



# Local Flood Guide

## Seaspray

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



FLOOD STORM EMERGENCY **132 500**

**000**  
EMERGENCY  
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:** Corner of Fatcher Street and Bearup Street, Seaspray. *June 2021 Celebrate Seaspray Facebook*

**Content reviewed:** June 2025

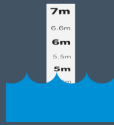


For more information visit: [ses.vic.gov.au/plan-and-stay-safe](https://ses.vic.gov.au/plan-and-stay-safe)

## Local flood information



There have been 12 significant flood events in Seaspray between 1916 and 2012.



The largest flood on record was in 1995 when the floodwater reached 5.70 metres at the Merriman Creek Gauge.



Seaspray is likely to experience flooding after more than 36 hours of constant rain in the Balook and Mount Tassie area.

## Why does Seaspray flood?

Seaspray 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 Merriman Creek and Lake Reeve rises and overflows their banks, and spills water onto land. The most common cause is prolonged heavy rainfall.

- Seaspray is built along the Merriman Creek and parts of the town are on the floodplain, the naturally low-lying areas more likely to be impacted in a flood.
- Rainfall from as far away as the Strzelecki Ranges can end up flowing into the Merriman Creek and other smaller creeks, potentially causing, or adding to flooding.
- Flooding from as far away as Blind Creek and Monkey Creek can end up flowing into Lake Reeve potentially causing, or adding to flooding in Seaspray.
- Low-lying coastal areas in Seaspray may flood due to storm surges caused by strong winds and low pressure during storms, resulting in an abnormal rise in sea level and the formation of large waves.
- When the flow of water from Merriman Creek to the ocean is restricted by a naturally occurring sandbar the effects of flooding can last for a longer period.

### 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.

- Stormwater drainage may not be able to drain the amount of rainfall, causing them to overflow.
- The ground may be unable to absorb the amount of rainfall naturally causing the water to pool. More buildings and less green spaces can impact this.
- Merriman Creek may quickly rise, causing water to rise and overflow its banks.

