

Flinders Avenue, 2022



Local Flood Guide

Lara

Understand, prepare, and respond effectively to your flood risk.



FLOOD STORM
EMERGENCY **132 500**



If life threatening
call triple zero 000

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Victoria State Emergency Service acknowledges Aboriginal Traditional Owners of Country throughout Victoria and pays respect to their cultures and Elders past and present.

Disclaimer: Victoria State Emergency Service assumes no responsibility or liability for any errors or omissions for any of the content in this document.

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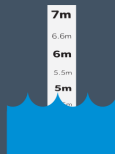


For more information visit: ses.vic.gov.au/plan-and-stay-safe

Local flood information



There have been seven significant flood events in Lara between 1933 and 2020.



The largest flood on record was in 1988 when floodwater reached 9.40 metres at Flinders Avenue Gauge.



In Lara, flooding is common in November and February, can occur within 2-8 hours of rain, lasting for days.

Why does Lara flood?

Lara is at risk of both **riverine flooding** and **flash flooding** which can happen separately, or at the same time. Both are usually caused by heavy rainfall.

Riverine flooding

- This happens when Hovells Creek rises and overflows its banks, and spills water out onto land. The most common cause is prolonged heavy rainfall.
- Hovells Creek runs through the centre of Lara and during floods, it can split the town in two.

Flash flooding

- This kind of flooding can happen quickly in Lara and you may not receive an official warning. Although these floods only last short time, they can cause severe damage.
- Stormwater drainage may not be able to drain the amount of rainfall causing them to overflow.



How do floods impact communities?

Even if your home or workplace stays dry, floods can impact you in many ways.



Buildings flooded



Road closures



Drinking water supply and quality affected



Power outages



Mobile and internet network outage



Sewage overflows inside building

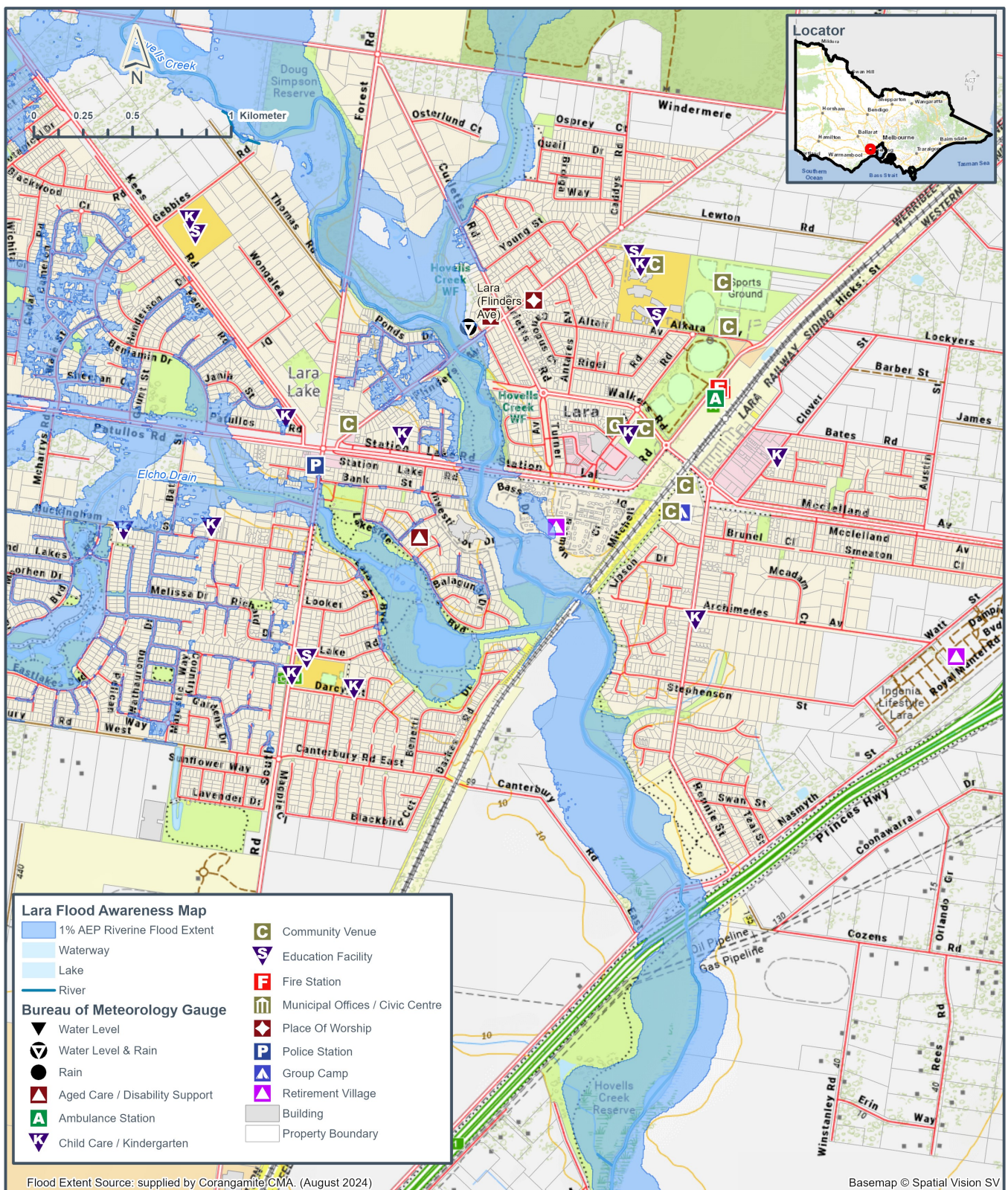
Check your home, work, and travel routes for floodwater

