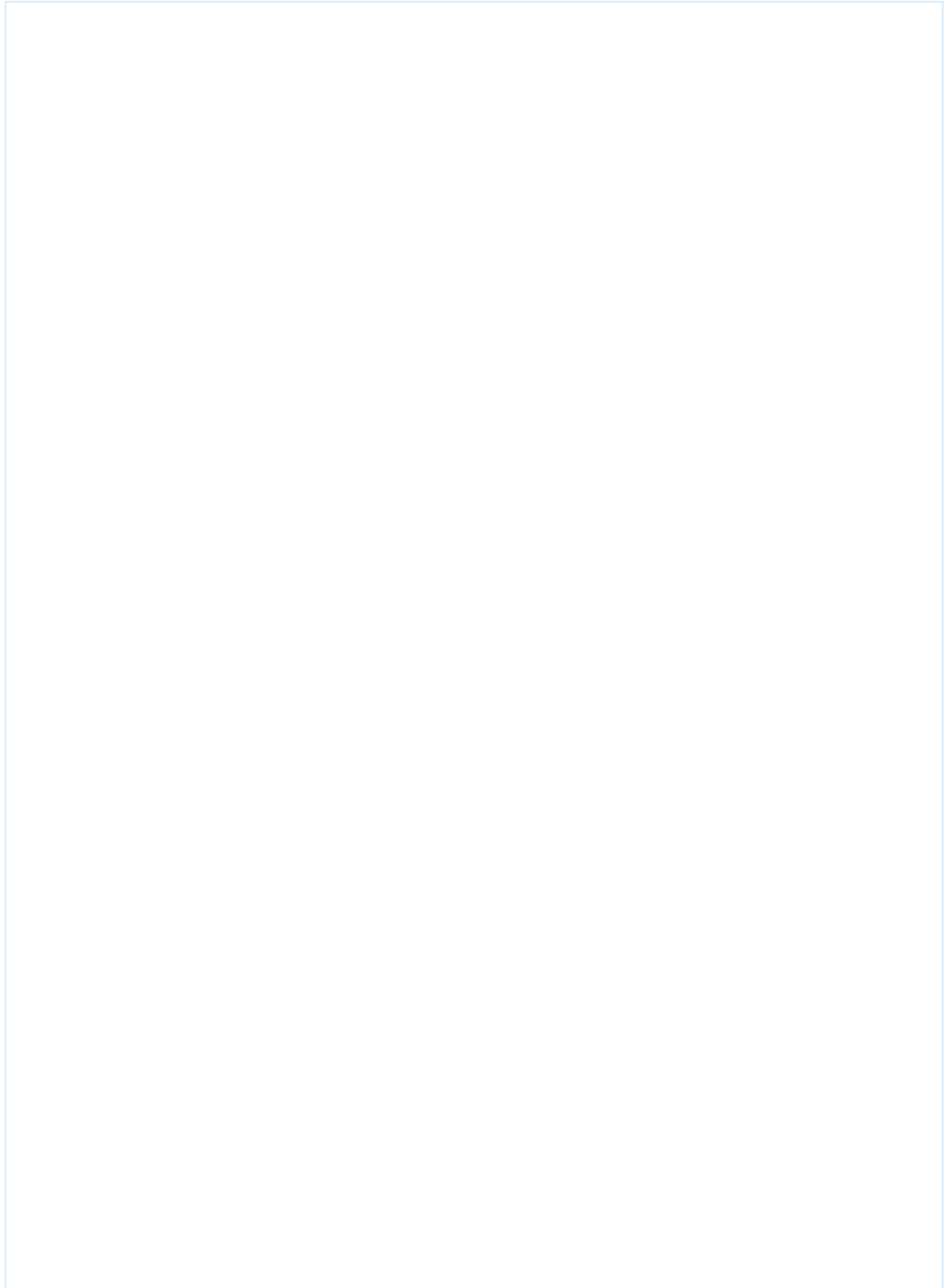
Name	Contact
Name	Contact

I will stay at:

Option 1	It will take	minutes/hours to get there
Option 2	It will take	minutes/hours to get there

Other instructions:

Use these pages to draw diagrams or maps or to write extra instructions if needed.





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