



Bruthen to Swan Reach Local Flood Guide

Flood information for Tambo River at Bruthen to Swan Reach



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



EAST GIPPSLAND
CATCHMENT
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Bruthen and Swan Reach

Bruthen and Swan Reach are small rural townships situated on the Great Alpine Road and the Princes Highway respectively, in East Gippsland.

The Bruthen township is not susceptible to flooding, but the low lying rural land to the south is subject to flooding when the capacity of the Tambo River at Tambo Upper is exceeded. South of the town, the Tambo River flows through Tambo Upper, Swan Reach and Johnsonville before flowing into the Gippsland Lakes at Lake King, West of Metung.

When the Tambo River floods, water quickly begins to pool in the floodplain south of Bruthen and the depth of floodwater in the floodplain increases as the water builds up downstream.

Downstream of Bruthen, flooding also occurs between Swan Reach and Johnsonville with floodwaters flowing into Lake King.

Bruthen and Tambo Valley Units are the first port of call for any flooding emergencies along the Tambo River floodplain with the dividing line intersecting at Double Bridges. Bruthen Unit is activated for any requests for assistance south of this point.

The map below shows the expected flooding for the Bruthen to Swan Reach area. A major flood event occurs at 10 meters on the Tambo River Ramrod Creek junction gauge, North East of Bruthen. This is what flooding would look like when experiencing a 1 in 100 year flood.



Disclaimer

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Are you at risk of flood?

Flooding in Bruthen is most common on the low-lying farm land on the Tambo River floodplain between Bruthen in the North and Tambo Upper in the South. This flooding may isolate a number of rural properties and dwellings.

To the south of Bruthen, flooding can occur in the area of Mossiface, continuing East. The Mossiface - Swan Reach Rd is often cut at Mossiface, and the Tambo Upper Rd may be cut in various places along its length.

Several sections along the Tambo Upper Road and Stephenson Road are impacted by water during moderate and major floods and these sections become closed due to flood waters. Old Orbost Road is cut at Tambo Upper Road. Stephenson Road is cut where it connects with the Tambo Upper Road at the Fred Albert Bridge.

Road closures do not pose a threat of isolation to the towns in the area due to the availability of alternate routes, except in extreme circumstances.

Flooding of the Tambo River (upstream of Bruthen) has been known to cause closure of the Great Alpine Road due to landslips. High river levels erode the banks of the Tambo River, making the Great Alpine Road unstable. As a result this can isolate the communities of Ensay, Swift's Creek and Omeo.



2011 flood Mossiface Road

With regard to rural properties - when considering the impacts of a potential flood, plenty of time should be allowed to move stock and machinery that may be located on the floodplain. Hay bales should be stored on high ground to avoid them being washed away by flood waters. Access across the river via private bridges should be treated with extreme caution during times of flood.

Did you know?

Bruthen has a history of flooding, including in 1998, 2007, 2012 and 2016. The June 1998 flood is the largest flood on record. It was recorded as a major flood at a level of 11.96 meters at the downstream of Ramrod Creek Gauge on the Tambo River. Flooding could occur again in and around the Tambo River with similar or greater consequences including:

- Roads closed
- Rural properties isolated
- Fallen trees and limbs
- Landslips



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.

Rain can be falling heavily in the Tambo River catchment without the knowledge of residents in downstream townships such as Bruthen, Wiseleigh, Mossiface, Tambo Upper and Swan Reach. Although it may be raining in the Bruthen district, localised rain does not have an impact on whether or not the Tambo River will flood. It is important to be vigilant of weather conditions in the upper catchment area to ensure that the appropriate preparation is undertaken for potential flood events.



Tambo River flood levels at the Ramrod Creek

When the Bureau of Meteorology (BoM) issues Flood Warnings they include a prediction of the flood height at Ramrod Creek, Bruthen. While no two floods are the same, the following table can give you an indication of what you could expect at certain heights, including when your access may be cut off and when your property may be affected.

Height (m)	Impact/level
11.96m	<p>June 1998 flood level At major flood level, the following roads are cut:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Great Alpine Road in several locations between Wiseleigh and Bruthen. - Swan Reach – Metung Road at Swan Reach <p>Initial flooding of the following roads/highways occurs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Bruthen-Buchan Road at Bruthen Recreation Reserve. - Princes Highway at Swan Reach. - Stephenson Road at the Fred Albert Bridge. <p>Already impacted areas are now increasing in depth.</p>
>10	Major flood level
9.71m	<p>June 2012 flood level At moderate flood level, the following roads are cut:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Curtis Lane at Mossiface - Hoffmans Lane at Mossiface - Punt Road at Intersection with Clunes Road Intersection - Swan Reach Road near Mossiface - Tambo Upper Road North of Swan Reach Road - Tambo Upper Road – South of Bruthen Nowa Nowa Road intersection - Swan Reach-Metung Road south of the Princes Highway at Swan Reach - Tambo-Upper Road from Tambo-Upper to Swan Reach. <p>Two properties are threatened by flood water on Old Orbost Road with another house under threat on Main Street Bruthen.</p> <p>Bruthen Recreation Reserve is impacted by flood water with some points up to 1.6 meters under water</p>
6.9m	Moderate flood level
	<p>At minor flood level, the following roads are cut:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Swan Reach – Mossiface Road at Wharf Corner AKA Clancey's Corner, Mossiface. <p>The Evans Track bridge (Ramrod Bridge) will be submerged and water will be spilling across the rural land of the river flats below Bruthen.</p> <p>If flood waters expected to rise, thought will need to be given to evacuate the Bruthen Caravan Park and provide lengthening to mooring lines of boats located at jetties throughout the Tambo River watercourse.</p>
4.1m	Minor flood level

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 828 and 100.7 SKY NEWS Television GOLD 1242
- 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 <http://www.egcma.com.au/> (03) 5152 0600
- East Gippsland Shire Council www.eastgippsland.vic.gov.au 1300 555 886
- 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.

A **Flood Warning** means flooding is about to happen or is already happening. There are minor, moderate and major flood warnings.

 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 bom.gov.au/vic/warnings and warnings through emergency.vic.gov.au.



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 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.