



Local Flood Guide

Traralgon

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.

Cover: Princes Highway bridge over Traralgon Creek. June 2016.

Content reviewed: June 2026.



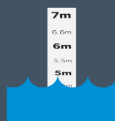
For more information visit: ses.vic.gov.au/plan-and-stay-safe



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Traralgon has experienced major flooding in 2022, 2021, 2012, 2011, 1995, 1993 and 1978.



The largest flood on record was in 2021 when the floodwater reached 5.78 metres at Traralgon Creek at Traralgon gauge.



Flooding can happen within hours, giving people little to no time to prepare and take action.

Why does Traralgon flood?

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

Flash flooding

This type of flooding can happen quickly and you may not receive an official warning. Although these floods only last for a short time, they can cause severe damage.

- Traralgon Creek may quickly rise, causing water to rise and overflow its banks.
- Stormwater drainage may not be able to drain the amount of rainfall, causing them to overflow.
- The ground may be unable to absorb the amount of rainfall naturally causing the water to pool. More buildings and less green spaces can impact this.

Riverine flooding

This happens when the Traralgon Creek rises and overflows it's banks, and spills water onto land. This can occur in as little as 6-8 hours of heavy rainfall.

- Traralgon is built around the Traralgon Creek and parts of the town are on the floodplain, the naturally low-lying areas that are more likely to be impacted in a flood.
- Rainfall from as far away as Mount Tassie and Strzelecki Ranges can end up flowing into the Traralgon Creek potentially causing, or adding to flooding.

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 13](#) for more information.

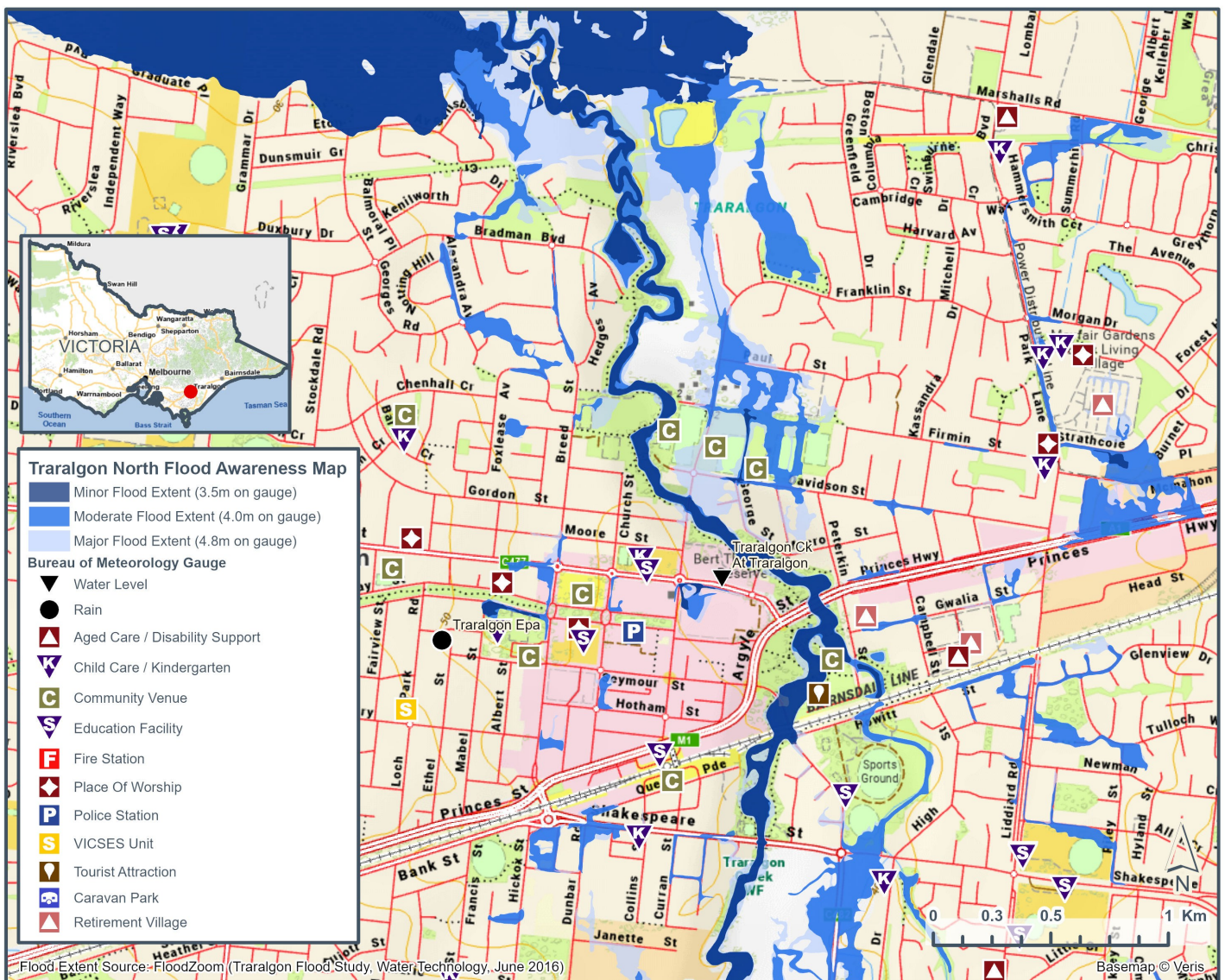
This map shows the area likely to flood in a:

