

Flood and Storm Sub-Plan

A Sub-plan of the Municipal Emergency Management Plan

Darebin City Council

Version 7

Reviewed July 2025



Acknowledgement of Traditional Owners

The Darebin City Council Municipal Emergency Management Planning Committee respectfully acknowledges the Traditional Owners of the land and waters of Darebin City Council. We pay our respects to Elders past, present and emerging, and are committed to working with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities to achieve a shared vision of safer and more resilient communities.

Authority

The Flood and Storm Sub-plan has been prepared by VICSES on behalf of, and in collaboration with the Darebin City Council Municipal Emergency Management Planning Committee (MEMPC). It was prepared in accordance with, and complies with the requirements of the *Emergency Management Act 2013* including having regard to the guidelines issued under section 77, [**Guidelines for Preparing State, Regional and Municipal Emergency Management Plans \(the Guidelines\)**](#).

It was endorsed by the Darebin City Council Municipal Emergency Management Planning Committee on November 2025 as a sub-plan to the Darebin City Council Municipal Emergency Management Plan (MEMP). A Statement of Assurance for this plan was approved by the North West Metro Emergency Management Planning Committee on 20 February 2026.

This sub-plan was published on the [VICSES website](#) on September 2026.

Any printed hard copies of this Flood and Storm Sub-plan are considered 'uncontrolled documents' and may not reflect the most current or updated version.

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1. Introduction

1.1. Aim

The aim of this MEMP Flood and Storm Sub-plan (MFSSP or the 'Sub-plan') is to detail the local arrangements for before, during and after flood and storm incidents within the municipal footprint.

1.2. Objectives

The objectives of this Sub-plan are to:

- Ensure alignment with the State Emergency Management Planning Framework and integration with broader emergency management arrangements and supporting documentation.
- Recognise and summarise the flood and storm risks that may affect people, property and/or the environment within the municipal area, drawing on existing risk assessments and studies.
- Support the implementation of measures that avoid or minimise future risks and reduce existing vulnerabilities, taking into account the causes and consequences of flood and storm events.
- Manage residual risks by promoting access to accurate, timely and locally relevant information to reduce the consequences of flood and storm incidents.

1.3. Authorising environment

This is an updated version of this Darebin City Council MEMP Flood and Storm Sub-plan (MFSSP). It replaces and supersedes the Darebin City Council MEMP Flood and Storm Sub-plan December 2023.

This plan is a Sub-plan of, and aligns with the [City of Darebin Municipal Emergency Management Plan \(MEMP\)](#). It is consistent with the [State Emergency Management Plan \(SEMP\)](#) and in alignment with the core capabilities of the [Victorian Preparedness Framework](#).

Comments and feedback on this Sub-plan are welcome and should be sent to ust.nwmetro@ses.vic.gov.au

The Darebin City Council MEMPC is the owner of this MFSSP, pursuant to *Part 6A of the Emergency Management Act 2013* (as amended).

To the extent possible, this Sub-plan does not conflict with, or duplicate, any other plans in relation to emergency management that are currently in force within Australia as per the *Emergency Management Act 2013 60AC(c)*.

Section 60AI (2) of the Emergency Management Act 2013 allows the MEMPC and Emergency Management Victoria to exclude information that is related to critical infrastructure, personal information or information that is of a commercially sensitive nature.

In line with its roles and responsibilities set out in the SEMPC, the Victoria State Emergency Service (VICSES) has developed this plan in collaboration with the MEMPC. The plan reflects the outcomes of the Community Emergency Risk Assessment (CERA) process undertaken by the MEMPC.

Development of this Sub-plan has included consultation with key agencies and organisations involved in the flood and storm preparedness, response and recovery. The local knowledge, expertise and contributions of these stakeholders have been vital in shaping the arrangements and strategies outlined in this plan.

1.4. Exercise, evaluation, and review

This plan will be reviewed and updated at least every three years, with consideration given to earlier revisions as required to ensure the plan provides for a current, integrated, coordinated, and comprehensive approach to flood emergencies, and consideration of potential escalation of climate-related hazards.

Earlier reviews may be triggered by this plan being applied in a major emergency or exercise or following a flood study, a significant change in flood mitigation measures, a substantial change to relevant legislation or arrangements, including the SEMP.

1.4.1 Exercise

The MEMPC is responsible for organising exercises to test this plan, which should be conducted within the plan's lifecycle. These may include exercises led by individual agencies as well as opportunities to test the plan during actual flood or storm events. Ideally, exercises will be scheduled shortly before the period of highest risk for floods and storms, typically during winter and spring.

