

Clunes Ford, 2011

Source: David Kinloch



Local Flood Guide

Clunes

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

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Victorian 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.

Content reviewed: August 2025



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

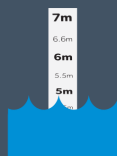


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Local flood information



There have been three significant flood events in Clunes between 1933 and 2011.



The largest flood on record was in 2011 when the floodwater reached 6.39 metres at Creswick Creek gauge.



Flooding can happen quickly after heavy rainfall, giving people little to no time to prepare and take action.

Why does Clunes flood?

Heavy rainfall can cause **flash flooding**. This can happen quickly and you may not receive an official warning. Although these floods only last short time, they can cause severe damage.

- Clunes is located along Creswick Creek, which can rise rapidly and overflow its banks.
- Clunes can also experience minor localised flash flooding from the smaller gullies and low-lying areas around the town.
- Stormwater drainage may not be able to drain the amount of rainfall, causing them to overflow.
- The earliest indicator of flooding in Clunes is when water breaks out of Creswick Creek moving towards Purcell Street.



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

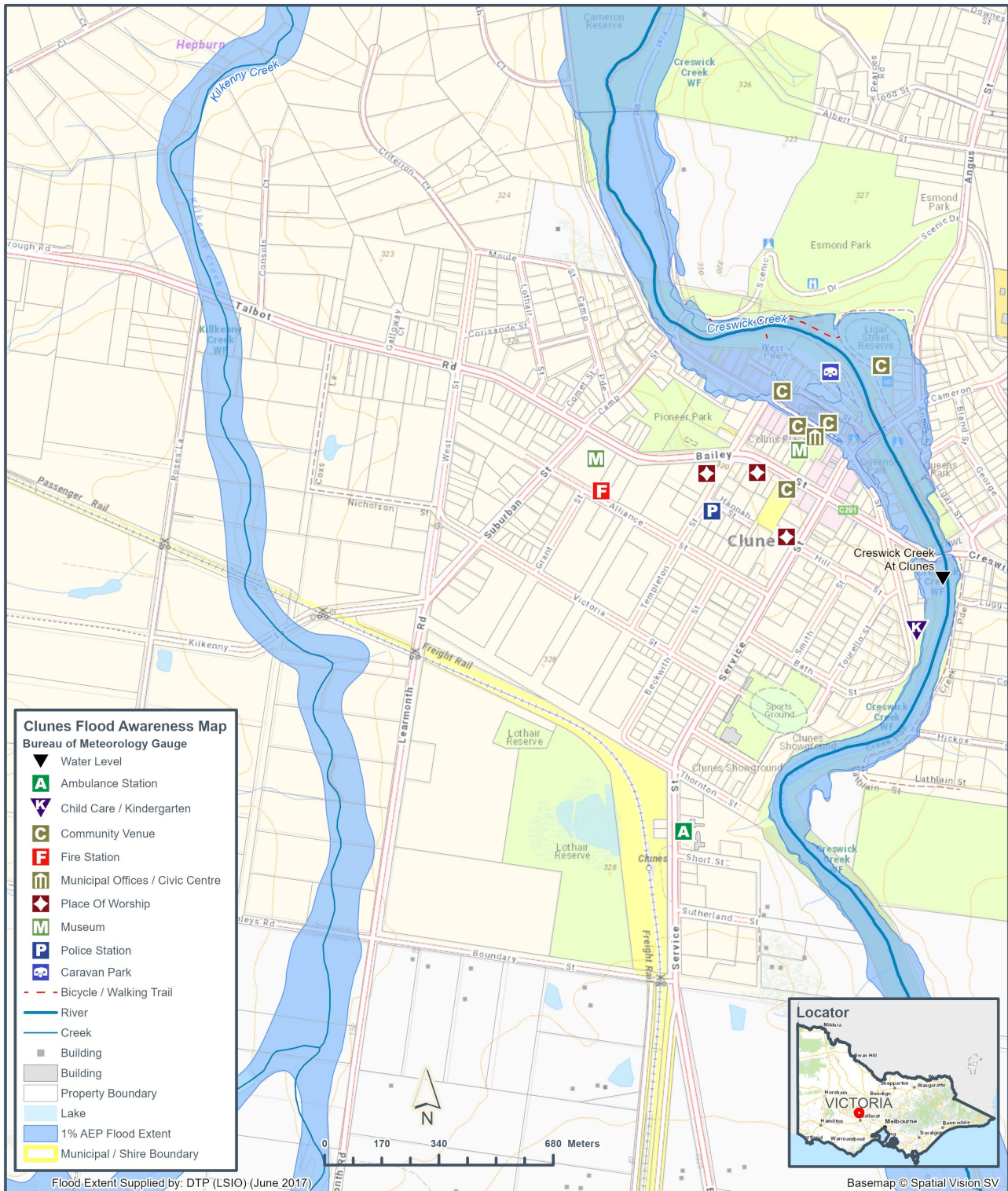
Check your home, work, and travel routes for floodwater

