



Local Flood Guide

Bacchus Marsh

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 Image Source: Bacchus Marsh Facebook Page

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

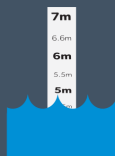


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Local flood information



There have been 11 significant flood events in Bacchus Marsh between 1983 and 2011.



The largest flood on record was in 1891 when the floodwater reached 5.75m at the Bacchus Marsh gauge.



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

Why does Bacchus Marsh flood?

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

Riverine flooding

This happens when the Werribee River rises and overflows it's banks, and spills water onto land. The most common cause is prolonged heavy rainfall.

- Bacchus Marsh is built around the Werribee River, and parts of the town are on the floodplain, the naturally low-lying areas more likely to be impacted in a flood.
- If the Lerderderg River floods at the same time as the Werribee River, then flood heights and impacts in Bacchus Marsh will be much greater.
- Overflow water from the Pykes Creek Reservoir, upstream of Bacchus Marsh, can end up flowing into the Werribee River potentially causing, or adding to flooding.

Flash flooding

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

- Flash flooding in Bacchus Marsh typically affects urban areas in Bacchus Marsh, Darly and Maddingley.
- Stormwater drainage may not be able to drain the amount of rainfall, causing them to overflow.

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

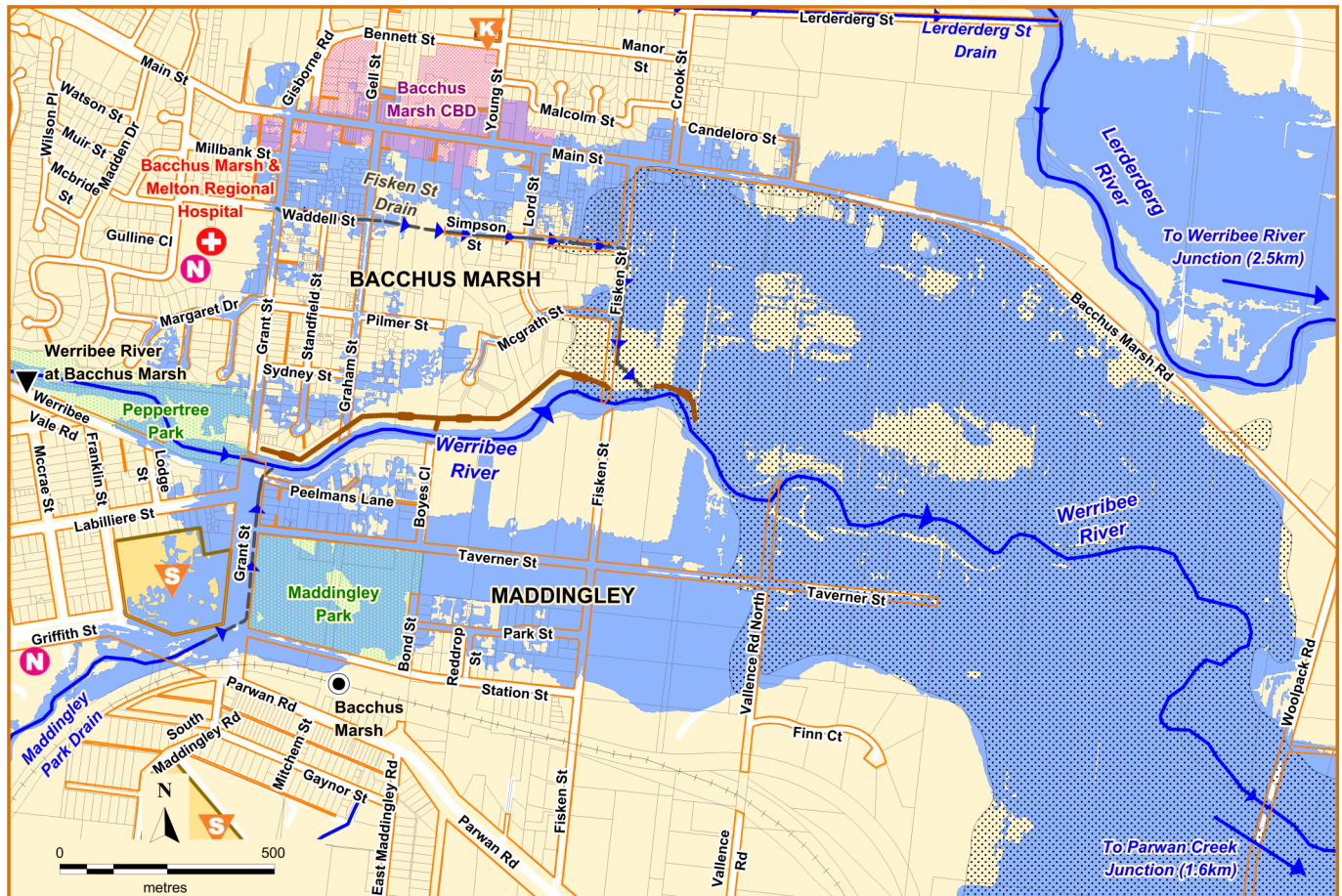


Sewage overflows inside building

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 major (5.60 metres) flood, based on the height of floodwater at the Bacchus Marsh gauge at the Werribee River.
- This map also shows the area flooded in the November 1995 flood event which measured 5.19 metres high at the Bacchus Marsh gauge at the Werribee River. This floodwater height is 0.41 metres below the major flood level. See [page 5](#) for more information.



