

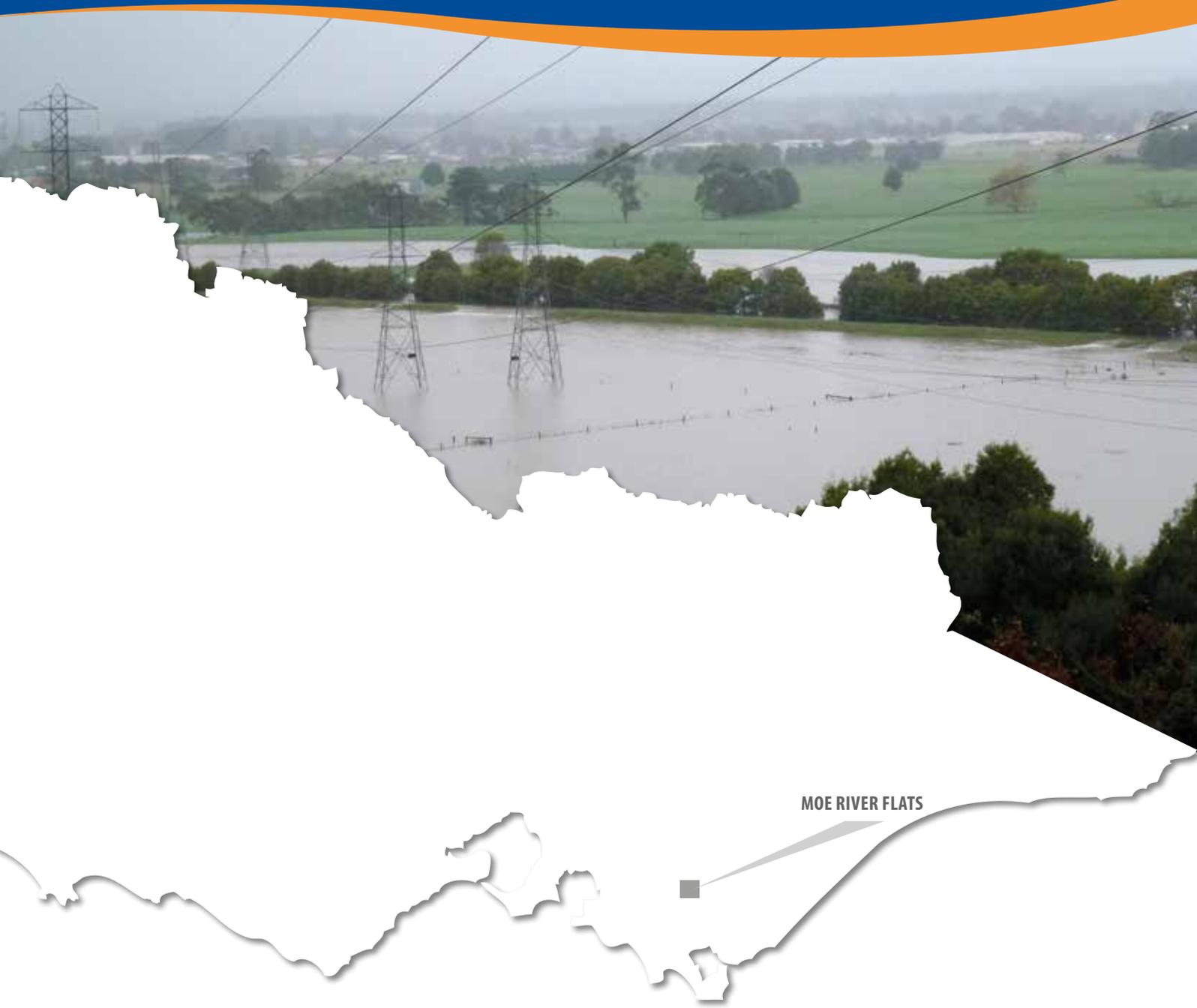


Local Flood Guide Moe River Flats



FloodSafe

Flood information for Moe River Flats properties north of Yarragon and Trafalgar



MOE RIVER FLATS



FLOOD STORM EMERGENCY **132 500**

For more information visit www.ses.vic.gov.au

Your Local Flood Information

The Moe River Flats local area

Moe River Flats is a prime agricultural area located between Yarragon and Moe, north of the Princes Highway.