- **major** (4.8 metres),
- **moderate** (4.0 metres) and
- **minor** (3.5 metres) flood,

based on the height of floodwater at the [Traralgon Creek at Traralgon Town](#) gauge.



View an interactive map to assess your flood risk using West Gippsland Catchment Management Authority's [Community Flood Portal](#), see [page 12](#) for more information.



Receive real-time alerts for local conditions at [Latrobe Valley Information Network](#) (LVIN). See page 12 for more information.

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 13](#) for more information.

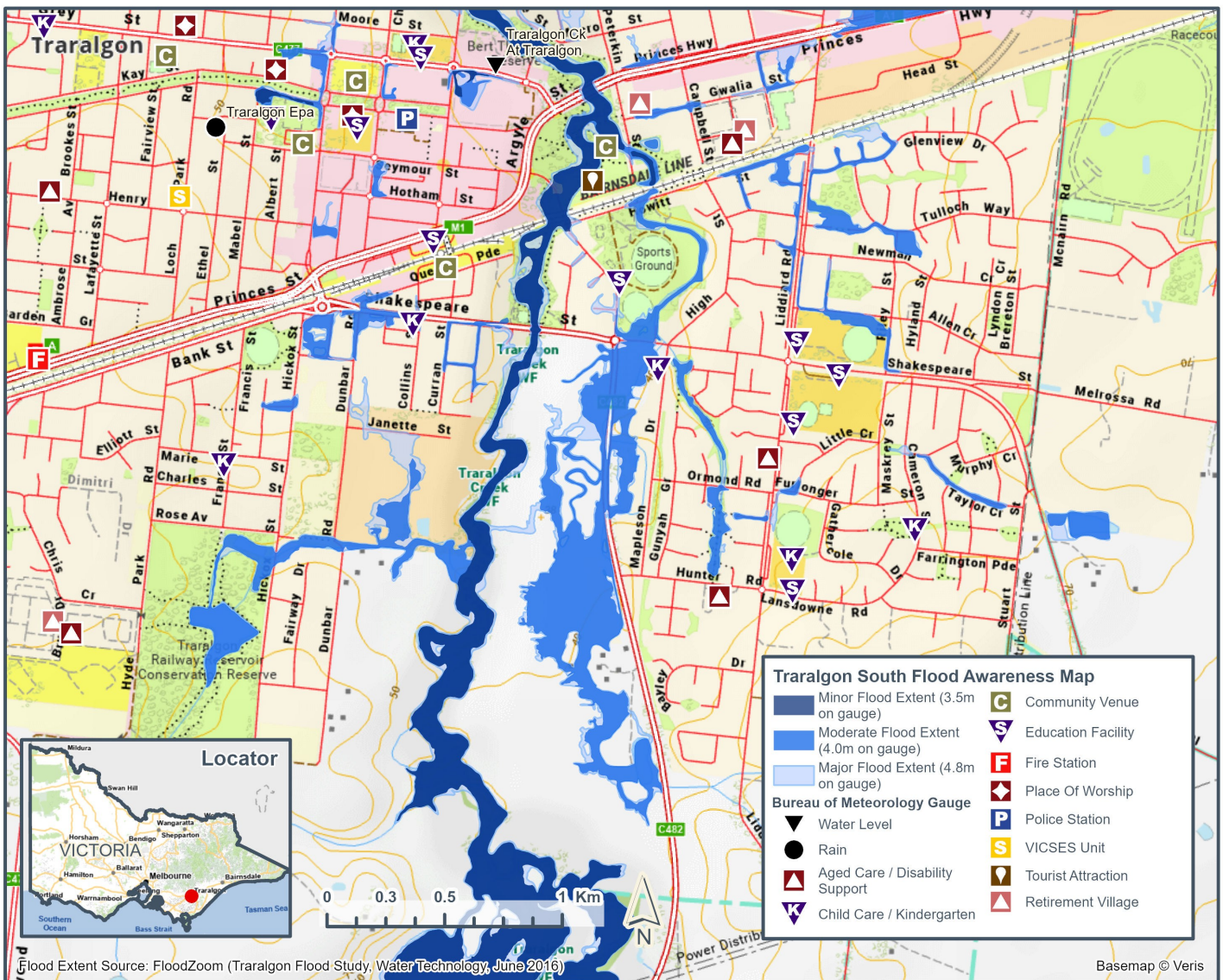
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What might happen during a Minor flood in your area?

