

Coburg Lake Reserve, 2022



Local Flood Guide

Merri-bek

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



FLOOD STORM
EMERGENCY **132 500**



If life threatening
call triple zero 000

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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.

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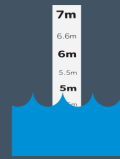

For more information visit: ses.vic.gov.au/plan-and-stay-safe



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Local flood information

	<p>Due to the urbanisation of parts of Merri-bek, rainfall is not easily absorbed into the ground which can lead to flash flooding.</p>		<p>Although flooding in Merri-bek only lasts a short time, these floods can cause severe damage.</p>		<p>Flooding can happen quickly after heavy rainfall, giving people little to no time to prepare and take action.</p>
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Why does Merri-bek 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.

- Stormwater drains may be unable to drain the amount of water, causing them to overflow.
- Merri-bek is bordered by the Moonee Ponds Creek to the west, the Merri Creek to the east, Park Street to the south and the Western Ring Road to the north.
- Merri Creek, Merlynston Creek, Edgars Creek and Moonee Ponds Creek (Yarra Catchment) make up the majority of the waterways within the municipality.
- Prolonged rainfall events can affect areas along Merri Creek.



How do floods impact communities?

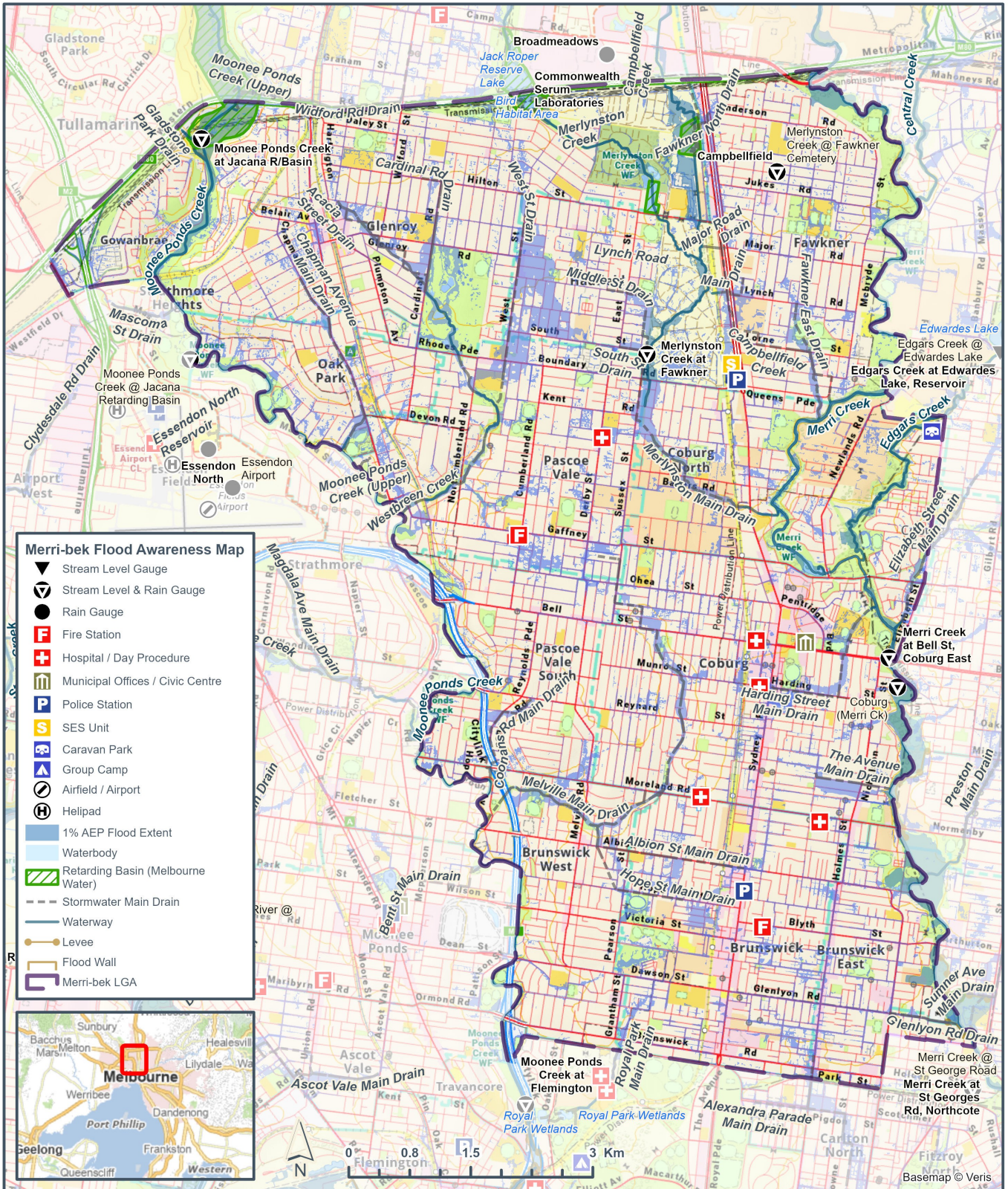
Even if your home or workplace stays dry, floods can impact you in many ways.

