



# Shelford Local Flood Guide

Flood information for the Leigh River at Inverleigh



Shelford, 2016 (source: J. Meyer)



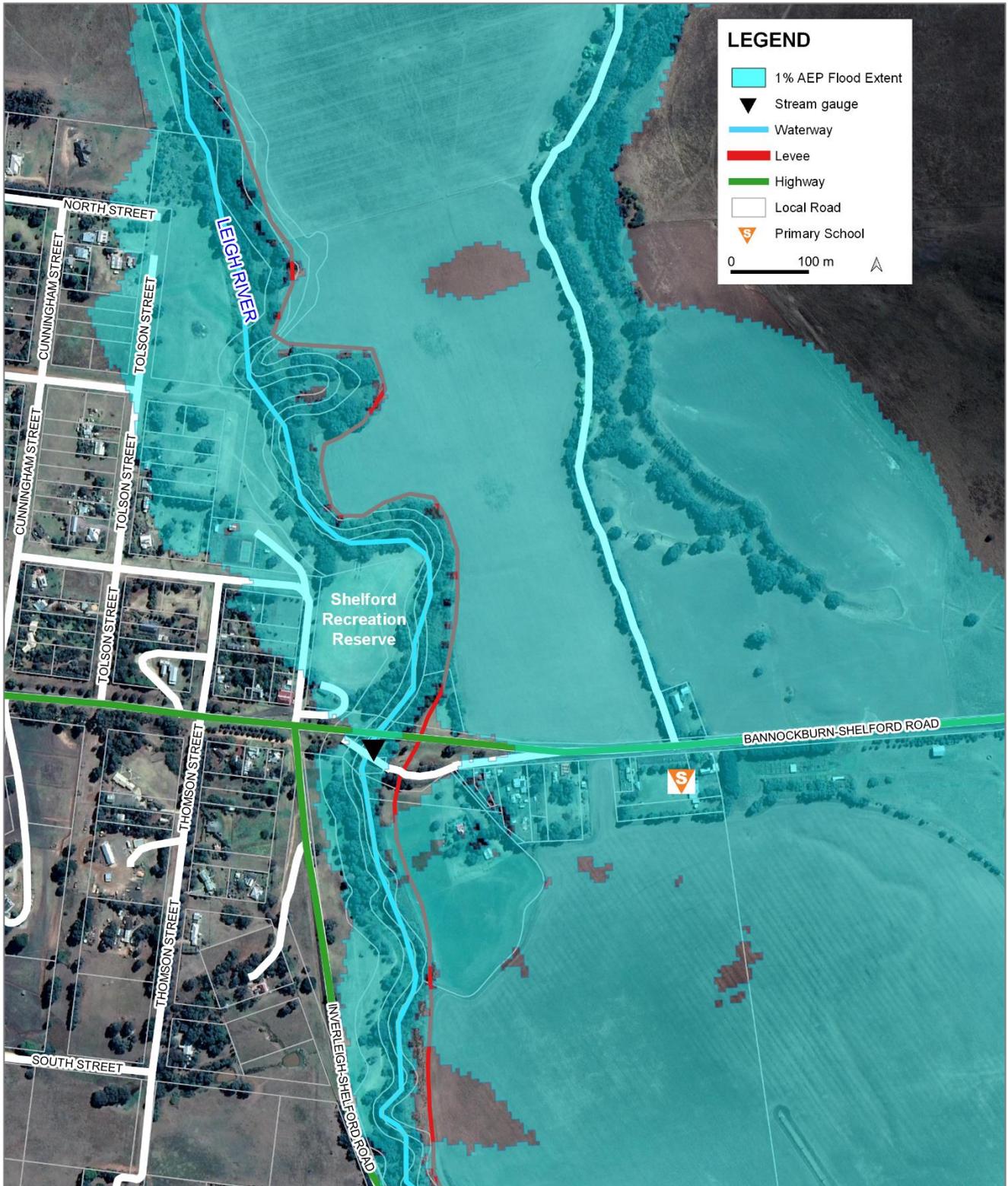
For flood emergency help call  
VICSES on **132 500**





### Shelford

The eastern outskirts of Shelford are located on the floodplain of the Leigh River. 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. Most of the Leigh River catchment is comprised of crop and pastureland so when soils are saturated, run-off from intense rainfall quickly flows into creeks and streams, leading to rapid flooding of the Leigh River floodplain. The map below shows the flood extent in Shelford when the Shelford stream gauge reaches a height of 8.45m, 1% AEP flood extent.



**Disclaimer:** this map publication is presented by Victoria State Emergency Service to disseminate information, the contents have 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?

As far back as the 1870's floods were a problem for Shelford, and in 1880 an embankment was constructed along the Leigh River to reduce flooding in Shelford.

