



Baringhup

Local Flood Guide

Riverine information for the Loddon River at Baringhup



For flood emergency assistance call
VICSES on 132 500





Baringhup

Baringhup has a population of just over 200 people and is located in the Mount Alexander shire. Its most prominent geographical features are the Loddon River and the Cairn Curran Reservoir.

Cairn Curran Reservoir is a major gated spillway storage dam located to the south of and immediately upstream of the town. It was constructed to supply water for irrigation and domestic and stock use to customers along the Loddon River.



Given Baringhup is located immediately downstream of the Cairn Curran Reservoir, this storage has a significant impact on the likelihood of flooding in Baringhup.

The Loddon River catchment covers the western section of the Mount Alexander shire with the Loddon River beginning in the ranges to the west of Trentham and travelling north through the communities of Vaughan, Guildford and Newstead before entering Cairn Curran Reservoir. After leaving the reservoir at Baringhup the Loddon River flows north west out of the Shire and on towards the Murray.

The township is located along the banks of the river and was first known as Bryant's crossing, but in the early 1860s the name Baringhup was adopted, thought to be derived from an Aboriginal word meaning a place for drinking water. Most of the Loddon catchment is located on the traditional land of the Dja Dja Wurrung Aboriginal nation. Baringhup has a general store, a caravan park and a primary school.

The Loddon River at Cairn Curran D/S gauge is used to monitor river levels on the Loddon River and how they might impact flooding at Baringhup. A major flood measures 4.00 meters on the Loddon River at Cairn Curran D/S gauge.



The following map shows the approximate extent of flooding during the January 2011 flood event.



Baringhup



Disclaimer

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Are you at risk of flood?

The length of time between the inflows into Cairn Curran and the reservoir spilling is dependent on the storage levels of the reservoir before the rain occurs, and the severity and duration of the rainfall into the catchment upstream of the reservoir. When the reservoir does spill, steep rises in floodwater can occur in Baringhup within 30 minutes of spilling and flooding can last for up to four days.

High inflows into Cairn Curran when storage levels are high, as was the case in the January 2011 flood event, will:

- Increase the likelihood of flooding occurring at Baringhup and,
- Reduce the travel time of the flood peak.

In early September 2016 when steep rises were recorded in other parts of the Loddon catchment, Cairn Curran's storage capacity was 37% and flooding did not occur in Baringhup.

Did you know?

During January 2011, because the Cairn Curran reservoir was close to full at the start of the flood event, the travel time between the Newstead and the Cairn Curran gauge was only 4 hours.



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.

- In October 2016, significant inflows into the Cairn Curran storage over 25 days caused the Reservoir to spill.
- The Loddon House Holiday Caravan Park was impacted by flooding during the October 2016 flood event with 8 cabins damaged by flooding.
- During a 1%AEP* event, you could expect the regional school bus route to be disrupted, and the western section of Baringhup cut in half by flooding along the Loddon River. Roads impacted would include: Baringhup Road, Bakers Road, Mitchell Street, Oshanassy Street, Haines Street and Duffy Street.

Roads damaged from the October 2016 flood event recorded by Mt Alexander Shire Council include:

- Douglas Road, Baringhup, deck damage to the bridge and sides of the bridge washed away.
- Hayes Road, Baringhup, unsealed road surface was washed away.
- Simmonds Road, Baringhup, debris build up (including trees) under the bridge, side of the road washed away.

*AEP: Annual Exceedance Probability refers to the probability of a flood event occurring in any year.



Loddon River flood levels at the Loddon River at Cairn Curran D/S gauge

When the Bureau of Meteorology (BoM) issues Flood Warnings they include a prediction of the flood height at the Loddon River at Cairn Curran D/S gauge. 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.

Height (metres) Loddon River at Cairn Curran D/S gauge	Impact/level
5.40	January 2011
4.77	October 2016 – 9 homes impacted. 8 caravans at the Loddon House Holiday Park in Baringhup were damaged and residents were evacuated.
4.00	Major flood level
3.50	Moderate flood level
	Traffic routes affected. Spill over river banks and cover larger areas of land. Reach above floor levels in some houses and buildings.
2.00	Minor flood level
	Spill over river banks and nearby low lying areas. Requires the relocation of stock in some cases.

Staying Informed and Further Information

■ Current warnings (VicEmergency)	emergency.vic.gov.au	1800 226 226
■ Bureau of Meteorology (BoM)	bom.gov.au/vic/warnings	1300 659 217
■ VicRoads Traffic	traffic.vicroads.vic.gov.au	
■ Emergency Broadcasters	ABC Local 91.1 FM Hit 91.9 FM Triple M 93.5 FM KLFM 96.5 FM Gold 98.3 FM Phoenix FM 106.7 FM Gold 1071 AM SKY NEWS Television	
■ VICSES Social Media	facebook.com/vicses twitter.com/vicsesnews	
■ Preparing for Flood Emergencies	ses.vic.gov.au/get-ready	
■ Creating an Emergency Plan	redcross.org.au/prepare	
■ North Central Catchment Management Authority	nccma.vic.gov.au/	(03) 5448 7124
■ Mount Alexander Shire Council	http://www.mountalexander.vic.gov.au	(03) 5471 1700

**Life-threatening
Emergency
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Flood warnings and emergency checklist

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.

 A Minor Flood Warning means floodwater can:	 A Moderate Flood Warning means floodwater can:	 A Major Flood Warning means floodwater can:
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. Communities can also access this information through VICSES 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 that the emergency could impact on the community.

WARNING LEVELS

	<p>EMERGENCY WARNING</p> <p>You are in imminent danger and need to take action now. You will be impacted.</p> <p>A Major flood warning usually fits into this category.</p>
	<p>WATCH AND ACT</p> <p>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>ADVICE</p> <p>An incident is occurring or has occurred in the area. Access information and monitor conditions. A Minor flood warning or Flood Watch usually fits into this category.</p>

EVACUATION

	<p>PREPARE TO EVACUATE/ EVACUATE IMMEDIATELY</p> <p>An evacuation is recommended or procedures are in place to evacuate.</p>
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ADDITIONAL MESSAGES

	<p>COMMUNITY INFORMATION</p> <p>Can be used as a notification that an incident has occurred but there is no threat to community; or to issue a newsletter containing updates for communities affected by an emergency.</p>
	<p>EMERGENCY ALERT</p> <p>During some emergencies, we may alert communities by sounding 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 and with little warning. People who plan and prepare for emergencies can reduce the impact and recover faster.

Taking the time to think about emergencies and make your own plan helps you think clearly, have more control and make better decisions when an emergency occurs.

Visit redcross.org.au/prepare start creating your plan.



ARE YOU READY?
DO ONE SIMPLE THING TO MAKE YOU SAFER

- 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 supplies for 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 (e.g. babies, elderly and people with a disability)	
Photos	
Family keepsakes	
Valuables	
Other	



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 <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 the <http://www.bom.gov.au> and warnings through 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.

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.
- If you are staying in a caravan, move to higher ground before flooding begins.
- 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. Never enter floodwater. 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 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 until authorities advise it is safe to do so.
- 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 and wash your hands and clothes regularly.

For VICSES emergency assistance,
call **132 500**, or **Triple Zero (000)**
in life threatening emergencies.