					
<p>Buildings flooded</p>	<p>Road closures</p>	<p>Drinking water supply and quality affected</p>	<p>Power outages</p>	<p>Mobile and internet network outage</p>	<p>Sewage overflows inside building</p>

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.



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)*	How likely is this flood to happen and potential impacts^
3.13m	<p>1% AEP (or greater) chance in any year</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 149 residential properties in Coburg North and Pascoe Vale along Merlynston Main Drain are at risk of flooding. <p>Streets at risk of water over the road greater than 30cm deep (in addition to roads already listed for the 20% and 5 % flood levels):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 69 Roads in Coburg, Pascoe Vale South, Brunswick West, Brunswick East & Brunswick.
2.79m	<p>5% flood level</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 86 residential properties in Coburg North and Pascoe Vale are at risk of flooding. <p>Streets at risk of water over the road greater than 30 cm deep (in addition to roads already listed for the 20% flood level):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 44 Roads in Coburg, Pascoe Vale South, Brunswick West, Brunswick East & Brunswick.
2.26m	<p>20% flood level</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 42 residential properties in Glenroy, Pascoe Vale, Oak Park, Fawkner, Hadfield, Coburg North and Coburg. <p>Streets at risk of water over the road greater than 30 cm depth.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 20 Roads in Coburg, Pascoe Vale South, Brunswick West, Brunswick East & Brunswick.

*The height measurement is at the Fawkner Gauge at Sussex Street.

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

What might happen in a flood in your area?

Although every flood is different and conditions can change, the information below provides an indication of what may occur during floods of different sizes.



Minor impacts

- Water spilling over river banks and nearby low lying areas.
- Water coming up through drains in nearby streets.
- Water will cover minor paths, tracks, and low level bridges.
- Some backyards and buildings impacted below floor level.



Moderate impacts

- Water spilling over riverbanks and covering large areas of land.
- Water above floor level in some houses and buildings.
- Evacuation may be required in some areas.
- Impact to roads and traffic routes.



Major impacts

- Widespread flooding.
- Many houses and businesses are inundated above floor level.
- Properties and whole areas may be isolated.
- Major roads and rail routes closed.
- Many evacuations required.
- Impact to utility services (water, power, sewerage).



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.

2013 flood event

Saturday 1st June 2013 was the wettest June day in Melbourne on record. The Merri Creek catchment received rainfall above 57 millimetres from 9:00am Friday 31st May to 11:00am in Saturday 1st June.

2022 flood event

The Merri Creek broke its banks and moved out onto flood plains as a result of heavy rains in October 2022.

- The Bureau of Meteorology said 39 millimetres of rain fell into the Merri Creek catchment and within hours the impact began being felt in the creek itself.
- It peaked at Coburg at 3.7 metres.



Footbridge over Merri Creek to Coburg Swimming Pool, June 2013)

Your local services

Catchment Management Authority

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

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

Local Council

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

- **Merri-bek City Council**
merri-bek.vic.gov.au | 03 9240 1111



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.

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

 Power bank	 Radio	 Drinking water
 Spare batteries	 Documents & records	 First aid kit
 Long life food	 Torch	 Gloves

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.

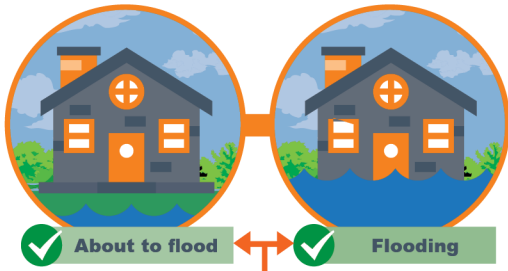



For more details and other tips, visit:
ses.vic.gov.au/flood



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, 3AW 693 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.

