



# Local Flood Guide Glenorchy



FloodSafe

Flood information for the Wimmera River at Glenorchy



GLENORCHY

Glenorchy, January 2011



FLOOD STORM EMERGENCY **132 500**

For more information visit [www.ses.vic.gov.au](http://www.ses.vic.gov.au)

## The Glenorchy local area

Glenorchy is located on the Wimmera River, forming part of the Northern Grampians Shire. The town was surveyed in 1850 by Robert Buchanan who named it after his home, Glen Orchy in Scotland. Glenorchy lies below a large area of foothills and ranges which form the eastern upper catchment of the Wimmera River.

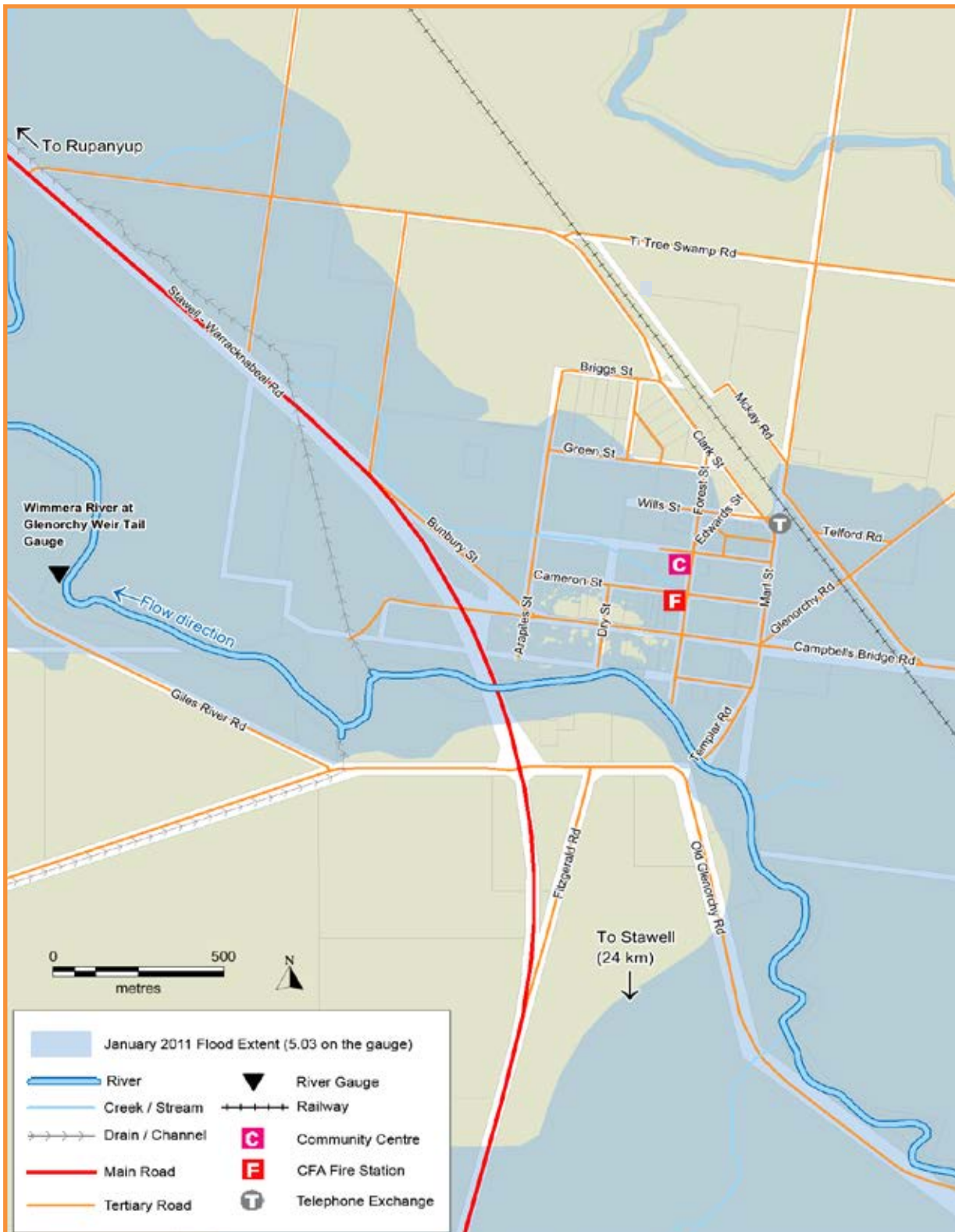
The map below shows the January 2011 flood which was a 1% Annual Exceedance Probability (AEP) flood. This flood reached a height of 5.03 metres on the Wimmera River Gauge at Glenorchy (with the river bed marked at 0 metres). A 1% AEP flood means that there is a 1% chance of a flood this size or larger occurring in any given year:

### Your local emergency broadcasters are:

- SKY NEWS Television
- ABC 107.9 FM, 3WV 594 AM and 774 AM
- Mixx 101.3 FM
- ACE Radio 3WM 1089 AM
- EasyMix 1071 AM

### Northern Grampians Shire contact details:

Phone: (03) 5358 8700  
 Email: [ngshire@ngshire.vic.gov.au](mailto:ngshire@ngshire.vic.gov.au)  
 Web: [www.ngshire.vic.gov.au](http://www.ngshire.vic.gov.au)



#### Disclaimer

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## Are you at risk of flood?

There are many homes and farming properties at risk of flooding along the Wimmera River and in the Glenorchy township.

Flooding is most likely to occur in Glenorchy when:

- The catchment/ground is saturated from previous rainfall and further rainfall occurs, causing flooding from the Wimmera River.
- Floodwater breaks out from a stream on the east side of town, runs under the railway embankment bridges, and then flows to the Wimmera River through the township. When this happens, you will see water crossing the Glenorchy-Campbell Bridge Road.

Areas along the Wimmera River in and around Glenorchy that are most at risk of flooding are the low lying areas of Carfrae, Marl, Forest, Arapiles, Bunbury and Cameron Streets and rural farms.

## Wimmera River flood levels at the Glenorchy Gauge

When the Bureau of Meteorology (BoM) issues Flood Warnings, they include a prediction of flood height of the Wimmera River at the Glenorchy Gauge. While no two floods are the same, the following table provides an indication of flood impacts, including when access may be cut off and which streets may be affected. For information about other gauges in the area, refer to the *Guide to river gauges upstream of Glenorchy* fact sheet available from [ses.vic.gov.au](http://ses.vic.gov.au).

unknown	<b>August 1909 flood level.</b> During this flood, all but six houses were flooded.
5.03 m	<b>January 2011 flood level.</b> At this height, access to town is severely affected. 23 properties impacted with the water depth in town up to two metres. <i>See map on page 2.</i>
5.00 m	In addition to the effects at 4.96 metres, one house in Carfrae Street is also flooded above floor level.
4.97 m	<b>September 1998 and October 1973 flood level.</b>
4.96 m	Roads in town flooded up to 25 centimetres deep in Cameron Street and 50 centimetres deep in Forest Street. Three houses in town flooded above floor level.
4.92 m	Properties in Edwards, Forest and Marl Streets may experience flooding in yards.
4.91 m	<b>October 1975 flood level.</b>
4.90 m	<b>September 2010 flood level.</b>
4.85 m	<b>August 1981 flood level.</b>
4.80 m	<b>MAJOR FLOOD LEVEL</b> At major flood level (4.80 m), water crosses main roads within the town flooding properties in Arapiles, Bunbury, Boyd, Cameron, Carfrae, Dry, Forest, Green and Wills Streets up to 25 centimetres deep.
4.77 m	As floodwater rises, Glenorchy township begins to be affected.
4.75 m	At this height, the township is relatively unaffected by floodwater, with water mainly affecting surrounding rural areas.
4.72 m	<b>August 1980 flood level.</b>
4.69 m	<b>August 1992 flood level.</b>
4.50 m	<b>MODERATE FLOOD LEVEL</b> At moderate flood level (4.50 m), rural areas are affected by floodwater. Rural roads likely to be affected by up to 30 centimetres of water.
4.00 m	<b>MINOR FLOOD LEVEL</b> At minor flood level (4.0 m), localised rural flooding of land next to the Wimmera River occurs.

## Did you know?

Since 1894 there have been around 18 significant floods in Glenorchy and district. Widespread flooding occurred in the township most recently in September 2010 and January 2011.

Flooding in 2010 and 2011 was caused by rainfall North of Stawell, with 44 millimetres of rain falling over two days in September 2010 following heavy rainfall throughout August. In January 2011, 184 millimetres of rain fell over four days in the area causing further flooding.

The January 2011 flood in Glenorchy measured 5.03 metres on the Glenorchy Gauge, classifying it as a major flood. This flood was caused by heavy rainfall on a wet catchment. The catchment was saturated by the rainfall during December 2010. In 2011, 23 properties were impacted by flooding including 12 with water above floor level. The impact of the 2011 flood could have been much worse if not for the hard work of residents who sandbagged many properties, providing some protection from the floodwater.