Prior to the 1880s it was a low-lying wetlands area known as the Moe Swamp. Excavation of the 19 kilometre long Moe Drain in the late 1880s saw the area converted to farmland. Levees were constructed on either side of the drain to increase its capacity and protect adjacent properties from minor floods.

The drain and levees, which tend to focus the energy of the floodwaters, are highly erodible, which can cause problems to both the North and the South Canal Roads.

Shady Creek flows into the river between the Yarragon-Shady Creek Road and Willow Grove Road. There are two BoM flood gauges. One is located at Darnum before Shady Creek meets the Moe River, and another is located at Trafalgar East, after Shady Creek meets the Moe River.

The Moe River runs through the Moe Flats area to join the Latrobe River upstream of Lake Narracan.

Your local emergency broadcasters are:

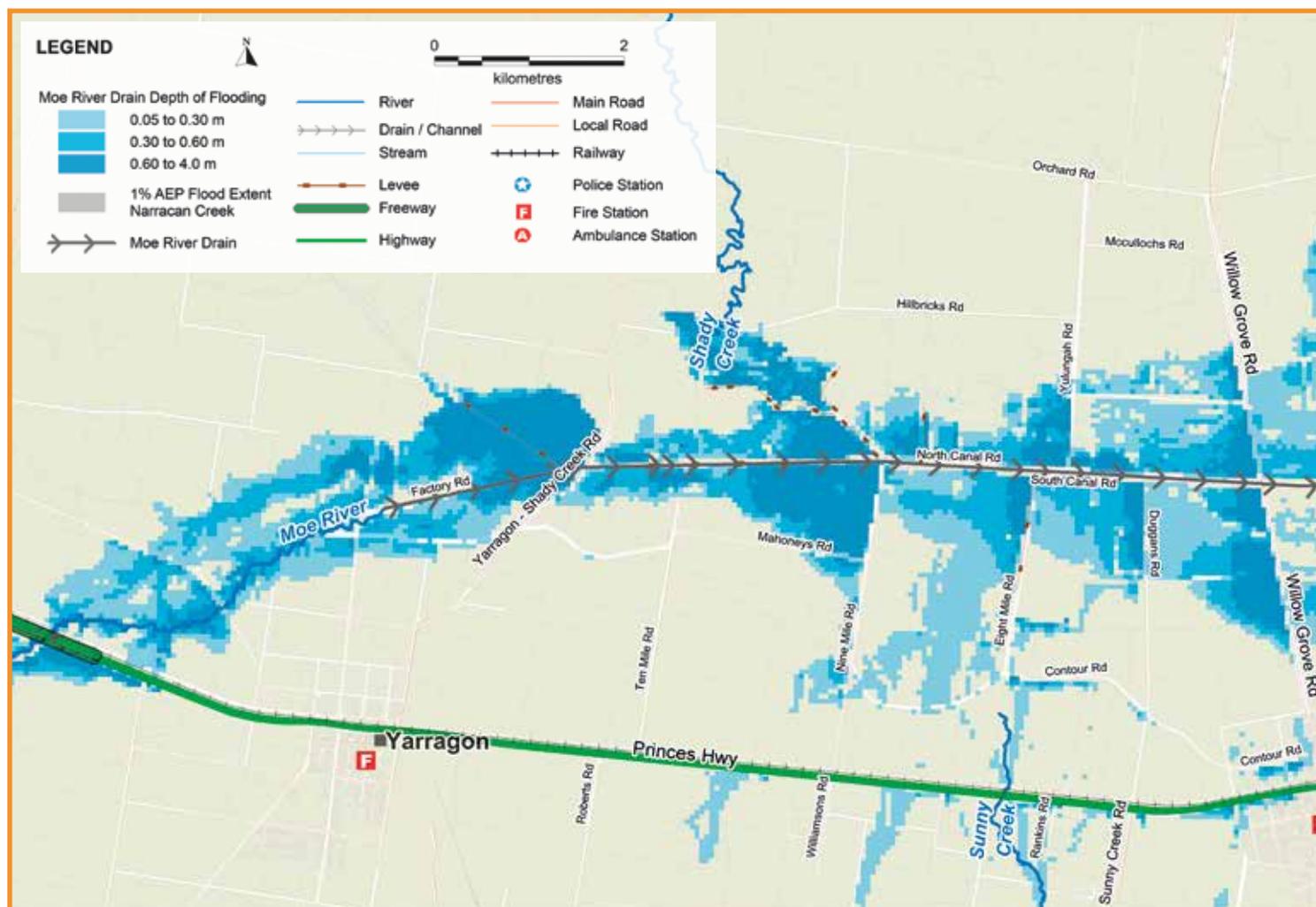
- Gippsland ABC 100.7 FM or 828 AM
- TR FM 99.5 FM
- 3GV Gold 1242 AM
- 3GG 531 AM
- Star 94.3 FM
- SKY NEWS Television

