



Batesford

Local Flood Guide

Riverine flood information for the Moorabool River at Batesford



For flood emergency assistance call
VICSES on 132 500





Batesford

- Batesford is a small township located approximately 10km west of Geelong.
- The Moorabool River runs through Batesford, crossing the Midland Highway near the Batesford Hotel. It joins the Barwon River immediately upstream of Geelong at Fyansford.

The following map shows the expected riverine flooding in Batesford when the Moorabool River measures 4.75m at the Batesford gauge. This height is 0.15m below the 'major' flood level (refer to page 4).



Disclaimer: This map publication is presented by Victoria State Emergency Service for the purpose of disseminating emergency management information. The contents of the information have 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 information is provided by Corangamite Catchment Management Authority.



Are you at risk of flood?

- Flooding around the Moorabool River at Batesford can occur after consecutive days of moderate to heavy rainfall in the area causing the river level to rise.
- Significant riverine floods have been recorded in 1911, 1916, 1952, 1978 and 1995, along with smaller recent floods in January 2011 and September 2016.
- In minor to moderate flood events, the flood water is generally contained to the floodplain area adjacent to the waterway, also impacting on some crown and agricultural land. However, in a moderate to major flood, floodwater can impact several houses around River Street, Bridge Street, Cross Street, and the Midland Highway.



Did you know?

The November 1995 flood event is the largest flood on record, since reliable gauge data has been available in this location. This flood event measured 5.44m on the Batesford Gauge, Moorabool River and caused:

- Over 25 residential buildings to flood above floor level.
- 20 properties to be evacuated.
- Inundation to Cross Street, Bridge Street, Midland Highway and River Street.



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.

Floodwater is dangerous, never enter floodwater.



1995 flood event - adjacent to Midland Highway Bridge



1995 flood event - at the Batesford Hotel



Moorabool River flood levels at the Batesford Gauge

When the Bureau of Meteorology (BoM) issues Flood Warnings they include a prediction of the flood height at Batesford Gauge, Moorabool River.

While no two floods are the same, the following table can give you an indication of what you could expect at certain flood heights, including when your access may be cut off and whether your property may be affected.

Height (metres)	Impact/level
5.64m	54 buildings are flooded with 35 flooded above floor level. Flood depth along the Midland Highway is now at about 0.70m. The Batesford Hotel is flooded above floor level.
5.44m	November 1995 flood level.
5.10m	45 buildings are flooded with 25 flooded above floor level, mostly around the eastern side of the river.
4.90m	Major flood level.
4.75m	31 buildings are flooded with 18 flooded above floor level in River Street, Cross Street, Ballarat Road, Old Ballarat Road and Regent Street. Access along the Midland Highway is cut, isolating the eastern and western sections of Batesford. Most houses located between Cross Street and River street are impacted by floodwater as well as the Batesford Hotel.
4.61m	5 buildings are flooded above floor level in Bridge Street, Old Ballarat Road and River Street. Widespread flooding occurs to the north of Batesford. Floodwater impacts the north side of Midland Highway.
4.35m	Significant floodwater breaks out of the Moorabool River flooding 4 buildings above floor level in Bridge Street, Old Ballarat Road and River Street. Water spills over Cross Street, cutting access to the north. Access to Bridge Street is cut, with deep flooding to the east. Deep flooding cuts access to the western section of Old Ballarat Road.
4.15m	April 2001 Flood level.
4.10m	Floodwater spills over River Street, cutting access. Most farmland and parkland along the Moorabool River is impacted by floodwater.
4.07m	January 2011 flood level.
4.00m	Moderate flood level.
3.80m	More extensive flooding within the Moorabool River floodplain. Water begins to spill over Bridge Street, cutting access.
3.19m	Most floodwater is within the banks of the Moorabool River, with only minor flooding breaking out in some low-lying areas.
2.99m	September 2016 flood level.
2.70m	Minor flood level.

The map on page 2 shows expected flooding based on a river height of 4.75m, measured at the Batesford Gauge.



Batesford gauge, Moorabool River



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. Refer to the table on page 4 for information on what might be occurring in Batesford at each of these flood warning levels.

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, river and rainfall levels at the [BoM website](#) and warnings through [VicEmergency](#).

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 Radio 774 AM	Life-threatening Emergency 000 Storm and Flood Emergency: 132 500
Watch and listen for warnings relating to:	Bay FM 93.9	
▪ Moorabool River	K-Rock FM 95.5	
▪ Corangamite Catchment	SKY NEWS Television	
▪ Central Weather District		
■ VICSES Social Media	facebook.com/vicses twitter.com/vicsesnews	
■ Preparing for Flood Emergencies	ses.vic.gov.au/plan-and-stay-safe	
■ Creating an Emergency Plan	redcross.org.au/prepare	
■ Corangamite Catchment Management Authority	ccma.vic.gov.au	1800 002 262
■ City of Greater Geelong	geelongaustralia.com.au	03 5272 5272
■ Golden Plains Shire Council	goldenplains.vic.gov.au	03 5220 7111









VICSES Warnings

VICSES utilises the VicEmergency app, website and hotline to distribute flood warnings and emergency information in Victoria. Communities can also access this information through VICSES 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 that the emergency could impact on the community.

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.</p> <p>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>A newsletter containing updates for communities affected by an emergency.</p> <p>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, we may alert communities by sending an SMS to mobile phones or a voice message to landlines.</p>

Your emergency plan

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

Taking the time to think about emergencies and make your own plan helps you think clearly,, have more control and 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.

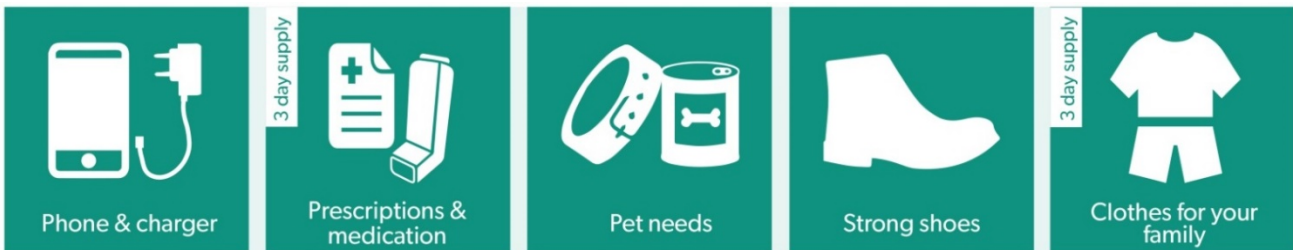


Emergency Kit

Visit [Emergency Toolkit](#) for more information



Every home and business should have a basic emergency kit with supplies for 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 and people with a disability)	
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 <https://www.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 the <http://www.bom.gov.au> and warnings through www.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.

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.
- If you are staying in a caravan, move to higher ground before flooding begins.
- 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. Never enter floodwater. 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](http://www.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 until authorities advise it is safe to do so.
- 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 and wash your hands and clothes regularly.

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