



Local Flood Guide Boisdale



FloodSafe

Flood information for Avon River at Boisdale



BOISDALE



FLOOD STORM
EMERGENCY **132 500**

For more information visit
ses.vic.gov.au

The Boisdale local area

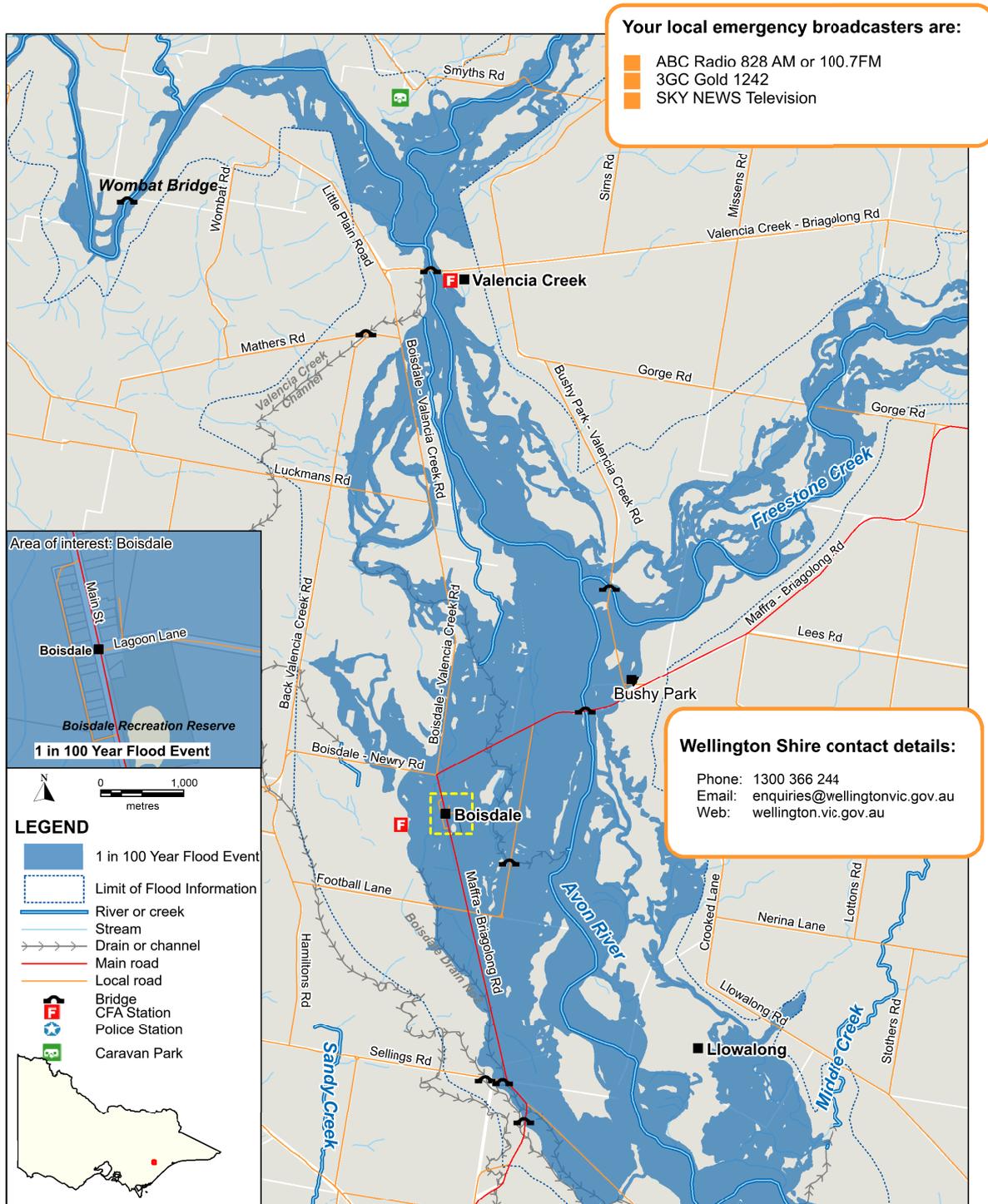
Boisdale is a small community in the heart of Gippsland's farming district. Boisdale is located nine kilometres north of Maffra and 239 kilometres east of Melbourne. Boisdale lies downstream of where the Valencia Creek channel joins the Avon River as it travels down its catchment from the slopes of Mount Wellington in the eastern highlands.

