



Quambatook Local Flood Guide

Riverine Flood information for Avoca River at Quambatook



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



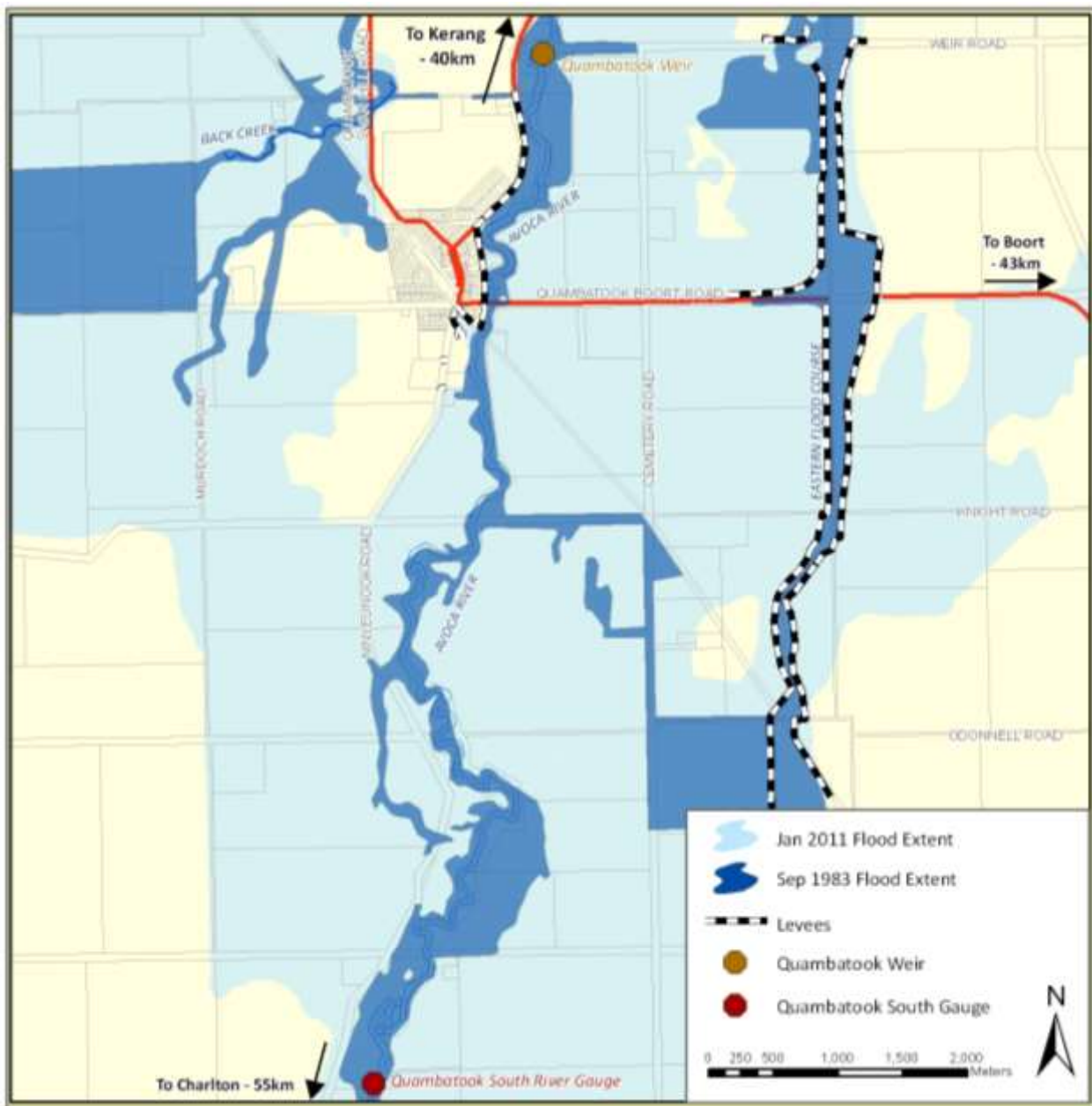


Quambatook

Quambatook is at risk of flooding from the Avoca River, and is also vulnerable to flash flooding caused by heavy rainfall over a short period of time.