The last two major Leigh River floods, in February 1973 and January 2011, flooded the Leigh floodplain on the eastern outskirts of Shelford resulting in the inundation of 8 houses, the school, the recreation reserve, and the Presbyterian Church. Two historic levees are located on the Leigh floodplain. The northern levee was constructed to protect Shelford properties to the east of the Leigh River. During major floods local observation indicates that floodwater quickly moves around this levee, leading to the flooding of properties on the east side of the river.

While no two floods are the same, floods like 2011 or worse will occur again. Even if your property is not affected by floodwater, you may be affected indirectly as roads may be closed and power and sewerage services may be disrupted.

## Did you know?

In January 2011, Shelford was affected by flooding when the Leigh River peaked at 7.90 metres at the town gauge resulting in:

- Water above floor level of several homes (3 of which are located on the steep escarpment slopes of town.)
- Water above floor level at the Shelford Cricket Clubrooms and Shelford Primary School.
- Water across the main road through Shelford.
- Rural properties surrounding the town impacted by floodwater



January 2011, Shelford (source: Bannockburn SES)



### Leigh River stream gauge at Shelford

When the Bureau of Meteorology (BoM) issues Flood Warnings they include a prediction of the stream gauge height at Mt Mercer and Shelford.

While no two floods are the same, the following table can give you an indication of what you could expect at certain flood heights, including when your access may be cut off and when your property may be affected..



**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.**

Leigh River at Shelford Height (metres)	Flood Impact
8.45	1% AEP flood extent, height shown map page 2.
8.00	Major flood level
7.90	January 2011 flood level. 8 properties, primary school and cricket clubrooms – above floor flood level. Significant impact to rural properties surrounding Shelford.
7.60	Hamilton Hwy east of Inverleigh – Shelford Road begins to flood.
7.40	November 1978 Flood
7.35	November 1995 Flood
7.20	Inverleigh – Shelford Road and Shelford-Bannockburn road closed by floodwater
7.00	Moderate flood level
6.00	Minor flood level
5.70	April 2001 Flood

### Annual Exceedance Probability

Flood risk is often described as a percentage based on the Annual Exceedance Probability (AEP). The AEP is a percentage chance of a flood occurring in any given year, for example, a 1% flood has a 1% chance of occurring in any given year.

This means that the higher the percentage, the more likely a flood of that size will occur in any given year. It also means that it has less impact than a lower percentage flood.



### Staying Informed and Further Information

- Current warnings (VicEmergency) [emergency.vic.gov.au](http://emergency.vic.gov.au) 1800 226 226
- Bureau of Meteorology (BoM) [bom.gov.au/vic/warnings](http://bom.gov.au/vic/warnings) 1300 659 217
- VicRoads Traffic [traffic.vicroads.vic.gov.au](http://traffic.vicroads.vic.gov.au)
- Emergency Broadcasters  
ABC Western Victoria 594AM  
ABC 774AM  
SKY NEWS Television  
95.5 K-Rock FM Geelong  
93.9 Bay FM
- VICSES Social Media [facebook.com/vicses](https://facebook.com/vicses)  
[twitter.com/vicsesnews](https://twitter.com/vicsesnews)
- Preparing for Flood Emergencies [ses.vic.gov.au/get-ready](http://ses.vic.gov.au/get-ready)
- Creating an Emergency Plan [redcross.org.au/prepare](http://redcross.org.au/prepare)
- Catchment Management Authority [ccma.vic.gov.au/](http://ccma.vic.gov.au/) (03) 5232 9100
- Golden Plains Shire Council [goldenplains.vic.gov](http://goldenplains.vic.gov) (03) 5220 7111
- National Relay Service NRS [relayservice.gov.au](http://relayservice.gov.au)

**Life-threatening  
Emergency  
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January 2011, Shelford Recreation Reserve (source: Shelford CFA)



# 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.

 <b>A Minor Flood Warning means floodwater can:</b>	 <b>A Moderate Flood Warning means floodwater can:</b>	 <b>A Major Flood Warning means floodwater can:</b>
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

	<p><b>EMERGENCY WARNING</b> You are in imminent danger and need to take action immediately. You will be impacted. A Major flood warning usually fits into this category.</p>
	<p><b>WARNING (WATCH AND ACT)</b> 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.</p>
	<p><b>ADVICE</b> 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.</p>

### ADDITIONAL MESSAGES

	<p><b>PREPARE TO EVACUATE/ EVACUATE NOW</b> An evacuation is recommended or procedures are in place to evacuate.</p>
	<p><b>COMMUNITY INFORMATION</b> 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.</p>
	<p><b>EMERGENCY ALERT</b> 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.</p>

## 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](http://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

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## 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.**