If this map shows potential flood risk for you, ensure you take action to **plan and prepare for floods**. See [page 7](#) for more information.

- This map shows the area likely to flood in a significant event that would measure at least 9.40 metres high at the [Hovells Creek at Lara gauge](#) located in Flinders Avenue.



You can view an interactive version of this map using the Victorian Government's [Digital Twin Victoria](#) Portal (see page 6 for details).



What might happen in a flood in your area?

Although no two floods are the same and the environment is constantly changing, the below table provides an idea of what to expect at different flood heights.

Floodwater height* (metres)	Potential impacts and previous flood events^
9.42m	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 12 houses may be flooded above floor level in Melrose Street, Flinders Avenue, Minyip Road, Park Avenue, Bacchus Marsh Road, Goulburn Park Drive, Patullos Road & Benjamin Drive. Levees may be overtopped at Flinders Ave and Wingara Drive
9.40m	December 1988 flood event
9.19m	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8 houses may be flooded above floor level in Melrose Street, Flinders Avenue, Minyip Road, Park Avenue, Bacchus Marsh Road and Goulburn Park Drive Over 3,500 properties may be impacted. Shallow flooding may impact Station Lake Road and Princes Freeway Southbound. Access may be cut to the Princes Freeway Northbound.
9.05m	February 1973 flood event
8.83m	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6 houses may be flooded above floor level in Melrose Street, Flinders Avenue, Minyip Road, Park Avenue and Bacchus Marsh Road. Shallow flooding may impact the Princes Freeway Northbound.
8.49m	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Over 3,000 properties may be impacted. Significant flooding occurs upstream of Hovells Creek, north of the town and in Lara East. Several major and minor roads are impacted by flooding including Old Melbourne Road, Forest Road North, and Lime Crescent.
8.33m	February 2005 flood event
7.90m	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4 houses may be flooded above floor level. Over 2,500 properties may be impacted. Areas impacted include West Gateway and around the Flinders Reserve South areas. There is extensive flooding throughout farmland in Lara.
7.06m	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A house may be flooded above floor level. Up to 2,500 properties may be impacted. Areas impacted include Walkers Road, Flinders Avenue, Melrose Street, Thomas Street & Station Lake Road. Flooding of the Elcho Drain begins to inundate private property. Elcho Park Golf Course & North Geelong Soccer Club grounds impacted. Water begins to spill over Duggans Lane & Kees Road. Flooding cuts access to Flinders Avenue, Windermere Road, Challorans Road and Peak School Road.
6.84m	April 2017 flood levels
6.84m	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hovells Creek flood depth is at road level on Flinders Ave.
6.60m	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Flinders Avenue Floodway Gates Closed. Access to Rennie Street cut, depth may be above 0.3m.
5.80m	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rennie Street Floodway gates closed due to deep flooding.