**Bacchus Marsh Township
Major Flood Level
& November 1995
Flood Map**

	Central Business District		Major Flood Extent		Nursing Home / Aged Care		Levee
	Area of Interest		Nov 1995 Flood Extent		School / College		
	River / Creek		Water Level Gauge		Kindergarten / Child Care		
	Melbourne Water Stormwater Drain		Hospital		Flow Direction		



Stay safe by never driving through floodwater. It can take just 15cm of flowing water to float a car, that's the height of an average pen.

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:** 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 and previous flood events^
5.75	1891 flood level.
5.60	Major flood level (height shown on map, see page 4)
5.60	At major flood level, the Werribee River breaks its bank at Grant Street and flows into the Bacchus Marsh CBD.
5.20	Moderate flood level
5.20	At moderate flood level, the Werribee River will break its southern bank at Grant Street, resulting in a significant overland flow through residential, commercial and farming areas.
5.19	November 1995 flood level (height shown on map, see page 4) - Werribee River broke its bank, also local flooding in the Parwan Creek.
4.40	Minor flood level
4.40	At minor flood level, water breaks the banks of the Werribee River to the
3.70	Grant Street is likely to be impacted by floodwater.
3.35	October 1983 flood level—flooding occurred along both the Werribee and Lerderderg Rivers.
3.28	September 1993 flood level.
2.85	Water across some roads is likely at this level.

*The height measurement is at the Bacchus Marsh gauge at the Werribee River.

^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.

1995 flood event

- During this **riverine flood** event the Werribee River broke its banks and floodwater impacted Fiskin Street, Grant Street and Woolpack Road. This flood occurred when very heavy rain fell on a saturated catchment.
- After this flood event, a levee was constructed on the north side of the Werribee River, which now extends from upstream of Grant Street to Fiskin Street.

2011 flood event

Bacchus Marsh was impacted by **flash flooding** five times in 2010-2011 (February, March, and September 2010 and January and February 2011) following local heavy rain.

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

- Five homes inundated by floodwater.
- Businesses flooded (including Bed & Breakfast venues, takeaway shops and supermarkets).
- Damage to roads, bridges, sporting facilities and Council buildings.
- Crop losses and damage to market gardens.

What roads are likely to flood?

During a flood, the roads listed below may flood and could be closed.

For current road closures, check [VicTraffic](#). [VicEmergency](#) may include road closures in its warnings, see [page 9](#) for more information.

Bacchus Marsh

- | | | |
|----------------------|------------------|------------------|
| ■ Bacchus Marsh Road | ■ Clifton Drive | ■ Dickson Street |
| ■ Hartley Court | ■ Simpson Street | ■ Young Street |

Darley

- | | | |
|-----------------|------------------|----------------|
| ■ Albert Street | ■ Augusta Street | ■ Cairns Drive |
| ■ Darke Court | ■ Gisborne Road | ■ Halletts Way |
| ■ Hanson Street | ■ McLeod Drive | |

Maddingley

- | | | |
|------------------|----------------------|------------------|
| ■ Grant Street | ■ Griffith Street | ■ Station Street |
| ■ Tavener Street | ■ Werribee Vale Road | |

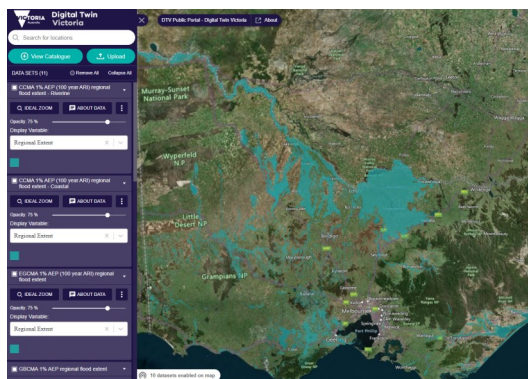
Merrimu

- | | |
|-------------------|--------------|
| ■ Lerderderg Park | ■ Wells Road |
|-------------------|--------------|



Stay safe by never driving through flood water. It can take just 15cm of flowing water to float a car, that's the height of an average pen.

View the interactive flood map on Digital Twin Victoria (DTV)



The [Digital Twin Victoria Public Portal](https://digitaltwin.vic.gov.au) brings together 2D, 3D and live data in a single online place for everyone to use. The portal hosts some flood mapping data.

- Use the map to zoom in on where you live, work and travel to see if it's likely to be affected in a flood event.

Go to digitaltwin.vic.gov.au



In a flood emergency, stay informed through [VicEmergency](https://vicemergency.vic.gov.au), see [page 9](#) for more information.

