



Donald

Local Flood Guide

Riverine information for Richardson River at Donald



For flood emergency assistance call
VICSES on **132 500**



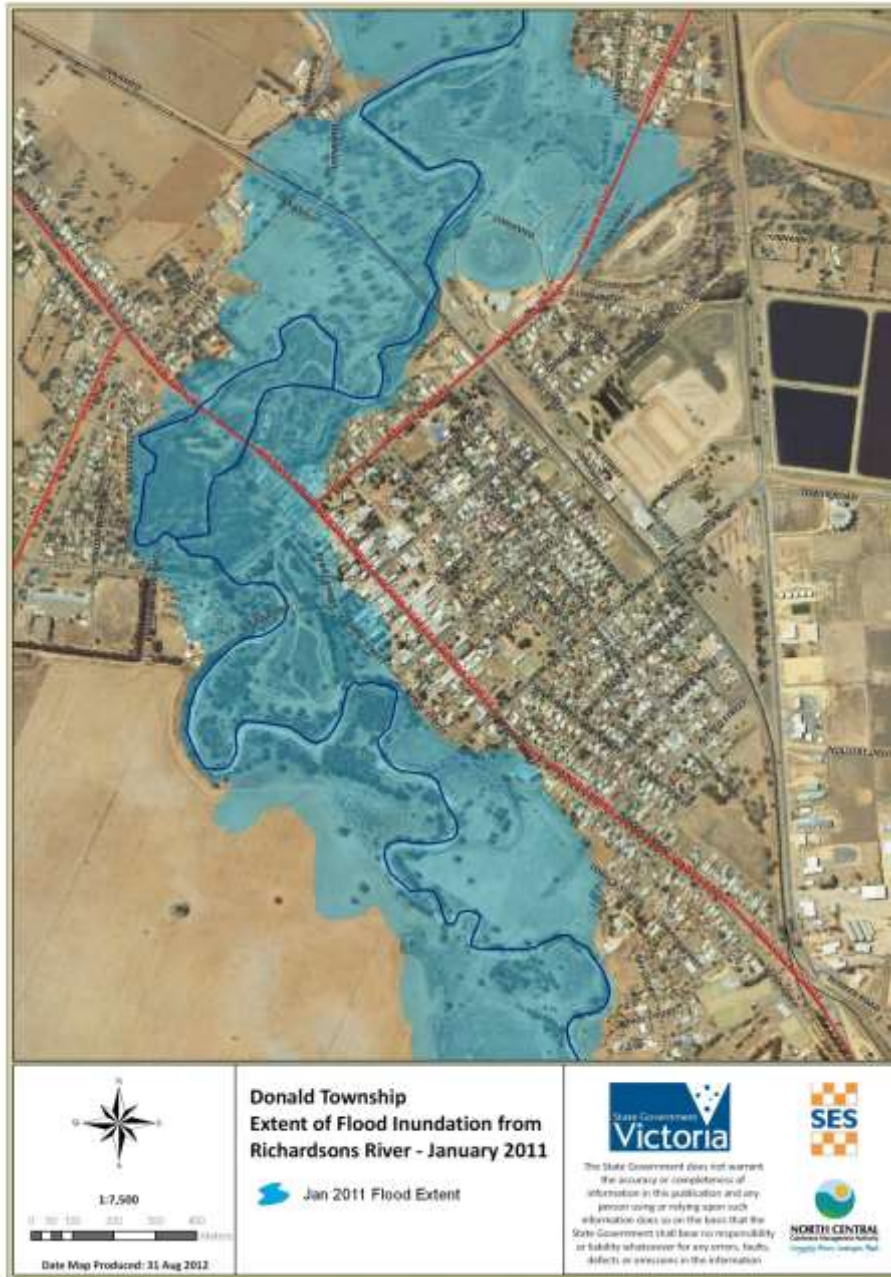


Donald

The township of Donald is approximately 282 kilometres from Melbourne on the Richardson River within the Buloke Shire in North West Victoria.

