



Local Flood Guide Casterton



Flood information for the Glenelg River at Casterton



Floods 1906, Casterton

CASTERTON



Glenelg Hopkins



C M A

Protecting our future - Naturally



FLOOD STORM
EMERGENCY **132 500**

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

The Casterton local area

Casterton is located in South West Victoria approximately 40 kilometres from the South Australian border. Casterton was built on the banks of the Glenelg River which flows through the town from Dergholm towards Sandford. The Wando River flows into the Glenelg River upstream of Casterton near Dunrobin. The Chetwynd River flows into the Glenelg River near Chetwynd. The Casterton township is located just upstream of the Wannon River and Glenelg River Junction at Sandford.

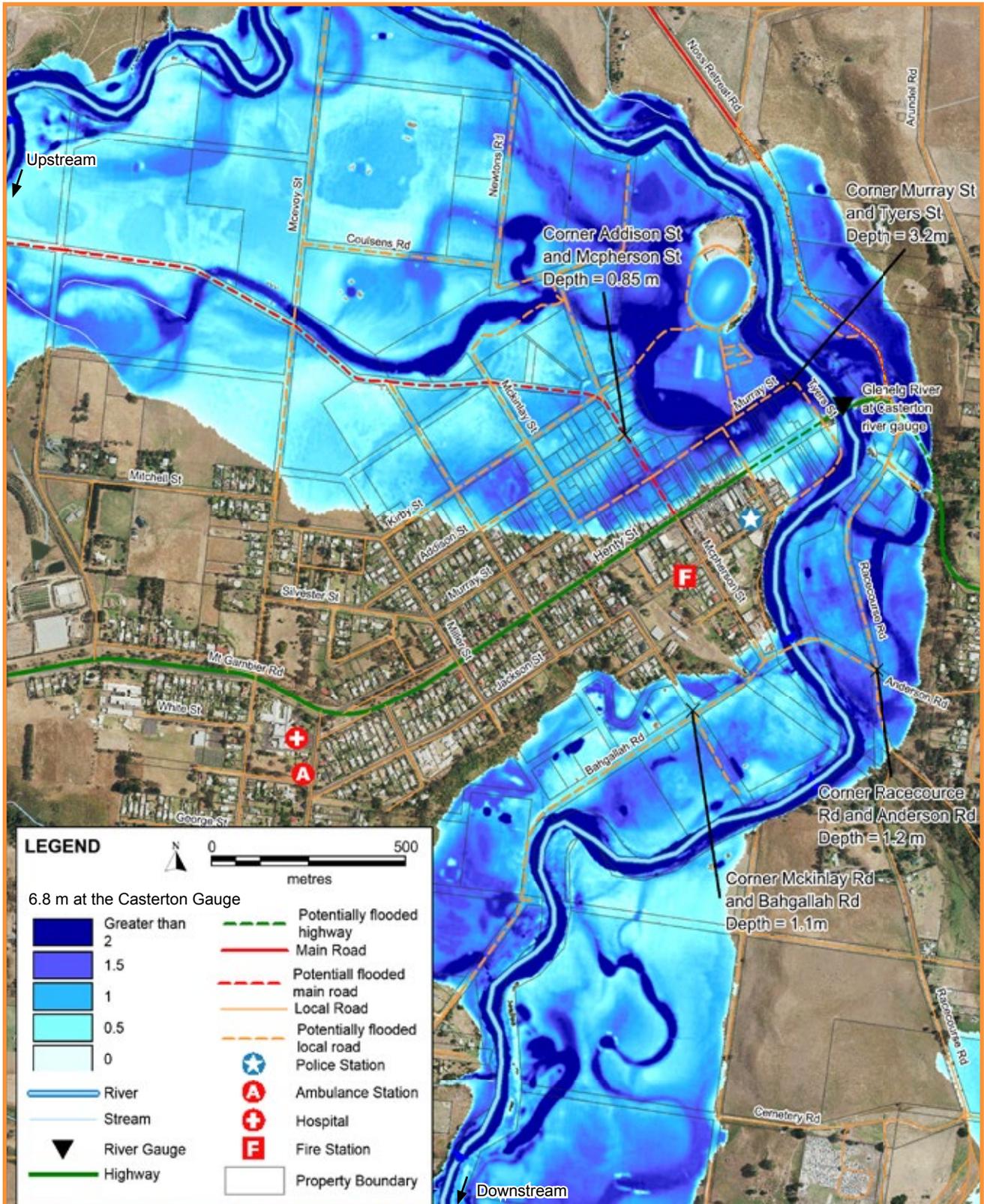
The map below shows the expected extent of flooding when the river reaches a height of 6.8 metres on the Casterton gauge (near the highway bridge). A flood of this size would be bigger than the 1946 flood. Flood events both smaller and larger than the flood shown below can occur.

