



Local Flood Guide Shelford



Flood information for the Leigh River at Shelford



Shelford Town Gauge, January 2011 Photo courtesy Bannockburn SES.

SHELFORD



FLOOD STORM
EMERGENCY **132 500**

For more information visit
ses.vic.gov.au

The Shelford local area

The eastern outskirts of Shelford are located on the floodplain of the Leigh River. The Leigh River begins in the forests to the north of Ballarat as the Yarrowee River and flows south to join with the Barwon River at Inverleigh.

Most of the Leigh River catchment is comprised of crop and pastureland so when soils are saturated, run-off from intense rainfall quickly flows into creeks and streams, leading to rapid flooding of the Leigh River floodplain.

The map below shows the extent of the January 2011 flooding in Shelford. This flood measured 7.90 metres on the Leigh River Gauge at Shelford and 4.21 metres on the Leigh River Gauge at Mount Mercer, located 25 kilometres north of Shelford. This flood represents one possible scenario for flooding in the Shelford area.

Key contacts

Your local emergency broadcasters are:

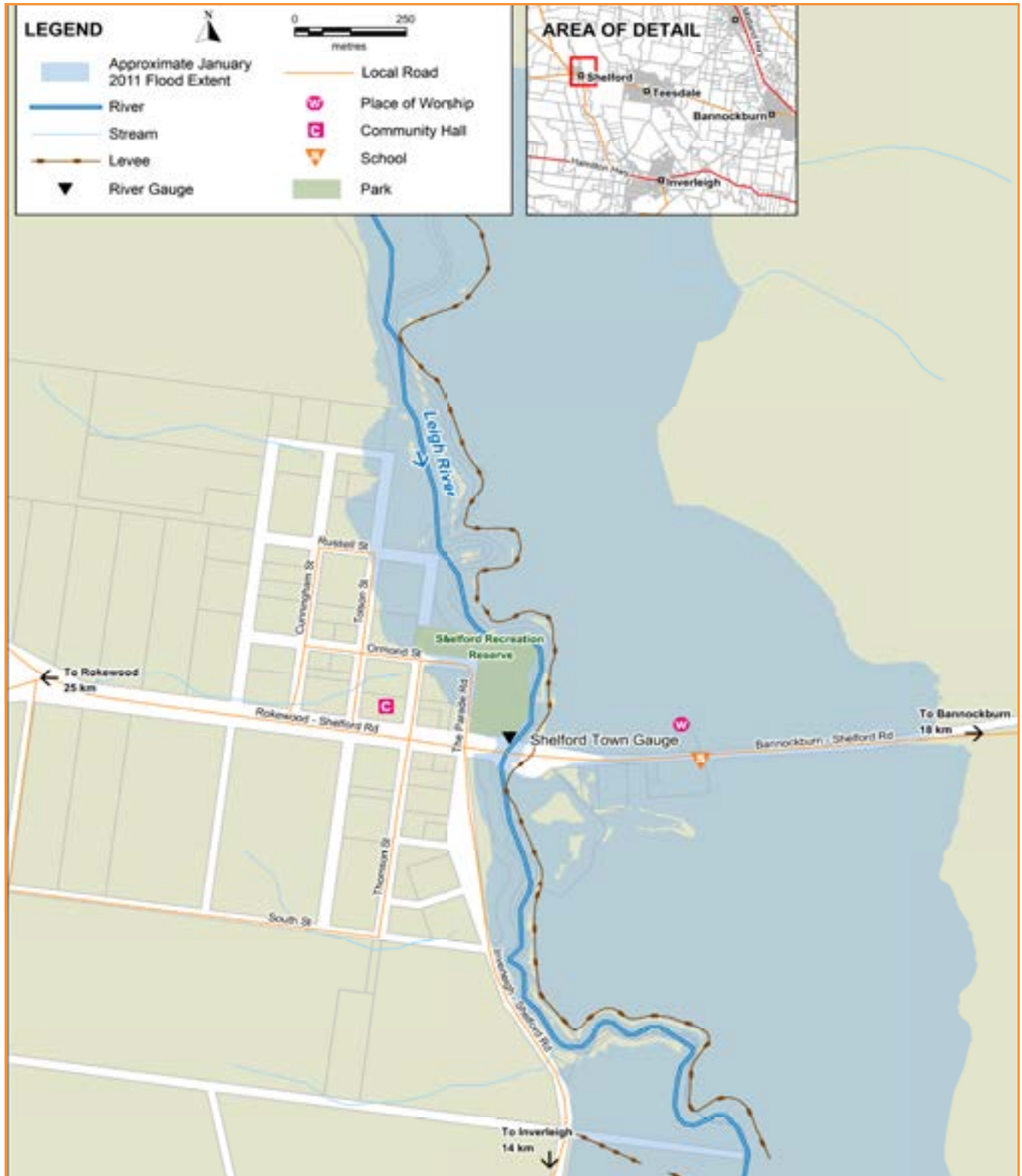
- 93.9 Bay FM
- 95.5 K-Rock FM - Geelong
- ABC 774 AM
- SKY NEWS Television
- ABC 107.9 FM

Golden Plains Shire Council contact:

Phone: (03) 5220 7111

Email: enquiries@gplains.vic.gov.au

Web: goldenplains.vic.gov.au



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 information is provided by Corangamite Catchment Management Authority.