*The height measurement is at the [Hovells Creek at Lara gauge](#) located in Flinders Avenue.

^This table includes information from previous flood events and flood studies, which are scientific models used to predict impacts at different flood heights and flows.

Lara flood gates

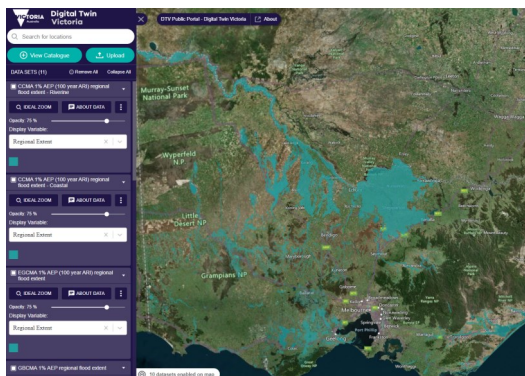
The City of Greater Geelong have installed flood gates on **Flinders Ave** and **Rennie St**, where flooding can cut road access. There are also flood gates at **Windermere Rd**. Some flood-affected roads may not have flood gates.

On Rennie Street near Hovells Creek, when water reaches the road, flashing lights and road closure gates will be activated to keep drivers safe.



Never drive past closed flood gates or road barriers.

View the interactive flood map on Digital Twin Victoria



The Digital Twin Victoria Portal brings together 2D, 3D and live data in a single online place for everyone to use. The Portal hosts some flood mapping data.

- Use the portal to zoom in on where you live, work and travel to see if these locations are likely to be affected in a large flood event.

Go to digitaltwin.vic.gov.au.



In a flood emergency, stay informed through [VicEmergency](#), see [page 8](#) for more information.

Your local services

Catchment Management Authority

For general advice about flooding and controls on planning scheme amendments.

- **Corangamite Catchment Management Authority**
ccma.vic.gov.au | 1800 002 262

Local Council

For relief support after a flood event and general land use planning.

- **City of Greater Geelong**
geelongaustralia.com.au | 03 5272 5272



Floodwater can be very deep, rise quickly and move fast.

Stay safe by avoiding flooded areas.

Plan and prepare for floods

1 How to stay informed

VicEmergency is Victoria's source of emergency information and warnings.

- Set-up a watch zone for your area for alerts when warnings are issued.
- Learn about the three different warning levels.



VicEmergency app
emergency.vic.gov.au
1800 226 226



vicemergency



@vicemergency



2 Make an Emergency Plan

Use information from your Local Flood Guide and your Catchment Management Authority, to help you decide;

- What you will do in a flood emergency
- When you will do it
- Who you will inform



Red Cross RediPlan is a free tool that helps you create a simple emergency plan that supports the flood actions you have chosen.

- Visit redcross.org.au/prepare
- Download the [Get Prepared](#) app

3 Prepare an emergency kit



You may need to stay safe for 72 hours in a disaster before help arrives. Make sure you have safe drinking water, food, and any special needs or medications for all family.



There will be extra items to be added to your emergency kit in an emergency like clothes, a phone and charger.



