



Seaspray

Local Flood Guide

Flood information for Merriman Creek



For flood emergency assistance call
VICSES on **132 500**





Seaspray Local Area

Seaspray is located approximately 200km east of Melbourne in Victoria's Gippsland Region. Seaspray is a coastal town with 320 permanent residents, rising to more than 1000 during the summer months. The township lies at the western end of Ninety Mile Beach and it is predominantly a holiday destination for seasonal and casual visitors.

Seaspray is situated on the eastern floodplain of Merriman Creek at the downstream end of the catchment, close behind the coastal sand dunes where water flows out to Bass Strait. Merriman Creek flows along the western boundary of Seaspray before it passes through the Ninety Mile Beach entrance into Bass Strait.

The map on page 3 below shows the expected flooding extent in Seaspray during a 1% flood event. A 1% flood (or 1 in 100 year flood) means that there is a 1% chance of a flood of this size occurring in any given year. This size flood would measure 6.36 metres on the flood gauge located on Merriman Creek at Prospects Road Seaspray.

Are you at risk of flood?



Seaspray can be affected by a range of flooding types including riverine flooding from Merriman Creek, flooding from the Gippsland Lakes via Lake Reeve and localised stormwater flooding.

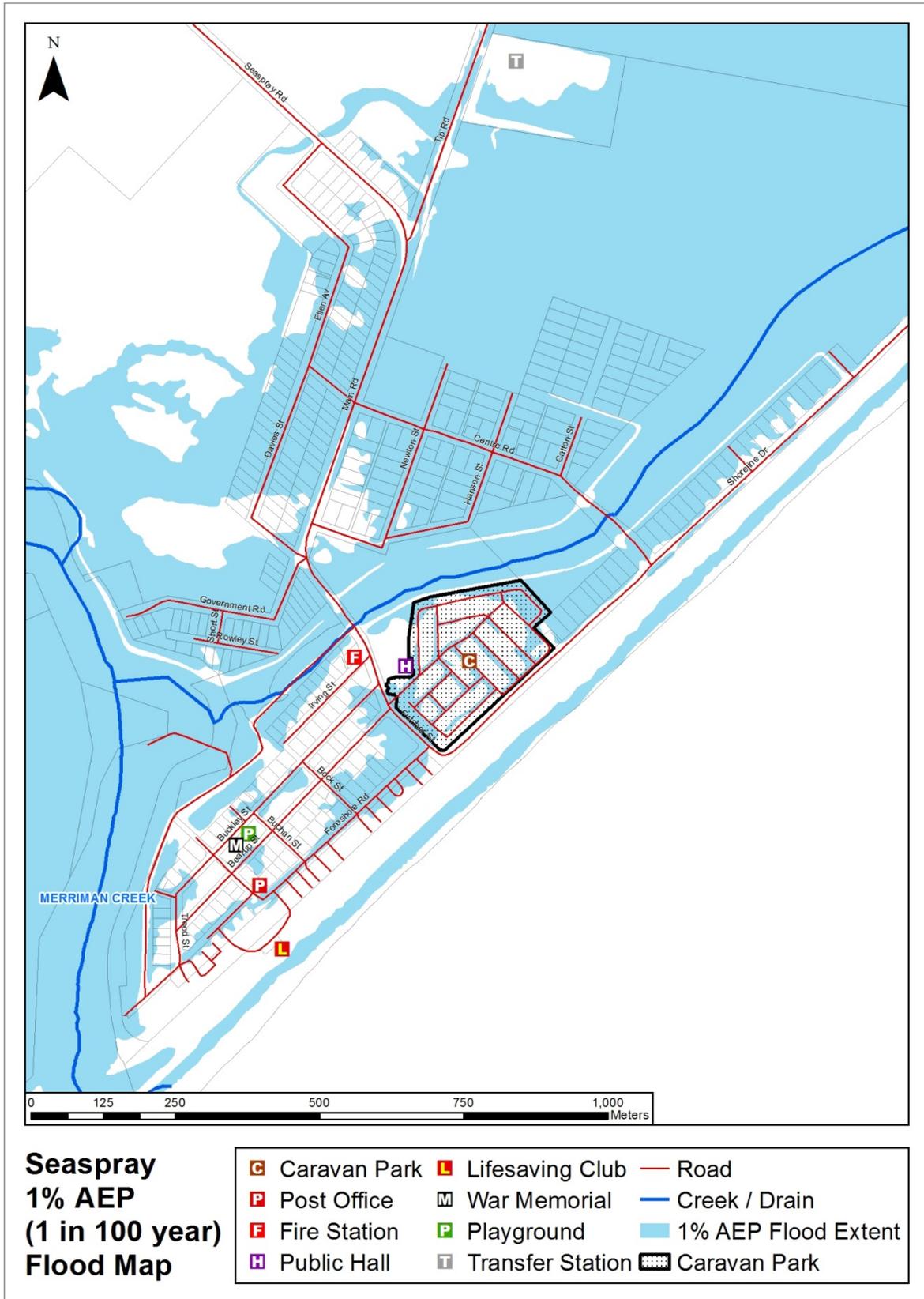
A levee bank system, that protects part of the town, was constructed in 1987 to reduce the impacts to the community. Currently this levee is undergoing works and depending on the type of flooding, its ability to hold back floodwaters can vary.