Event	Exercise Type	Date
Exercise Trigger	Multi agency, multi council exercise – working collaboratively in a large scale storm event	2023

1.5. Audience and linkages

1.5.1 Audience

The primary audience for this Sub-plan is local government and emergency management agencies operating within the City of Darebin. While the broader community is not the intended audience, community members may still find the information contained in this plan useful and informative.

3.3.1 Linkages

This Sub-plan does not operate in isolation and is integrated within the broader emergency management planning framework, which guides flood and storm management at the State, Regional, Municipal and Local level.

This plan refers to a range of existing resources related to floods and storms, aligns with the direction set by relevant plans and policies, and includes links to further information for the reader.

Access to operationally sensitive information may require a login. This includes documents stored on the Emergency Management Common Operating Picture ([EM-COP](#)), such as [Joint Standard Operating Procedures \(JSOPs\)](#). Documents stored on the VICSES Intranet, such as Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) and supporting operational information can be obtained by contacting a VICSES representative.

The sub-plan is consistent with and supports:

- [State Emergency Management Plan](#) (SEMP).
- SEMP [Flood Sub-plan](#), SEMP [Storm Sub-plan](#).
- The North West Metro [Region Emergency Management Plan](#).
- The North West Metro [Region Flood Sub-plan](#), [Storm Sub-plan](#).
- [City of Darebin Relief and Recovery Plan](#)
- The Municipal Emergency Management Plan (MEMP) [City of Darebin MEMP Plan](#)
- Community Local Flood Guides (LFGs):
 - [City of Darebin LFG](#)

1.5.3 Supporting Operational Documentation

This Sub-plan provides overarching arrangements for managing flood and storm events within the municipality. It is supported by a series of Annexes that contain operational or sensitive information maintained by VICSES. These annexes are available to authorised personnel through a VICSES representative as required.

Restricted document(s)

Flood Intelligence and VICSES Response Arrangements for Flood and Storm in the City of Darebin:

- Annex A – Flood and Storm Threats for Municipality
- Annex A1 – Flood evacuation arrangements (if applicable)
- Annex B – Typical flood peak travel times
- Annex C – Localities and At-Risk Communities
- Annex D – Maps and Schematics
- Annex E – Storm Damage and Specific Response Arrangements
- Annex F – Flood and Storm Warning Systems

1.5.4 Hyperlinks

Documents or resources that are referred to frequently throughout this plan (such as the [SEMP](#)) may not be hyperlinked in each instance.

All hyperlinks were accurate at time of publication and currency of the linked content remains the responsibility of the host agency.

2. The Emergency Context

2.1. Risks

The City of Darebin is susceptible to severe weather and flooding throughout the year. A Community Emergency Risk Assessment (CERA) conducted by the MEMPC has identified riverine flooding, flash/overland flooding, and storms as key risks to the community.

The City of Darebin covers an area of 53km² and is located in Melbourne's northern suburbs, 5-15km from the Melbourne CBD. Suburbs of Darebin include Kingsbury, Northcote, Preston, Reservoir and Thornbury and also parts of Alphington, Bundoora, Fairfield and Macleod.

The Municipality is bounded by the City of Whittlesea to the north, City of Banyule to the east, City of Boroondara to the south east, the City of Yarra to the south and south west, City of Moreland to the west and City of Hume to the northwest. The City of Darebin has a population of 144,086 (2012), 40% of whom were born overseas.

Land use consists of established residential, commercial, industrial and parklands. Development within the City of Darebin has occurred over a long period during which community expectations and the design standard of urban areas, in terms of stormwater drainage systems and subdivisional layouts, varied from current standards. As a result, most stormwater drains were originally designed to meet the 20% AEP (5-year ARI) standard and overland flow paths were not required. As a result, many of the Municipality's drainage lines lack a continuous and unobstructed overland flow path to cater for flows in excess of capacity of the piped system. Buildings and other infrastructure are at risk of being damaged by flooding. Increases in the density of urban development, and thus increases in runoff volumes, have exacerbated the issue.

Where practical, excess flows are carried to low points via the road network, from where a combination of pipes and overland flow paths carry water to Merri Creek or Darebin Creek.

Around 5% of the City of Darebin is geographically flood prone. Major contributors to this are developments on floodplains and in overland flow paths, old drainage systems that were designed to what are now outdated standards and increased housing density.