Are you at risk of flood?

As far back as the 1870's floods were a problem for Shelford, and in 1880 an embankment was constructed along the Leigh River to reduce flooding in Shelford.

The last two major Leigh River floods, in February 1973 and January 2011, flooded the Leigh floodplain on the eastern outskirts of Shelford resulting in the inundation of 8 houses, the school, the recreation reserve, and the Presbyterian Church.

Two historic levees are located on the Leigh floodplain. The northern levee was constructed to protect Shelford properties to the east of the Leigh River. During major floods local observation indicates that floodwater quickly moves around this levee, leading to the flooding of properties on the east side of the river.

While no two floods are the same, floods like 2011 or worse will occur again. Even if your property is not affected by floodwater, you may be affected indirectly as roads may be closed and power and sewerage services may be disrupted.

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

Did you know?

In January 2011, Shelford was affected by flooding when the Leigh River peaked at 7.90 metres at the town gauge resulting in:

- Water above floor level of several homes (3 of which are located on the steep escarpment slopes of town.)
- Water above floor level at the Shelford Cricket Clubrooms and Shelford Primary School.
- Water across the main road through Shelford.
- Rural properties surrounding the town impacted by floodwater.



Shelford, January 2011. Photo courtesy Bannockburn SES.

Flood impacts for Shelford

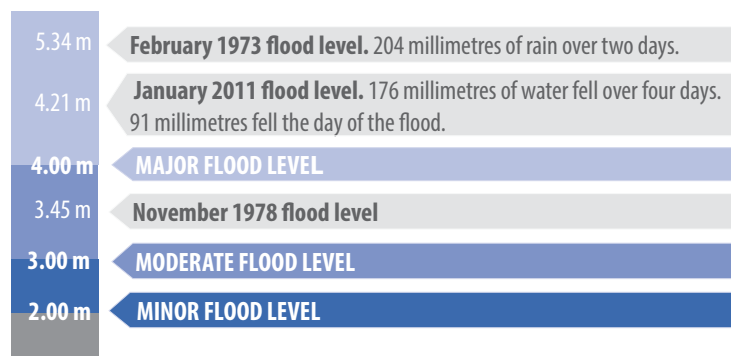
The Leigh River has river gauges located at Mount Mercer and Shelford that monitor the height of the river. You can view the levels at these gauges online by searching for: "Victoria links to river data" in your internet browser.

The Mount Mercer gauge is particularly important as monitoring flood levels at Mt Mercer provides an early indication of the likely flood impacts at Shelford at least 5 to 6 hours before floodwater reaches Shelford.

The Shelford gauge provides information on flood impacts in the town. By using the gauge information provided below, you can monitor your situation and decide if and when you need to start following your flood emergency plan.

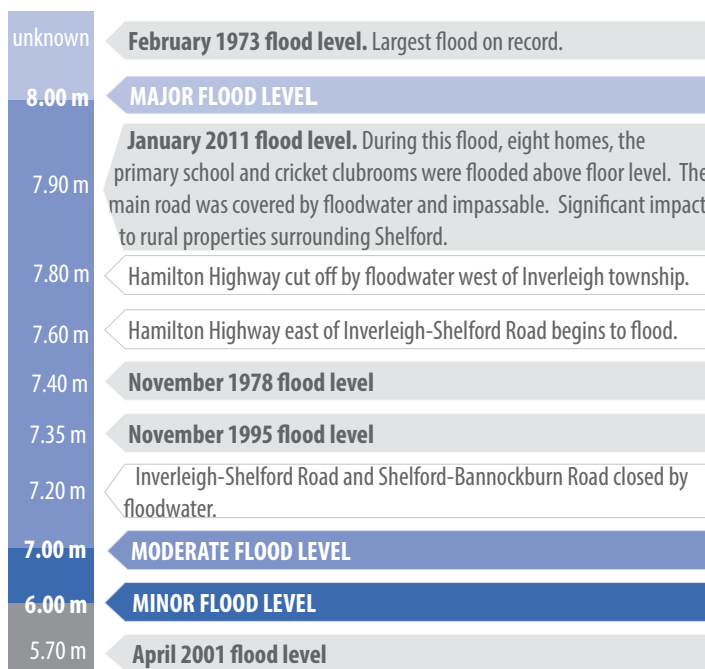
Flood levels for the Leigh River at Mt Mercer Gauge

The Mt Mercer gauge is located on the bank of the Leigh River in Mt Mercer.



Flood levels for the Leigh River at Shelford Town Gauge

The Shelford gauge (see page 4) is located in Shelford on the bank of the Leigh River near Shelford-Rokewood Road.



About Flood Warnings

What warnings mean

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.

A **Flood Warning** means 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.

