



FloodSafe

Better FloodSafe than sorry

Avon River Catchment

Briargolong, Bushy Park, Boisdale,
Stratford, Valencia Creek

Are you at risk of flood?

The Avon River has a large funnel-shaped catchment that fills the river quickly.

It flows through Valencia Creek, Bushy Park, Boisdale and Stratford before joining the Gippsland Lakes at Lake Wellington. Along the way, it is fed by the Freestone and Valencia Creeks near Briargolong, Bushy Park and Valencia Creek.

Rain in the hills can cause the Avon to flood even if there is little or no rain lower down. This can catch you unawares, so pay attention to weather forecasts for higher in the mountains.

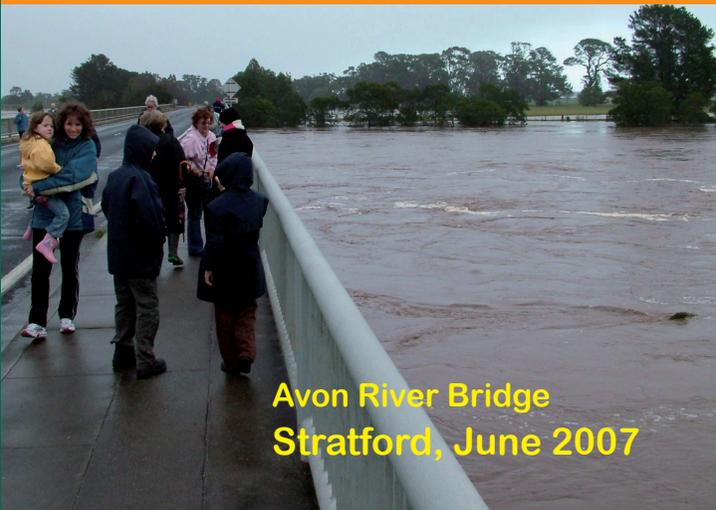
The creeks in the foothills north of Briargolong and Valencia Creek can fill, isolating properties. If you live or travel in these areas, you will need a well-stocked Home Emergency Kit. In a major flood, you may not have access out of the area for days.

It is dangerous to drive across flooded causeways and creek beds, even in four wheel drive vehicles. Shallow fast-flowing water can tip a car or push it off the edge of a narrow causeway. You won't see obstacles under the water or know if the road is damaged.

Stratford sits on the Princes Highway between Sale and Bairnsdale. In major floods, the highway may be cut at the railway bridge on the Sale side. Apex Park and other parts of Stratford along the Avon River and Blackall Creek may also flood.

High water in Lake Wellington at the lower end of the catchment can slow flood water from draining and spread it over a wider area. This results in people below Stratford being flooded by a backwater effect rather than by direct flooding.

Floods are a part of life in the Avon River area. If you live, work, travel or camp there, take the time to plan ahead.



Avon River Bridge
Stratford, June 2007

How to plan and prepare for floods



Understanding Warnings

Flood Watches & Flood Warnings are issued by the Bureau of Meteorology to tell people about possible flooding.

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

Flood Warnings mean flooding is about to happen or is already happening. There are Minor, Moderate or Major flood warnings.

VICSES will give local information about how the flood water is affecting people and properties. This includes safety messages to remind you what to do.

Severe Weather Warning or **Severe Thunderstorm Warnings** are issued when damaging winds, possible hail and FLASH FLOODING is expected.

Flash Flooding happens when heavy rain causes a very fast rise of water on low-lying land or a rush of damaging water downhill on steep properties. There may be little or no warning time.



Emergency Alert may be used to send emergency messages to your mobile phone or landline. If you receive an emergency alert, pay attention and take it seriously. Act immediately.

NEVER ...

Never walk, play, ride or drive in floodwaters.

This is the main cause of death and injury during floods.

As little as 20 centimetres of fast flowing water can knock you off your feet !

How SES can help you

The State Emergency Service is a volunteer organisation trained to manage floods, storms & other emergencies.

SES volunteers may help by:

- giving advice on how to plan and prepare
- helping to protect properties
- rescuing people from flood water
- protecting essential services like hospitals and powerstations
- helping with temporary repairs to reduce danger



Evacuation

During a flood, the SES and other emergency services may advise you by Emergency Alert, radio broadcast or door-knock to prepare to leave your home.