Baw Baw Shire Council Contact details:

Phone: (03) 5624 2411
 Email: bawbaw@bawbawshire.com.au
 Web: www.bawbawshire.vic.gov.au

Flood inundation map

The map below shows the expected depth of a 1% flood in the Moe River Flats area. A 1% flood means there is a 1% chance of a flood this size occurring in any year. The map is provided as a guide only and represents one of many flood scenarios that could occur in the area.



Disclaimer
 This map publication is presented by the Victoria State Emergency Service for the purpose of disseminating emergency management information. The contents of the information have not been independently verified by the 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 West Gippsland Catchment Management Authority.

Are you at risk of flood?

The Moe River Flats experiences flooding on a frequent basis, with breakouts from the Moe River occurring when the river flows exceed the channel capacity and flooding becomes widespread.

Flood water is unable to return to the drain because of the levees and water levels in the drain being higher than the surrounding land.

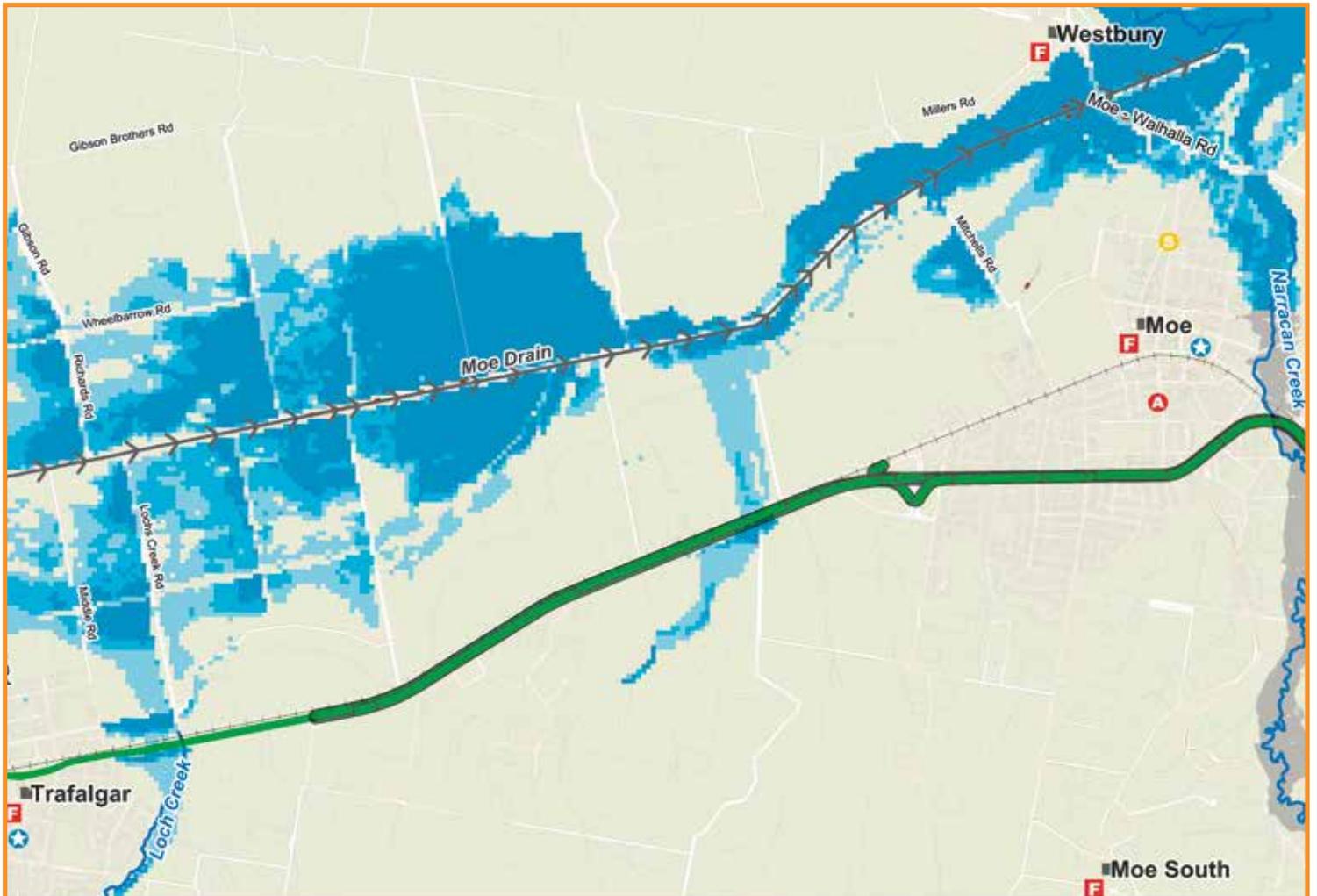
During significant flood events, the Moe River can exceed capacity and water can remain for extended periods of time in the Moe Flats area, causing property access issues, and damage to roads and farms.

There are many septic tanks and farm chemicals stored in farm sheds which may be inundated by flood water making it unhygienic or even toxic.

Did you know?

Flood Class levels such as Minor, Moderate and Major are established for the BoM gauge at Darnum (south of Princes Highway at Darnum). The gauge at Darnum can provide early warning for flood impacts on the Flats; however it doesn't pick up flows from the major tributaries such as Shady Creek to the north and Loch and Sunny Creeks to the South. If there are high rainfalls in these catchments, the Darnum gauge can't be used to forecast their likely impact.