Local knowledge suggests that the worst recorded flood in Glenorchy was in 1909. During this flood, the Wimmera catchment received approximately 82 millimetres of rain in just 19 hours.

After rainfall within the upper catchment (about 50 kilometres south east of Glenorchy), the average travel time for a flood event to impact Glenorchy is between 24 and 30 hours.





# About Flood Warnings

## What warnings mean

**Warnings** are issued by the Bureau of Meteorology (BoM) to tell people about the possibility of flooding.

A **Flood Watch** means there is a developing weather pattern that might cause floods in one or two days.

A **Flood Warning** means flooding is about to happen or is already happening. There are minor, moderate and major flood warnings.

### A Minor Flood Warning means floodwater can:

- Reach the top of the river banks.
- Come up through drains in nearby streets.
- Cover low-lying areas including riverside camping areas.
- Cover minor roads, tracks and low level bridges.
- Spread across land or go into buildings on some properties and farms.

### A Moderate Flood Warning means floodwater can:

- Spill over river banks and spread across low-lying areas.
- Start to threaten buildings, roads, rail, power and other developments.
- Require evacuation in some areas.
- Cover main roads.

### A Major Flood Warning means floodwater can:

- Cause widespread flooding.
- Threaten more houses and businesses.
- Cause properties and whole areas to be isolated by water.
- Disrupt major roads and transport routes.
- Require many evacuations.

The Victoria State Emergency Service (SES) will give information about how the floodwater might affect people and properties. This includes safety messages to remind you what to do during a flood.

## Severe Thunderstorm Warnings

Thunderstorms are classified as severe, due to their 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.

**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 Alert

SES may provide alerts to the Glenorchy community through the Emergency Alert telephone warning system. All emergency service providers can use Emergency Alert to warn communities about dangerous situations by voice message to landline telephones or text message to mobile phones.

If you receive a warning, make sure that all family members, people at work and your neighbours are aware of the situation.

**If you receive an Emergency Alert you should pay attention and act. It could mean life or death.**

If you need help to understand a warning, ask a friend, neighbour or family member.

## Warnings for Glenorchy

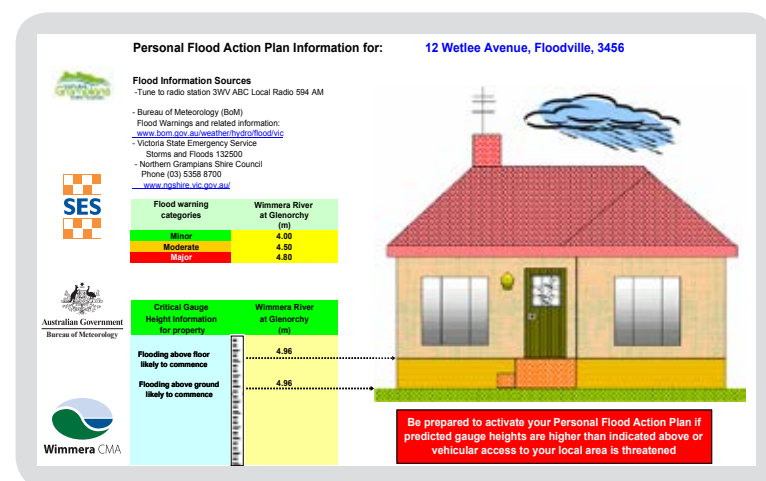
For the Wimmera River, Flood Warnings are issued by BoM. Flood Warnings provide predictions of flood size (minor, moderate or major) and timing of peaks of the Wimmera River at the Glenorchy Gauge.

It is important for you to know how the predicted flood levels are likely to impact you as you may be affected before the peak, see *page 3: Wimmera River flood levels at the Glenorchy Gauge*.

Use this table to figure out when you need to start following your emergency plan.

## Property specific flood charts

Property specific flood charts are available for residents of Glenorchy. These charts show the heights at which a property is expected to be impacted by flooding based on the Glenorchy Gauge on the Wimmera River (*see page 3*). These charts have been distributed to property owners and can be found within electricity meter boxes at properties in Glenorchy. To obtain a copy of your property specific flood chart, contact the Wimmera Catchment Management Authority on (03) 5382 1544.



Sample of a property specific flood chart

### NOW – before a flood

- Check if your home or business is subject to flooding. For more information, contact Wimmera Catchment Management Authority and/or Northern Grampians Shire Council.
- Develop an emergency plan.
- Check if you could be cut off by floodwater.
- Know the safest way to go if you decide to leave your property and plan an alternative route.
- Check your insurance policies to ensure your equipment, property and business are covered for flood damage.
- Keep a list of emergency numbers near the telephone.
- Put together an emergency kit.