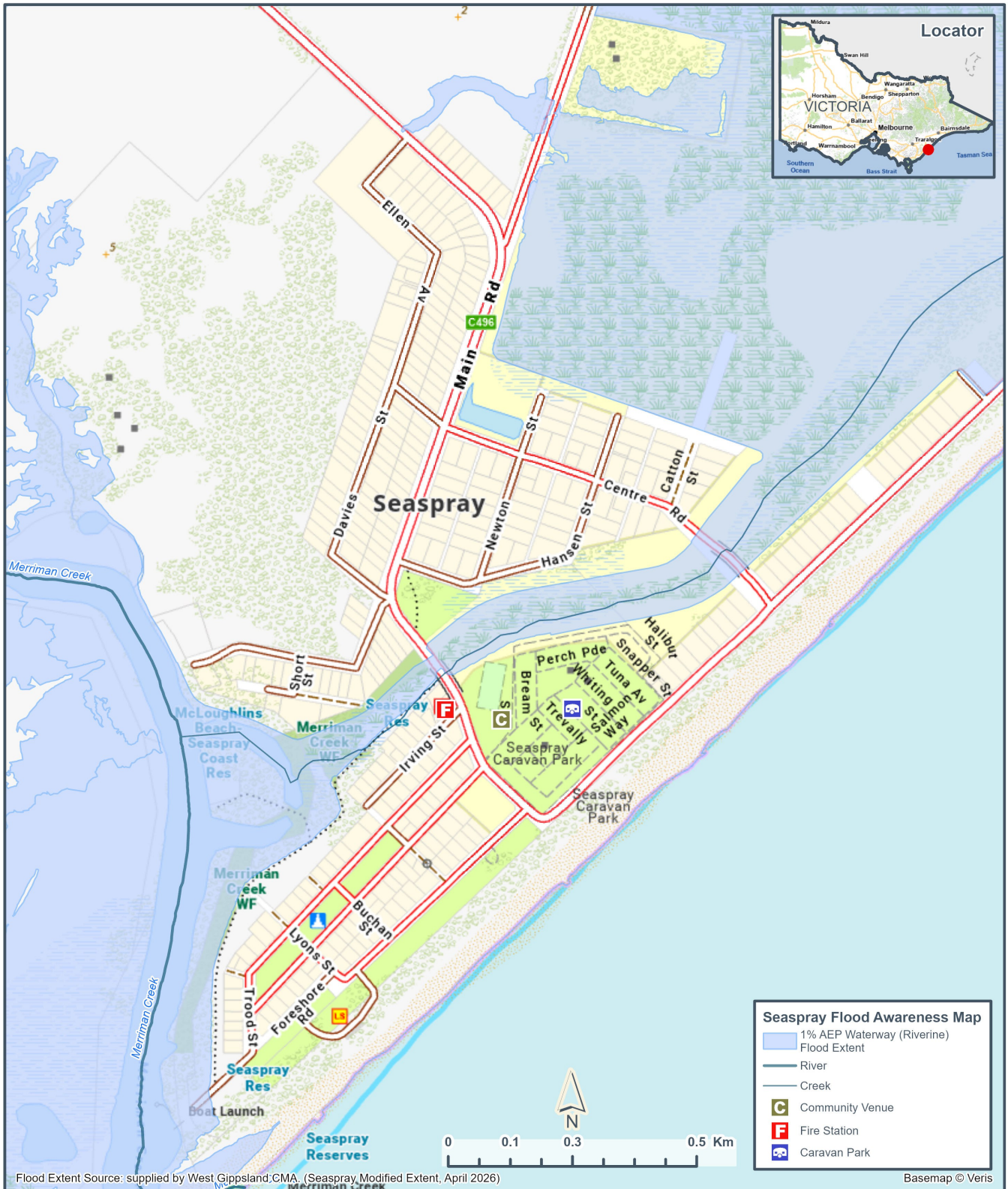
## Check your home, work, and travel routes for floodwater

If this map shows potential flood risk for you, ensure you take action to **plan and prepare for floods**. See [page 8](#) for more information.

- This map shows the area likely to flood at 6.36m at Merriman Creek at the Seaspray Pump House gauge. This is referred to as a 1% Annual Exceedance Probability (AEP) flood.
- This means there is a 1% chance of this size flood (or greater) happening in any year.



View an interactive version of this map using West Gippsland Catchment Management Authority's [Community Flood Portal](#), see [page 7](#) for more information.



## Emergency Warnings

The Merriman Creek does not have a gauge with a Minor, Moderate or Major Flood Warning Service.

The [Merriman Creek at Seaspray](#) gauge provides information on river level height to assist in predicting possible flooding effects at Seaspray.

An emergency flood warning containing generalised flooding information for South Gippsland Rivers is issued when Seaspray is likely to experience flooding.

## 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 impacts can occur during different height floods.

In October 2024, Wellington Shire Council completed upgrades to the Seaspray levee system. The work involved minor extensions to an existing section of the levee banks and will reduce the impacts of flooding from coastal and riverine flooding influences during a 1% AEP flood.



### Water condition

- Debris including trees and objects can be a risk to water-based activities.
- Wildlife such as snakes and rodents can be transported by floodwater.
- There is an increased risk in hazardous material and contaminants affecting the quality of water and wildlife.



### Minor impacts

- Water spilling over river banks and nearby low lying areas.
- Water coming up through drains in nearby streets.
- Boat ramps, jetties and river or beachside areas can be unusable.
- Water will cover minor paths, tracks, and low level bridges.
- Some backyards and buildings impacted below floor level.
- Waterside camp areas and some low-lying caravan parks impacted.
- Relocation of stock required in some cases.



### Moderate impacts

- Water spilling over riverbanks and covering large areas of land.
- Water above floor level in some houses and buildings.
- Evacuation may be required in some areas.
- Impact to roads and traffic routes.



