

9 February 2021

New warning signs for Geelong flood 'hotspots'

Flood Risk Area



A number of crucial safety signs have been erected around Geelong, in a bid to warn locals and visitors about the flood danger around various popular spots.

The signage, developed by VICSES, Corangamite Catchment Management Authority and the City of Greater Geelong (COGG) contains key safety information, emergency phone numbers, local imagery, and a handy QR code that links to online resources.

The signs can be seen along the **Barwon River**, **Armstrong Creek**, and **Hovells Creek**, through suburbs like Belmont, Breakwater, Lara, Highton, and Armstrong Creek itself – all 'flood risk' areas.

Visitors and residents of Geelong are reminded that floodwaters can contain broken glass, chemical run-off, litter, sewage, and other obstructions – meaning you should never walk or drive through it.

A La Nina weather pattern remains current, and is expected to bring higher than average rainfalls throughout summer in south west region. The Barwon River has reached minor flood level at least once in 2020, with August rains seeing the banks spill out in various spots.

A photo opportunity with the flood preparedness signage will take place ___ and include ___ from VICSES and ___ from the City of Great Geelong (COGG).

For more information, contact:

VICSES State Media Duty Officer (6am-10pm)
Phone: 1300 783 933
Email: media@ses.vic.gov.au



Quotes attributable to VICSES Community Resilience Co-ordinator Melanie Gill:

“Knowing local flood risk in Geelong is not just about major incidents but the minor and moderate floods, too. These new signs outline the risks of entering floodwater on foot, or in other ways, and why it is never truly safe to do so.”

“We know floodwater often crosses over walking tracks along the Barwon River before it reaches a minor flood level, with dangerous debris or run-off possibly in that water. We want to make sure everyone knows how to enjoy their local waterways, and stay safe if conditions are not good.”

Quotes attributed to City of Greater Geelong Mayor Stephanie Asher:

“Floods can have a devastating impact on our communities. It's important that community members understand the flood risks unique to their area - especially as we're currently experiencing the effects of a La Nina weather pattern.”

“These signs build on the great resources already available from the VICSES that help inform communities of their flood risks and how to be prepared before, during and after a flood emergency. It's great to see multiple agencies work together on an important project that helps better inform the community.”

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