



# Thornbury & Northcote Local Flood Guide

Flash flood information for Merri Creek and Darebin Creek



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



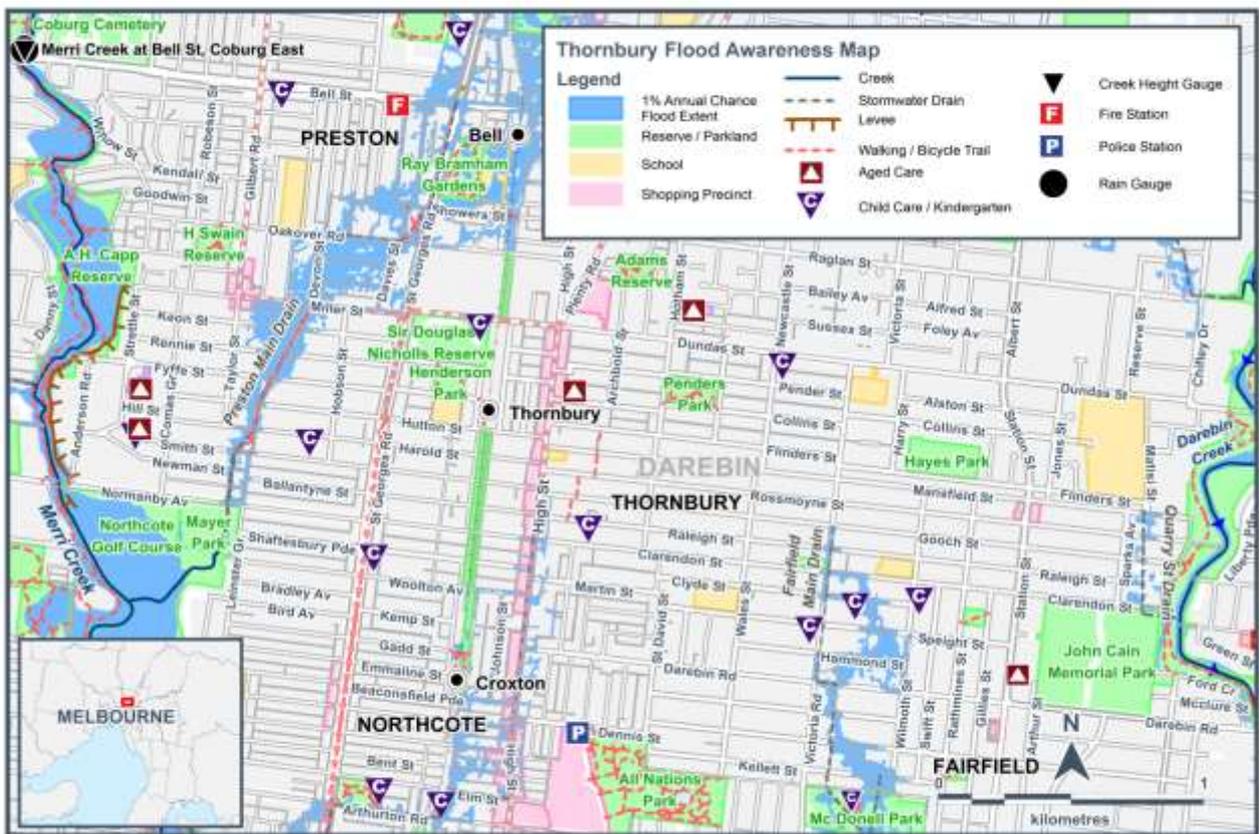


### The Thornbury Local Area

The suburb of Thornbury is located in the City of Darebin and located approximately seven kilometres north of Melbourne’s Central Business District.

Thornbury is bordered by the Merri Creek to the West and Darebin Creek to the East, with Darebin Creek running through the Northern part of the Municipality. Other waterways within the municipality are Edgars Creek, Central Creek and Salt Creek all of which are located in the north. Edgars and Central creeks flow into Merri Creek while Salt Creek flows into Darebin Creek.

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



**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 Melbourne Water.



## Are you at risk of flood?



The City of Darebin is prone to flash flooding. Flash flooding occurs with little or no warning. It generally affects small areas but damage can be severe. It occurs after high intensity rainfall (usually associated with thunderstorms) and is short in duration.

The Merri and Darebin Creeks may become flooded when there has been prolonged rainfall or due to flash floods. The main flooding areas include the land or parks alongside the Merri and Darebin Creeks (including the Creek trails), as well as the A.H. Capp Reserve and the Northcote Golf Course. The Anderson Road Levee from Normanby Avenue to Miller Street in Thornbury, was built to protect Anderson Road, Newman Street, Strettle Street and the Merri Business Park from Merri Creek floodwaters.

Darebin City Council has also constructed raingardens, and areas of porous pavement along several streets in Thornbury to slow down the flow of stormwater throughout the suburb. However the increase in volume of water during high intensity, short duration rainfall events (e.g. more than 30 millimetres/hour) can still lead to flash flooding.

