



Casterton

Local Flood Guide

Flood information for the Glenelg River at Casterton



For flood emergency assistance call
VICSES on 132 500





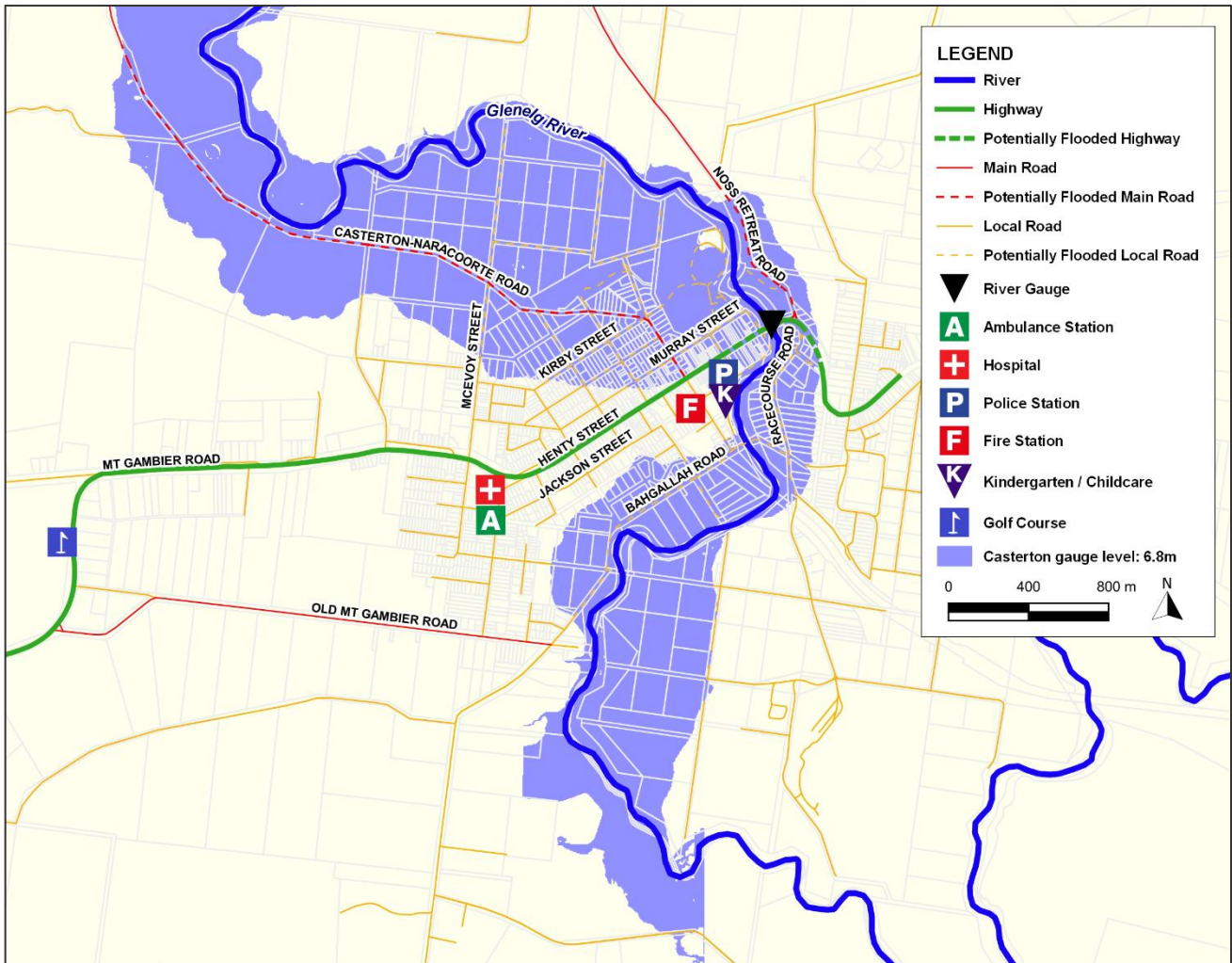
Casterton

Casterton is a township in South West Victoria approximately 40 kilometres from the South Australian border.