Historically, the Richardson River tends to flood every 20-30 years at Donald, but since 2010 the town has flooded three times. Over the years there has been work undertaken to reduce the impact of any flooding and help protect the town. However, heavy rains can still cause flooding in parks, roads, homes and businesses in Donald and there are also several areas in the town that are prone to flash flooding.

The map below shows the January 2011 flood extent in Donald. Flood Watches and Flood Warnings for the Richardson River and Wimmera Basin apply for Donald.



Disclaimer

This map publication is presented by Victoria State Emergency Service for the purpose of disseminating emergency management information. The contents of the information has not been independently verified by Victoria State Emergency Service. No liability is accepted for any damage, loss or injury caused by errors or omissions in this information or for any action taken by any person in reliance upon it. Flood risk information is provided by North Central Catchment Management Authority.




Are you at risk of flood?



Donald is on the Richardson River and since 2010 the town has flooded four times, with the last major flood occurring as recently as January 2011. Other past significant floods have occurred in 1909, 1918, 1956, 1975 and 1992. As a result of past work to reduce the impact of flooding, fewer areas of the town are at risk than in the past. However, in a major flood a number of homes and businesses would still be at risk, particularly along the banks of the Richardson River, where there are several homes, properties and businesses. Areas at risk include:

- Residences in Byrne Street, Elizabeth Street, Borung Highway, Sproats Lane and Hammill Street
- Donald Showgrounds
- Donald Caravan Park
- Donald Swimming Pool
- Donald Motor Lodge
- Johnson-Goodwin retirement village.



No two floods are the same, floods like this or worse could occur again.

If you live in a low-lying area you may be at risk of flooding or need to detour around flooded areas.

Knowing what to do can save your life and help protect your property

The Richardson River has the potential to rise very quickly only a few hours after the start of heavy rain and remain high for 24 to 36 hours. In addition, Donald is also prone to flash flooding. Flash floods happen so quickly and can be so fast moving that there may be no time to warn you. When it will arrive or how deep it will be cannot usually be predicted. In this area, flash flooding may only last a few hours but can have a huge impact on affected areas. During a flood within the region, the township of Donald may become isolated and/or experience a loss of power or water for a period of time.



After the flooding event of 2011 a flood study was undertaken of the Donald and surrounds to investigate and provide recommendations regarding the construction of a strategic levee system to protect the Donald Township from future events.

The Buloke Shire was successful in receiving funding to undertake this project. This resulted structure being completed in 2016 but due to the nature of the area there are 2 identified gaps in the strategic levee these are primarily where roads bisect the banks.

No levee is guaranteed flood-proof.

Did you know?

The January 2011 flood measured 112.5m AHD (Australian Height Datum) upstream of Donald at the Sunraysia Highway Bridge. This measurement was taken manually using flood markers during the flood. This flood caused:

- Flooding of two motels and 13 homes.
- Loss of power for up to five days due to flooding of the Charlton sub-station.
- Donald Township to be cut in half by floodwater for two days.
- State highways to be cut off and extensive damage to roads surrounding the town.



- Flooding of the Johnson-Goodwin retirement village.
- Flooding of community infrastructure including the Donald Swimming Pool, Heritage Walking Trail, Cricket Club Rooms, Apex Park, Hockey Club and Archery Club.
- Extensive damage to surrounding agricultural land including crops and homesteads.

In the recent Floods of 2016, which was the same level as December 2010 which was under the moderate flood level but still impacted:

- Closure of Camp Street and Donald South Road.
- Sheds and backyards along Byrne Street were inundated

Richardson River flood levels

When the Bureau of Meteorology (BoM) issues Flood Warnings they include a prediction of the flood height. While no two floods are the same, the following table can give you an indication of what you could expect at certain heights, including when your access may be cut off and when your property may be affected.

There is limited river gauging on the Richardson River. River height information for the Richardson River is available from the [Bureau of Meteorology](#).