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

- **Before a flood:** Use the floodwater heights section 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:** When a warning is issued by [VicEmergency](#), use the predicted floodwater height and warning information to understand what the potential impacts may be for you and your community.

Floodwater height (metres)*	Potential impacts
3.5m	Minor flood level Low lying areas of some properties in the following streets may be affected by floodwater, and roads may be closed: ■ Whittakers Road at the railway bridge is closed due to flood water. ■ Davidson Street ■ Graduate Place ■ Grammar Drive ■ Riverslea Boulevard ■ Salisbury Crescent ■ St Georges Road ■ Whittakers Road ■ Willow Court Areas mentioned below will experience floodwater expanding across a further area and rising, possibly affecting homes, businesses and travel routes. Low lying areas including walking tracks and parks at the following may be affected by floodwater: ■ Victory Park ■ Newman Park ■ Eric Taylor Reserve ■ Bert Thomson Reserve ■ Agnes Brereton Park ■ Traralgon Skate Bowl ■ Harold Preston Park
3.4m	Low-lying areas of some properties in the following streets may be affected by floodwater, and roads may be closed: ■ Earl Court ■ Eton Avenue Traralgon Creek starts to flood the surrounding low-lying floodplain.

The height measurement is at the [Traralgon Creek at Traralgon Town](#) gauge.

What might happen during a Moderate 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 a Moderate flood height.

Floodwater height (metres)*	Potential impacts		
4.0m	Moderate flood level		
	Low lying areas of some properties in the following streets may be affected by floodwater, and roads may be closed:		
	■ Princes Highway between Liddiard Road and Wren Street. ■ Shakespeare Street at Traralgon Creek Road, Queens Parade and Morrison Street. ■ Traralgon Creek Road between Shakespeare Street and Hunter Street.		
	■ Alexandra Avenue ■ Amy Court ■ Bradman Boulevard ■ Campbell Street ■ Collins Street ■ Daniel Court ■ Elisa Terrace ■ Grey Street ■ Hawksburn Road ■ Jazmine Court ■ Liddiard Road ■ Mapleson Drive ■ McMahon Street ■ Nixon Court ■ Park Lane ■ Princes Highway ■ Riley Street ■ Skipton Court ■ Strathcole Road ■ Tavel Close ■ Trivalve Court ■ Wood Court	■ Allard Street ■ Bourke Street ■ Breed Street ■ Church Street ■ Cooper Street ■ Delta Court ■ Furlonger Street ■ Hammersmith Circuit ■ Hickox Street ■ Kay Street ■ Little Crescent ■ Marion Court ■ Morgan Drive ■ Notting Hill ■ Paul Street ■ Regency Street ■ Roberts Street ■ Smith Court ■ Summerhill Road ■ Taylor Crescent ■ Tulloch Way ■ Wotan Court	■ Allen Crescent ■ Bowral Way ■ Breedon Street ■ Cobbledick Court ■ Curran Street ■ Dunbar Road ■ Glenview Drive ■ Harney Place ■ Howitt Street ■ King Street ■ Mabel Street ■ Marshalls Road ■ Morrison Street ■ Ormond Road ■ Peterkin Street ■ Riggall Road ■ Shakespeare Street ■ St Georges Road ■ Tanjil Street ■ Traralgon Creek Road ■ Vine Street ■ Wren Street

