



Wickliffe

Local Flood Guide

Flood information for the Hopkins River at Wickliffe



January 2011



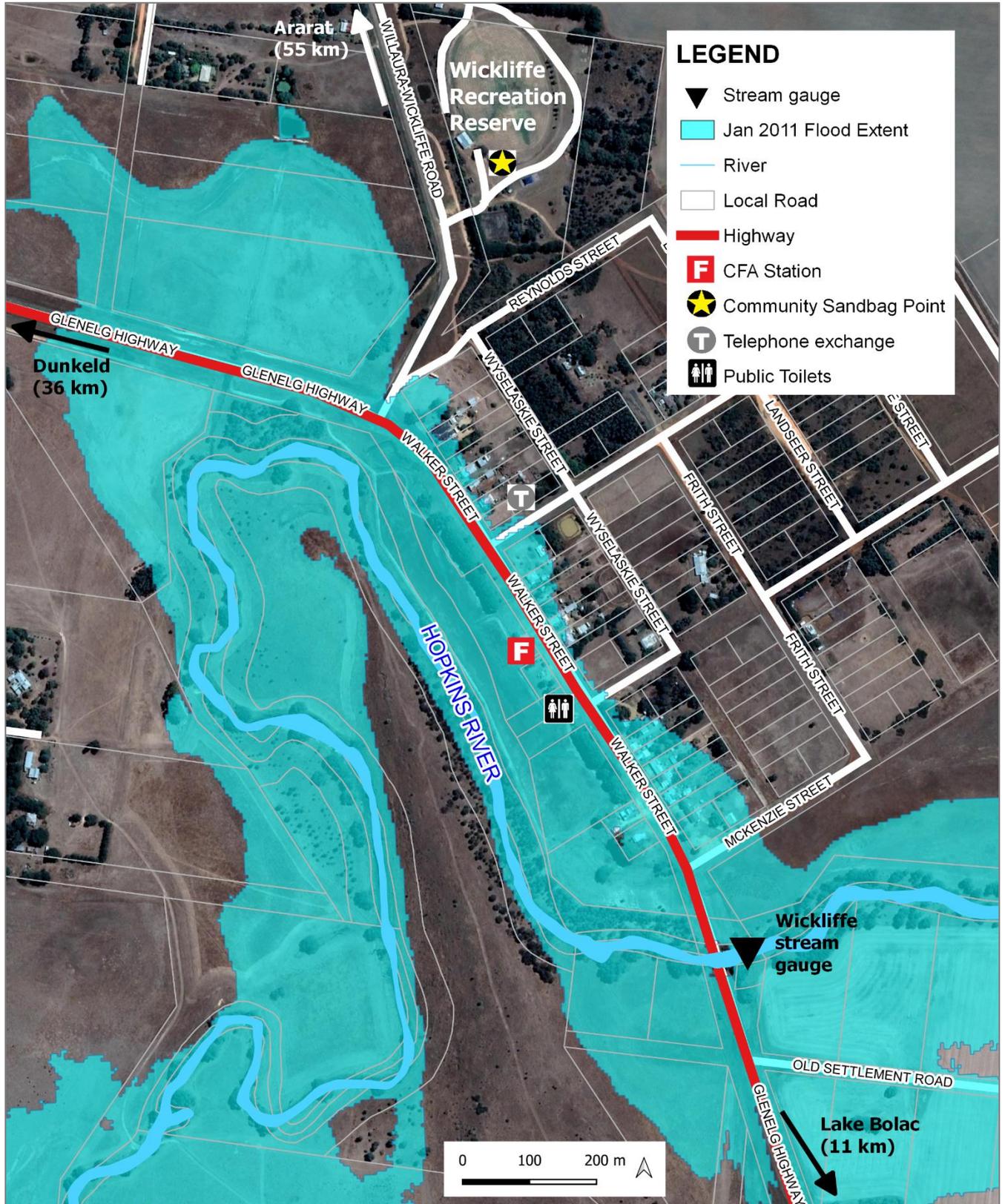
For flood emergency help call
VICSES on **132 500**





Wickliffe

Wickliffe is located in Central Victoria in the municipality of Ararat Rural City Council, approximately 50 kilometres south of Ararat. Wickliffe homes and businesses located within the floodplain of the Hopkins River were flooded in January 2011. The map below shows the extent of the January 2011 Hopkins River flood in Wickliffe, which measured 5.89 metres on the Wickliffe stream gauge.



