



Local Flood Guide

Licola

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



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.

Cover: Aerial view Licola, June 2007. Victoria State Emergency Service.

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For more information visit: ses.vic.gov.au/plan-and-stay-safe



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Local flood information

	<p>There have been 9 major flood events in Licola between 1961 and 2007.</p>
	<p>The largest flood on record was in 2012 when the floodwater reached 4.27 metres at Macalister River at Licola.</p>
	<p>Flooding can happen within hours, giving people little to no time to prepare and take action.</p>

Why does Licola flood?

Licola is at risk of both **riverine flooding** and **flash flooding**, which can happen separately or at the same time. Both are usually caused by heavy rainfall.

Riverine flooding

This happens when the Macalister River rises and overflows its banks, and spills water onto land.

- Licola is built along the Macalister River, and parts of the township are on the floodplain, the naturally low-lying areas more likely to be impacted in a flood.
- Rainfall from as far away as the Great Dividing Ranges, Mount Useful and Mount Wellington can end up flowing into the Macalister River potentially causing, or adding to flooding.

Flash flooding

This type of flooding can happen quickly and you may not receive an official warning. Although these floods only last short time, they can cause severe damage.

- The Macalister River may quickly rise, causing water to rise and overflow its banks.

How do floods impact communities?

Even if your home or workplace stays dry, floods can impact you in many ways.

Buildings flooded	Road closures	Drinking water supply and quality affected	Power outages	Mobile and internet network outage	Sewage overflows inside building

What might happen in a flood in your 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.

- **Before a flood:** Use the floodwater heights in the table to help you decide when you will need to act to protect yourself and your property in a flood event.
- **During a flood:** When a warning is issued by [VicEmergency](#), use the predicted floodwater height and warning information to understand what the potential impacts may be for you and your community.

Floodwater height* (metres)	Potential impacts and previous flood events^
Unknown	<p>June, 2007 flood event.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ The Macalister River gauge at Licola was washed away during this flood event when the Licola Bridge was damaged. The floodwater also damaged roads, isolating homes and impacting the delivery of supplies to the township. ■ Lake Glenmaggie recorded its highest ever peak inflows between 250,000 and 300,000 megalitres per day. ■ See page 6 for more detail.
4.27m	<p>June, 2012 flood event.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ The Licola gauge recorded 112mm of rain in a 24 hour period. ■ Lake Glenmaggie recoded inflows between 56,000 and 93,700 megalitres per day.
4.23m	<p>June 2021 flood event.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Glencairn, upstream of Licola received 250mm of rain. ■ See page 5 for more detail.
3.62m	<p>October, 2023 flood event</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ The Macalister River catchment received 200mm of rain in less than 24 hours. ■ Towns downstream of Licola were evacuated. ■ Properties in Licola experienced erosion and damage to farms and equipment. ■ Large deposits of silt and mud were left in the town when the floodwater receded.
3.6m	Major flood level
3.2m	Moderate flood level
2.7m	Minor flood level

*The height measurement is at the [Macalister River at Licola](#) gauge. .

^This table includes information from previous flood events occurring after 2007 when the gauge was reinstated at a new height.

What roads are likely to flood?

During a flood, the roads listed below may flood or be affected by landslide and could be closed.

For current road closures, check [VicTraffic](#). [VicEmergency](#) may include road closures in its warnings, see [page 8](#) for more information.

- Licola Road
- Licola Creek Road
- Tamboritha Road
- Target Creek Road



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.

Previous flood impacts



Image: Licola Bridge Left—June 2021, *Licola Caravan Park*. Right— Usual river height. Copyright VicScreen, photographed by Mark Farr 2008



4.23*
Metres



144mm[^]
24h rainfall

- This rain event was the most significant since 2007 with many Gippsland weather stations recording 3 day rainfall up to 300mm which led to the 1-in-30 year flood in Licola and the largest flood since 2012.
- Flooding damaged homes and businesses, agricultural properties including fencing and equipment, town infrastructure and natural landscapes surrounding Licola and the upper Macalister catchment.
- Lake Glenmaggie went from 37% storage to 85% overnight.
- The rain came with strong winds that caused trees to fall leading to widespread power outages and road closures that lead to towns being isolated, including Licola.

*Recorded at Macalister River gauge at Licola.

[^] Recorded at Mount Useful Weather Station on 10th June 2021

Previous flood impacts

June 2007 Flood Event



Unknown
Metres*

*Gauge washed away



313mm[^]
24h rainfall

[^] Recorded at
Mount Wellington on
26 June 2007

- This event remains the largest flood in Gippsland history for the Macalister catchment.
- 1 residence was pushed off its stumps and another 3 buildings in Licola township were damaged from the almost 1 meter high flood water that flowed through the town and pushed vehicles and caravans up embankments and trees, and floodwater left a thick layer of mud.
- Lake Glenmaggie recorded storage level increased from 56% to 108%.
- The Cheynes Bridge was washed away and a 22km section of Tamboritha Road extensively damaged which led to Licola residents being isolated for more than a month.
- The June 2007 flood is estimated to be more than a 1 in 100 year flood.
- This is also referred to as a 1% Annual Exceedance Probability (AEP), which means there is a 1% chance of this size flood (or greater) happening in any year.

