

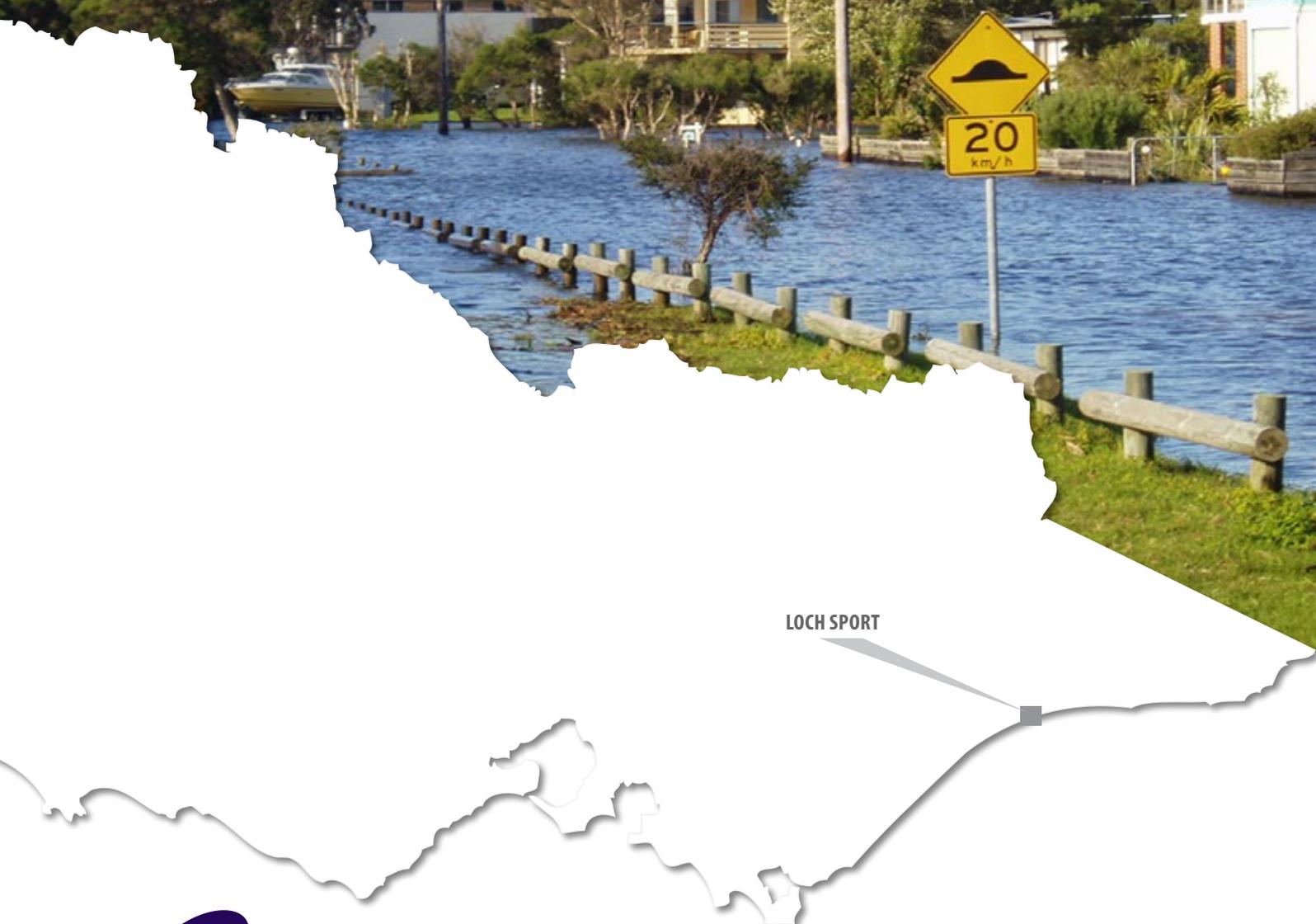


Local Flood Guide Loch Sport



FloodSafe

Flood information for the Gippsland Lakes at Loch Sport



LOCH SPORT



FLOOD STORM EMERGENCY **132 500**

For more information visit www.ses.vic.gov.au

The Loch Sport local area

Loch Sport is on a spit of land at the western end of the Gippsland Lakes, bordered to the north by Lake Victoria and to the south by Lake Reeve. There is a causeway across Lake Reeve providing vehicle access to 90 Mile Beach.