Disclaimer: this map 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. Flood risk information is provided by Glenelg Hopkins Catchment Management Authority.



Are you at risk of flooding?

The area surrounding Wickliffe is generally flat, cleared, agricultural land drained by the Hopkins River. The western upland area near Ararat and the south eastern ranges of the Grampians National Park drains into the Hopkins River north of Wickliffe. The Hopkins River begins north east of Ararat, then flows south through Wickliffe.

Wickliffe generally floods due to heavy rainfall upstream. When flooding occurs in Wickliffe, homes, businesses and buildings in Walker Street are most at risk. Floodwater rises very quickly in Wickliffe, houses can be impacted by flooding within 24 after heavy rainfall. Floodwater can remain high for two days before receding.



Wickliffe, January 2011

Did you know?

Wickliffe has a history of flooding, significant flood events have occurred in 1909, 1960, 1964, 1973, 1974, 1975, 1981, 1983, 1984, 1986, 1988 and 2011. In January, 2011, Wickliffe experienced its largest ever flood when the catchment received 112 to 172 millimetres of rainfall over four days. The flood level recorded for this flood event was 5.89 metres.

- It took approximately 24 hours for floodwater to travel from Ararat to Wickliffe.
- The Glenelg Highway was closed at Wickliffe for two days.
- Eleven buildings were inundated above floor, including the Wickliffe Hotel.
- The Wickliffe stream gauge peak (highest recorded river level) was 5.89 metres.
- Further upstream, the Ararat stream gauge peaked at 3.56 metres.

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 94.1 FM
3HA 981 AM
Mixx 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 | https://www.ghcma.vic.gov.au/ | (03) 5571 2526 |
| ■ Ararat Rural City Council | www.ararat.vic.gov.au | (03) 5355 0200 |

**Life-threatening
Emergency
000**



Hopkins River flood levels at Wickliffe

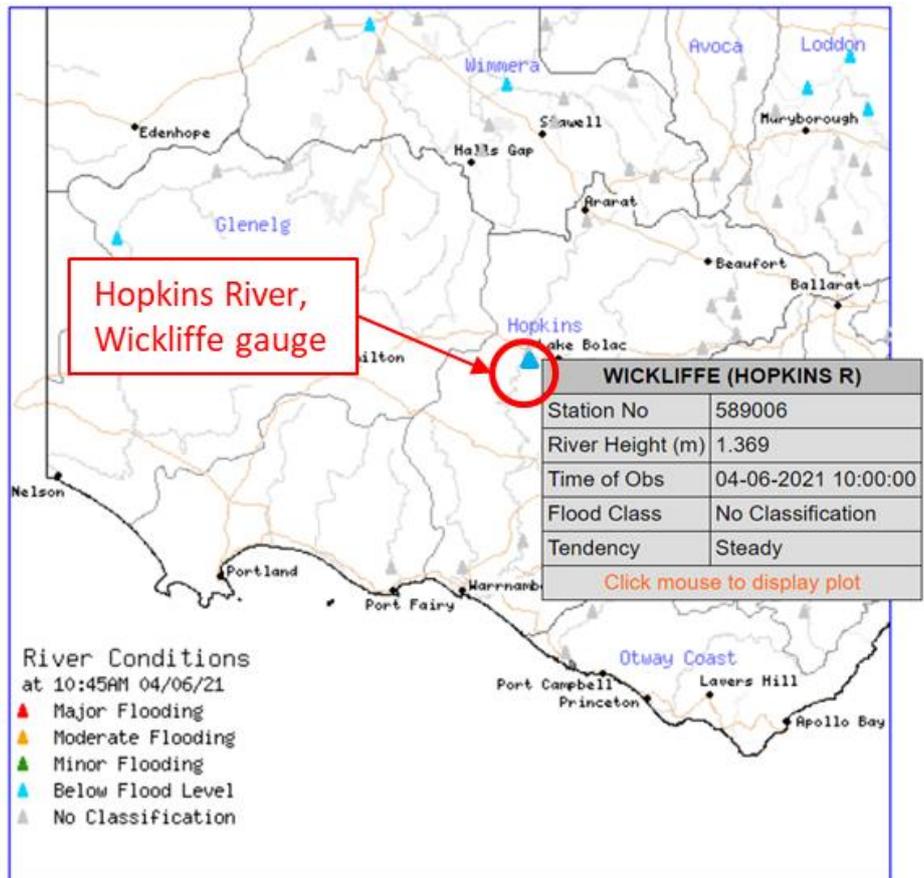
Wickliffe generally floods due to heavy rainfall upstream, surrounding Ararat and the eastern ranges of the Grampians National Park.