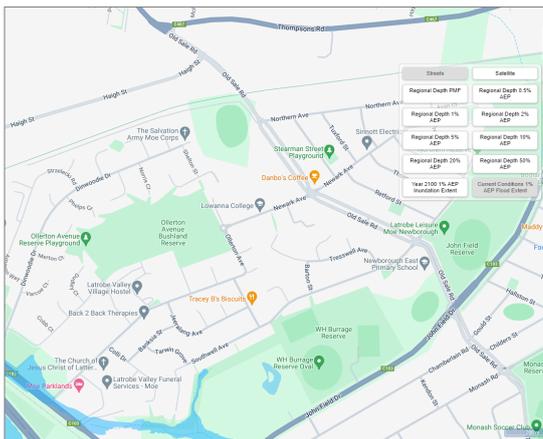


Image: Left-Tamboritha Road damage 2007. Right-Lions Wilderness Village, Licola. *Victoria State Emergency Service.*



Intense heavy rainfall can lead to landslides on roads and tracks surrounding Licola, to find current road closures, check [VicTraffic](#).

View flood information for your property



The [Community Flood Portal](#), developed by the West Gippsland Catchment Management Authority, is a tool for residents and businesses to assess their flood risk.

- Use the portal to zoom in on your property and see if it's likely to be affected in a large flood event.



Go to flood.wgcma.vic.gov.au.



In a flood emergency, stay informed through [VicEmergency](#), see [page 8](#) for more information.

Your local services

Catchment Management Authority

For flood advice and information on flood levels or depths when developing your property.

- **West Gippsland Catchment Management Authority**
wgcm.vic.gov.au | 03 5175 7800

Local Council

For relief and recovery support after a flood event.

- **Wellington Shire Council**
wellington.vic.gov.au | 1300 366 244



Image: Aerial image of Cheynes Bridge, Glenmaggie. June 2007. Victoria State Emergency Service

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 RediPlan 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.

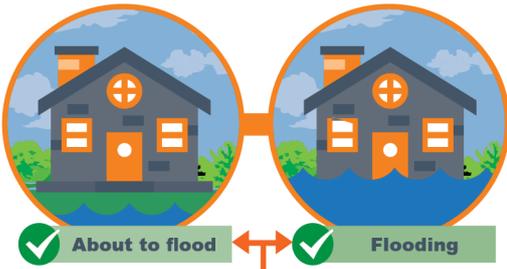


For more details and other tips, visit:
ses.vic.gov.au/flood



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.
http://www.bom.gov.au/vic/flood/west_gippsland.shtml

Emergency broadcasters



Radio | ABC 100.7FM or 828AM TRFM 99.5
TV | Sky News

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:
ses.vic.gov.au/flood



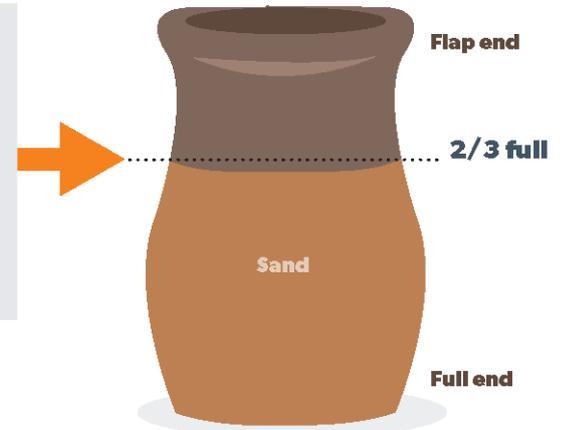
Sandbagging

Protecting your home

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

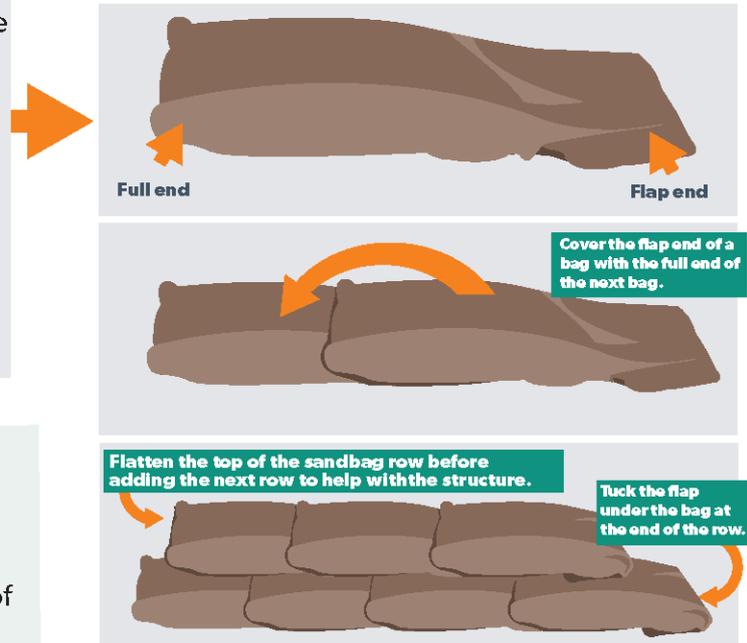
How do I fill a sandbag?

- 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 or hand scoop

Where can I purchase these supplies?

- Many sandbag supplies can be purchased from hardware stores or garden centers.
- VICSES do not routinely supply sandbags to households.
- During floods, sandbag distribution points may be established in flood-affected areas.

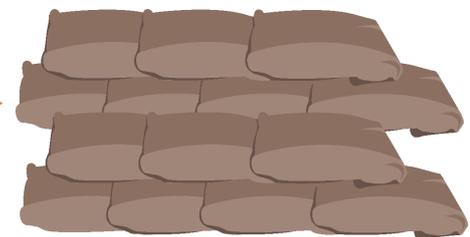


How many sandbags will I need and how much sand?

- 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.