



Local Flood Guide

Whorouly

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



NORTH EAST
CATCHMENT
MANAGEMENT
AUTHORITY



Rural City of
Wangaratta



**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:



Did you know?

In a big flood, flooded roads isolates or cuts off most of the community.



Riverine floods often build up slowly, allowing early warning before it rains. This gives you time to prepare.



Oct 1993 is the largest Ovens River flood on record. Impacts were similar to floods in 1917 and 1870

Why does Whorouly flood?

Riverine floods happen in Whorouly when the Ovens River and Whorouly Creek start to rise after sustained rain in the local area or in the high country further up the Ovens Valley. The waterways overflow their banks and spill floodwater into low-lying areas.

Riverine floods can build up to big floods over a period of time, meaning there is time to prepare your home, business or farm. Whorouly has Minor, Moderate and Major flood levels set and uses the Rocky Point gauge (located in Whorouly East) to work out warnings.

In Whorouly during floods:

- Even though most buildings are on slightly higher ground, much of Whorouly can flood in a big 1% AEP flood. See map p.4.
- The township is often isolated, cut off by flooded roads. Homes and farms can experience significant flooding. Backflow from toilets often causes unnecessary damage. See p.11.
- The Ovens is one of the few Victorian rivers that is not held back by a dam. This means fast-flowing, uncontrolled floodwater can come from the steep Alpine catchments. Floods in Whorouly can also be made worse with any extra floodwater from the Buckland and Buffalo Rivers.
- Flooding in Myrtleford can be a good indicator of what might flow on to affect Whorouly. Myrtleford's flood peak (highest level) takes about 1 hour to reach Rocky Point.
- Rocky Point gauge is used to predict floods for Whorouly. From the gauge location, the land flattens out and floodwater spreads out across the Whorouly area. Sometimes flooding banks up with any Whorouly Creek flooding and along the old levees near Henley Ridge. After the river passes Henley Ridge, it opens to a wider, flatter floodplain



How do floods impact communities?



