Local Flood Guide

Murchison

Flood information for the Goulburn River at Murchison

State Government Victoria

Greater Shepparton

FLOOD STORM EMERGENCY 132 500

For more information visit www.ses.vic.gov.au
The Murchison local area

Murchison is situated on the Goulburn River within the Greater Shepparton City Council.

Around Murchison, the major flood risk is from the Goulburn River which can result in flooding which lasts from one to three days. When floods affect areas around Murchison, road access in and out of the area can be affected, resulting in isolation for some areas.

River levels can rise within several hours of heavy rain, and during floods, floodwater can travel from Goulburn Weir to Murchison in 12-15 hours and from Seymour to Murchison in three to three and a half days. Be aware that floods can affect your property before the peak arrives and no two floods are the same.

The map below shows the possible impact of a 1% flood from the Goulburn River. A 1% flood means that there is a 1% chance of a flood measuring 11.72m on the Goulburn River gauge near Murchison Bridge in any given year.

Your local emergency broadcasters are:
- ABC 97.7 FM
- STAR FM 96.9 FM
- 3 SR 95.3 FM
- UGFM 88.9 FM

Greater Shepparton City Council
Contact details:
Phone: 03 5832 9700
Email: council@shepparton.vic.gov.au
Web: www.greatershepparton.vic.gov.au
Are you at risk of flood?

Most of the Murchison township is believed to be safe from flooding except during very large floods. However, low-lying properties, farmland, fishing spots and camping areas can often be affected by minor to moderate flooding.

During a major flood, the main bridge and rail trail as well as roads to Shepparton, Violet Town and Bendigo may be closed or damaged. Several homes in the Willoughby Street area and low-lying properties along Phillip Lane, High Road, Hutchison and Gillam Roads may be flooded or isolated. In addition, the River Haven Caravan Park, Murchison Caravan Park and farms close to the river may be flooded or isolated.

Community facilities that may also be at risk of flooding include the Murchison swimming pool, low-lying areas of the cemetery, the camping and fishing spots north of the Bridge.

Did you know?

Murchison’s highest recorded flood was in 1916 when up to a metre of water flowed down the main street. Other floods above the major flood level (10.7m on the Murchison Gauge) have occurred in the region in 1917, 1934, 1939 and 1974.

Eildon Weir, built in 1956, and water diversions at Goulburn Weir now control most water flows including irrigation into the lower Goulburn River. Although Eildon Weir and Goulburn Weir were not specifically designed for flood mitigation, these weirs have reduced how often minor and moderate floods affect Murchison and the damage these cause. However, in a major flood these two weirs may not be able to reduce the impact of severe flooding on Murchison.

Extreme heavy local rainfall between Eildon Weir and Murchison, can also result in floods, such as in 1974, the highest flood since Eildon Weir and Lake Eildon were created.

No two floods are ever the same and a major flood could happen at any time.

Goulburn River Flood Levels at the Murchison Gauge

Six Goulburn River flood level gauges in and around Murchison can provide flood information for the town: one at Murchison Bridge, and others upstream at Goulburn Weir, Seymour, Trawool, Ghin Ghin and just below the Lake Eildon dam. There is also another gauge on Hughes Creek at Tarcombe Road and a rain gauge at Tamegong which can provide early indications of rainfall intensity east of Seymour.

