



Longwarry Local Flood Guide

Local flooding information for Longwarry



Flooding along Bennett Street



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





The Longwarry Local Area

Longwarry is a small township located approximately 90 kilometres south east of Melbourne. The area is very flat which makes it prone to flash flooding and flooding from the local drain network. These drains are designed to direct water away from the township and out to the Bunyip River.

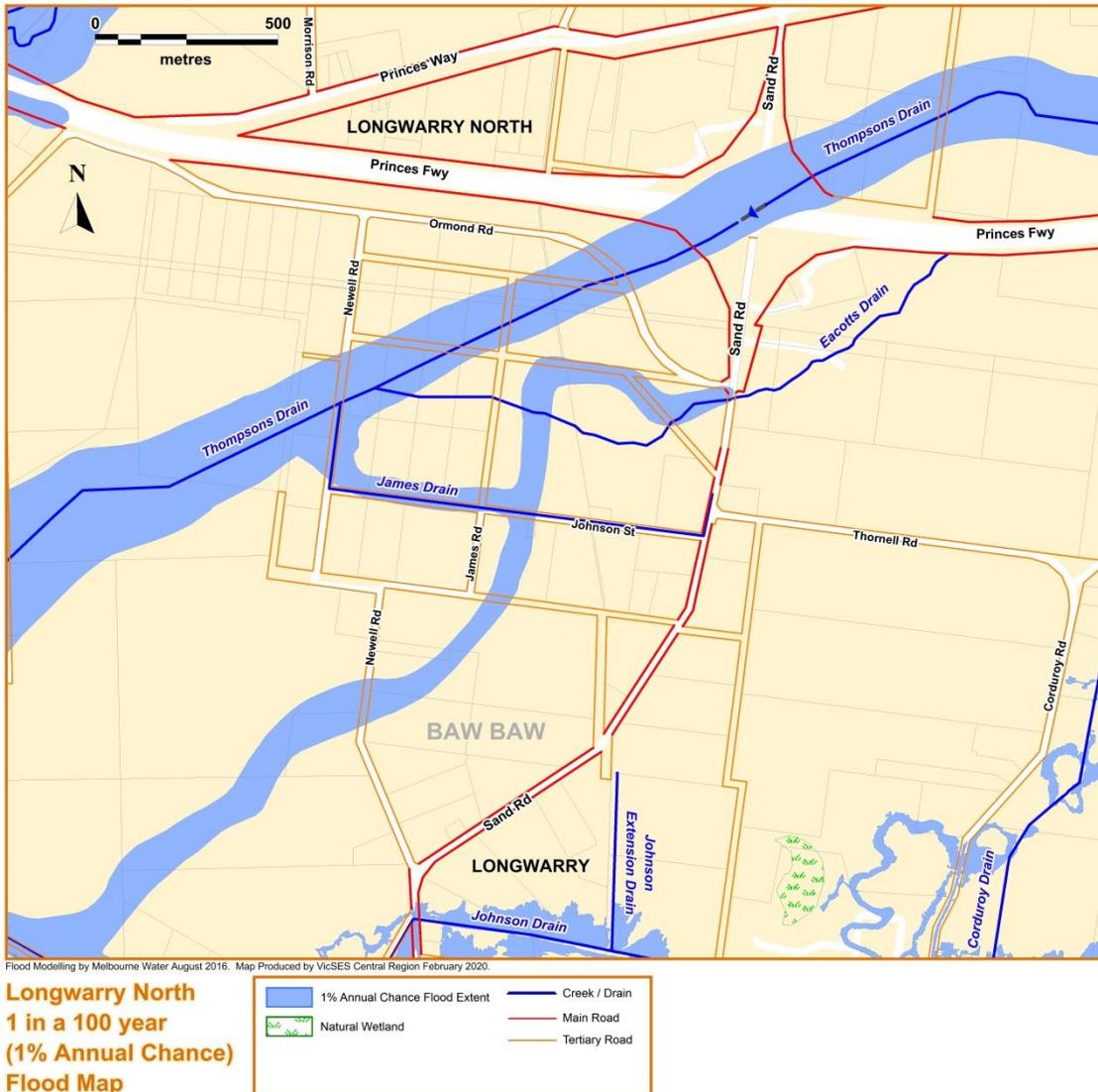
The maps below shows the impact of a 1% flood in the Longwarry area. A 1% flood means there is a 1% chance of a flood this size happening in any given year. This map is provided as a guide to possible flooding within the area.



Flood Modelling by Melbourne Water August 2016. Map Produced by VicSES Central Region 2019.

Longwarry 1 in a 100 year (1% Annual Chance) Flood Map

	Shopping Precinct		Creek / Drain		Community Centre		School / College
	Reserve / Park		Main Road		Place Of Worship		Kindergarten / Child Care
	1% Annual Chance Flood Extent		Tertiary Road		Railway Station		
	Natural Wetland		Railway				



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 risk information is provided by Melbourne Water.

Are you at risk of flood?



Longwarry is at risk of both flash flooding and flooding from the local drainage network if the capacity of the drains is exceeded. Flooding does not occur from the Tarago or Bunyip Rivers.

Flash flooding occurs when the amount of rainfall from a storm is greater than the capacity of the existing drainage system to carry it away, resulting in water pooling in lower lying areas. Often flooding happens when the ground is already saturated and cannot absorb any more water.

Even a small amount of additional rain will flow over land and into properties in low lying areas of Longwarry, especially near



Flooding along Mackey Street.



Mackey, Corduroy, Martin and Johnson Drains. These areas are more regularly affected by short duration flash flood events, where water cannot drain away fast enough.

Properties along Bennett Street aren't connected to the storm water network, so the water from these properties runs directly onto the ground. Water travelling from Drouin and down Mackey Drain is often the cause of Longwarry flooding in the centre of town.

Flooding from the drain network is caused by a combination of long term rainfall, high soil saturation and the rivers already being full. Longwarry is in a natural floodplain, so it could flood from local drains overtopping their banks from rainfall upstream, with minimal to no rain having fallen in the town itself.

There is no warning system such as flood gauges in the drains, so the best way to prepare for possible flooding is to keep an eye on official forecasts and warnings for the West and South Gippsland weather district that are discussed on page 5.

Did you know?

Historically, floods in Longwarry have been flash flooding events lasting no more than 24 hours.

However in February 2011 (when most of Victoria flooded) Longwarry was no exception.

- Over 150 millimetres of rain fell in the Longwarry area, resulting in the biggest flood on record.
- Many local and major roads were cut, the railway line closed, long power outages, and many properties experienced over floor flooding.
- A major power transformer located on the railway line along Boxshall Road was cut off and it stopped the V/Line Trains for 24 hours.



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.

Remember, NEVER walk, play or drive in floodwater.

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	Gippsland ABC 100.7 FM or 828 AM Star 94.5 FM 3GG 531 AM 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	
▪ Melbourne Water	melbournewater.com.au	131 722
▪ Baw Baw Shire Council	bawbawshire.vic.gov.au	1300 229 229
▪ National Relay Service (NRS)	relayservice.gov.au	

**Life-threatening
emergency
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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 VicEmergency app on your mobile phone.
- Put together an emergency kit and prepare a home or business emergency plan, see 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 and warnings through 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 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.