For more detailed information refer to **Annex A** in the Flood & Storm Intelligence and VICSES Response Arrangements for the City of Darebin (operational use only).

2.1.1 Riverine flooding

Within the municipality, large severe floods generally occur as a result of a moist warm airflow from northern Australia bringing moderate to heavy rainfall over a period of 12 hours or more following a prolonged period of general rainfall. The period of general rainfall "wets up" the catchments and (partially) fills both the on-stream dams and the natural floodplain storage. These combine to increase the runoff generated during the subsequent period of heavy rainfall.

Large but less severe floods result from sequences of cold fronts during winter and spring that progressively wet up the catchments and fill the on-stream dams and the natural floodplain storage. Prolonged moderate to heavy rain leads to major flooding. The Merri Creek catchment is susceptible to Riverine Flooding with areas adjacent to the creek in Preston, Thornbury and Northcote at risk.

2.1.2 Flash flooding

Short Duration, high intensity rainfall (usually associated with thunderstorms) can also cause localised flooding within the municipality, along overland flow paths when the local urban drainage system surcharges. Such events, which are mainly confined to the summer months, do not generally create widespread flooding

since they only last for a short time and affect limited areas. Flooding from these storms occurs with little warning and localised damage can be severe.

High intensity rainfall such as associated with thunderstorms giving average rainfall rates of more than 20mm/hour for an hour or more is likely to lead to flash flooding and / or overland flows, across the urbanised parts of the municipality.

Blocked or capacity impaired stormwater drains can also lead to overland flows and associated flooding: the drain surcharges and excess water flows above ground. The Darebin Creek and Edgars Creeks catchments are both susceptible to flash flooding as well as the stormwater drains that service these creeks and Merri Creek.

2.1.3 Severe weather and storms

Severe thunderstorms and associated extreme weather conditions, such as tornadoes or microbursts, can have significant impacts on the community, built environment and essential services. While severe thunderstorms may affect large areas, tornadoes and microbursts in Victoria are typically highly localised, often impacting only one or two suburbs. Despite their limited geographic footprint, these events can cause intense and concentrated damage.

Typical consequences of severe storm events include:

- Wind damage to residential and commercial buildings
- Uprooted or fallen trees causing property damage and blocking roadways
- Localised flash flooding
- Large Hail
- Road damage and temporary road closures
- Power outages
- Discharge/overflow of sewer systems
- Disruption to telecommunications services
- Discharge/overflow of sewer systems
- Waste collection bins content discharged into waterways and storm water systems
- Impacts on critical infrastructure (e.g. health, water, energy, transport)
- Entrapment of people in homes or vehicles due to fallen trees or floodwater
- Epidemic Thunderstorm Asthma (ETSA)

The City of Darebin is susceptible to Severe Weather Events because of the relatively flat terrain with a dense population and buildings that range in age.

2.2. Municipality Major Waterways, Drains, and Dams

There are three major waterways running through the City of Darebin:

- Merri Creek rises in Melbourne's outer north between Craigieburn and Kalkallo and flows south along the boundaries of the Cities of Hume and Whittlesea receiving several creeks, tributaries and drains before entering the City of Darebin at Mahoneys Road, Reservoir. Merri Creek then forms the western boundary of the municipality, flowing through Reservoir, exiting Darebin near Newlands Road and re-entering the Municipality to continue the western boundary at Bell Street, Preston after receiving Edgars Creek. Merri Creek continues south through Preston, Thornbury and Northcote before exiting the City at Heidelberg Road. Merri Creek discharges into Yarra River at Yarra Bend Park in Fairfield. See **Annex D** for a schematic of Merri Creek.
- Darebin Creek rises to the northeast of Donnybrook and flows south through Donnybrook, Mernda, Epping, Mill Park and Bundoora receiving several creeks, tributaries and drains before entering the City of Darebin at Bundoora Park. Flow continues south through Bundoora and Kingsbury before forming the eastern boundary of the Municipality south of Latrobe University Bundoora. Darebin Creek continues south through Reservoir, Preston, Thornbury and Alphington before exiting Darebin at Heidelberg Road, Alphington. Darebin Creek discharges into the Yarra River adjacent to Green Acres Golf Club in Kew. See **Annex D** for a schematic of Darebin Creek
- Edgars Creek is a tributary of Merri Creek, beginning in two branches in the City of Whittlesea at Wollert before converging and continuing south through Epping, Lalor and Thomastown before entering the City of Darebin and continuing through Reservoir before discharging into Merri Creek north of Murray Road, Coburg.