When the Bureau of Meteorology (BoM) issues flood warnings for Murchison they include a prediction of the flood height at the Goulburn River gauge at Murchison. While no two floods are the same, the following table can give you a guide to what might happen at certain heights, including when your access may be cut off and when your property may be affected.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Height (m)</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7.12</td>
<td>March 2012 flood level.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.0</td>
<td>Low-lying rural properties upstream and downstream of Murchison likely to be flooded which may require the moving of stock and equipment to higher ground and the closure of some local roads and camping and fishing spots north of the Bridge.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.42</td>
<td>November 2011 flood level— no significant impacts were experienced in Murchison.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.81</td>
<td>December 2010 flood level— no significant impacts were experienced in Murchison.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.93</td>
<td>January 2011 flood level— no significant impacts were experienced in Murchison.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.2</td>
<td>MODERATE FLOOD LEVEL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.57</td>
<td>September 1993 flood level.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.66</td>
<td>October 1993 flood level.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.7</td>
<td>MAJOR FLOOD LEVEL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.79</td>
<td>1939 flood level.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.8</td>
<td>Levee near the River Haven Caravan Park overflows flooding the area.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11.25</td>
<td>1934 flood level.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11.28</td>
<td>1917 flood level.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11.33</td>
<td>1974 flood level.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11.72</td>
<td>At 11.72m, a 1% flood occurs. A flood of this height would cause flooding in low lying areas including Willoughby Street, Phillip Lane, Hutchison and Gillam Streets, High Road, the town swimming pool and cemetery. See the map on page 2.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12.22</td>
<td>1916 flood level (approximate)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12.22</td>
<td>Largest flood known. If this level occurred today it would cause significant numbers of rural properties to be isolated and more properties would have above floor flooding along High Road, Station and Willoughby Streets, Phillip Lane, Hutchison and Gillam Streets and River Road.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
About Flood Warnings

What warnings mean

**Flood Watches** and **Flood 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.

**Flood Warnings** mean flooding is about to happen or is already happening. There are General, Minor, Moderate and Major flood warnings.

### A Minor Flood Warning means floodwater can:
- Reach the top of the river banks
- Come up through drains in nearby streets
- Cover low-lying areas including riverside camping areas
- Affect some low-lying caravan parks
- Cover minor roads, tracks and low level bridges
- Spread across land or go into buildings on some properties and farms.

### A Moderate Flood Warning means floodwater can:
- Spill over river banks and spread across low-lying areas
- Start to threaten buildings, roads, rail, power and other developments
- Require evacuation in some areas
- Cover main roads.

### A Major Flood Warning means floodwater can:
- Cause widespread flooding
- Threaten more houses and businesses
- Cause properties and whole areas to be isolated by water
- Disrupt major roads and transport routes
- Require many evacuations.

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 Alert**

SES may provide alerts to the Murchison community through the Emergency Alert telephone warning system. All Emergency Services can use Emergency Alert to warn communities about dangerous situations by voice message to landline telephones or text message to mobile phones.

If you receive a warning, make sure that all family members, people at work and your neighbours are aware of the situation.

If you receive an **Emergency Alert** you should pay attention and act. It could mean life or death.

If you need help to understand a warning, ask a friend, neighbour or family member.

**Warnings for Murchison**

For the Goulburn River Flood Warnings are issued by the Bureau of Meteorology. Flood Warnings provide predictions of flood size (minor, moderate or major), time and possible peaks of the Goulburn river.

It is important to know how the predicted flood levels are likely to impact you as you may be affected before the peak.

See page 3: Goulburn River Flood Levels at the Murchison gauge.

Use this table to figure out when you need to start following your flood emergency plan.

**Flood levees**

A levee is an embankment usually along-side a river or creek designed to protect property from floodwater.

Levees can reduce the frequency of flooding but no levee is guaranteed to be flood proof. A levee is designed to control a certain amount of floodwater. If larger floods occur, water will flow over the levee into low-lying areas. Floodwater may also damage the levee, allowing floodwater to flow through an opening or break.

Flood levees are to protect property, not people. If the levee is in danger of failing, you will be advised to evacuate flood prone areas. It is important that you follow this advice.
Now - Before a Flood

- Check if your home or business is subject to flooding. For more information, contact Greater Shepparton City Council.
- Develop an Emergency Plan.
- Check if you could be cut off by floodwater.
- Know the safest way to go if you decide to leave your property and plan an alternative route.
- Check your insurance policies to ensure your equipment, property and business are covered for flood damage.
- Keep a list of emergency numbers near the telephone.
- Put together an Emergency Kit.