Buildings flooded



Roads & Bridges closed



Drinking water supply and quality affected



Power outages



Mobile and internet network outage



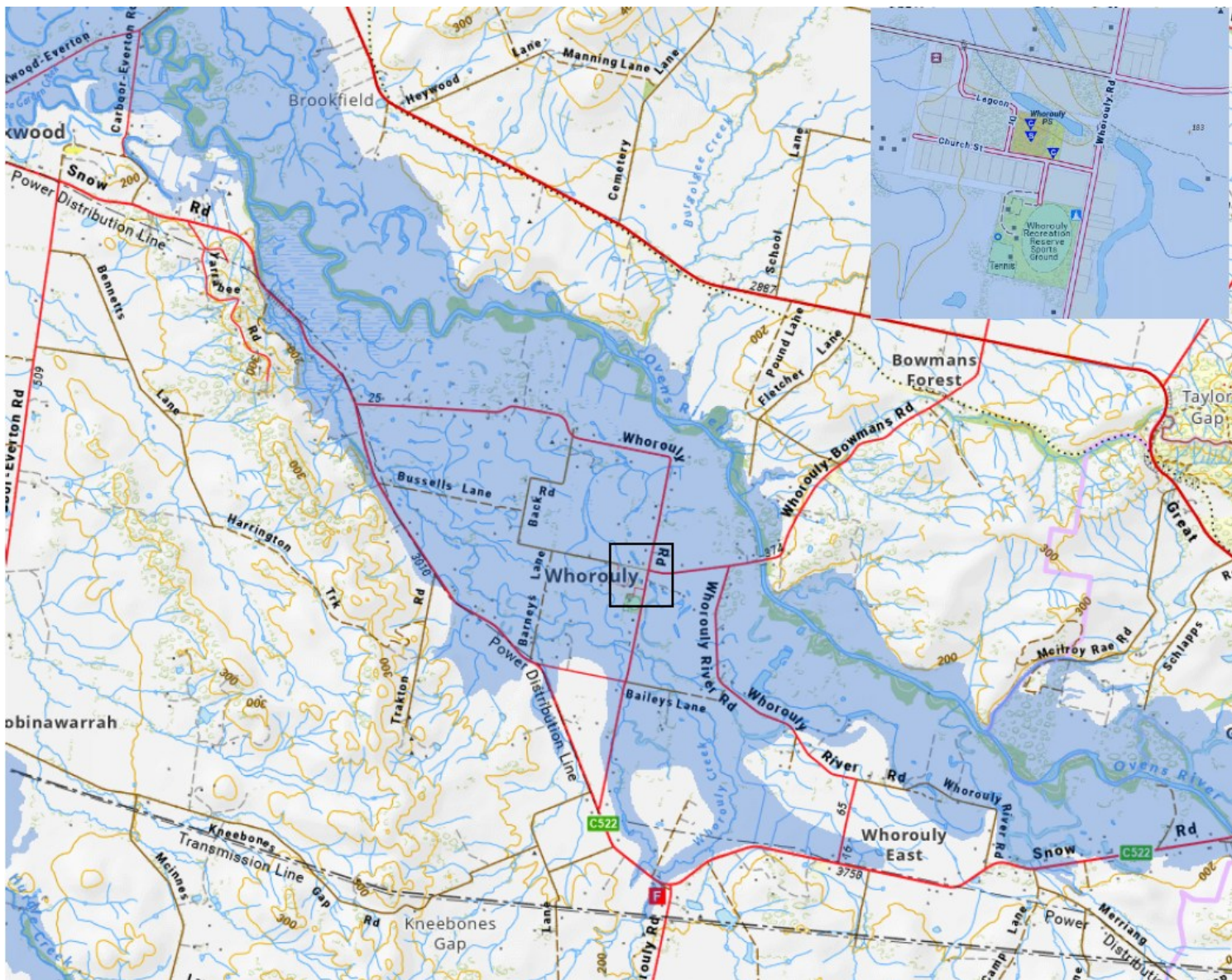
Sewage overflows inside buildings

Check if your home, work, and travel routes might be flooded

This map shows potential areas of flood risk in the Whorouly area. Make sure you take action to **plan and prepare for floods**. Can you **find your property** on this map? See page 8 for more details.

- The blue shading on this map shows the area likely to flood in the Whorouly area at 5.81m at the Rocky Point gauge.
- It uses Annual Exceedance Probability (AEP), which gives the percentage % chance of a flood of this size (or larger) happening in any year.

A 1% AEP means there is a 1% chance of this size flood (or greater) happening any year.



In a flood emergency, stay informed through [VicEmergency](https://www.vicemergency.vic.gov.au/), see page 12 for more information.

What might happen in an Ovens River flood in the Whorouly 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.

Ovens River flood levels at Rocky Point Gauge* (used for Whorouly area)	
Height* m = metres	Potential / likely impacts and previous flood events in the Whorouly area
Unknown	The 1870 flood. History knows it as Ovens River's largest flood (similar to 1917 & 1993).
6.18 m	October 1993 flood peak – largest recorded flood on the Ovens River. ■ Extensive flooding occurred across most of the Whorouly area. ■ Deep and widespread flooding impacted homes, farms, businesses, roads, bridges, fences and livestock. ■ Drinking water supplies and septic sewage systems were affected. ■ Several homes in Whorouly township and surrounding areas experienced above-floor flooding.
5.92 m	September 1998 flood peak – central township areas, including the Recreation Reserve, key public buildings and the shop, remained above flood level. ■ 300+ mm of rain fell across the Ovens and King catchments, causing widespread flooding. ■ Flooding from the Buffalo and Buckland Rivers increased impacts in the Whorouly area. ■ Several homes experienced above-floor flooding, particularly along Whorouly Road, Whorouly River Road and Whorouly-Bowmans Road.
5.81 m	The approximate 1% flood level. Flood height shown on map page 4.
5.72 m	September 2010 flood peak (similar to estimated May 1974 flood peak). ■ Evacuation advice issued for several areas in 2010. ■ Floodwater covered sections of Whorouly Road and Whorouly River Road. ■ Deep, hazardous flooding occurred on Whorouly-Bowmans Road and Back Road. ■ The 1974 flood caused above-floor flooding to several homes and sheds.
5.2 m	MAJOR FLOOD LEVEL
5.05 m	Oct 2016 flood peak. ■ Many isolated properties. ■ Access in and out of Whorouly was cut off as many roads in and around the area were flooded. See list of road closures p.6.
4.77 m	Dec 2010 flood peak ■ Flooding in and around the Whorouly township, with Back Rd, Whorouly-Bowmans Rd, Whorouly Rd all being cut off.
4.40 m	MODERATE FLOOD LEVEL Above this level, properties north of Whorouly may start to get isolated. Maintain a watch on water levels.
4.2 m	Oct 2023 flood peak. ■ Flooding closes Snow Rd on Whorouly side of Henley Ridge and in Whorouly East.
3.2 m	MINOR FLOOD LEVEL and July 1981 flood peak. ■ Rural flooding along the river floodplain, some farmers will move livestock to higher ground.