Water Level at Banyena Gauge	Water Level at Richardson River U/S Donald	Water level at Bullocks Head (mAHD)	Flood level
4.99	4.65	112.86	January Flood 2011
	4.31	112.48	Major flood level
	3.9	-	September Flood 2010
4.47	-	112.09	Moderate flood level
4.21	3.72	-	December Flood 2010 September Flood 2016
	3.69	111.64	Minor flood level

Staying Informed and Further Information

- Current warnings (VicEmergency) emergency.vic.gov.au 1800 226 226
- Bureau of Meteorology (BoM) bom.gov.au/vic/warnings 1300 659 217
- VicRoads Traffic traffic.vicroads.vic.gov.au
- Emergency Broadcasters
ABC Western Victoria 594 AM
ABC Central Victoria 774 AM
3WM News Horsham 1089 AM
SKY NEWS Television
Flow FM 97.7 FM
- VICSES Social Media facebook.com/vicses
twitter.com/vicsesnews
- Preparing for Flood Emergencies ses.vic.gov.au/get-ready
- Creating an Emergency Plan redcross.org.au/prepare
- North Central Catchment Management Authority nccma.vic.gov.au (03) 5448 7124
- Buloke Shire Council buloke.vic.gov.au 1300 520 520
- National Relay Service (NRS) relayservice.gov.au

**Life-threatening
Emergency
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Flood warnings and emergency checklist

Bureau of Meteorology Warnings

Warnings are issued by the Bureau of Meteorology (BoM) to tell people about possible flooding.

A **Flood Watch** means there is a developing weather pattern that might cause floods in one or two days. This service covers the whole state.

A **Flood Warning** means flooding is about to happen or is already happening. There are minor, moderate and major flood warnings. This service is only available where flood warning systems are in place.

 A Minor Flood Warning means floodwater can:	 A Moderate Flood Warning means floodwater can:	 A Major Flood Warning means floodwater can:
Spill over river banks and cover nearby low lying areas.	Spill over river banks and cover larger areas of land.	Cause widespread flooding.
Come up through drains in nearby streets.	Reach above floor levels in some houses and buildings.	Many houses and businesses are inundated above floor level.
Require the removal of stock in some cases.	Require evacuation in some areas.	Cause properties and whole areas to be isolated by water.
Cover riverside camping areas and affect some low-lying caravan parks.	Affect traffic routes.	Closes major roads and rail routes.
Cover minor roads paths, tracks and low level bridges.	Require the removal of stock in rural areas.	Require many evacuations.
Affect backyards and buildings below floor level.		Affect utility services (power, water, sewage etc).

Severe Thunderstorm Warnings

Thunderstorms are classified as severe when there is potential to cause significant localised damage through wind gusts, large hail, tornadoes or flash flooding. Severe Thunderstorm Warnings are issued to the community by BoM.

Severe Weather Warnings

These warnings are issued to the community by BoM when severe weather is expected that is not directly related to severe thunderstorms or bushfires. Examples of severe weather include damaging winds and flash flooding.

Flash Flooding

- Flash Flooding can occur quickly due to heavy rainfall. You may not receive an official warning.
- Stay informed- monitor weather warnings, forecasts and river levels at the [BoM website](#) and warnings through [VicEmergency](#).



VICSES Warnings

VICSES utilises the VicEmergency app, website and hotline to distribute flood warnings and emergency information in Victoria. You can also access this information through our social media channels and emergency broadcasters.

VICSES warnings aim to provide you with information to help you make good decisions to protect yourself and your family.

The warning level is based on severity, conditions and the likelihood of community impact.