Areas mentioned on [page 6](#) may experience floodwater expanding across a further area and rising, possibly affecting homes, businesses and travel routes.

Traralgon Centre Plaza and carpark is closed due to flood water.

Traralgon Recreation Reserve will be affected by floodwater.

What might happen during a Major 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 flood heights up to a Major.

Floodwater height (metres)*	Potential impacts and previous flood events^
4.8m	Major flood level Low lying areas of some properties in the following streets may be affected by floodwater, and roads may be closed: ■ Berry Street ■ Cameron Street ■ Fleet Street ■ Gordon Street ■ Janette Street ■ Milton Court ■ Moonabeal Court ■ Moore Street ■ Munro Street ■ Oxford Place ■ Queens Parade ■ Tennyson Street ■ Thomas Street ■ Trafalgar Square Areas mentioned below and on page 6 & page 7 will experience floodwater expanding across a further area and rising, affecting homes and businesses.
4.32m	June, 2013 flood event Residents received door knocking and warning to evacuate. 6 people were relocated, some properties isolated due to roads flooding. Low lying areas of some properties in the following streets may be affected by floodwater, and roads may be closed: Princes Highway (Argyle Street) between Liddiard Road and Wren Street. ■ Atherley Close ■ Bond Street ■ Coventry Street ■ Esler Street ■ Euston Road ■ Northumberland ■ Oxford Street ■ Pall Mall ■ Park Lane ■ Pentonville ■ Phelan Street ■ Piccadilly Road ■ Regent Street ■ The Angel Islington ■ The Strand ■ White Chapel Road ■ Whitehall Areas mentioned on page 6 & page 7 will experience floodwater expanding across a further area and rising, possibly affecting homes, businesses and travel routes. Traralgon Tennis Centre and may be affected by floodwater.

The height measurement is at the [Traralgon Creek at Traralgon Town](#) gauge.

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

What might happen during a flood above a Major level 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 flood heights above a Major flood height.

Floodwater height (metres)*	Potential impacts and previous flood events^
6.0m	1% Annual Exceedance Probability (AEP), There is a 1% chance of this size flood (or greater) happening in any year.
	Low lying areas of some properties in the following streets may be affected by floodwater, and roads may be closed:
	■ Princes Highway service roads between Traralgon-Maffra Road and Grey Street.
5.99m	■ Blair Athol Drive ■ Central Park Avenue ■ Craighburn Place ■ Hedges Avenue ■ High Street ■ Newman Crescent ■ Thexton Street Areas mentioned below and on page 6 , page 7 & page 8 may experience floodwater expanding across a further area and rising, possibly affecting homes, businesses and travel routes.
5.78m	June, 2021 flood event , see page 11 for more information.
	Low lying areas of some properties in the following streets may be affected by floodwater, and roads may be closed:
	■ Princes Highway (Argyle Street) between Post Office Place and Peterkin Street.
5.59m	■ George Albert Drive ■ Grant Court ■ Macquarie Place ■ Maskrey Road ■ Old Kent Road ■ Windsor Court Areas mentioned on page 6 , page 7 & page 8 may experience floodwater expanding across a further area and rising, possibly affecting homes, businesses and travel routes.
5.30m	June, 2012 flood event. More than 100 people were evacuated, 45 homes were flooded and more than 100 roads were closed in the Gippsland area including Princes Highway between Traralgon and Rosedale.
4.90m [#]	September, 1993 flood event. [#] height of previous flood gauge adjusted to current gauge height. 24 homes and 3 public buildings were flooded above flood level, and an additional 99 properties, farm land and recreational areas were flooded below flood level. Damage was estimated at \$770, 000.