What roads are likely to flood in the Whorouly area?

During a flood, the roads listed below may be flooded. Even if there's no "ROAD CLOSED" sign in place, if it's flooded, FORGET IT! **Never enter floodwater.**

For known road closures during big floods, check [VicTraffic](https://www.traffic.transport.vic.gov.au) at [traffic.transport.vic.gov.au](https://www.traffic.transport.vic.gov.au).

[VicEmergency](https://www.emergency.vic.gov.au) [emergency.vic.gov.au](https://www.emergency.vic.gov.au) may also include important main road closures in its warnings. See pages 7 and 12 for more information about warnings.

Leaving early is always the safest option. If you choose to stay emergency services may not be able to reach you.

FOR FLOOD PLAN: In Whorouly, the Recreation Reserve Pavilion is a known "high and dry" place to shelter with other local community members.

If the floodwater is deep enough, these roads are likely to be flooded:

- Whorouly Road from township north and then west to the Snow Road (see picture below left).
- Whorouly Road between the bridge near Church St and the Whorouly Hotel (see picture below right and front page).
- Whorouly Road around the Gambolds Lane and Baileys Lane intersection.
- Gambolds Lane between Whorouly Road and the Snow Road.
- Baileys Lane from Whorouly Road to Whorouly Creek.
- Whorouly River Road from the Whorouly-Bowmans Road intersection to the Snow Road.
- Whorouly-Bowmans Road from the Whorouly Road intersection to the Ovens River Bridge.
- Back Road around the Lagoon Drive intersection and east towards Whorouly Hotel.

The following community facilities may become isolated by road flooding:

- Primary school, Shop, Church, Hotel, Recreation Reserve sport grounds.



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.



Whorouly 2016 (Whorouly Hotel)

Your local services

NorthEast Catchment Management Authority NECMA

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

■ necma.vic.gov.au | 1300 216 513

Rural City of Wangaratta Council RCOW

For relief and recovery support after a flood (or any emergency) and general land use planning.

■ wangaratta.vic.gov.au | 03 5722 0888

Flood Warnings & Rocky Point guage

For Whorouly, flood watches and warnings are issued by the Bureau of Meteorology (BoM) for the **Ovens River downstream of Rocky Point**. Warnings might include highest flood level expected (the “peak”) and what time the peak might happen.

Ovens River, Rocky Point Guage can be found on BOM website.

Rainfall and river conditions or using this link

<https://www.bom.gov.au/fwo/IDV67209/IDV67209.582014.tbl.shtml>



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 ReditPlan 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.



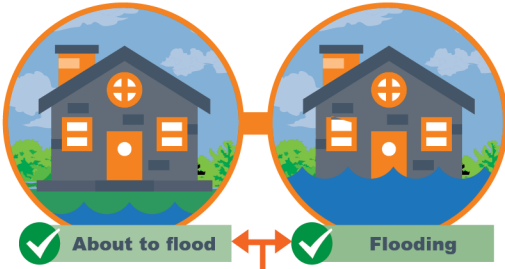
For more details and other tips, visit:
ses.vic.gov.au/flood





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.

https://www.bom.gov.au/vic/flood/rain_river.shtml

Emergency broadcasters



Radio | ABC 106.5 FM or 675 AM, Triple M 105.7 FM,
TV | Sky News 2AY 1494 AM

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.

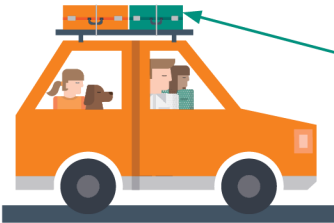
3



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:



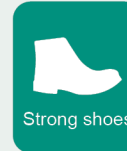
Phone & charger



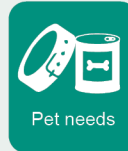
Prescriptions & medication



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.