There are four rainfall/river stream gauges within the Wickliffe area, these include:

- Rainfall gauge located at Mt William
- Rainfall gauge located at Willaura
- River height and rainfall gauge on the Hopkins River at Ararat
- River height gauge on the Hopkins River at Wickliffe

Monitoring these rainfall and stream gauges will provide early clues of possible flooding. The Bureau of Meteorology (BoM) does not issue river height predictions for Wickliffe. To monitor the Wickliffe stream gauge height go to the BoM website bom.gov.au/vic/flood/

- Select 'River Conditions' (above the map)
- Click on Glenelg Hopkins on the right.
- Find the Wickliffe (Hopkins River) gauge and hover over it.
- Compare river height to the stream gauge heights on the table below to determine if flooding is likely.





The table below provides an indication of what you can expect at certain Wickliffe stream gauge heights, including when your access may be cut off and when your property may be affected.

Wickliffe Stream Gauge Height (metres)	Flood Impact
5.89 m	January, 2011 flood level (flood extent shown on map page 2) 11 buildings were flooded above floor including the Wickliffe Hotel and Cookie's Old Store.
5.88 m	6 buildings are flooded above floor in Walker Street. The Glenelg Highway bridge, south side of Wickliffe is close to being overtopped.
5.58 m	3 buildings are flooded above floor, including the CFA Station. Flooding impacts 9 properties.
5.30 m	Proposed Major flood level
5.18 m	Two properties in Walker Street start to be impacted by flooding. No buildings are impacted by flooding above floor. The Glenelg Highway and Walker Street is impassable to traffic to the north of Wickliffe, flood depth up to 0.5m.
5.00 m	Proposed Moderate flood level
4.48 m	Shallow flooding overtops the Glenelg Highway to a depth up to 0.15m.
4.40 m	Proposed Minor flood level
4.39 m	October 1986 flood event.
4.13 m	August 1992 flood event.



Wickliffe, January 2011

Sandbag Collection Point



A Sandbag Collection Point may be opened at the Wickliffe Recreation Reserve, 1755 Willaura-Wickliffe Road, if there is potential for flooding in the area.

Residents can call in to fill and collect sandbags to protect your home.

Ararat Rural City Council will promote when this collection point is opened through local radio and other media.



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.

 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. You can also access this information through our 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 of community impact.

WARNING LEVELS

	EMERGENCY WARNING You are in imminent danger and need to take action immediately. You will be impacted. A Major flood warning usually fits into this category.
	WARNING (WATCH AND ACT) 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.
	ADVICE An incident is occurring or has occurred in the area. Access information and monitor conditions. 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.

ADDITIONAL MESSAGES

	PREPARE TO EVACUATE/ EVACUATE NOW An evacuation is recommended or procedures are in place to evacuate.
	COMMUNITY INFORMATION Updates for communities affected by an emergency. Can also be used as a notification that an incident has occurred but there is no threat to community.
	EMERGENCY ALERT During some emergencies, communities may be alerted by the sounding of a local siren, or by sending an SMS to mobile phones or a voice message to landlines.

Your emergency plan

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

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 a supply of 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)
- | 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 [redcross.org.au/prepare](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 [bom.vic.gov.au](https://www.bom.vic.gov.au) and warnings through [emergency.vic.gov.au](https://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.
- If you are staying in a caravan, move to higher ground before flooding begins.

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.
- 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. Stay safe by never entering flood water. 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](https://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. 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.

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