- listen to warnings and advice - act early
- be aware - conditions can change rapidly - roads or escape routes may close or become dangerous

When you evacuate, report to a relief centre. If you choose to shelter with a friend or relative, tell authorities where you are staying. Do not return home until advised it is safe to do so.

A well-prepared community can reduce flood damage by up to 80%.

Be prepared for floods by having an Emergency Plan:

- understand your flood risk
- know what to do and when to do it
- where to get emergency updates
- have a safe evacuation route

FloodSafe Contacts

Life threatening Emergency
police fire ambulance **000**

Victoria State Emergency Service (VICSES)
flood / storm emergency calls **132 500**

VICSES Flood & Storm Information Line
operates during major flood / storm events
1300 842 737
1300 VIC SES
www.ses.vic.gov.au

Bureau of Meteorology (BoM)
Weather information, forecasts, warnings
1300 659 217
www.bom.gov.au

VicRoads - Road closures & hazard reporting service
131 170
www.vicroads.vic.gov.au

Dept of Health
Clean up, personal health, safe food handling, advice on clean water
www.health.vic.gov.au

Dept of Human Services (DHS)
Financial support, housing, counselling
www.dhs.vic.gov.au

Dept of Primary Industry (DPI)
Recovery information: rural & agricultural
136 186
www.dpi.vic.gov.au

LOCAL CONTACTS:

Wellington Shire - general
1300 366 244
www.wellington.vic.gov.au

SP Ausnet Power - faults
1300 360 795

TruEnergy
131 799

Origin Energy Gas - faults
1800 676 300

Southern Rural Water - faults
1300 139 510

LOCAL RADIO

ABC Gippsland
Sale - Bairnsdale 100.7 FM & 828 AM

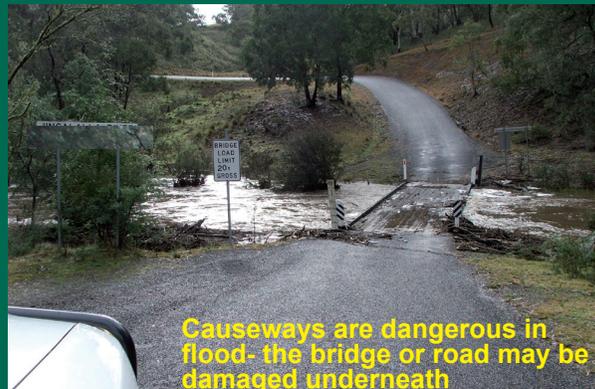
3TR & Star FM 1242 AM & 99.5 FM

LIFE FM 103.9 FM



www.ses.vic.gov.au

August 2011



Causeways are dangerous in flood- the bridge or road may be damaged underneath

LOCAL FLOOD INTELLIGENCE

based on The Channels Gauge north of Valencia Creek

RECENT MAJOR FLOODS - 1990, 1998, 2007

MAJOR Flood - 7.5m

Princes Highway cut at the railway bridge in Stratford; Maffra-Stratford Rd cut west of Stratford; Briagolong-Boisdale Road cut east of Boisdale; Briagolong-Valencia Creek Road cut east of Valencia Creek and west of Marathon Road, Briagolong

Boisdale may flood at the Boisdale-Briagolong turn-off & into the town if the Freestone Creek and Avon River are both high or if the Channel Gauge goes above 8.0m - only short term evacuation is needed as water clears within 12 hours

Blackall Creek, that runs on the western edge of Stratford, may effect properties, including the Avon Caravan Park

MODERATE Flood - 6.9m

Small communities in foothills north of Valencia Creek and Briagolong isolated due to flooded creek crossings; dirt road and driveway damage likely in steep country

Weir's Crossing on Stewart's Lane north-west of Stratford can be cut and may carry shallow water for some weeks.

Heavy local rain in Briagolong can cause temporary creek which flows from Victoria Street between Smith & McLean; across the intersection of McLean and Rostrevor; through private property across Cahill and Avon Streets between McLean and Landy; then down Station St to cross Forbes St and into the paddock opposite the tennis courts

MINOR Flood - 5.0m

Rural properties may be effected - property owners should move pumps & stock to higher ground

FLOODWATCH

Weather system developing which may cause flooding, generally low pressure system from southern NSW or Central Australia - watch for these patterns & plan ahead

Listen to local radio & SKY News for information updates

Keep in touch with neighbours