



FloodSafe
Better FloodSafe than sorry

Macalister Catchment

Licola, Glenmaggie,
Tinamba, Newry, Maffra
Riverslea and Bundalaguah

Tinamba June 2007



How to plan and prepare for floods



Are you at risk of flood?

The Macalister River flows south from Glencairn and Licola, through Lake Glenmaggie, Tinamba, Riverslea and Bundalaguah to where it joins the Thomson River north of Sale.

Lake Glenmaggie is a small weir used to store water for the Macalister Irrigation District. It is not able to store large volumes of water or prevent floods. Water is released in a measured way to try to minimise the effects of floods downstream of the weir, if possible.

Floods in Tinamba may occur when 30,000ML/day of water are released from Glenmaggie Weir. This can result in water running through the intersection of the Maffra-Traralgon Road at Tinamba with businesses and homes at risk of flooding above floor level.

Similarly, above floor flooding in Newry can occur when the outflow from Glenmaggie is greater than 60,000ML/day. This rate causes flood waters to spread out across the farmlands and funnel through the town. Early evacuation is important when major floods are predicted for this area.

The town of Maffra is on the eastern bank of the Macalister. Flooding within the town is limited.

Rural areas in the vicinity of Maffra such as Mewburn Park, Bellbird Corner, Riverslea, Bundalaguah and Myrtlebank can have widespread rural flooding as the catchment spreads out and the water slows.

Local heavy rain can also cause flooding even when the upper catchment is dry, so be aware of local conditions.

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



LOCAL FLOOD INTELLIGENCE

based on outflow from gauges at Glenmaggie Weir

MAJOR Flood - 5.2m, 35,000ML/day

Main Street of Newry may experience fast flows when outflow from weir reaches 60,000ML/day - early evacuation essential - travel through Newry and Tinamba blocked

Low-lying areas downstream of Newry and Tinamba such as Riverslea, Mewburn Park and Bundalagwah may have extensive flooding across rural properties & roads

River flows along the western edge of Maffra. Properties & access affected in town in Maffra-Newry Rd near sports oval & River St. Macalister Park near the western bridge may also be closed

River flows just south of Licola, flooding low areas of the Licola Lions Club Village, some parts of Target Creek Rd & the Licola-Jamieson Rd

Lake Glenmaggie outflow blocks access to Coongulla via Ryans Rd but access north is possible

MODERATE Flood - 4.0m, 22,000ML/day

If Major flooding predicted, evacuate early - this catchment can flood quickly

At 30,000ML/day outflow, Tinamba intersection may be covered with running water with access affected. Newry-Tinamba Road & Maffra/Traralgon Rd closed, although Newry township not at risk at this level.

Caravan park on the shore of Lake Glenmaggie may flood.

MINOR Flood - 2.3m, 7,500ML/day

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 and plan ahead



www.ses.vic.gov.au

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Listen to local radio & SKY News for information updates
Keep in touch with neighbours