Flooding in this community occurs as a result of flooding in the Gippsland Lakes caused in turn by flooding of the Latrobe, Thomson, Macalister, Avon, Mitchell, Nicholson and/or Tambo Rivers which flow into the Lakes.

Loch Sport is accessed via the Longford-Loch Sport Road which is the only road that remains open during a large flood event.

Are you at risk of flood?

In Loch Sport, there are many low-lying properties at risk of flooding.

The Gippsland Lakes typically flood one to three days after flooding in the Latrobe, Thomson, Macalister and Avon Rivers. Flooding can also be caused by the Mitchell, Tambo and Nicholson Rivers where there is a strong south easterly wind, increasing the lake levels around Loch Sport by up to 50 centimetres.

Properties facing Lake Reeve and Lake Victoria have similar flood risk. Lake Reeve will flood later because the Stockyard Hill Causeway restricts water flow at low levels. Once this causeway is overtopped at about 1.0 metre on the Loch Sport Marina Gauge (see page 3), Lake Reeve levels rise quickly to meet those of Lake Victoria, flooding surrounding properties.

Floods in the Lakes are slow to rise and fall, sometimes taking up to two weeks.

The map below shows the Minor Flood Level (0.9 metres), the Major Flood Level (1.9 metres) and the 1% level, meaning there is a 1% chance of this kind of flood occurring each year:



Disclaimer

This map publication is presented by the Victoria State Emergency Service for the purpose of disseminating emergency management information. The contents of the information have not been independently verified by the 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.

Your local emergency broadcasters are:

- ABC Radio 828 AM
- TR FM 99.5 FM
- 3GV Gold 1242 AM
- SKY NEWS Television

Wellington Shire Contact details:

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

Did you know?

During June 2007, four major east coast lows formed off the coast of New South Wales and eastern Victoria, with each one producing heavy rainfall.

The last east coast low brought up to 300 millimetres of rainfall in the Gippsland Lakes catchment resulting in lake levels rising 1.3 metres above normal levels, impacting roads and properties in Loch Sport.

Flooding like this could occur again in Loch Sport with similar or greater consequences including:

- Roads closed.
- Over 2000 properties isolated.
- Up to 650 properties flooded.
- Boat ramp and marina car parks flooded.

While no two floods are the same, floods like this or worse could occur again. It is important that you know what to do.

