Australia floods: Hundreds rescued by helicopter in New South Wales after extreme rainfall

Hundreds of people have been rescued by helicopter in southeast Australia after the region was hit by flooding following extreme rainfall.

Entire towns were cut off as rivers rose rapidly on Monday, submerging houses, roads, bridges and farms.

Emergency crews deployed more than a dozen helicopters to rescue people trapped on rooftops in the worst-hit towns in New South Wales (NSW), in what officials described as the biggest flood rescue operation in the state's history.

More than 200 flood rescue operations were conducted in NSW in the 24 hours to Tuesday morning, after heavy rain smashed parts of southwest NSW and northeast Victoria over the weekend.

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