When a Flood is Likely

- Take action. Follow your Emergency Plan.
- Listen to your radio for information and advice.
- Check your neighbours are safe and know about the flood.
- Stack possessions on benches and tables with electrical goods in the highest places.
- Anchor objects that are likely to float and cause damage.
- Move rubbish bins, chemicals and poisons to the highest place.
- Put important papers, valuables, photos and other special personal items into your Emergency Kit.
- Business owners should raise stock, business records and equipment onto benches and tables.
- Rural property owners should move livestock, pumps and machinery to higher ground.
- If you are likely to be isolated, have enough food, drinking water, medicine, fuel and other needs to last at least three days.
- Do not forget pet food and stock feed.

Your Emergency Plan

Emergencies can happen at any time, with little warning. People who have planned and prepared for emergencies have reduced the impact and recovered 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.

Your Emergency Plan should identify:

- The types of emergencies that might affect you.
- How those emergencies might affect you.
- What you will do before, during and after an emergency.
- Where to get more information.
- Where you will go if you evacuate and the best way to go in different circumstances.
- A list of phone numbers you will need, including emergency services, your insurance company, friends and family.


Evacuation

Victoria Police is responsible for coordinating an evacuation in an emergency. During a flood, Police, SES and other emergency services may advise you to evacuate to keep you safe. It is important that you follow this advice.

There are two types of evacuation notices that may be issued via your emergency broadcaster during a flood:

- **Prepare to Evacuate** - means you should act quickly and take immediate action to protect your life and property. Be ready to leave your property.
- **Evacuate Immediately** - you must leave immediately as there is a risk to lives.

Remember you can leave at any time if you feel unsafe. You do not need to wait to be told to evacuate.
Emergency Kit

Every home and business should have a basic emergency kit:

- Copy of your Emergency Plan
- Radio
- Torch
- Spare batteries
- Copy of documents & records
- Long life food
- First aid kit
- Safe drinking water
- Gloves
- Mobile phone and charger
- Prescriptions & medicines
- Pet needs
- Strong shoes
- Clothes for your family
- I need to add:

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

- Special needs
- Photos
- Family Keepsakes
- Valuables
- Documents
- Other

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:

- Mobile phone and charger
- Prescriptions & medicines
- Pet needs
- Strong shoes
- Clothes for your family

I need to add:
Write your list here. Tick items as you pack them into your kit.

- Special needs
- Photos
- Family Keepsakes
- Valuables
- Documents
- Other
During and After a Flood

During a flood

When flooding has begun:

- **Never drive, ride, swim or walk through floodwater.**
- **Floodwater can be deep and damage roads and bridges.**
- **Do not let your children play or swim in floodwater.** It is dirty, dangerous and deadly.
- Tune in to your emergency broadcasters: ABC Local Radio, Commercial Radio, designated Community Radio Stations and SKY NEWS Television.
- In life-threatening emergencies, call 000 (triple zero).
- For emergency help from the SES in floods and storms call 132 500.
- Stay away from all waterways including drains and culverts.
- Stay away from fallen power lines – electricity travels easily through water.
- Be aware that animals, snakes, rats, spiders and other pests may be on the move during a flood - they can come into houses and other buildings or hide around sandbags.
- Keep in contact with neighbours.
- Be prepared to leave early.

When you leave early or evacuate:

- Leaving early is always the safest option, leave well before roads are closed by floodwater.
- Take your emergency kit and three days supply of clothing with you.
- Turn off the electricity, gas and water as you leave.
- Take your pets with you. Do not leave them behind. Dogs should be muzzled and cats in cages.
- Go to a relief centre or to stay with friends or family in higher areas.

If activated, Relief Centres can help you with:

- Temporary accommodation
- Financial help
- Personal support
- Drinks and meals
- Basic clothing and personal needs
- Help to contact family and friends.

If you choose to shelter with a friend or relative, tell authorities where you are staying.

After a flood

Flood dangers do not end when the water begins to fall. To make sure you stay safe:

- Keep listening to local emergency broadcasters.
- Do not return home until advised that it is safe.

