



Inverleigh Local Flood Guide

Flood information for the Leigh River at Inverleigh



Inverleigh, January 2011



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



GOLDEN PLAINS SHIRE



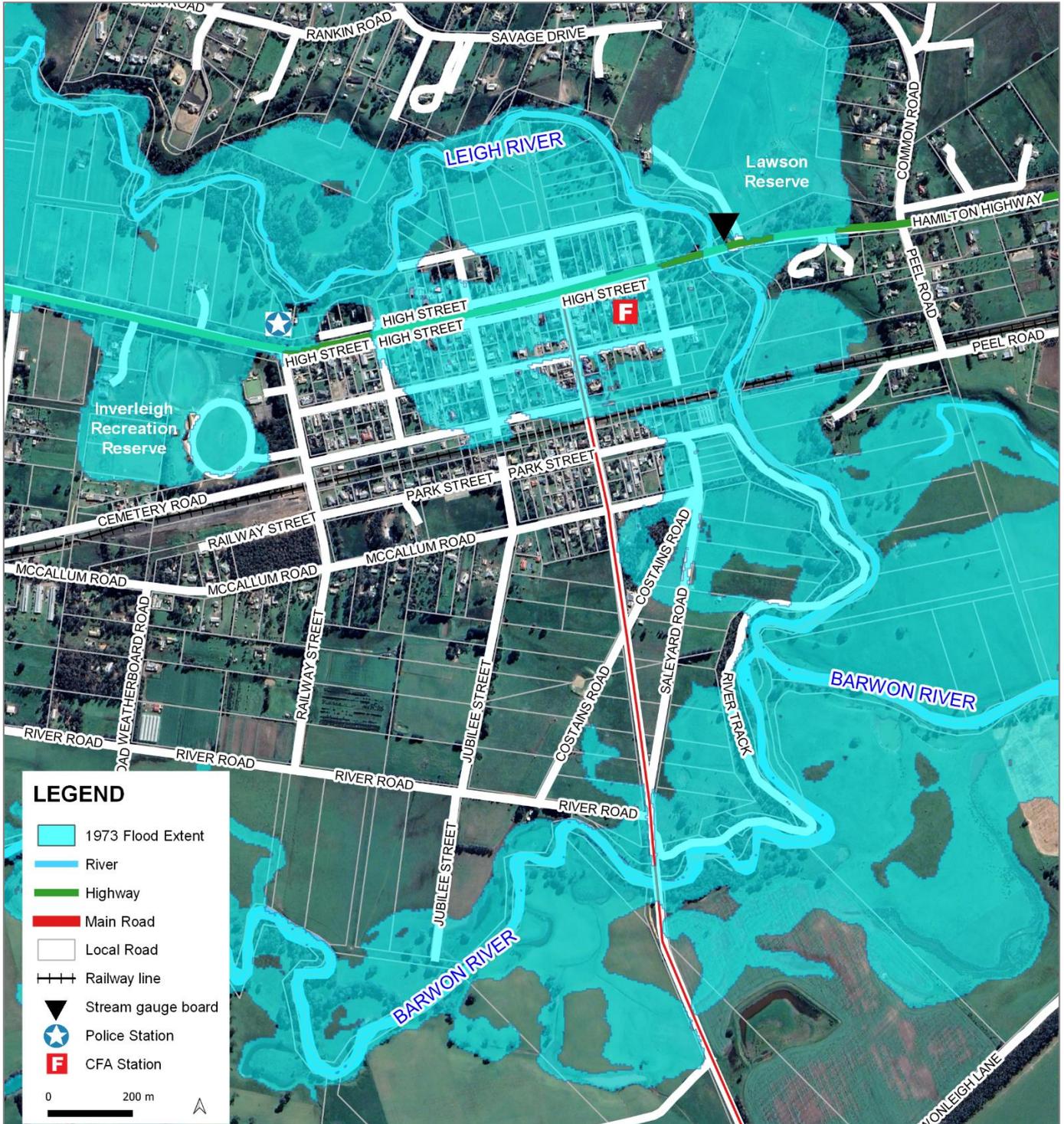
CORANGAMITE CMA





Inverleigh

Inverleigh is situated on a large flood plain at the junction of the Barwon and Leigh Rivers. The Leigh River begins in the forests to the north of Ballarat as the Yarrowee River and flows south to join with the Barwon River at Inverleigh. The Barwon River originates in the eastern Otway Ranges and flows through Winchelsea before reaching Inverleigh on its path to Geelong. The map below shows the potential impact of a flood reaching 6.0m at the Leigh River at Inverleigh gauge. This shows a Leigh River dominant flood, one of the most common to impact Inverleigh, however it is important to note that no two floods are the same, particularly for Inverleigh.