Running parallel to the Avon River north of Boisdale is the Boisdale Main Drain. When either Valencia Creek or Avon River flood, water overflows into Boisdale Main Drain. During more severe floods this overflow causes Boisdale Main Drain to break its banks and flow across low-lying farm land.

Freestone Creek later joins the Avon River north of Boisdale town centre. These three systems meeting after reaching peak flows is the major source of flooding in Boisdale, with the Avon River breaking its banks and inundating much of the Boisdale community and surrounding rural land.

Most floodwater will continue down the catchment towards Stratford and is ultimately discharged into the ocean at Lakes Entrance.

The map below shows the expected flooding in a major flood event for Boisdale area. A major flood event occurs at 7.50 metres on the Avon River gauge at The Channels.



Disclaimer

This map publication is presented by Victoria State Emergency Service for the purpose of disseminating emergency management information. The contents of the information has not been independently verified by Victoria State Emergency Service. No liability is accepted for any damage, loss or injury caused by errors or omissions in this information or for any action taken by any person in reliance upon it. Flood information is provided by West Gippsland Catchment Management Authority

Are you at risk of flood?

Flooding in Boisdale is most common when significant rain has fallen on the ranges to the West and North of the community. When this area becomes saturated the runoff into the catchment then flows down the Avon River, Valencia, and Freestone Creeks impacting the Valencia Creek community, lower-lying areas between Boisdale – Valencia Creek Road and Bushy Park – Valencia Creek Road, between Avon River and Maffra – Briagolong Road continuing down to the Llowalong area with significant overflow of water from the Avon between Llowalong Road and Boisdale Stratford Road.

While the upstream gauge on the Avon River called The Channel, is used to provide initial warnings for Boisdale and surrounds, the condition of the Wombat Bridge can also have a significant impact on flood duration for the immediate area due to gravel build up.

Wombat Bridge is located on the Avon River, 4 kms north of Valencia Creek entering the Avon River. History shows this is the first bridge to be submerged by flood waters with the second soon after being Valencia Creek bridge. Locals know when the gauge on the Avon River at The Channels, approximately 8 kms up from Wombat Bridge, reaches 2.8m and combined with rain on Mount Wellington, it becomes apparent that significant inundation is about to occur, cutting off access to the bridge and isolating six families until water recedes.

While a new bridge has been constructed at Weirs Crossing, flood water disperses into a valley just shy of the bridge entrance, cutting off access. Access to this bridge is normally cut off at moderate flood level.

Did you know?

Boisdale is a prominent farming district and has a history of flooding, including flooding in 1978, 1990, 2007 and 2012. The 1990 flood reached 11.23 metres on the Avon River at the Channel Gauge and caused:

- 26 out of the 29 homes in Boisdale township to be flooded.
- A total of 70 homes in the district to be evacuated due to flooding.
- Valencia Creek and Avon River to cause initial inundations with the Freestone Creek flooding a few hours later. This compounded the community inundation, increasing the flood extent and peaking during the night.
- Significant damage to fencing, road surfaces and bridges with a large build-up of silt soil and debris throughout the township.
- Closure of a number of roads.

By morning flood extent had subsided significantly.

While the 1990 flood was not quite a 1 in 100 year scenario, the map on page 2 gives you an indication of the inundation experienced during this time.

While no two floods are the same, floods like this or worse could occur again.

If you live close to a creek, river or in a low-lying area you may be at risk of flooding. Even if you are not directly affected, you may still need to detour around flooded areas.

Knowing what to do can save your life and help protect your property.

Avon River flood levels at the Channels Gauge

When the Bureau of Meteorology (BoM) issues Flood Warnings they include a prediction of the flood height on the Avon River at the Channels Gauge. While no two floods are the same, the following table can give you an indication of what you can expect at certain heights, including when your access may be cut off and when your property may be affected.