Once you return to your home:

- Drink bottled water or boil all drinking water until advised that the water supply is safe.
- Throw away any food or medicines that may have been in contact with floodwater or affected by power outages.
- When entering the building, use a torch to light your way - never use matches, cigarette lighters or any other flame as there may be gas inside.
- Keep the electricity and gas off until checked and tested by a professional.
- Take photographs of all damage for insurance.
- Clean your home straight away to stay healthy.

How SES helps the community

The Victoria State Emergency Service (SES) is a volunteer based emergency service. Although our SES volunteers attempt to reach everyone prior to or during an emergency, at times this is not possible. Therefore it is advisable for you to be prepared for emergencies so that you can share responsibility for your own wellbeing during those times. In a flood, SES assistance may include:

- Giving flood advice
- Protecting essential services
- Helping to protect infrastructure
- Rescuing people from floodwater
- Advising of an evacuation.

To assist your preparation, it is recommended that you obtain a copy of a SES Home Emergency Plan by visiting [www.ses.vic.gov.au](http://www.ses.vic.gov.au).
NOW: Flood preparation
- Check if your insurance policies cover flooding.
- Keep this list of emergency numbers near the telephone.
- Put together an Emergency Kit and prepare a home or business Emergency Plan, see www.ses.vic.gov.au.

When you hear a Flood Watch or weather warning
- Listen to severe weather warnings for flash flooding.
- Listen to radio and check the SES website for more 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.

When flooding may happen soon (a Flood Warning)
- Make sure your family members and neighbours are aware of what is happening.
- Be ready to evacuate. Act early, conditions change rapidly, roads and escape routes can be covered or blocked. Don’t forget to take pets and your medicine with you.
- Put household valuables and electrical items as high as possible.
- Turn off water, gas and electricity at the mains.
- Secure objects likely to float and cause damage. Raise chemicals and oils well above the predicted flood height.
- Move pumps, machinery, hay and livestock to higher ground.

During the flood
- For emergency assistance, call 132 500 for SES.
- DO NOT drive, ride, swim or walk through floodwater. This is the main cause of death during floods.
- NEVER allow children to play in floodwater. This is the main cause of death during floods for children and young people.
- Stay away from drains, culverts and waterways, water can flow quickly and have strong currents.
- Stay well clear of fallen trees, power lines and damaged buildings.

After the flood: recovery
- If your property has been flooded, check with Greater Shepparton City Council for information and advice.
- Have all electrical and gas equipment professionally tested before use.

For more information visit:
- www.ses.vic.gov.au
- www.facebook.com/vicses
- www.twitter.com/vicseswarnings

Emergency Contacts

Life threatening Emergency
Police fire ambulance 000
TTY106

Victoria State Emergency Service (SES)
For flood / storm emergency calls 132 500

SES Information Line
Operates during major floods or storms 1300 842 737
1300 VIC SES www.ses.vic.gov.au

Bureau of Meteorology (BoM)
Weather Information, forecasts, warnings 1300 659 217
www.bom.gov.au

National Relay Service (NRS)
www.relayservice.com.au

DIAL THEN ASK FOR

Speak and Listen (SSR) users phone 1300 555 727 132 500
TTY / Voice users phone 13 36 77 132 500
Internet Relay users log into www.iprelay.com.au/call/ then enter: 132 500 or 000

VicRoads
Road closures and hazard reporting service 13 11 70
www.vicroads.vic.gov.au

Greater Shepparton City Council Contact Details
Phone: 03 5832 9700
council@shepparton.vic.gov.au
Web: www.greatershepparton.vic.gov.au

Weather District: Northern Country
Catchment: Goulburn Broken

Emergency Broadcasters
Emergency broadcasters include ABC Local Radio, designated commercial radio stations across Victoria and SKY NEWS Television.

- ABC 97.7 FM
- STAR FM 96.9 FM
- 3 SR 95.3 FM
- UGFM 88.9 FM

Complete the following and keep this information handy close to the phone:

Your electricity supplier:

Your gas supplier:

Doctor:

Vet:

Insurance
Policy Number:
Phone Number:

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