Your Local Flood Information

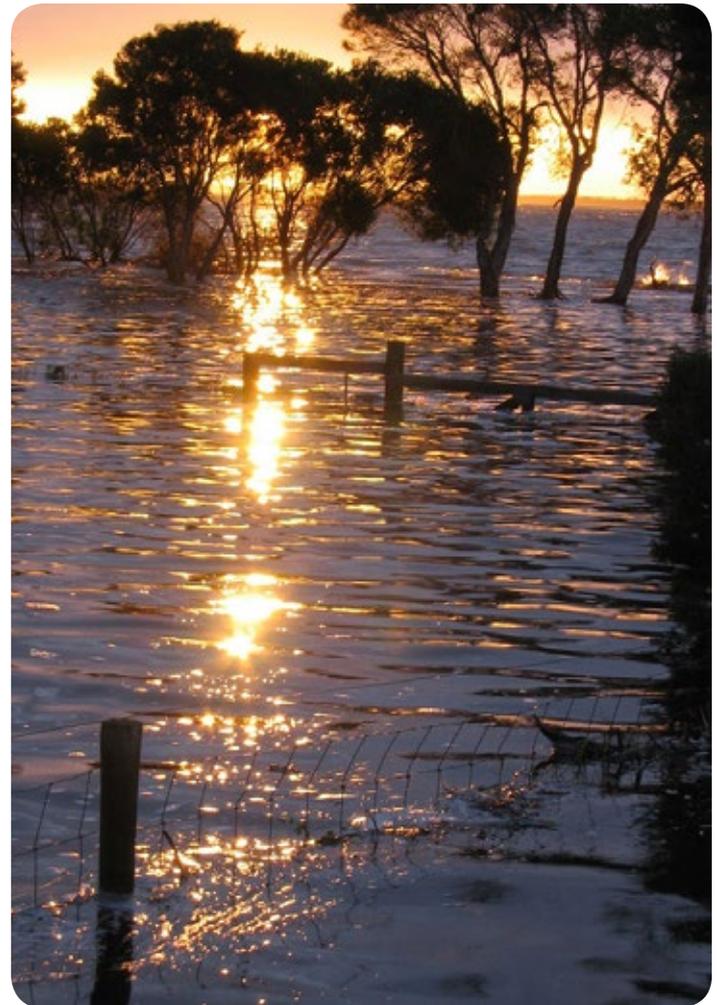
Know your risk

Gippsland Lakes Flood Levels at the Loch Sport Marina Gauge

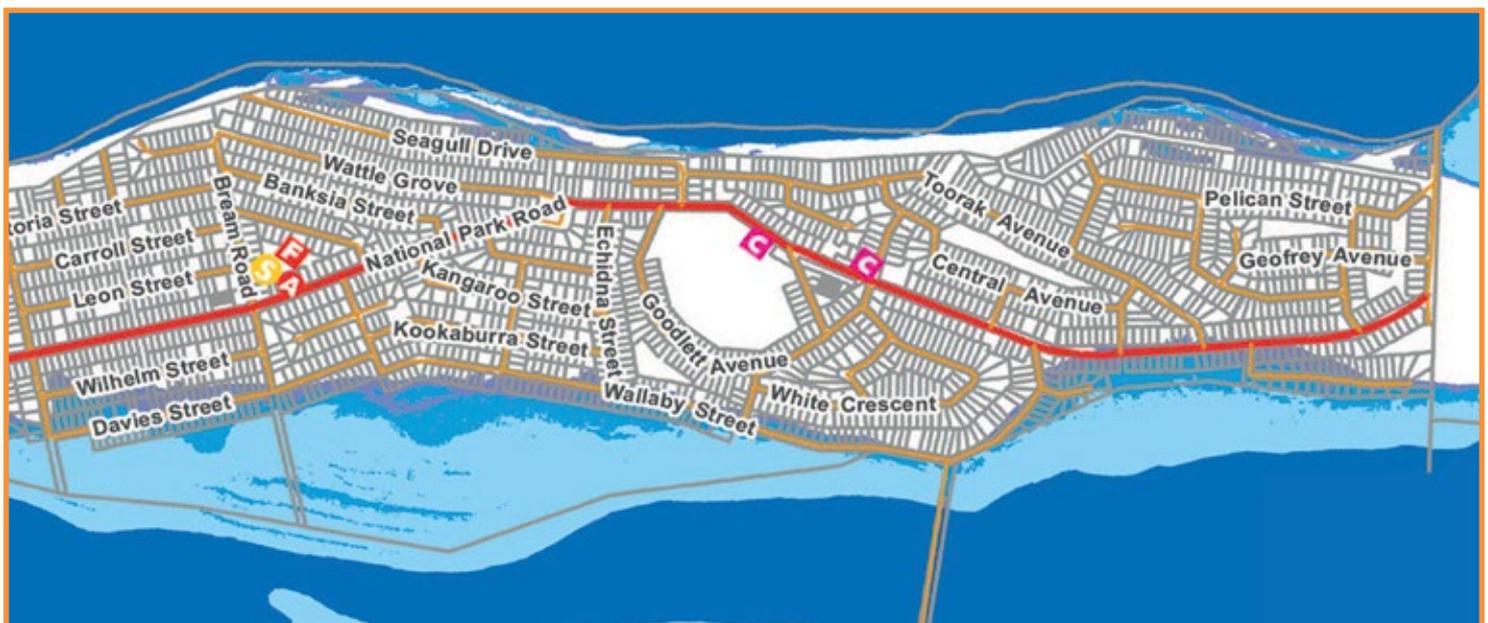
When the Bureau of Meteorology issues flood warnings they may include a prediction of the flood height at Gippsland Lakes at Loch Sport Marina.

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.

1.80 m	More than 600 properties are now flooded with over 100 properties having water up to a metre deep across their property.
1.50 m	2007 flood level
1.40 m	MAJOR FLOOD LEVEL Nearly 400 properties are now flooded and over 2000 isolated east of the Cliff Street and National Park Road intersection. Those wishing to evacuate will need to do so before roads become flooded.
1.20 m	Stockyard Hill Road (the causeway) is now closed, there is no access to 90 Mile Beach. Many local roads will now be flooded, isolating over 100 homes and restricting movement around Loch Sport.
1.00 m	Properties along Reeves Street will now be isolated. Properties facing Lake Reeve may be at risk of flooding, although this may be delayed by one to two days.
0.90 m	MINOR FLOOD LEVEL Properties along Victoria Road become isolated as Victoria Parade will be closed, residents in this area need to leave before roads are closed.
0.70 m	Victoria Parade will start to flood from lake water flowing back through the stormwater drains. Properties facing Lake Victoria along Seagull Drive, Victoria Street and Victoria Parade will experience minor flooding.
0.20 m	
0.00 m	Average tidal range.