Streets at risk of flooding in Thornbury should be avoided if flooding occurs. These include:

- Ford Crescent
- St Georges Road before it reaches Dundas Street
- Bell Street between O'Keefe and Albert Street
- The area around Station Street and Clarendon Street

As floodwaters spread they can threaten lives, inundate properties and businesses, destroy belongings, damage vital infrastructure and prevent access to essential public services. Often the effects of flood are long term and can be very costly, disruptive and distressing for communities involved. The most immediate threat of floods is to people who are caught on foot or travelling in vehicles in affected areas. People are at risk of sustaining serious or fatal injuries from floodwater, especially swift moving water, and it is important never to enter flood waters on foot or attempt to drive on flooded roads.

## Did you know?

Thornbury has a significant history of flooding. Major floods along the Merri Creek include those in 1934, 1977, 2003, 2005, 2006 and 2011, 2013 and 2016.

The most notable recent flood in Thornbury occurred in 2003 when 100 millimetres of rain fell in two hours. In total the local VICSES Unit received around 680 requests for assistance.

Some of the damage included:

- 30-40 houses near Bell Street and St Georges Road affected by flood water of up to 750 millimetres
- Extensive vehicle damage along Wingrove Street due to flooding
- Approximately 1600 emergency grants were made to households in Darebin

Since 2003 Darebin City Council has upgraded the drainage system in many of the identified problem areas.

If you require assistance during a flood or storm, contact SES on 132 500. Your local SES Northcote Unit will be able to assist you.

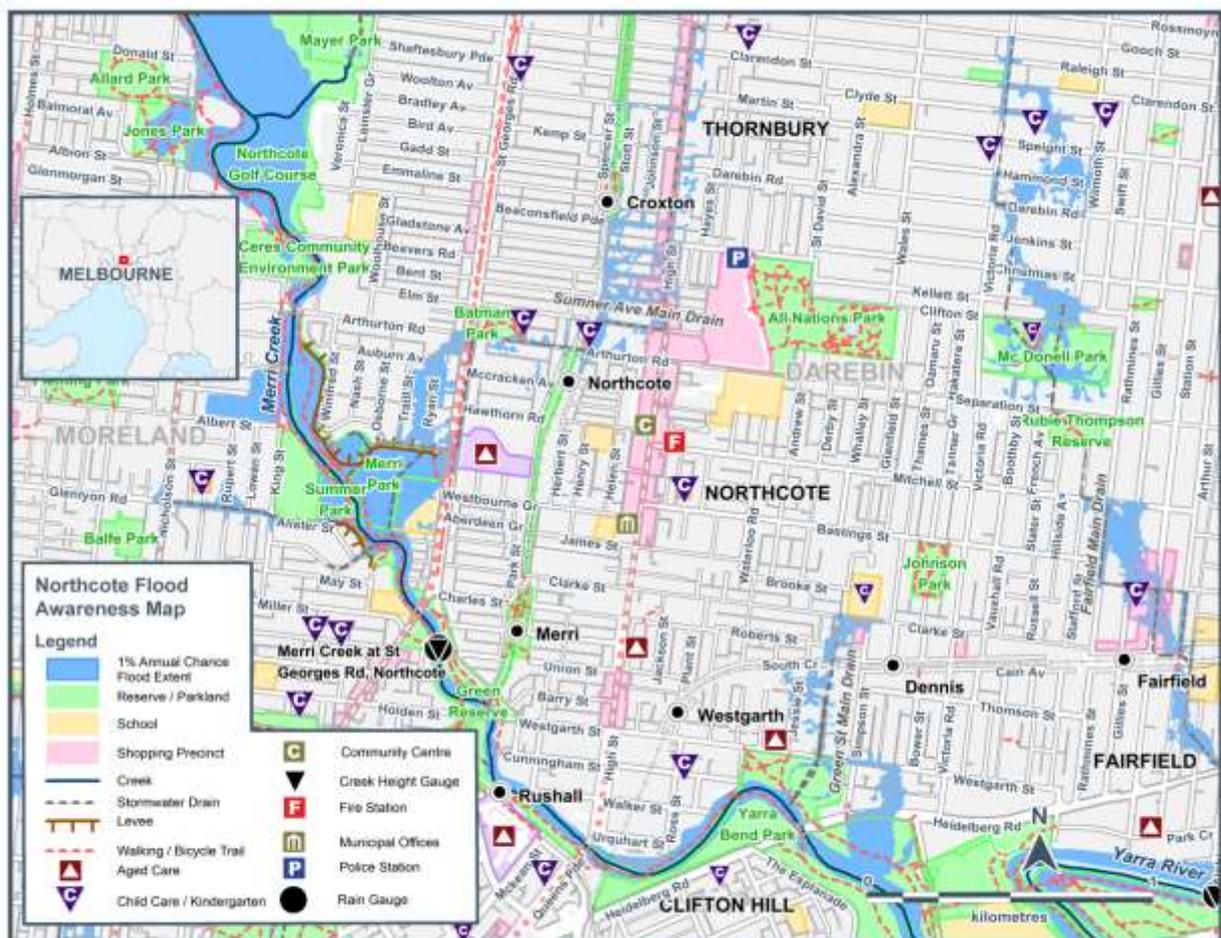


### The Northcote Local Area

The suburb of Northcote forms the south-west corner of the City of Darebin and is located seven kilometres north-east of Melbourne’s Central Business District.