Extreme flooding occurs when floodwaters overflow the levees and travel over the low lying land. This can be expected during a 1 in 100 year flood event as per the map on page 3.

Local flooding is also controlled by the town drainage system which consists of two pumping stations. Each pumping station has two pumps; each can pump 180 litres of water every second. The pumping station near the south west end of Irving Street pumps water into Merriman Creek, whilst the Centre Road pumping station discharges excess water into the Lake Reeve Floodway. If power fails water will remain until pumps can be re-activated.

Flooding at Seaspray will most often result from consistent rainfall over a 36 – 48 hour period across the upper catchment area of Mount Tassie and Balook area. It can be a useful strategy to monitor local rainfall totals via the Bureau of Meteorology website. Significant rainfall totals in the localised area will have more rapid impacts as opposed to rain that has fallen higher up the catchment.

The current storm tide level does not pose a flooding risk, but this may change under predicted sea level rises by the year 2100. During a large flood in Merriman Creek, the sand bar at the creek entrance may not allow water out due to high ocean levels. However, the flood risk is still higher from the creek flooding rather than flooding from the sea.



Disclaimer

This map publication is presented by Victoria State Emergency Service for the purpose of disseminating emergency management information. The contents of the information have 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



Did you know?

Seaspray has been significantly flooded on at least 12 occasions since 1916, including flooding in 1993, 1995 and 2012. The 1993 flood measured 5.53m on the Merriman Creek Gauge at Prospect Road Bridge which is a 2% flood event and caused:

- Extensive road closures around the community.
- Large breakouts of flood water across the East of town with vast amounts of water pooling.
- Considerable breakouts of water to the West of town.
- Water spilling onto low lying farmland to the north of Seaspray.
- Up to 220 properties flooded.
- Isolation of homes.
- There was a 4 hour travel time for peak water height to move from Stradbroke West to the Prospect Road Gauge.



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

If you live in a low-lying area you may be at risk of flooding or need to detour around flooded areas.

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

In 1993, flood waters had entered the town from the north as a consequence of irrigation embankments diverting the flow of Blind Creek, resulting in flood waters outflanking the levees. Corrective work took place after this flood and has shown a positive influence in reducing flood impacts within Seaspray.



Seaspray flood in 1993



Merriman Creek flood levels at the Prospect Road Bridge

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

Height (metres)	Flood Level/Impacts
2.0	Minor
2.17m	2007 flood height.
2.57m	2011 flood height.
3.00m	Moderate
3.78m	10% flood event. Minor impacts are felt to some properties along Foreshore Road, Futchers Street and Centre Road. Properties along Rowley Street are starting to flood. Total of 25 houses are in the scope of flood impacts.
4.50m	Major
4.82m	5% flood event. Foreshore Road and parts of Futchers Street and Centre Road are flooding with around 25 homes affected. Properties along Rowley Street begin to flood.
5.53m	1993 flood height – Roads closed - Government Road, Rowley Street, Short Street, Hansen Street, Newton Street, Centre Road, Main Road, Davies Street, Ellen Avenue, Tip Road, Foreshore Road, Lyons Street, Buchan Street.
5.57m	2% flood event. Properties along Shoreline Drive and Catton Street begin to flood. Deeper flooding along Foreshore Road, Futchers Street and Centre Road.
5.70m	1995 flood height.
6.36m	Height shown on map page 2 – 1% flood event. Around 195 houses may be affected, many between Main Road and Catton Street. Flooding of a large number of roads, with deep water on Centre Road, Catton Street and Hansen Street.

Staying Informed and Further Information

- Current warnings (VicEmergency) emergency.vic.gov.au 1800 226 226
- Bureau of Meteorology (BoM) bom.gov.au/vic/warnings 1300 659 217
- VicRoads Traffic traffic.vicroads.vic.gov.au
- Emergency Broadcasters
ABC 828AM, ABC Gipps 100.7FM, 3TR FM99.5FM,
3GV Gold 1242M, 3GCR Gipps Community 104.7FM
SKY NEWS Television
- VICSES Social Media facebook.com/vices
twitter.com/vicesnews
- Preparing for Flood Emergencies ses.vic.gov.au/get-ready
- Creating an Emergency Plan redcross.org.au/prepare
- Catchment Management Authority www.wgcma.vic.gov.au 1300 094 262
- Wellington Shire Council www.wellington.vic.gov.au 1300 366 244
- National Relay Service NRS relayservice.gov.au

**Life-threatening
Emergency
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Flood warnings and emergency checklist

Bureau of Meteorology Warnings

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. This service covers the whole state.

A **Flood Warning** means flooding is about to happen or is already happening. There are minor, moderate and major flood warnings. This service is only available where flood warning systems are in place.