### When a flood is likely

- Take action. Follow your emergency plan.
- Listen to your radio for information and advice.
- Check your neighbours are safe and know about the flood.
- Stack possessions on benches and tables with electrical goods in the highest places.
- Anchor objects that are likely to float and cause damage.
- Move rubbish bins, chemicals and poisons to the highest place.
- Put important papers, valuables, photos and other special personal items into your emergency kit.
- Business owners should raise stock, business records and equipment onto benches and tables.
- Rural property owners should move livestock, pumps and machinery to higher ground.
- If you are likely to be isolated, have enough food, drinking water, medicine, fuel and other needs to last at least three days.
- Do not forget pet food and stock feed.

#### The time for me to evacuate is before:

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### Your emergency plan

Emergencies can happen at any time, with little warning. People who plan and prepare for emergencies reduce the impact and recover faster.

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

Your emergency plan should identify:

- The types of emergencies that might affect you.
- How those emergencies might affect you.
- What you will do before, during and after an emergency.
- Where to get more information.
- Where you will go if you evacuate and the best way to go in different circumstances.
- A list of phone numbers you will need, including emergency service providers, your insurance company, friends and family.



Visit [ses.vic.gov.au](http://ses.vic.gov.au) to obtain a copy of your Home Emergency Plan workbook.

### Evacuation

During a flood, Police, SES and other emergency services may advise you to evacuate to keep you safe. It is important that you follow this advice.

There are two types of evacuation notices that may be issued via your emergency broadcaster during a flood:

- **Prepare to evacuate** – means you should act quickly and take immediate action to protect your life and property. Be ready to leave your property.
- **Evacuate immediately** – you must leave immediately as there is a risk to lives. You may only have minutes to evacuate in a flash flooding situation.

Remember you can leave at any time if you feel unsafe. You do not need to wait to be told to evacuate.

# Emergency Kit

Every home and business should have a basic emergency kit:



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 \_\_\_\_\_
- Photos \_\_\_\_\_
- Family keepsakes \_\_\_\_\_
- Valuables \_\_\_\_\_
- Documents \_\_\_\_\_
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

# During and After a Flood

**Never**  
Drive, Ride or Walk  
Through Floodwater

## During a flood

When flooding has begun:

- **Never drive, ride, swim or walk through floodwater.**
- Remember that floodwater can be deeper than you think and can hide damaged roads and bridges.
- Never let your children play or swim in floodwater. It is dirty, dangerous and deadly.
- Tune in to your emergency broadcasters: ABC Local Radio, Commercial Radio, designated Community Radio Stations and SKY NEWS Television.
- In life-threatening emergencies, call Triple Zero (000).
- For SES emergency assistance during floods and storms call 132 500.
- Stay away from all waterways including drains and culverts.
- Stay away from fallen powerlines as electricity travels easily through water.
- Be aware that animals such as snakes, rats, spiders and other pests may be on the move during a flood. These animals can come into houses and other buildings or hide around sandbags.
- Keep in contact with neighbours.
- Be prepared to act quickly.

When you leave early or evacuate:

- Leaving early is always the safest option, leave well before roads are closed by floodwater.
- Take your emergency kit and three days supply of clothing with you.
- Turn off the electricity, gas and water as you leave.
- Take your pets with you. Do not leave them behind. Dogs should be muzzled and cats in cages.
- Go to a Relief Centre or to stay with friends or family in higher areas.

If activated, Relief Centres can help you with:

- Temporary accommodation
- Financial help
- Personal support
- Drinks and meals
- Basic clothing and personal needs
- Help to contact family and friends

If you choose to shelter with a friend or relative, tell authorities where you are staying.

## After a flood

Flood dangers do not end when the water begins to fall. To make sure you stay safe:

- Keep listening to local emergency broadcasters.
- Do not return home until you are sure that it is safe.

Once you return to your home:

- Investigate the structural safety of your building.
- Drink bottled water or boil all drinking water until advised that the water supply is safe.
- Throw away any food or medicines that may have been in contact with floodwater or affected by power outages.
- When entering a building, use a torch to light your way. Never use matches or cigarette lighters as there may be gas inside.
- Keep the electricity and gas off until checked and tested by a professional.
- Take photographs of all damage for insurance.
- Clean your home straight away to prevent disease.