11.51 m	Height shown map page 2 classified as 1 in 100 year flood scenario
11.23 m	1990 flood level
10.90 m	Breakout on the Avon River forces water towards Boisdale. Floodwater overtops Boisdale main drain and causes flooding to the township.
9.70 m	Classified as a 1 in 50 year event.
9.61 m	2007 flood level.
7.50 m	MAJOR FLOOD LEVEL
	At a Major flood level and above there will be extensive flooding across the entire floodplain with water cutting off the following roads: Main Street, Maffra – Briagolong Road, Boisdale – Valencia Creek Road, Luckmans Road.
7.40 m	Many local roads are flooded and may be closed.
6.90 m	MODERATE FLOOD LEVEL
	At a moderate flood level there will be water cutting off the following roads: Bushy Park Bridge on Maffra – Briagolong Road is cut off.
	Impacts to Caravan park situated on Smyths Road being isolated. Farming land with farmers having to move pumps and stock to higher ground.
	Low level crossing at Valencia Creek-Briagolong Road, Smyths Road crossing and Wombat Road crossing are all flooded.
	Maffra – Briagolong Road is flooded in a number of locations downstream of Boisdale.
6.60 m	2011 flood level.
6.00m	Boisdale – Newry Road, west of Boisdale and Boisdale – Valencia Creek Road north of Boisdale both have flooding and may be closed.
5.00m	MINOR FLOOD LEVEL
	Farmers with land situated on low-lying ground should consider moving livestock, pumps and machinery to higher ground.

About Flood Warnings

What warnings mean

Warnings are issued by the Bureau of Meteorology (BoM) to tell people about possible 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 general, 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.
- Affect some low-lying caravan parks.
- 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.

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.

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.

Flash Flooding happens quickly. There may be little or no warning. The arrival time or depth of a flash flood cannot always be predicted.

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 Boisdale 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 Boisdale

For the Avon River, Flood Warnings are issued by the Bureau of Meteorology. Flood Warnings provide predictions of flood size (minor, moderate or major), time, and possible peaks of the:

- Avon River

It is important to know how the predicted flood levels are likely to impact you as you may be affected before the peak.

See page 3: The Avon at The Channel

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

Now – before a flood

- Check if your home or business is subject to flooding. For more information, contact Wellington 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.
- Stay alert for weather warnings and heavy rainfall.

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.

Your emergency plan

Emergencies can happen at any time, with little warning. People who have planned and prepared for emergencies have reduced the impact and recovered 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 services, your insurance company, friends and family.



Visit ses.vic.gov.au to obtain a copy of your Home Emergency Plan workbook

Evacuation

During a flood, Police, SES and other emergency service providers 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.

Do not return to your home until you are sure it is safe to do so. 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.

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

Victoria State Emergency Service (SES) is a volunteer based emergency service. 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.



Emergency Checklist

Now: Flood preparation

- Check if your insurance policies 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.

When you hear a Flood Watch or weather warning

- Listen to Severe Weather Warnings for flash flood.
- Listen to 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.
- If you are trapped inside a building, stay inside and shelter in the highest place. Call Triple Zero (000) in a life-threatening emergency.

After the flood: recovery

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

For more information visit:

- ses.vic.gov.au
- facebook.com/vicses
- emergency.vic.gov.au

Emergency Contacts

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

Victoria State Emergency Service (SES) **132 500**
For SES emergency assistance

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

VicEmergency emergency.vic.gov.au
Victorian emergency warnings

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

National Relay Service (NRS) relayservice.gov.au
The deaf, hearing or speech impaired can call SES or Triple Zero (000) using NRS:

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

Internet Relay users log into iprelay.com.au/call/
then enter: **132 500 or 000**

VicRoads **13 11 70**
Road closures and hazard reporting service vicroads.vic.gov.au

Wellington Contact Details

Phone: 1300 366 244
Email: enquiries@wellington.vic.gov.au
Web: wellington.vic.gov.au

Weather District: Wellington Shire

Catchment: West Gippsland CMA
wgcm.vic.gov.au

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

- ABC Radio 828 AM or 100.7FM
- 3GC Gold 1242
- SKY NEWS Television

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: _____