Watch a video on how to get your Emergency kit ready.
youtu.be/XgyLnKDMkNo

4 Reduce impacts to your property

- ☐ Keep gutters and drains clear of debris including leaves and any other items.
- ☐ Check your building and contents insurance, what kind of flooding does it cover?
- ☐ Move your valuable possessions up high.
- ☐ Back up important files and documents to a cloud storage or USB kept elsewhere.
- ☐ Identify higher ground on or around your property, away from the danger area.
- ☐ Consider buying sand and sandbags ahead of time, refer to our Sandbag Guide for more information.

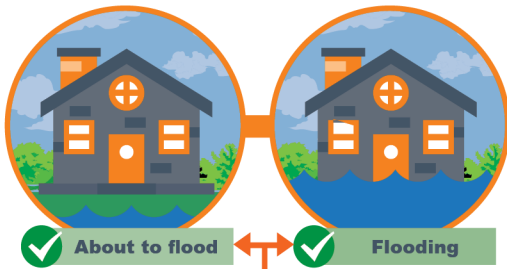


For more details and other tips, visit:
ses.vic.gov.au/flood



What to do in a flood emergency

When to call VICSES



Flood emergency assistance call VICSES 132 500



If life threatening call triple zero 000

Stay Informed

VicEmergency

Emergency warnings will provide information on what is happening and advice of what you should do.

You may not receive an official warning before a flood.



VicEmergency app
emergency.vic.gov.au
1800 226 226



vicemergency @vicemergency



■ Set-up a watch zone for alerts for your area.

Bureau of Meteorology



Monitor rainfall, river levels, weather forecasts/warnings.

bom.gov.au/vic/flood/corangamite.shtml

Emergency broadcasters



Radio | ABC 774 AM, Bay FM 93.9, K-Rock FM 95.5

TV | Sky News

If you expect floodwater at your property

1



Bag it

Sandbag doorways and low-lying windows to slow floodwater entering your home.

2



Block it

Block toilets, bath and drains using a sandbag ideally placed inside a plastic rubbish bag.

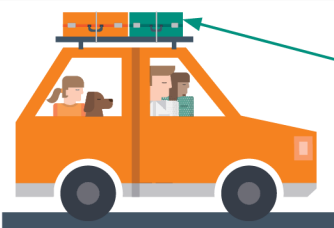
3



Lift it

Put your valuables and electrical items as high as possible. Turn off power, gas, and water at the mains.

4



Leave

- Leave **before** the flood arrives.
- Check warnings from VicEmergency for information like evacuation or relief centres, and road closures.
- Travel to the home of family or friends who are in a safe location, away from the flooded area.

Take your emergency kit and add the items below:



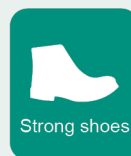
Phone & charger



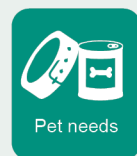
Prescriptions & medication



Clothes for your family



Strong shoes



Pet needs

Never drive through floodwater

Large



A Large 4WD can be moved by water only 45cm deep.

Small



A small car can be moved by water only 15cm deep.



For more details and other tips, visit:

ses.vic.gov.au/flood

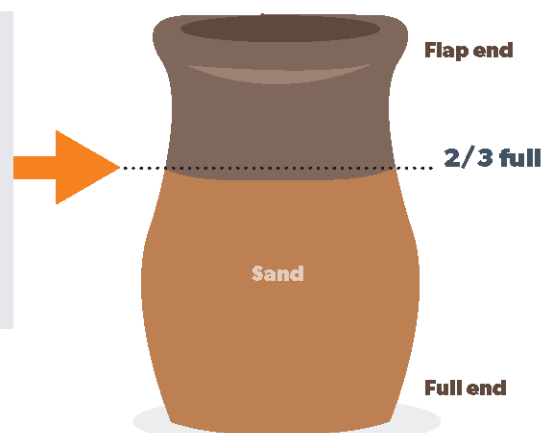
Sandbagging

Protecting your home

Sandbags won't stop the water completely, but can reduce the amount of water entering your home.

How do I fill a sandbag?