If this map shows potential flood risk for you, ensure you take action to **plan and prepare for floods**. See [page 8](#) for more information.

- This map shows the area likely to flood in a significant flood event.
- This is referred to as a 1% Annual Exceedance Probability (AEP), which means there is a 1% chance of this size flood (or greater) happening in any year.



View an interactive version of this map using North Central Catchment Management Authority's portal called [Flood Eye](#), see [page 7](#) for more 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.

- **Before a flood:** Use the floodwater heights in the table to help you decide when you will need to act to protect yourself and your property in a flood event.
- **During a flood:** Use the predicted floodwater height and any warning information to understand what the potential impacts may be for you and your community.



Floodwater height (metres)*	Potential impacts and previous flood events^
7.10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Water overtops in Fraser Street between Templeton and Service Street, flooding commercial shops and buildings. ■ An additional 18 properties (total of 70) are affected and up to 48 of these properties are flooded above floor.
6.67	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Properties along Fraser, Ligar and Purcell Streets, the caravan park and lower bowling green are flooded. ■ There are likely to be 52 properties affected, with 26 of these properties flooded above floor level.
6.39	<p>January 2011 flood event</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 200 millimetres of rain fell in four days. Slightly deeper water than September 2010 flood event, but same areas impacted. ■ Service Street Bridge was overtopped by water, bowling club flooded and water impacted the commercial buildings.
5.36	<p>September 2010 flood event</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 85.4 millimetres fell over two days. ■ Flooding impacted Purcell Street, the sports stadium, caravan park and many properties between the creek and Fraser Street.
4.48	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ At least 23 properties are impacted by widespread flooding downstream of Service Street including the old Butter Factory, football oval and swimming pool.
3.46	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Creswick Creek is at full capacity and close to breaking its banks.

*The height measurement is at the river level gauge is located on Creswick Creek near Bailey Street.

^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.

Previous flood impacts

While no two floods are the same, understanding the impacts of past floods can help you anticipate impacts of future flood events.

2010 flood event

- During this flood event in September 2010, 85.4 millimetres fell over two days.
- Flooding impacted Purcell Street, the sports stadium, caravan park and many properties between the creek and Fraser Street.

2011 flood event

Clunes was impacted in both September 2010 and January 2011, and while the two events flooded a similar area, the January 2011 event was recorded at 6.39 metres on the Creswick Creek at Clunes gauge, approximately 300 - 400 millimetres higher than the September 2010 flood.

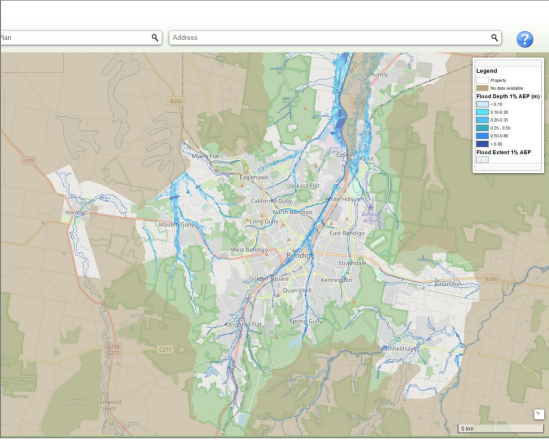
During the January 2011 flood event, 200 millimetres of rain fell over four days, causing:

- Drains along Service Street, Templeton Street, Fraser Street and Purcell Street to overtop.
- Flooding of the football oval and nearby properties.
- Flooding of low-lying properties near Camp Street and the site of the old Butter Factory at the start of Cameron Street.
- Floodwater breaking out of the creek bank at the caravan park, resulting in water flowing towards the Ballarat-Maryborough Road.
- Water to overtop Ligar Street, inundating the swimming pool, sports stadium and properties along the lower end of Fraser Street.
- Purcell Street creek side properties to be affected.
- The Service Street Bridge to overtop, inundating Service Street and part of the bowling club.
- Floodwater to extend to the southern side of Fraser Street between Templeton and Camp Streets, inundating commercial buildings.



Floodwater can be very deep, rise quickly and move fast.
Stay safe by avoiding flooded areas.

Download your free Property Flood Report



Flood Eye, developed by the North Central Catchment Management Authority, is a tool for residents and businesses to assess their flood risk.

- Use the portal to zoom in on your property and see if it's likely to be affected in a large flood event.
- Download a free property report for properties inside the mapped area.

Go to floodreports.nccma.vic.gov.au.



In a flood emergency, stay informed through [VicEmergency](#), see [page 9](#) for more information.

Your local services

Catchment Management Authority

For general advice about flooding and controls based on planning zones and overlays.

- North Central Catchment
Management Authority**
nccma.vic.gov.au | 03 5448 7124

Local Council

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

- Hepburn Shire Council**
hepburn.vic.gov.au | 03 5348 2306



2011

Source: Andrew Pickford

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.

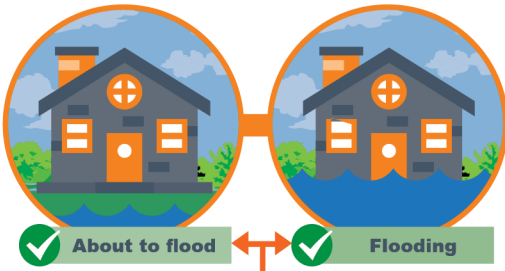


For more details and other tips, visit:
ses.vic.gov.au/flood



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/north_central.shtml

Emergency broadcasters



Radio | ABC 774AM or 107.9FM, Voice FM 99.9FM

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.

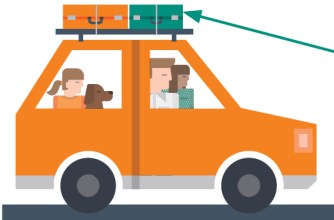
3



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:

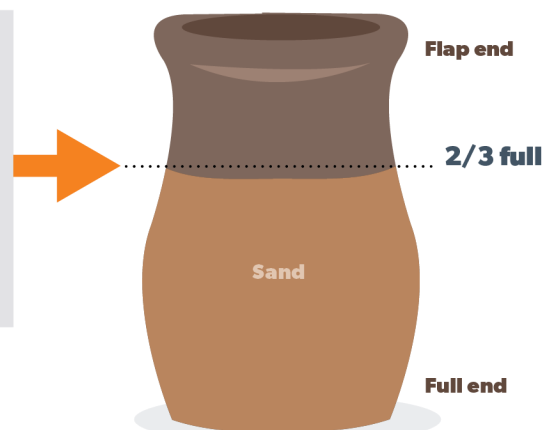
ses.vic.gov.au/flood

Sandbagging

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

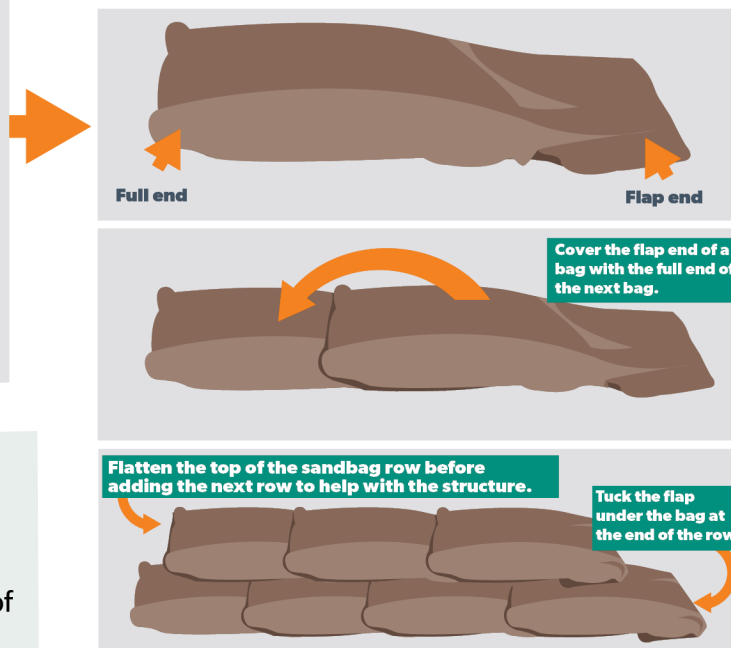
How do I fill a sandbag?

- 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.

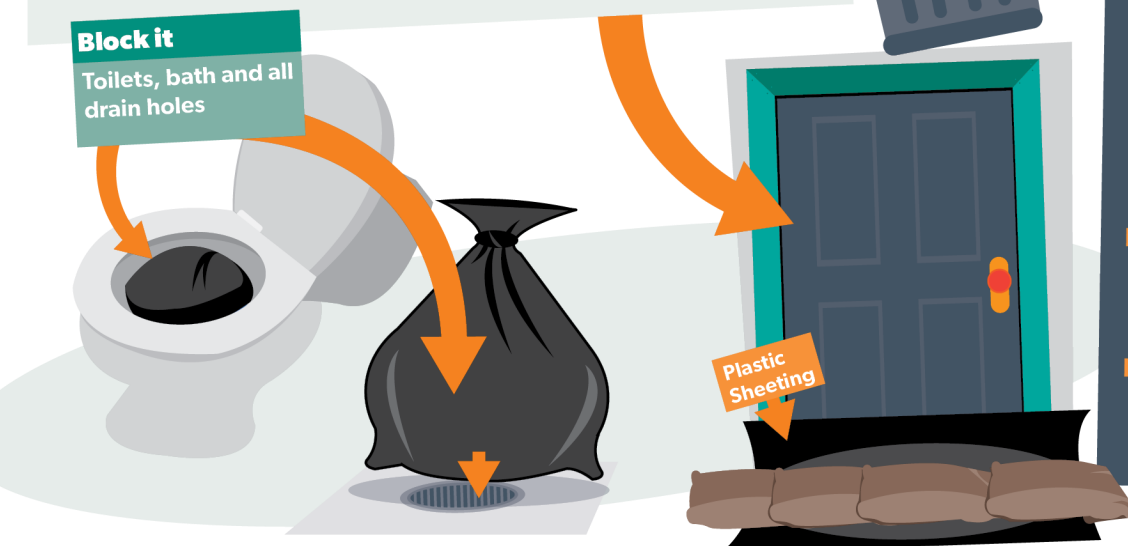


Where do I place the sandbags?

- 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



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.

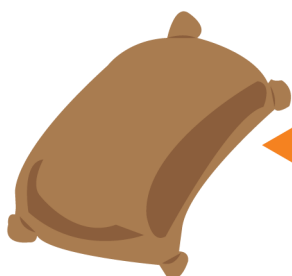


What supplies do I need to sandbag my home?

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

Where can I purchase these supplies?

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

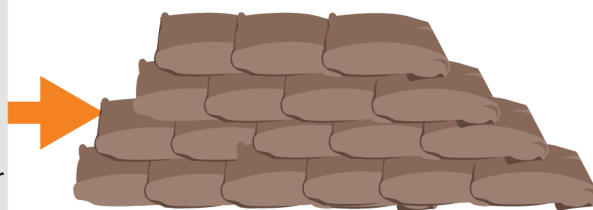


How many sandbags will I need and how much sand?

- 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.