Your local emergency broadcasters are:

- ABC Radio 94.1 FM
594 AM
- 3HA 981 AM
- Mixx FM 88.9 FM
- SKY NEWS Television

Glenelg Shire Council Contact details:

Phone: 1300 453 635
 Email: enquiry@glenelg.vic.gov.au
 Web: www.glenelg.vic.gov.au



Disclaimer

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Are you at risk of flood?

Large parts of the Casterton Township are situated on the Glenelg River floodplain. During flooding, roads in and around Casterton are affected by floodwater to significant depths. Flooding can also affect some properties and isolate many others.

Casterton can experience multiple flood peaks, where the river height peaks, then recedes, then peaks again. This is caused by rivers upstream of the town flowing into the Glenelg River at different times. The first peak is usually caused by the Wando River and can be expected to reach Casterton 4-12 hours after the river height has peaked at the Wando Vale Gauge. The second peak is usually higher and is caused by Glenelg and Chetwynd Rivers and can be expected in Casterton 18-36 hours after it has been shown on the Dergholm Gauge (44 kilometres) upstream of Casterton.

A study of the cause of flood levels at Casterton has shown that inflows from the Wannon River, 7 kilometres downstream of the town near Sandford have no significant influence on peak flood heights in Casterton.

Impacts of major floods in Casterton are likely to affect the town for a number of days after a major flood peak. This is because of water pooling in old river channels and billabongs that now only connect to the river during high river flows.

Did you know?

Casterton has a long history of flooding. Significant events have occurred in 1893, 1906, 1909, 1946, 1950, 1975, 1983, 1991, 1996, 2008, 2010 and 2011.

The 1906 flood is thought to be the largest flood in the town. There are no official records of this flood, only photographs. Local knowledge suggests that a much larger flood occurred in the early days of European settlement.

The 1946 flood is the largest on record and measured 6.45 metres on the Casterton Gauge. Casterton was severely affected and flooding lasted for a number of days. An article from the Argus newspaper indicated that over 200 people were evacuated from 70 flooded houses. It also states that all bridges were washed away at Casterton causing the town to become isolated.

Floods like this or worse will occur again some time in the future. It is also important to remember that no two floods are the same.

If you live close to a creek, river or in a low-lying area you may be at risk of flooding. Even if you are not directly affected, you may still need to detour around flooded areas.

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

Glenelg River flood levels at the Casterton gauge

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

6.80 m	Flood extent doesn't change significantly, but depth of flooding increases across the area. 80 properties now have over floor flooding. Extent shown map page 2.
6.60 m	Flood depths increase across the area. Floodwater now extends up Henty Street, closing the road. 70 properties now experience flooding over their floors.
6.45 m	1946 flood level.
6.40 m	The depth of floodwater increases significantly across the area. Casterton Naracoorte Road is now closed. 32 properties now have flooding over their floors.
6.30 m	August 1983 flood level.
6.19 m	August 1991 flood level.
6.08 m	1996 flood level.
	At major flood level, the spread of floodwater increases and fills the large floodplain to the north of town. Bahgallah Road, Racecourse Road, Murray Street and McPherson Street now closed. 12 properties have flooding over their floors.
6.00 m	MAJOR FLOOD LEVEL
5.70 m	Flood extent increases and low-lying area and vacant land is now inundated, with floodwater flowing up Murray Street and low-lying land near Racecourse Road affected.
5.30 m	Floodwater now fills old river channels and billabongs.
5.20 m	MODERATE FLOOD LEVEL
4.90 m	Floodwater starts to impact areas between the river and Racecourse Road. Water starts to affect near corner of Murray Street and Tyers Street.
4.45 m	September 1992 and June 2011 flood level.
3.80 m	MINOR FLOOD LEVEL. July 1995 flood level.

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 streets.
- Cover low-lying areas including riverside camping areas.
- Affect some low-lying caravan parks.
- 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 (VICSES) 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 Casterton community 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 Casterton

For the Glenelg 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 Glenelg River.

It is important to know how the predicted flood levels are likely to impact you as you may be affected before the peak, *see page 3: Glenelg River flood levels at the Casterton Gauge.*

Use this table to figure out when you need to start following your flood emergency plan.

NOW – before a flood

- Check if your home or business is subject to flooding. For more information, contact Glenelg Shire Council.
- 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, VICSES 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 VICSES 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 (VICSES) is a volunteer based emergency service. Although VICSES 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 VICSES 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 VICSES 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 VICSES 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 Glenelg 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
- 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

Glenelg Shire Council Contact Details

Phone: **1300 453 635**
Email: enquiries@glenelg.vic.gov.au
Web: glenelg.vic.gov.au

Weather District: South West

Catchment: Glenelg Hopkins
ghcma.vic.gov.au

Emergency Broadcasters

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

■ ABC Radio	94.1 FM
	594 AM
■ 3HA	981 AM
■ Mixx FM	88.9 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: _____