Although the township of Quambatook is built on higher ground and has levees providing some protection, large floods can still cause damage within the township and no levee is guaranteed flood proof. During the January 2011 flood event approximately three kilometres of temporary earthen levees were constructed by Council with considerable local voluntary effort. If the temporary levees had not been constructed most of the 120 houses and shops in town would have been flooded.

The map below shows the extent of flooding in the January 2011 and September 1983 floods as well as the location of the temporary levees built by Council and the local community:



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 North Central Catchment Management Authority.



Are you at risk of flood?



Since the river gauge was installed at Quambatook South in 1963, there have been 17 recorded flood events above the minor flood level. These events were generally limited to agricultural land and required the occasional closure of minor roads.

On 9 January 2011, after 100mm of rain fell in a few hours, water overwhelmed the town's drainage which caused flash flooding in parts of the township.

Although levees and floodways assist in protecting the Quambatook township, these levees are only designed to protect property and cope with a certain flood level.

Floods in excess of the Major flood level may result in water overflowing the levees and floodways, flooding the town. This was prevented in 2011 when temporary levees were constructed on the eastern side of town.

No levee is guaranteed flood-proof.

If flooding affects Charlton, then it typically affects Quambatook 40-96 hours later.

Did you know?

Quambatook has a history of flooding between 1973 to 1983 which generally starts with a period of unusually wet weather within the Avoca River catchment, which happened most recently as September 2016.

The January 2011 flood was the worst in Quambatook's recorded history and caused:

- Surrounding rural areas to flood.
- Significant flood damage to the community swimming pool, tennis courts, caravan park, football oval and golf club.
- Isolation of Quambatook with the only way out being towards Swan Hill.

The January 2011 flood has been classified as a '1 in 200 year' event on the Avoca River. This does not mean that it will not occur again for another 200 years, rather it indicates that there is a 0.5% chance of this level of flood occurring in any year.



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

While no two floods are the same, floods like this or worse could occur again. If you live or work close to a creek, river or low-lying area you may be at risk of flooding. Even if you are not directly affected, you may still have to detour around flooded areas.



Avoca River flood levels at the Quambatook South gauge

When the Bureau of Meteorology (BoM) issues a Flood Warning, they will include an expected height of the peak of the flood based on a flood gauge. There are three gauges along the Avoca river: Yawong Weir at Coonooer, Charlton (approx 3 km downstream of Charlton) and Quambatook South (approx 6.5 km upstream of Quambatook-see map page 2).

The table below provides an indication of what may happen when floodwater reaches a certain height on the gauge at Quambatook South. It is important to remember that no two floods are the same and this information is a guide only.

The Quambatook South gauge on the BoM website measures the depth of the water above the river bed. This information has also been displayed in Australian Height Datum (AHD) which assumes sea level is 0 metres.

Quambatook South Gauge		Quambatook South Gauge
Height (metres)	Impact/level	(m AHD)
3.04	January 2011 Flood The January 2011 flood is the largest on record. At this level the majority of Quambatook could be affected, including the 120 residences, shops, public infrastructure and recreational facilities. The main roads to Kerang, Boort, Charlton and Swan Hill and many minor roads are flooded.	94.95
2.5	September 1983 Flood.	93.91
2.4	Major flood level Similar to the June 1995 and October 1996 floods.	93.81
2.23	September 2010 Flood/ September 2016 Flood.	93.64
2.2	Moderate flood level Similar to the September 1973 flood.	93.61
2.0	Minor flood level At minor flood level flood waters overtop the banks of the Avoca River downstream of Charlton. Rural land begins to flood and minor roads may become flooded	93.41
0	Gauge Zero.	91.41

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 Local 102.1 FM
SKY NEWS Television
Mixx 98.7 FM
- 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
- North Central Catchment Management Authority nccma.vic.gov.au (03) 5448 7124
- Gannawarra Shire Council gannawarra.vic.gov.au (03) 5450 9333
- 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 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.