### Major impacts

- Widespread flooding.
- Many houses and businesses are inundated above floor level.
- Properties and whole areas may be isolated.
- Major roads and rail routes closed.
- Many evacuations required.
- Impact to utility services (water, power, sewerage).

## 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

The Seaspray drainage network is supported by pump stations and when power outages occur flood water can pool in streets and low lying areas until power is restored.

## What roads are likely to flood?

During a flood, the roads listed below may flood and could be closed.

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

- Centre Road
- Futchers Road
- Tip 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.

## Severe Weather and Severe Thunderstorm Warnings

The Bureau Of Meteorology issues both Severe Thunderstorm Warnings and Severe Weather Warnings and both can identify a risk of heavy rainfall, flash flooding, abnormally high tides and unusually large waves.

These warnings are the earliest notification a community will receive that flash flooding or storm surges may occur in their area.



You can check weather warnings at [Bureau Of Meteorology](#) website, by downloading the BOM app or by calling 1300 659 210. See [page 9](#) for more information.

## Flash Flood Warnings

Flash flooding is challenging to predict. Victoria State Emergency Service uses VicEmergency to send emergency warnings about flash flooding. An emergency warning is usually issued after receiving reports from the public or emergency service workers who observe the flooding.



FLOOD STORM EMERGENCY **132 500**



Stay informed of emergency warnings through [VicEmergency](#) website, by downloading the VicEmergency app or calling 1800 226 226. See [page 8](#) for more formation.

## Previous flood impacts

While no two floods are the same, understanding the impacts of past floods can help you anticipate impacts of future flood events<sup>^</sup>.

### September 1993 Flood Event - 5.53 meters\* (2% AEP Flood)

Intense rainfall occurred for days and areas of the catchment received more than 80mm of rainfall in 24 hours.

Merriman Creek broke its banks to the east, west and north of the township causing extensive flooding across the floodplains and isolating homes within the Seaspray township.

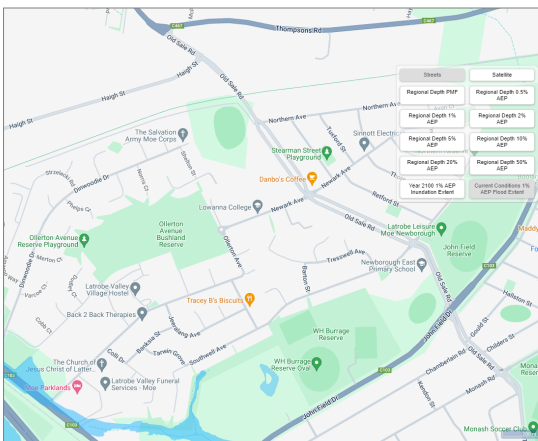
A total of 44 homes were flooded above floor level, and another 140 residential properties were affected by floodwater.

<sup>^</sup>Flood mitigation works have been implemented since this event.



Seaspray township, Victoria State Emergency Service. September 1993.  
\* measured at Merriman Creek at Seaspray Pump Station

## 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.wgcm.vic.gov.au](http://flood.wgcm.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](http://wgcm.vic.gov.au) | 03 5175 7800

### Local Council

For relief support after a flood event and general land use planning.

- **Wellington Shire Council**  
[wellington.vic.gov.au](http://wellington.vic.gov.au) | 1300 366 244

# 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](https://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](https://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](https://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.