Your local services

Catchment Management Authority

For general advice about flooding and controls on planning scheme amendments.

- **Melbourne Water**
melbournewater.com.au | 13 17 22

Local Council

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

- **Moorabool Shire Council**
moorabool.vic.gov.au | 03 5366 7100



Werribee River gauge at Peppertree Park

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

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.

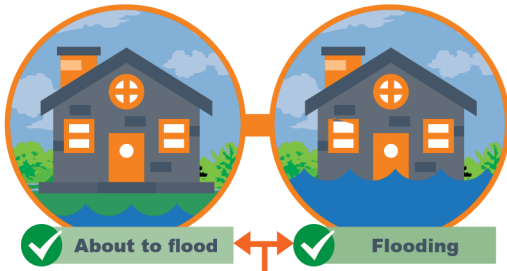


For more details and other tips, visit:
ses.vic.gov.au/flood



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/melbourne.shtml

Emergency broadcasters



Radio | ABC 774 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.

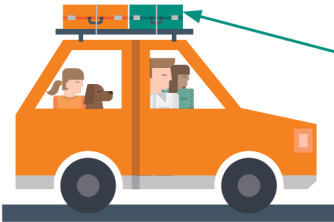
3



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

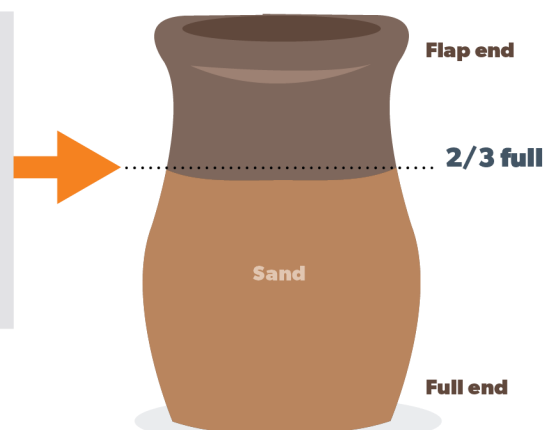


Sandbagging

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

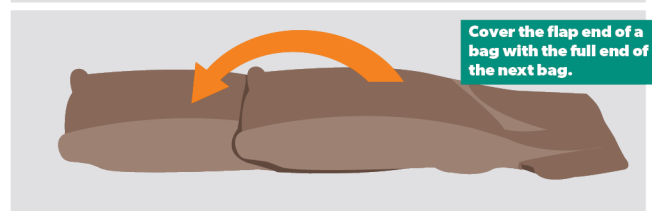
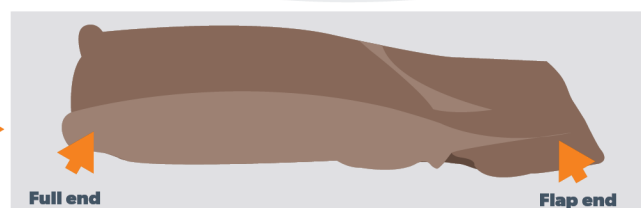
How do I fill a sandbag?

- 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?

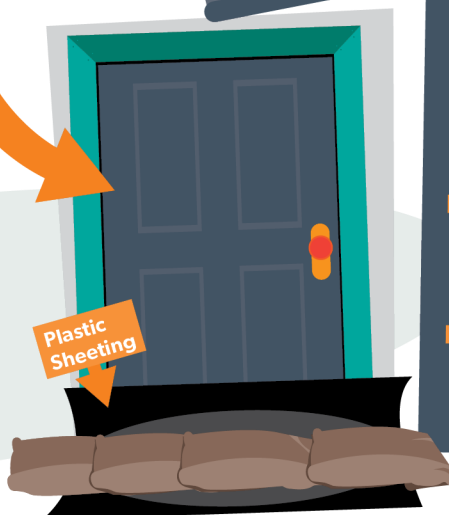
- Place sandbags in plastic bags to cover drainage holes in home (e.g. showers, toilets, sinks) to stop back flow of water.
- Place a small wall across doorways, at least the height of the expected water level. Be careful not to trap yourself inside.
- If available, plastic sheeting may be used under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



Sandbags and sand

Preparing your home

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

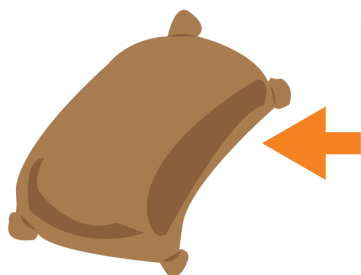


What supplies do I need to sandbag my home?

- 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.

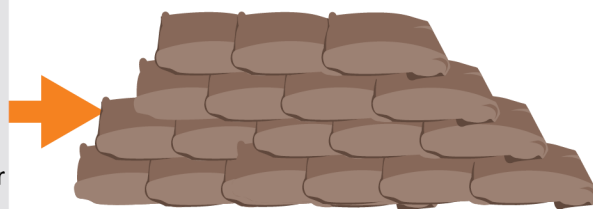


How many sandbags will I need and how much sand?

- 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.