Victoria State Emergency Service (SES) will give information about how the floodwater might affect people and properties. This includes safety messages to remind you what to do.

Severe Thunderstorm Warnings

Thunderstorms are classified as severe due to their 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 happens quickly. There may be little or no warning. The arrival time or depth of a flash flood cannot always be predicted.

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 Shelford community through the Emergency Alert telephone warning system. All emergency service providers 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 Shelford

The Bureau of Meteorology issues flood warnings for Shelford using information from river gauges located on the Leigh River at Mount Mercer and Shelford. These gauges can be monitored using an internet search for "Victoria links to river data."

It is important to know how the predicted flood is likely to impact your property and understand that you may be affected before the flood peak reaches Shelford.

Use the flood level tables in this guide to gain an understanding of when you need to implement your flood emergency plan, however remember that no two floods are the same as rainfall patterns and soil wetness significantly influence flood arrival, duration and extent.



Shelford Town Gauge. Photo taken prior to river peak, January 2011. Photo courtesy Bannockburn SES.

Now – before a flood

- Check if your home or business is subject to flooding. For more information, contact Golden Plains Shire 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.
- Stay alert for weather warnings and heavy rainfall.

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.



Visit ses.vic.gov.au to obtain a copy of your Home Emergency Plan workbook

Evacuation

During a flood, Police, SES and other emergency service providers 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. You may only have minutes to evacuate in a flash flooding situation.

Do not return to your home until you are sure it is safe to do so. You do not need to wait to be told to evacuate.

Emergency Kit

Every home and business should have a basic emergency kit:



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 _____
- Photos _____
- Family keepsakes _____
- Valuables _____
- Documents _____
- Other _____

During and After a Flood

Never
Drive, Ride or Walk
Through Floodwater

During a flood

When flooding has begun:

- **Never drive, ride, swim or walk through floodwater.**
- Remember that floodwater can be deeper than you think and can hide damaged roads and bridges.
- Never 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 Triple Zero (000).
- For SES emergency assistance during floods and storms call 132 500.
- Stay away from all waterways including drains and culverts.
- Stay away from fallen powerlines as electricity travels easily through water.
- Be aware that animals such as snakes, rats, spiders and other pests may be on the move during a flood. These animals can come into houses and other buildings or hide around sandbags.
- Keep in contact with neighbours.
- Be prepared to act quickly.

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 you are sure that it is safe.

Once you return to your home:

- Investigate the structural safety of your building.
- 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 a building, use a torch to light your way. Never use matches or cigarette lighters 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 prevent disease.

How SES helps the community

Victoria State Emergency Service (SES) is a volunteer based emergency service. Although SES volunteers attempt to reach everyone prior to or during an emergency, at times this is not possible, especially during flash flooding which occurs so quickly. 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 the SES Home Emergency Plan by visiting ses.vic.gov.au.



Emergency Checklist

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 ses.vic.gov.au

When you hear a Flood Watch or weather warning

- Listen to Severe Weather Warnings for flash flood.
- 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.
- Leave early if you intend to evacuate.

When flooding may happen soon (heavy rainfall)

- 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. 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.
- If you are staying in a caravan or temporary dwelling, move to higher ground BEFORE flooding begins.

During the flood

- For SES emergency assistance, call 132 500.
- 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 as water can flow quickly and have strong currents.
- Stay well clear of fallen trees, powerlines and damaged buildings.
- If you are trapped inside a building, stay inside and shelter in the highest place. Call Triple Zero (000) in a life-threatening emergency.

After the flood: recovery

- If your property has been flooded, check with Golden Plains Shire Council for information and advice.
- Have all electrical and gas equipment professionally tested before use.

For more information visit:

- ses.vic.gov.au
- [facebook.com/vicses](https://www.facebook.com/vicses)
- twitter.com/vicseswarnings

Emergency Contacts

Life-threatening emergency
Police Fire Ambulance

000 Triple Zero
TTY106

Victoria State Emergency Service (SES)
For SES emergency assistance

132 500

SES information line

Operates during major floods or storms

1300 842 737
1300 VIC SES

VicEmergency

Victorian emergency warnings

emergency.vic.gov.au

Bureau of Meteorology (BoM)

Weather information, forecasts, warnings

1300 659 217
bom.gov.au

National Relay Service (NRS)

relayservice.gov.au

The deaf, hearing or speech impaired can call SES or Triple Zero (000) using NRS:

	DIAL	THEN ASK FOR
■ Speak and Listen (SSR) users phone	1300 555 727	132 500
■ TTY / Voice users phone	13 36 77	132 500

VicRoads

Road closures and hazard reporting service

13 11 70

vicroads.vic.gov.au

Golden Plains Shire Council Contact Details

Phone: **(03) 5220 7111**
Email: enquiries@gplains.vic.gov.au
Web: www.goldenplains.vic.gov.au

Weather District: Central

Catchment: Corangamite Catchment Management Authority

Emergency Broadcasters

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

- 93.9 Bay FM
- 95.5 K-Rock FM - Geelong
- ABC 774 AM
- SKY NEWS Television

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: _____