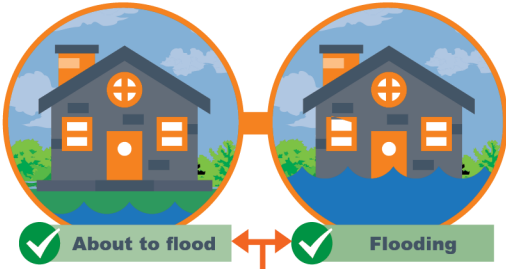



For more details and other tips, visit:  
[ses.vic.gov.au/flood](https://ses.vic.gov.au/flood)



# 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](https://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.

[bom.gov.au/vic/flood/west\\_gippsland.shtml](https://bom.gov.au/vic/flood/west_gippsland.shtml)

### Emergency broadcasters



**Radio** | ABC 100.7FM or 828AM, 3TR FM 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.

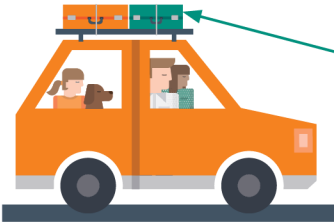
3



### 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:



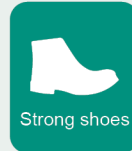
Phone & charger



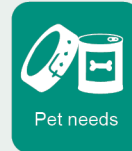
Prescriptions & medication



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](https://ses.vic.gov.au/flood)



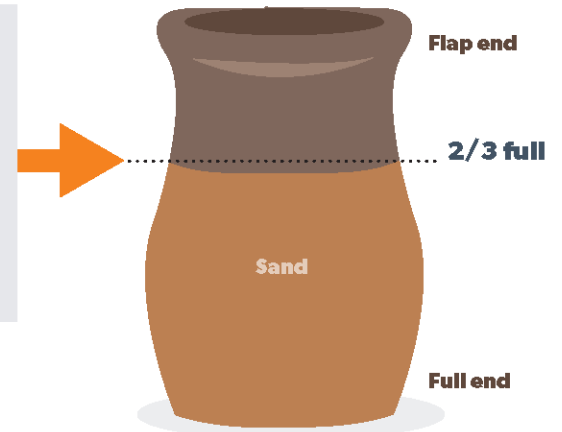
# Sandbagging

## Protecting your home

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

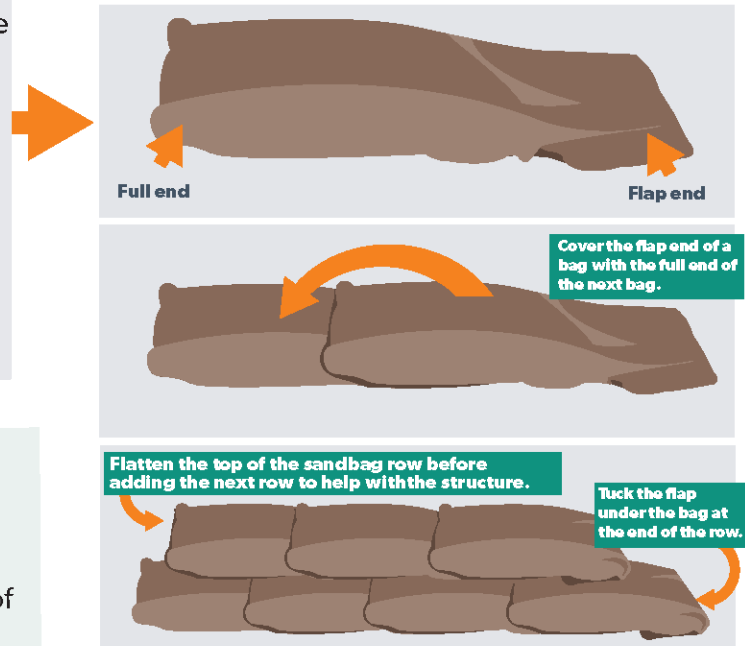
### How do I fill a sandbag?

- 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



### 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.

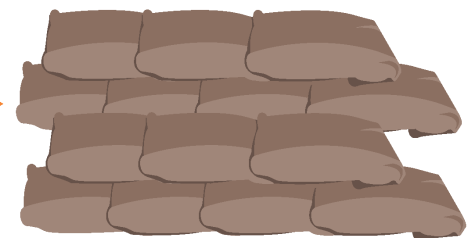


### How many sandbags will I need and how much sand?

- 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.