The Glenelg River flows through the town from Dergholm towards Sandford. The Wando River flows into the Glenelg River upstream of Casterton near Dunrobin. The Chetwynd River flows into the Glenelg River near Chetwynd.

The Casterton township is located just upstream of the Wannon River and Glenelg River Junction at Sandford.

The following map shows the expected riverine flood extent in Casterton when the Glenelg River measures 6.8 metres on the Casterton gauge (near the highway bridge).



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.



Are you at risk of flood?

Large parts of the Casterton Township are situated on the Glenelg River floodplain. During flooding, roads in and around Casterton are affected by floodwater to significant depths. Flooding can also affect some properties and isolate many others.

Casterton can experience multiple flood peaks, where the river height peaks, then recedes, then peaks again. This is caused by rivers upstream of the town flowing into the Glenelg River at different times. The first peak is usually caused by the Wando River and can be expected to reach Casterton 3-14 hours after the river height has peaked at the Wando Vale Gauge.

The second peak is usually higher and is caused by the Glenelg and Chetwynd Rivers. This can be expected in Casterton 11-30 hours after the river height has peaked on the Dergholm Gauge (44 kilometres upstream). Impacts of major floods in Casterton are likely to affect the town for several days due to water pooling in old river channels and billabongs.

Did you know?

Casterton has a long history of flooding. Significant events have occurred in 1893, 1906, 1909, 1946, 1950, 1975, 1983, 1991, 1996, 2008, 2010, 2011 and 2016.

The 1906 flood is thought to be the largest documented flood experienced by the town. There are no official records of this flood, only archive photographs. Local knowledge suggests that a much larger flood occurred in the early days of European settlement.

The 1946 flood is the largest on record. It measured 6.45 metres on the Casterton Gauge. Casterton was severely affected, becoming isolated when all bridges were washed away by floodwater. During the flood 70 houses flooded resulting in 200 people being evacuated.

Floods like this or worse will occur again sometime in the future. It is important to remember that no two floods are the same. If you live close to a creek, river or in a low-lying area you may be at risk of flooding. Even if your property is not directly affected, you may still need to detour around flooded areas. Knowing what to do can save your life and help protect your property.



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.



1946 flood event in Casterton



Glenelg River flood levels at the Casterton gauge

When the Bureau of Meteorology (BoM) issues Flood Warnings they include a prediction of the flood height at Casterton gauge at the Glenelg 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 how many properties may be affected.

Height (metres)	Impact/level
6.80m	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 80 properties may experience above floor flooding. 166 properties may be impacted
6.64m	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 70 properties may experience above floor flooding. 162 properties may be impacted.
6.45m	1946 flood level.
6.38m	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 31 properties may experience above floor flooding. 156 properties may be impacted.
6.30m	August 1983 flood level.
6.14m	<p>September 2016 flood level.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 16 properties may experience above floor flooding. 149 properties may be impacted.
6.00m	Major flood level
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 12 properties may experience above floor flooding. 142 properties may be impacted. Glenelg Highway begins to be impacted by flooding. Glenelg Highway/Henty Street is likely to be closed. Properties around Racecourse Road, Murray Street, McPherson Street, Addison Street, and McKinlay Street may need to be evacuated.
5.80m	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A building in Bahgallah Road is flooded above floor 96 properties may be impacted.
5.20m	Moderate flood level
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 36 properties may be impacted. Floodwater starts to impact between the river and Racecourse Road, Murray Street & Tyers Street. Access to the Casterton Recreation Reserve may be cut off.
5.00m	January 2011 flood level.
4.80m	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Access to Island Park cut-off. Murray Street, Clarke Street, Tyers Street and Henty Street all impacted.
3.80m	Minor flood level - July 1995 and October 2020 flood level
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Casterton – Naracoorte Rd may start to be impacted north of Casterton. Local farmers may need to lift machinery and pumps to higher ground.



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
94.1FM
594 AM
3HA 981 AM
Mixx FM 88.9 FM
SKY NEWS Television
- 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
- Catchment Management Authority www.ghcma.vic.gov.au (03) 5571 2526
- Glenelg Shire Council www.glenelg.vic.gov.au 1300 453 635

**Life-threatening
Emergency: 000**
**Storm and Flood
Emergency: 132 500**






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

 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. 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 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.