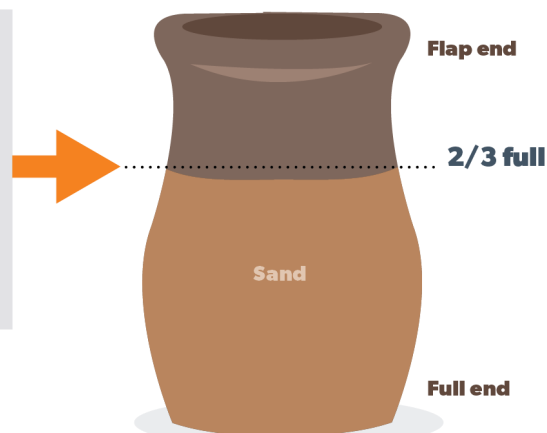
For more details and other tips, visit:
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Sandbagging

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

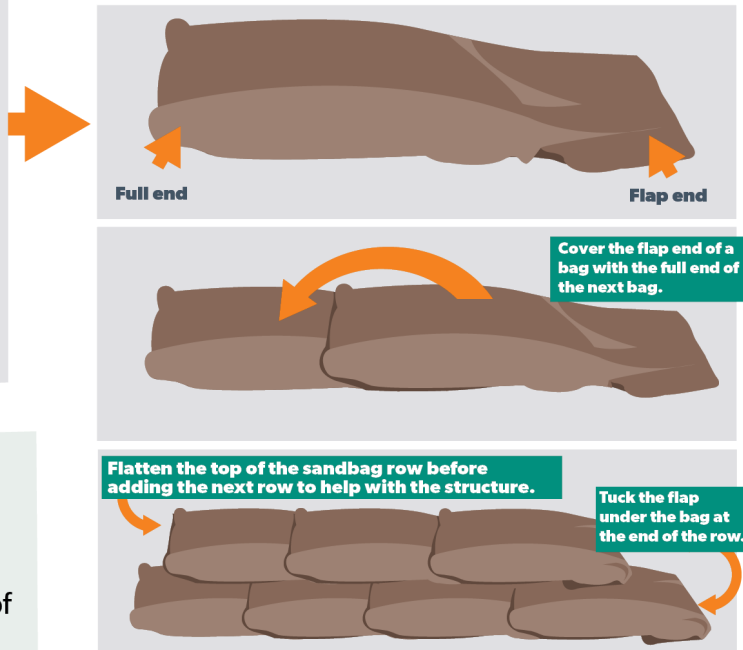
How do I fill a sandbag?

- 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?

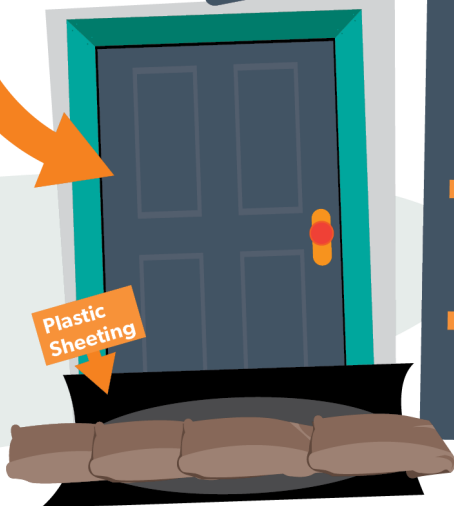
- Place sandbags in plastic bags to cover drainage holes in home (e.g. showers, toilets, sinks) to stop back flow of water.
- Place a small wall across doorways, at least the height of the expected water level. Be careful not to trap yourself inside.
- If available, plastic sheeting may be used under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

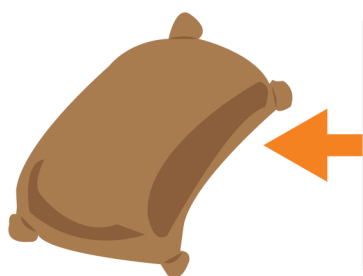


What supplies do I need to sandbag my home?

- 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.

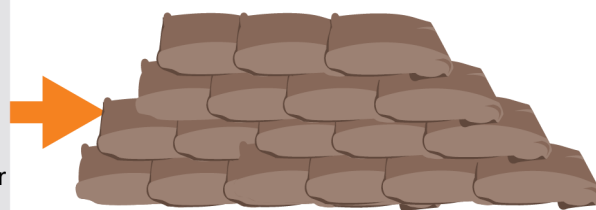


How many sandbags will I need and how much sand?

- 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.