## How SES helps the community

The Victoria State Emergency Service (SES) is a volunteer based emergency service provider. Although SES volunteers attempt to reach everyone prior to or during an emergency, at times this is not possible, especially during flash flooding which occurs so quickly. Therefore it is advisable for you to be prepared for emergencies so that you can share responsibility for your own wellbeing during those times. In a flood, SES assistance may include:

- Giving flood advice
- Protecting essential services
- Helping to protect infrastructure
- Rescuing people from floodwater
- Advising of an evacuation

To assist your preparation, it is recommended that you obtain a copy of the SES Home Emergency Plan by visiting [ses.vic.gov.au](http://ses.vic.gov.au)





# Emergency Checklist

## NOW: Flood preparation

- Check if your insurance policy cover flooding.
- Keep this list of emergency numbers near the telephone.
- Put together an emergency kit and prepare a home or business emergency plan, see [ses.vic.gov.au](http://ses.vic.gov.au).

## When you hear a Flood Watch or weather warning

- Listen to Severe Weather Warnings for flash flood.
- Listen to the radio and check the SES website for more 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.
- Leave early if you intend to evacuate.

## When flooding may happen soon (heavy rainfall)

- 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. Don't forget to take pets and your medicine with you.
- Put household valuables and electrical items as high as possible.
- Turn off water, gas and electricity at the mains.
- Secure objects likely to float and cause damage.
- If you are staying in a caravan or temporary dwelling, move to higher ground before flooding begins.

## During the flood

- For SES emergency assistance, call 132 500.
- Do not drive, ride, swim or walk through floodwater. This is the main cause of death during floods.
- NEVER allow children to play in floodwater. This is the main cause of death during floods for children and young people.
- Stay away from drains, culverts and waterways as water can flow quickly and have strong currents.
- Stay well clear of fallen trees, powerlines and damaged buildings.

## After the flood: recovery

- If your property has been flooded, check with Northern Grampians Shire Council for information and advice.
- Have all electrical and gas equipment professionally tested before use.

For more information visit:

-  [ses.vic.gov.au](http://ses.vic.gov.au)
-  [facebook.com/vicses](https://facebook.com/vicses)
-  [twitter.com/vicseswarnings](https://twitter.com/vicseswarnings)

# Emergency Contacts

**Life-threatening emergency** Triple Zero  
Police Fire Ambulance **000** TTY106

**Victoria State Emergency Service (SES)** **132 500**  
For SES emergency assistance [ses.vic.gov.au](http://ses.vic.gov.au)

**SES information line** **1300 842 737**  
Operates during major floods or storms **1300 VIC SES**

**VicEmergency** [emergency.vic.gov.au](http://emergency.vic.gov.au)  
Victorian emergency warnings

**Bureau of Meteorology (BoM)** **1300 659 217**  
Weather information, forecasts, warnings [bom.gov.au](http://bom.gov.au)

**National Relay Service (NRS)** [relayservice.gov.au](http://relayservice.gov.au)

The deaf, hearing or speech impaired can call SES or Triple Zero (000) using NRS:

	DIAL	THEN ASK FOR
■ <b>Speak and Listen (SSR)</b> users phone	<b>1300 555 727</b>	<b>132 500</b>
■ <b>TTY / Voice</b> users phone	<b>13 36 77</b>	<b>132 500</b>

**Internet Relay** users log into [www.iprelay.com.au/call/](http://www.iprelay.com.au/call/)  
then enter: **132 500 or 000**

**VicRoads** **13 11 70**  
Road closures and hazard reporting service [vicroads.vic.gov.au](http://vicroads.vic.gov.au)

## Northern Grampians Shire Council Contact Details

Phone: **(03) 5358 8700**  
Email: [ngshire@ngshire.vic.gov.au](mailto:ngshire@ngshire.vic.gov.au)  
Web: [www.ngshire.vic.gov.au](http://www.ngshire.vic.gov.au)

**Weather District:** Wimmera

**Catchment Management Authority:** Wimmera

### Emergency Broadcasters

Emergency broadcasters include ABC Local Radio, designated commercial radio stations across Victoria and SKY NEWS Television.

- SKY NEWS Television
- ABC 107.9 FM, 3WV 594 AM and 774 AM
- Mixx 101.3 FM
- ACE Radio 3WM 1089 AM
- EasyMix 1071 AM

### Complete the following and keep this information handy close to the phone:

Your electricity supplier: \_\_\_\_\_

Your gas supplier: \_\_\_\_\_

Doctor: \_\_\_\_\_

Vet: \_\_\_\_\_

### Insurance

Policy Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_