

# ECO FACTS

## Early Warning Network

### What is the Early Warning Network?



In operation since 2007, the Australian Early Warning Network (EWN) is a location-based warning system for severe weather and incident alerts issued by government agencies and other sources. The EWN monitors and tracks potentially dangerous weather systems and alerts people directly in the path of an event.

Lake Macquarie City Council has partnered with EWN so that local residents, businesses, schools, community groups and emergency service volunteers are able to receive the alert service free of charge.

### What type of alerts will I receive?

Severe weather warnings such as severe thunderstorms, large hail, destructive winds and tornadoes, heavy rain and flash flooding. You will also receive alerts for flood watches, flood warnings, tsunamis, fire weather warnings and bushfire emergency warnings.

EWN alerts are graded as amber, red or black according to the threat level. For further details, please see the EWN Frequently Asked Questions [www.ewn.com.au/support/weather\\_alerting\\_faq.aspx](http://www.ewn.com.au/support/weather_alerting_faq.aspx).

### How do I receive the alerts?

If you have a smart phone you can download the Lake Macquarie City Council Alerts app. This mobile app allows you to receive EWN warnings based on your physical location by using the GPS function on your phone.

#### For iPhones, iPad, and iPod devices:

<https://itunes.apple.com/au/app/lake-macquarie-city-council/id785074809?mt=8>

#### For Android devices:

<https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.au.ewn.lmcc&hl=en>

Or just search 'Lake Macquarie City Council Alerts' on the Google Play Store or iTunes Store. Note: There are no Blackberry or Windows versions of the app.



For more information about the EWN mobile app, visit [www.ewn.com.au/mobile/iphone\\_android\\_apps.aspx](http://www.ewn.com.au/mobile/iphone_android_apps.aspx).

If you do not have a smart phone, you can register for SMS and email alerts by registering online at [www1.ewn.com.au/lake-macquarie/register.aspx](http://www1.ewn.com.au/lake-macquarie/register.aspx) or by calling Council on 4921 0333. Alternatively, you can complete a registration form at our Customer Service Centre at Speers Point or at any Lake Mac Library branch.

Residents who download the EWN mobile app and are also subscribed to SMS alerts will no longer receive SMS alerts. If you would like to stay subscribed to the SMS alerts, contact Council on 4921 0333 or email [council@lakemac.nsw.gov.au](mailto:council@lakemac.nsw.gov.au).

Optional landline alerts (via recorded voice message) are also available, however alerts are only sent to landlines in extreme life-threatening emergencies, such as major bushfires, major floods and tsunamis.

### I work inside the Lake Macquarie LGA, but live outside the LGA. Am I eligible to receive the free alerts?

Yes. If you work inside the Lake Macquarie LGA, the EWN alerts that you receive will be based on the address you provide through registration. If you use the EWN mobile app, the alerts will be based on your actual physical location.

### I completed a Council EWN alert service registration form. What happens to my personal information?

Your information will be provided to EWN for the purpose of receiving severe weather and incident alerts. If you do not tick the box marked 'Please do not add me to Council's Sustainability List', your contact details will be added to Council's Sustainability mailing list, which you can opt out of at any time. Your details will not be provided to third parties for any purposes.

### Where do I go for more information?

Further support can be found on the EWN Support and FAQs page at [ewn.com.au/support](http://ewn.com.au/support) or Council's website at [lakemac.com.au/city/emergencies/early-warning-networks](http://lakemac.com.au/city/emergencies/early-warning-networks).