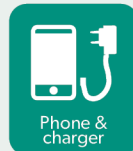


3 Lift it
Put your valuables and electrical items as high as possible. Turn off power, gas, and water at the mains.



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:



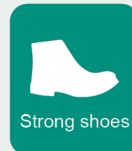
Phone & charger



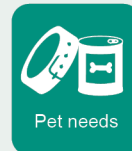
Prescriptions & medication



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

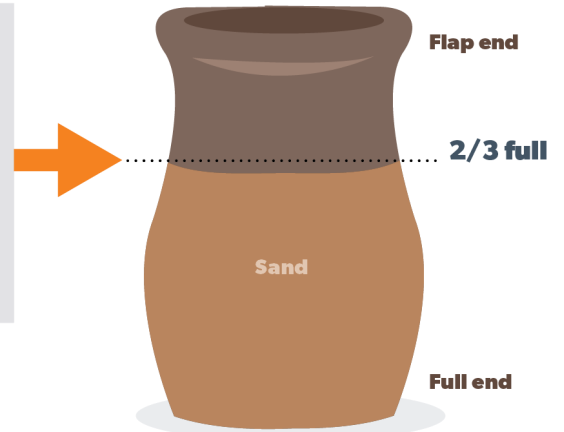


Sandbagging

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

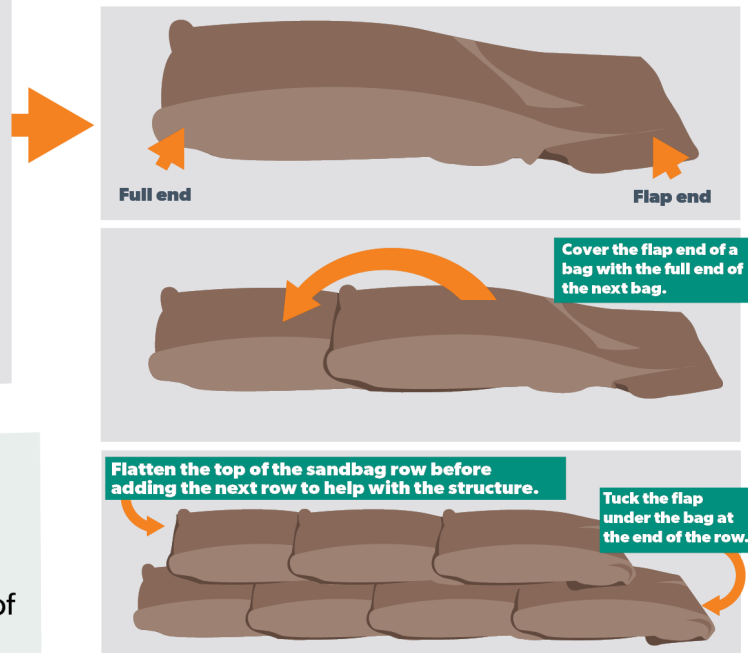
How do I fill a sandbag?

- 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.

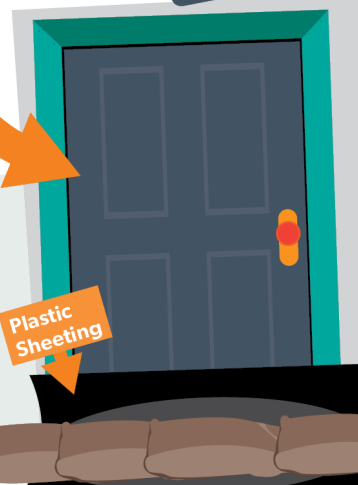


Where do I place the sandbags?

- 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



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.

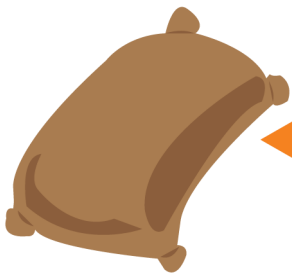


What supplies do I need to sandbag my home?

- 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.

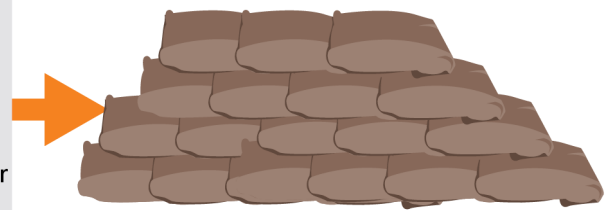


How many sandbags will I need and how much sand?

- 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.