The Trafalgar East gauge only measures flows within the banks of the drain and is not used for warnings.



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 roads.
- 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.

The 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 Moe River Flats area 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 Moe River Flats

For the Moe 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 Moe River.

Remember that only the Darnum gauge is used for warnings and not the Trafalgar East gauge. It is important to know how the predicted flood levels are likely to impact you as you may be affected before the peak of the flood and without warning.

Flood levees

A levee is an embankment usually alongside 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, flowing through an opening or break.

Flood levees are to protect property, not people.

NOW – before a flood

- Check if your home or business is subject to flooding. For more information, contact Baw Baw Shire Council or the West Gippsland Catchment Management Authority.
- 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

The 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 Baw Baw 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.vic.gov.au

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

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
vicroads.vic.gov.au

Baw Baw Shire Contact Details

Phone: **(03) 5624 2411**
Email: www.bawbawshire.vic.gov.au
Web: bawbaw@bawbawshire.vic.gov.au

Weather District:

West and South Gippsland

Catchment Management Authority:

West Gippsland
www.wgcma.vic.gov.au
1300 094 262

Emergency Broadcasters

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

- Gippsland ABC 100.7 FM or 828 AM
- TR FM 99.5 FM
- 3GV Gold 1242 AM
- 3GG 531 AM
- Star 94.3 FM
- 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: _____