WARNING LEVELS

	<p>EMERGENCY WARNING</p> <p>You are in imminent danger and need to take action immediately. You will be impacted. A Major flood warning usually fits into this category.</p>
	<p>WARNING (WATCH AND ACT)</p> <p>An emergency is developing nearby. You need to take action now to protect yourself and others. A Moderate flood warning usually fits into this category.</p>
	<p>ADVICE</p> <p>An incident is occurring or has occurred in the area. Access information and monitor conditions. Can also be used as a notification that activity in the area has subsided and is no longer a danger to you. A Minor flood warning or Flood Watch usually fits into this category.</p>

ADDITIONAL MESSAGES

	<p>PREPARE TO EVACUATE/ EVACUATE NOW</p> <p>An evacuation is recommended or procedures are in place to evacuate.</p>
	<p>COMMUNITY INFORMATION</p> <p>Updates for communities affected by an emergency. Can also be used as a notification that an incident has occurred but there is no threat to community.</p>
	<p>EMERGENCY ALERT</p> <p>During some emergencies, communities may be alerted by the sounding of a local siren, or by sending an SMS to mobile phones or a voice message to landlines.</p>

Your emergency plan

Emergencies can happen at any time, with little warning. People who plan and prepare for emergencies reduce the impact and recover faster.

Taking the time to think about emergencies and make your own plan helps you think clearly and have more control to make better decisions when an emergency occurs.

Visit redcross.org.au/prepare start creating your plan.



- Remember, you may not receive any official warning.
- Emergency assistance may not be immediately available. Be aware of what is happening around you to stay safe.
- Never wait for a warning to act.



Emergency Kit

Visit [Emergency Toolkit](#) for more information



Every home and business should have a basic emergency kit with a supply of 3 days:



Check your kit often. Make sure things work. Replace out of date items.

When a warning is issued, have ready for use or pack into your kit:

I need to add:

Write your list here. Tick items as you pack them into your kit

- | Special needs (eg, babies, Elderly)
- | Photos
- | Family keepsakes
- | Valuables
- | Other



Emergency Checklist

- Check if your insurance policy covers flooding.
- Keep this list of emergency numbers in your mobile phone
- Download the Vic Emergency app on your mobile phone.
- Put together an emergency kit and prepare a home or business emergency plan, see redcross.org.au/prepare

Before Flooding

- Leaving early before flooding occurs is always the safest option. Evacuating through floodwater is very dangerous and you may be swept away.**
- Stay informed- monitor weather warnings, forecasts and river levels at bom.vic.gov.au and warnings through emergency.vic.gov.au.
- Secure objects likely to float and cause damage.
- Listen to the radio and check the VICSES website for information and advice.
- Go over your emergency plan. Pack clothing and other extra items into your emergency kit and take this with you if you evacuate.
- If you are staying in a caravan, move to higher ground before flooding begins.

During Flooding

- Make sure your family members and neighbours are aware of what is happening.
- Conditions change rapidly; roads and escape routes can be covered or blocked.
- Put household valuables and electrical items as high as possible.
- Turn off water, gas and electricity at the mains.
- Seek shelter indoors, away from floodwater.
- If floodwater comes inside, move to a higher point such as a kitchen bench or second storey.
- Stay away from trees, drains, low-lying areas, creeks, canals, culverts and floodwater.

Evacuating in Flooding

- Flood water is dangerous. Stay safe by never entering flood water. It can take just 15cm of water to float a car.**
- Find alternative travel routes if roads or underpasses are flooded.
- Be aware of driving hazards, such as mud, debris, damaged roads and fallen trees. If driving conditions are dangerous, safely pull over away from trees, drains and floodwater.

After Flooding

- For recovery information, contact your local council, go to the VicEmergency Relief and Recovery- emergency.vic.gov.au/Relief page or call the VicEmergency Hotline (1800 226 226).
- Have all electrical and gas equipment professionally tested before use.
- Stay away from damaged and flooded buildings, fallen trees and powerlines, and damaged roads. Drive slowly, obey all road signs and never drive through floodwater.
- When cleaning, protect your health and safety. Wear strong boots, gloves and protective clothing.

For VICSES emergency assistance, call 132 500, or Triple Zero (000) in life threatening emergencies.