The height measurement is at the [Traralgon Creek at Traralgon Town](#) gauge.

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

What roads are likely to flood?

During a flood, roads may flood and could be closed.

For current road closures, check [VicTraffic](#). [VicEmergency](#) may include road closures in its warnings, see [page 13](#) for more information.

Flash Flooding in Traralgon

The areas most likely to experience flash flooding are:

- Areas close to the Traralgon Creek and other waterways.
- Areas south east of the township including Princes Highway and Liddiard Road areas.
- Stormwater drains and low lying areas throughout Traralgon.

Flash flooding is extremely dangerous and can occur after just minutes of very heavy rainfall. The floodwater can rise quickly and the current may be strong and moving fast.

Flash flooding at Traralgon can appear in areas where ground cannot absorb the amount of rainfall or where drains are unable to move the water. Flash flooding can also occur when the Traralgon Creek rises quickly due to heavy rainfall.

Flash floods are generally defined as developing in six hours or less from rainfall to onset of flooding. Intense rainfall is associated with slow moving thunderstorms, and it can be challenging to provide an early and detailed emergency warning for flash flooding.



Image: Shakespeare Street, Traralgon. June, 2012. Penny Stephens

Severe Weather Warnings and Severe Thunderstorm Warnings

The Bureau Of Meteorology issues both Severe Thunderstorm Warnings and Severe Weather Warnings and both can identify a risk of heavy rainfall or flash flooding. These warnings are the earliest notification a community will receive that flash flooding may occur in their area.



You can check weather warnings at [Bureau Of Meteorology](#) website, by downloading the BOM app or by calling 1300 659 210. See [page 13](#) for more information.

Flash Flood Warnings

Flash flooding is challenging to predict. Victoria State Emergency Service uses VicEmergency to send emergency warnings about flash flooding. An emergency warning is usually issued after receiving reports from the public or emergency service workers who observe the flooding.



FLOOD STORM
EMERGENCY **132 500**



Stay informed of emergency warnings through [VicEmergency](#) website, by downloading the VicEmergency app or calling 1800 226 226. See [page 13](#) for more formation.

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.

June 2021 Flood Event



**5.77
Metres[^]**



**280mm
rainfall^{*}**



**333
properties
damaged**



**35
rescues**



Traralgon Plaza, June 2021. Source: AAP

[^]Traralgon Creek @ Traralgon gauge.

^{*}Rain gauge @ Mount Tassie.

During a severe storm starting on 9 June 2021, Traralgon Creek catchment received more than 380mm of rain in 24 hours causing flash flooding throughout the Traralgon township.

On 10 June 2021, floodwater rose quickly from 1.55m, to 5.77m in only 4 hours, leaving little time for residents and businesses to prepare or evacuate before the floodwater reached the peak height at 9:00am.

Victoria State Emergency Service responded to more than 240 requests for assistance in the Traralgon area, including 35 rescues by boat and helicopter for people who had become trapped by floodwater in vehicles and homes.

The Princes Highway at Traralgon and other highways and roads were closed and there was widespread power and telecommunication outages through Gippsland. The railway between Bairnsdale and Traralgon was also suspended.

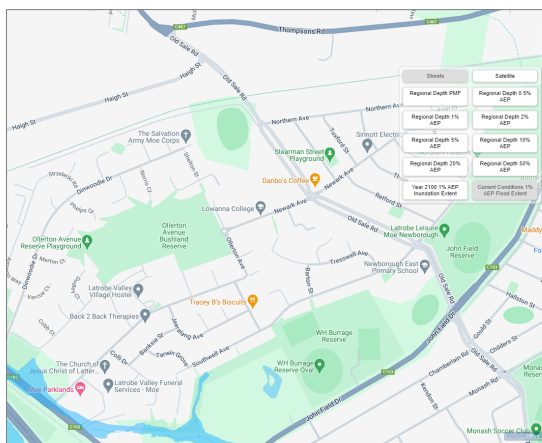
At least 33 homes were flooded above floor level, and major damage was caused to property, livestock, vehicles, homes, businesses, farmland, parks and community assets, and infrastructure.