Disclaimer: this map publication is presented by Victoria State Emergency Service to disseminate information, the contents 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 Corangamite Catchment Management Authority.



Are you at risk of flood?



Flooding in Inverleigh can occur by riverine flooding from the Leigh River and/or the Barwon River. The majority of the township is affected by flooding from the Leigh River however if the peak water height in the Leigh and Barwon Rivers reach Inverleigh at the same time then Inverleigh township is likely to flood.

The Leigh River usually floods Inverleigh after long heavy rainfall in the area around Mt Mercer and Ballarat. Areas of Inverleigh that may be impacted when the Leigh River floods include Teesdale-Inverleigh Road, River Reserve (between town and junction of the rivers,) Federation Bridge, Dawber Road, Burkes Road, northern football ground, levee beside tennis courts, Inverleigh Primary School, Hamilton Highway (west of town,) Cambridge Street, High Street, Newman Street, East Street and Terrier Road.

Flooding of Inverleigh from the Barwon River is usually a result of long heavy rainfall in the Otway Ranges. When the Barwon River floods, rural residential properties on the southern side of Inverleigh are at risk of flooding. Areas of Inverleigh township that may also be impacted when Barwon River floods include Park and River Reserve, River Road, Inverleigh-Winchelsea Road, Costains Road, Rawson Road, East Street and McCallum Road.

No two floods are the same, floods like 1973 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.

Localised heavy rainfall around the township itself is likely to cause flash flooding but will generally cause only a minor water height rise in Leigh River and Barwon River levels.

Did you know?

The Inverleigh area has a long history of flooding with flood events recorded below;

- Leigh River dominant floods – 1973, October 1976, November 1978, January 2011, September 2016
- Barwon River dominant floods – August 1909, June 1952, October 1976, June 1978, November 1995

The largest flood in living memory for Inverleigh occurred in February 1973 when rainfall of 185mm fell in less than 48 hours at Ballarat Aerodrome. This caused great property damage along the length of the Leigh River. All Inverleigh shops and at least 50 homes in town experienced water above floor level.

Simultaneous flooding of the Leigh and Barwon Rivers in 1952 and 1978 resulted in large property damage through Inverleigh.

The September 2016 flood on the Leigh River recorded 4.31m at the Inverleigh gauge. The event followed two days of high rainfall recorded at Ballarat Aerodrome (17.2mm on 13 September and 54mm on 14 September). Ballarat and district also received high rainfall in the five days prior to the flood, producing ground conditions that were already saturated. The event resulted in:

- Rescue of two people from a car trapped in rising floodwater on the Teesdale-Inverleigh Road
- Minor inundation of Lawson's Reserve, parkland and gravel roads along Leigh River
- No houses experienced water above floor level



Leigh River flood levels at the Inverleigh Gauge

Bureau of Meteorology (BoM) issue Flood Warnings including a prediction of flood height and potential impacts for the Leigh River at Inverleigh stream gauge. The following table outlines historical and potential impacts in Inverleigh that may be experienced based on heights of the Leigh River.

Whilst there are no Flood Warnings for the Barwon River at Inverleigh stream gauge, community members are encouraged to use river height data available through the BoM website to understand what river conditions are at the Barwon River at Inverleigh gauge. For potential Barwon River impacts on Inverleigh visit ses.vic.gov.au and search for Golden Plains Local Flood Information page.

Barwon River at Inverleigh Stream Height (metres)	Flood Impact
	Leigh River at Mt Mercer (m) Height
	Height shown map page 2.
5.34m	February 1973 Flood level- highest and most damaging flood in living memory. All shops and at least 50 houses experienced water above floor level. Hamilton Highway closed west of Inverleigh.
4.21m	January 2011 flood level – Leigh river flooded; flood waters did not enter central Inverleigh (as Barwon River not in flood). Some outbuildings and sheds on properties along part of Cambridge Street experienced water up to 600mm deep.
4.00m	Major flood level Possible flooding in central and western Inverleigh depending on rainfall intensity between Mt Mercer and Inverleigh.
3.89m	November 1978 flood level Significant flooding and damage in Inverleigh. At least 30 buildings experience a degree of flooding.
3.77m	August 1965 flood level- Highway flooding west of Inverleigh. No buildings impacted in town.
3.00m	Moderate flood level No Flooding in Inverleigh township.
2.00m	Minor flood level Water remains in the river banks



The photograph below is a picture of the Inverleigh Garage, February 1973



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 774AM
 SKY NEWS Television
 95.5 K-Rock FM Geelong
 93.9 Bay 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
- Catchment Management Authority ccma.vic.gov.au/ (03) 5232 9100
- Golden Plains Shire Council goldenplains.vic.gov (03) 5220 7111
- 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

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 and warnings through 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 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.