 A Minor Flood Warning means floodwater can:	 A Moderate Flood Warning means floodwater can:	 A Major Flood Warning means floodwater can:
Spill over river banks and cover nearby low lying areas.	Spill over river banks and cover larger areas of land.	Cause widespread flooding.
Come up through drains in nearby streets.	Reach above floor levels in some houses and buildings.	Many houses and businesses are inundated above floor level.
Require the removal of stock in some cases.	Require evacuation in some areas.	Cause properties and whole areas to be isolated by water.
Cover riverside camping areas and affect some low-lying caravan parks.	Affect traffic routes.	Closes major roads and rail routes.
Cover minor roads paths, tracks and low level bridges.	Require the removal of stock in rural areas.	Require many evacuations.
Affect backyards and buildings below floor level.		Affect utility services (power, water, sewage etc.).

Severe Thunderstorm Warnings

Thunderstorms are classified as severe when there is potential to cause significant localised damage through wind gusts, large hail, and 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

- Flash Flooding can occur quickly due to heavy rainfall. You may not receive an official warning.
- Stay informed- monitor weather warnings, forecasts and river levels at the [BoM website](#) and warnings through [VicEmergency](#).



VICSES Warnings

VICSES utilises the VicEmergency app, website and hotline to distribute flood warnings and emergency information in Victoria. Communities can also access this information through our social media channels and emergency broadcasters.

VICSES warnings aim to provide you with as much information to help you make good decisions to protect yourself and your family

The warning level is based on severity, conditions and the likelihood that the emergency could impact on the community.

WARNING LEVELS	
	<p>EMERGENCY WARNING</p> <p>You are in imminent danger and need to take action immediately. You will be impacted. A Major flood warning usually fits into this category</p>
	<p>WARNING (WATCH AND ACT)</p> <p>An emergency is developing nearby. You need to take action now to protect yourself and others. A Moderate flood warning usually fits into this category.</p>
	<p>ADVICE</p> <p>An incident is occurring or has occurred in the area. Access information and monitor conditions.</p> <p>Can also be used as a notification that activity in the area has subsided and is no longer a danger to you. A Minor flood warning or Flood Watch usually fits into this category.</p>
ADDITIONAL MESSAGES	
	<p>PREPARE TO EVACUATE/ EVACUATE NOW</p> <p>An evacuation is recommended or procedures are in place to evacuate.</p>
	<p>COMMUNITY INFORMATION</p> <p>A newsletter containing updates for communities affected by an emergency.</p> <p>Can also be used as a notification that an incident has occurred but there is no threat to community.</p>
	<p>EMERGENCY ALERT</p> <p>During some emergencies, we may alert communities by sounding a local siren, or by sending an SMS to mobile phones or a voice message to landlines.</p>

Your emergency plan

Emergencies can happen at any time, with little warning. People who plan and prepare for emergencies reduce the impact and recover 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.

Visit redcross.org.au/prepare start creating your plan.



- 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 Kit

Visit [Emergency Toolkit](#) for more information



Every home and business should have a basic emergency kit with a supply of 3 days:



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 (e.g., babies, elderly and people with a disability)	
Photos	
Family keepsakes	
Valuables	
Other	



Emergency Checklist



- Check if your insurance policy covers flooding.
- Keep this list of emergency numbers in your mobile phone
- Download the Vic Emergency app on your mobile phone.
- Put together an emergency kit and prepare a home or business
- Emergency plan, see <https://www.redcross.org.au/prepare>

Before Flooding

- Leaving early before flooding occurs is always the safest option. Evacuating through floodwater is very dangerous and you may be swept away.**
- Stay informed- monitor weather warnings, forecasts and river levels at the www.bom.vic.gov.au and warnings through www.emergency.vic.gov.au.
- Secure objects likely to float and cause damage.
- Listen to the radio and check the VICSES website for 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.

During Flooding

- 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.
- Put household valuables and electrical items as high as possible.
- Turn off water, gas and electricity at the mains.
- If you are staying in a caravan, move to higher ground before flooding begins.
- Seek shelter indoors, away from floodwater.
- If floodwater comes inside, move to a higher point such as a kitchen bench or second storey.
- Stay away from trees, drains, low-lying areas, creeks, canals, culverts and floodwater.

Evacuating in Flooding

- Flood water is dangerous. Stay safe by never entering flood water. It can take just 15cm of water to float a car.**
- Find alternative travel routes if roads or underpasses are flooded.
- Be aware of driving hazards, such as mud, debris, damaged roads and fallen trees. If driving conditions are dangerous, safely pull over away from trees, drains and floodwater.

After Flooding

- For recovery information, contact your local council, go to the VicEmergency Relief and Recovery-emergency.vic.gov.au/Relief page or call the VicEmergency Hotline (1800 226 226).
- Have all electrical and gas equipment professionally tested before use.
- Stay away from damaged and flooded buildings, fallen trees and powerlines, and damaged roads until authorities advise they are safe.
- Drive slowly, obey all road signs and never drive through floodwater.
- When cleaning, protect your health and safety. Wear strong boots, gloves and protective clothing and wash your hands and clothes regularly.

For VICSES emergency assistance, call 132 500, or Triple Zero (000) in life threatening emergencies.