The damage from the storm and flood event was estimated at \$6.8 million for Latrobe City Council area.



Traralgon Recreation Reserve and Showgrounds, June 2021. Source: Blake Bourne

View flood information for your property



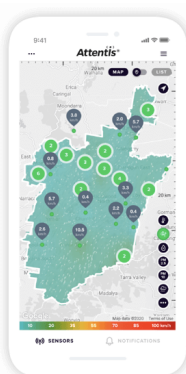
The [Community Flood Portal](#), developed by the West Gippsland Catchment Management Authority, is a tool for residents and businesses to assess their flood risk.

- Use the portal to zoom in on your property and see if it's likely to be affected in a large flood event.

Go to flood.wgcm.vic.gov.au.



Subscribe to your Local Information Network



The [Latrobe Valley Information Network](#) (LVIN) is a private network developed as a tool for the community to understand current local conditions in real-time.

- Register for a free account and set-up an alert for your location.

Go to lvn.org.



In a flood emergency, stay informed through [VicEmergency](#), see [page 13](#) for more information.

Your local services

Catchment Management Authority

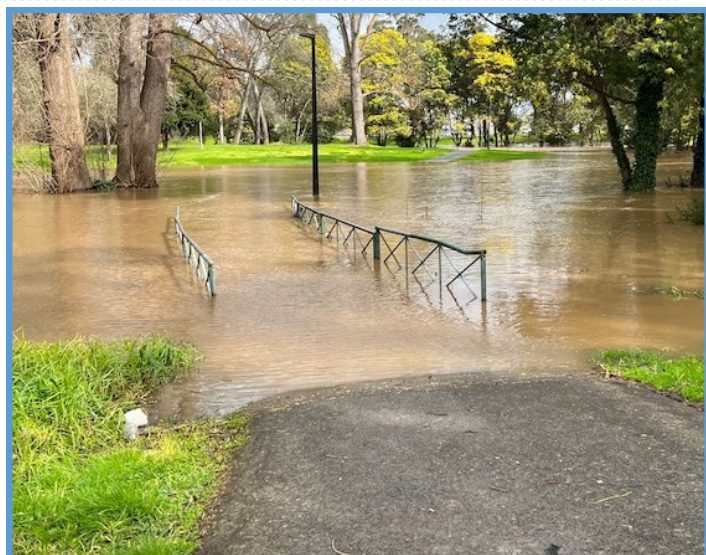
For flood advice and information on flood levels or depths when developing your property.

- **West Gippsland Catchment Management Authority**
wgcm.vic.gov.au | 03 5175 7800

Local Council

For relief and recovery support after a flood event.

- **Latrobe City Council**
latrobe.vic.gov.au | 1300 367 700



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

Stay safe by avoiding flooded areas.

Image: Victory Park at Traralgon. August 2022.
ABC Gippsland: Kerrin Thomas

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.

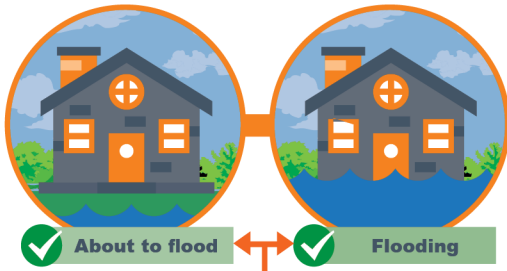


For more details and other tips, visit:
ses.vic.gov.au/flood



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/west_gippsland.shtml

Emergency broadcasters



Radio | ABC Local 100.7 FM, 774 AM and 828 AM

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.

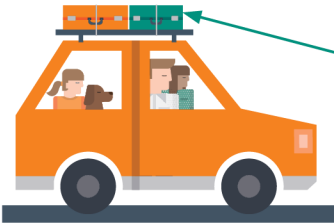
3



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:

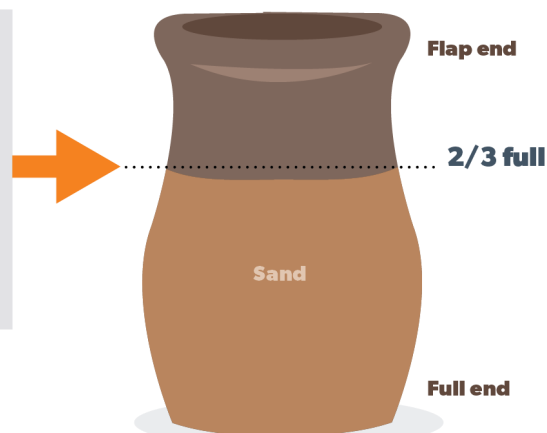
ses.vic.gov.au/flood

Sandbagging

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

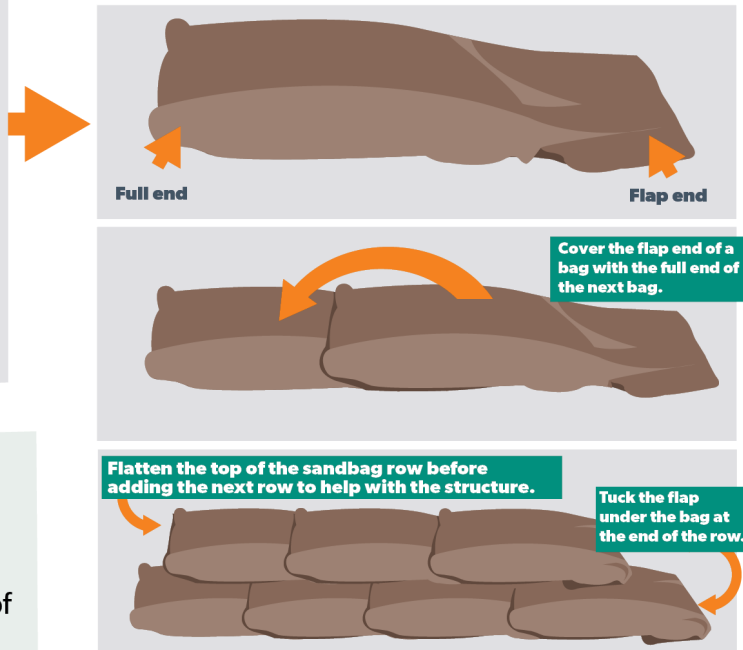
How do I fill a sandbag?

- 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?

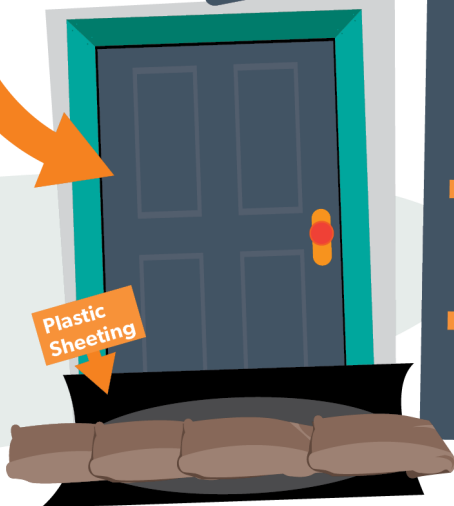
- Place sandbags in plastic bags to cover drainage holes in home (e.g. showers, toilets, sinks) to stop back flow of water.
- Place a small wall across doorways, at least the height of the expected water level. Be careful not to trap yourself inside.
- If available, plastic sheeting may be used under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

Block it

Toilets, bath and all drain holes



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.

Preparing your home

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

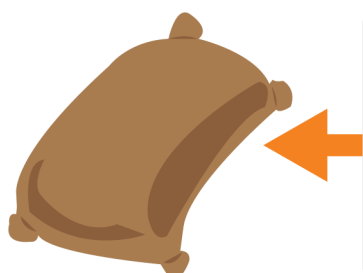


What supplies do I need to sandbag my home?

- 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.

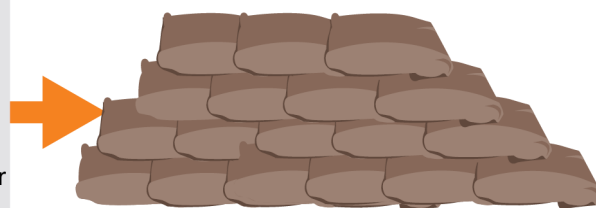


How many sandbags will I need and how much sand?

- 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.