- Only use sand to fill hessian bags. Do not use dirt.
- Only fill sandbag two-thirds full.
- Do not over fill the sandbag as it will be too heavy to carry.
- Do not tie the top of the sandbag.
- Take care when filling and lifting the sandbag, to avoid injury.



How do I lay sandbags?

- Lay sandbags like brickwork. Stagger rows so that the joins do not line up.
- Start at one end and work to the other end.
- Ensure the unfilled part of the bag is covered by the next bag.
- Tuck flap under the bag at the end of the row.
- If the sandbag wall is going to be more than five (5) bags high, you will need to lay two (2) rows wide.



Where do I place the sandbags?

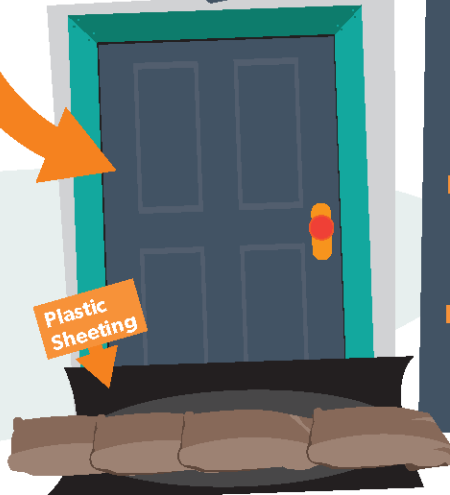
- Place sandbags in plastic bags to cover drainage holes in home (e.g. showers, toilets, sinks) to stop back flow of water.
- Place a small wall across doorways, at least the height of the expected water level. Be careful not to trap yourself inside.
- If available, plastic sheeting may be used under sandbags to reduce the seepage.

Block it

Toilets, bath and all drain holes



Plastic Sheetting



What do I do once I have finished with the sandbags?

- Sturdy gloves should be worn when handling wet sandbags as they can contain chemicals, waste and diseases.
- Sandbags that have been in contact with floodwater need to be thrown away.
- Contact your local council to find out how to dispose of your sandbags safely.



Sandbags and sand

Preparing your home

Having sandbag supplies ready can assist you before a flooding emergency occurs.



What supplies do I need to sandbag my home?

- Sandbags
- Sand
- Plastic sheeting
- Gloves and safety goggles
- Shovel or hand scoop

Where can I purchase these supplies?

- Many sandbag supplies can be purchased from hardware stores or garden centers.
- VICSES do not routinely supply sandbags to households.
- During floods, sandbag distribution points may be established in flood-affected areas.

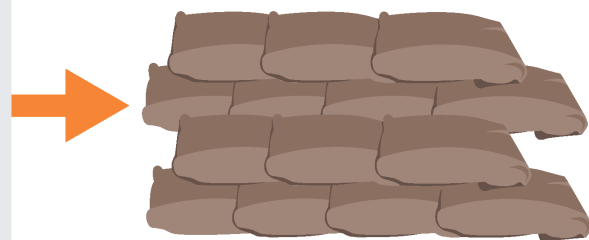


How many sandbags will I need and how much sand?

- Most homes can be protected by less than 25 sandbags.
- The number of sandbags will depend on your local flood risk and availability.
- Sandbags are filled 2/3 full which requires around 15-20kgs of sand per bag.

How do I store my sand and sandbags?

- Filled sandbags only have a short shelf life.
- It is recommended to store sandbags empty.
- Sandbags should be stored in a cool dry area away from UV light.
- Sand should be kept dry and can be stored in water-resistant containers or under a tarp.
- Sand is heavy - ensure it is stored so it can be moved safely.



When should I sandbag my home?

- **You** are best placed to decide if there is a need to sandbag your home, based on local knowledge and past flood events.
- Monitor your local conditions. Stay up-to-date with weather forecasts and warnings by downloading the **BOM Weather** and **VicEmergency** apps, or call the VicEmergency Hotline on 1800 226 226.
- If you think you are at risk, do not wait for an official warning to act.