Northcote is bordered by the Merri Creek on the West and the South, leading to occasional riverine flooding in some areas. The urban characteristic of the area also means that rainwater tends to run off towards low-lying areas. During high intensity rainfall the amount of run off can lead to stormwater drains overflowing, causing flash flooding. Flash flooding occurs with little warning, only lasts a short time and can cause severe localised damage.

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



**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 Melbourne Water.



### Are you at risk of flood?

The Merri Creek, which transports water from North of Melbourne past Northcote and into the Yarra River, can be affected when there has been prolonged rainfall. The main impacted areas include the land alongside the Creek (including the Merri Creek trail), as well as the Northcote Golf Course and Merri Park. The Merri Park Wetland Levee from St Georges Road to Arthurton along the east bank of Merri Creek in Northcote holds back floodwaters from:

- Winifred Street
- Sumner Avenue
- Nash Street
- Sutch Street
- Osborne Street
- Traill Street
- Ryan Street

Darebin City Council has also constructed raingardens, trees over drains and areas of porous pavement along several streets in Northcote to slow down the flow of stormwater throughout the suburb. But, the sheer volume of water during high Intensity, short duration rainfall events (e.g. more than 30 millimetres/hour) can still lead to flash flooding.

The Merri Parade underpass should be avoided beneath the railway line in case of intense rainfall. Other areas that could be affected by flooding include east of the railway line up to High Street between the Northcote Railway Station and Separation Street, and the area west of St Georges Road south of Arthurton Road. Public transport and bike paths in these areas could also be impacted. MacDonall Park and the area north of it may also experience flooding.

### Did you know?

Northcote has a history of flooding. Major floods along the Merri Creek include those in 1987, 2003, 2006 and 2011, 2013 and 2016. In February 2006 for example 75.2 mm fell in 30 minutes in Northcote and Coburg.

The most notable recent flood in the Northcote area occurred in 2003 when 100 millimetres fell in two hours. In total the local VICSES Unit received around 680 requests for assistance (the average number for a storm or rain event being around 30). Some of the damage included:

- North of the Northcote High School about 15 cars were flooded by water up to 750 millimetres deep
- Beaver Road required sandbagging to protect nearby houses

Since 2003 Darebin Council has upgraded the drainage system in many of the identified problem areas.



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.

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

### Staying Informed and Further Information

- Current warnings (VicEmergency) [emergency.vic.gov.au](http://emergency.vic.gov.au) 1800 226 226
- Bureau of Meteorology (BoM) [bom.gov.au/vic/warnings](http://bom.gov.au/vic/warnings) 1300 659 217
- VicRoads Traffic [traffic.vicroads.vic.gov.au](http://traffic.vicroads.vic.gov.au)
- Emergency Broadcasters  
ABC 774 AM  
SKY NEWS Television  
3AW 693 AM
- VICSES Social Media  
[facebook.com/vicses](https://facebook.com/vicses)  
[twitter.com/vicsesnews](https://twitter.com/vicsesnews)
- Preparing for Flood Emergencies [ses.vic.gov.au/get-ready](http://ses.vic.gov.au/get-ready)
- Creating an Emergency Plan [redcross.org.au/prepare](http://redcross.org.au/prepare)
- Catchment Management Authority [melbournewater.com.au](http://melbournewater.com.au) 131 722
- Darebin City Council [darebin.vic.gov.au](http://darebin.vic.gov.au) 03 8470 8888
- National Relay Service (NRS) [relayservice.gov.au](http://relayservice.gov.au)

**Life-threatening  
Emergency  
000**



# 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.

 <b>A Minor Flood Warning means floodwater can:</b>	 <b>A Moderate Flood Warning means floodwater can:</b>	 <b>A Major Flood Warning means floodwater can:</b>
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. Communities can also access this information through our social media channels and emergency broadcasters.

VICSES warnings aim to provide you with as much information to help you make good decisions to protect yourself and your family

The warning level is based on severity, conditions and the likelihood that the emergency could impact on the community.

### WARNING LEVELS

	<b>EMERGENCY WARNING</b> You are in imminent danger and need to take action immediately. You will be impacted. A Major flood warning usually fits into this category
	<b>WARNING (WATCH AND ACT)</b> 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.
	<b>ADVICE</b> 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

	<b>PREPARE TO EVACUATE/ EVACUATE NOW</b> An evacuation is recommended or procedures are in place to evacuate.
	<b>COMMUNITY INFORMATION</b> A newsletter containing 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.
	<b>EMERGENCY ALERT</b> During some emergencies, we may alert communities by sounding 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](http://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 and people with a disability)

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 the [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.

### 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.
- If you are staying in a caravan, move to higher ground before flooding begins.
- 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 until authorities advise they are safe.
- 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 and wash your hands and clothes regularly.

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