Victoria Street, 2007 flood



Legend		Trigger Levels	
Minor Flood Event	Tertiary Road	Kindergarden/Childcare	Minor Flood Level 0.9 m AHD
Major Flood Event	Rail Trail	Police Station	Major Flood Level 1.4 m AHD
1% AEP Flood Event	Levee	Telephone Exchange	
Dam/Reservoir/Lake	Ambulance Station	VIC SES UNIT	
Ocean	CFA / MFB Fire Station		
Main Road	Community Centre		

About Flood Warnings

What warnings mean

Flood Watches and **Flood 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.

Flood Warnings mean flooding is about to happen or is already happening.

For the Gippsland Lakes, Flood Warnings are generally issued after many days of flooding in communities such as Traralgon, Sale, Stratford and Bairnsdale and before flooding in the communities around the Gippsland Lakes begins.

A Flood Warning provides predictions of flood impact and the estimated time before the lake levels will reach particular levels at gauges around the Lakes and how long it will be before the waters will recede.

A Minor Flood Warning means floodwater can:

- Lake levels start to flood waterside car parks and boat ramps
- Puddling will occur on and beside low-lying roads and properties
- Storm water drains will start to flood internal roadways and properties
- Caravan parks may start to flood
- Some local low-lying roads will start to flood.

A Major Flood Warning means floodwater can:

- Lake levels have risen and cause extensive flooding in the towns and on lakeside farmland
- Residential and commercial properties are flooded
- Major traffic routes will be closed
- Properties and towns will be isolated
- Numerous evacuations may be required.

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.

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 the Bureau of Meteorology.

Severe Weather Warnings

These warnings are issued to the community by the Bureau of Meteorology 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 can usually not 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 Loch Sport community through the Emergency Alert telephone warning system. All Emergency Services 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 Loch Sport

For the Gippsland Lakes 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 Gippsland Lakes.

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: Gippsland Lakes at Loch Sport Marina Gauge.*

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.
- 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:

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 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.

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.**
- **Floodwater can be deep and damage roads and bridges.**
- **Do not 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 000 (triple zero).
- **For emergency help from the SES in floods and storms call 132 500.**
- Stay away from all waterways including drains and culverts.
- Stay away from fallen power lines – electricity travels easily through water.
- Be aware that animals, snakes, rats, spiders and other pests may be on the move during a flood - they can come into houses and other buildings or hide around sandbags.
- Keep in contact with neighbours.
- Be prepared to leave early.

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 advised that it is safe.

Once you return to your home:

- 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 the building, use a torch to light your way - never use matches, cigarette lighters or any other flame 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 stay healthy.

How SES helps the community

The Victoria State Emergency Service (SES) is a volunteer based emergency service. Although our SES volunteers attempt to reach everyone prior to or during an emergency, at times this is not possible. 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 a 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.

When flooding may happen soon (a Flood Warning)

- Make sure your family members and neighbours are aware of what is happening.
- Be ready to evacuate. Act early, 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. Raise chemicals and oils well above the predicted flood height.
- Move pumps, machinery, hay and livestock to higher ground.

During the flood

- For emergency assistance, call 132 500 for SES.
- 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, water can flow quickly and have strong currents.
- Stay well clear of fallen trees, power lines and damaged buildings.

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
-  twitter.com/vicseswarnings

Emergency Contacts

Life threatening Emergency
Police fire ambulance

000 Triple Zero
TTY106

Victoria State Emergency Service (SES)
For flood / storm emergency calls

132 500

SES Information Line

Operates during major floods or storms

1300 842 737
1300 VIC SES
ses.vic.gov.au

Bureau of Meteorology (BoM)

Weather Information, forecasts, warnings

1300 659 217
bom.gov.au

National Relay Service (NRS)

relayservice.gov.au

The deaf, hearing or speech impaired can call SES or 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

www.iprelay.com.au/call/
then enter: **132 500 or 000**

VicRoads

Road closures and hazard reporting service

13 11 70
vicroads.vic.gov.au

Wellington Shire Contact Details

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

Weather District: West and South Gippsland

Catchment: Gippsland Lakes

Emergency Broadcasters

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

- ABC Radio 828 AM
- TR FM 99.5 FM
- 3GV Gold 1242 AM
- 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: _____