Waterway / Drain	Description
Salt Creek	Rises in the Gresswell Forest Wildlife Reserve within the grounds of Latrobe University. It drains to Darebin Creek through the Latrobe University wetlands at the western end of Crissane Road.
Darebin Creek	Darebin Creek is one of the two major creeks within the Municipality. It rises to the north of Donnybrook and flows almost due south through Epping, Bundoora and the City of Darebin to join the Yarra River upstream of Chandler Highway. Darebin Creek forms a little over half the eastern boundary of the Municipality to the south of Latrobe University.
Edgars Creek	Edgars Creek is a tributary of Merri Creek and has its headwaters in the suburb of Lalor in the City of Whittlesea. It flows through the Municipality downstream of Mahoneys Road into Edwardes Lake upstream of its confluence with Merri Creek just upstream (to the north) of Bell Street.
Central Creek	Central Creek is a tributary of Merri Creek and rises north of Mahoneys Road in Thomastown within the City of Whittlesea. It flows into Merri Creek just upstream (to the north) of Broadhurst Road in Reservoir.
Merri Creek	Merri Creek is the other major creek within the Municipality. It rises in the rural area to the north of Craigieburn and to the east of Kalkallo and the Hume Highway. Merri Creek flows almost due south and forms a major part of the western boundary of the Municipality from downstream of Mahoneys

Waterway / Drain	Description
	Road. Merri Creek flows into the Yarra River a little upstream of Dights Falls near the intersection of the Eastern Freeway and Hoddle Street.
Bell Street Main Drain	Starts near the corner of Inverloch and Gower Street in Preston and discharges into Darebin Creek near Raglan Street in Preston.
Broadway Main Drain	Starts near Clark Street in Reservoir and discharges into Darebin Creek through the Arch Gibson Reserve south of Dunne Street in Kingsbury.
Chauvel Street Main Drain	Starts near Ryan Street in Reservoir and joins Merrilands Main Drain near O'Connor Street. Discharges into Edgars Creek in Reservoir.
Elizabeth Street Main Drain	Starts near the intersection of Beatty Street and Gilbert Street in Reservoir and discharges into Merri Creek through the City of Moreland.
Fairfield Main Drain	Starts near the corner of Victoria Street and Rossmoyne Street in Thornbury, passes through Fairfield and Alphington and discharges into the Yarra River near the end of Yarraford Avenue to the west of Chandler Highway in the City of Yarra.
Green Street Main Drain	Starts near the corner of Ellesmere Street and Bastings Street and discharges into Merri Creek just upstream (to the north) of Heidelberg Road.
Kellett Street Main Drain	Starts near the corner of Christmas and Wilmoth Streets in Northcote and joins Fairfield Main Drain near Separation Street.
Merrilands Main Drain	Starts near Clough and Bridgeton Street in Reservoir and discharges into Edgars Creek near Leamington Street in Reservoir.
Mont Park Main Drain	Starts in the grounds of Latrobe University and discharges to Darebin Creek through the City of Banyule.
Power Street Main Drain	Starts near the corner of Power Street and Bingo Street in Preston and joins the Bell Street Main Drain near the Albert Street – Bell Street intersection. Discharges into Darebin Creek near Raglan Street in Preston.
Preston Main Drain	Starts near the corner of Lunette Avenue and Wood Street in Preston and discharges into Merri Creek through Northcote golf course beside Mayer Park in Thornbury.
Purinuan Road Main Drain	Starts near Purinuan Road in Reservoir and discharges into Darebin Creek through the Darebin Creek Reserve in Reservoir.
Quarry Street Main Drain	Starts near the corner of Matisi Street and Flinders Street in Thornbury and discharges into Darebin Creek near Clarendon Street in Thornbury.

Waterway / Drain	Description
Spring Street Main Drain	Starts near the Cameron Street – Spring Street intersection and joins Preston Main Drain near Murray Road. Discharges into Merri Creek through Northcote golf course beside Mayer Park in Thornbury.
Steane Street Main Drain	Starts near the corner of Ashton and McComas Street Reservoir and discharges into Darebin Creek near Wood Street in Preston.
Sumner Avenue Main Drain	Starts near the corner of High Street and Normanby Avenue in Thornbury and discharges into Merri Creek near Merri Park in Northcote.
Merri Creek Levees	In response to a major flood in 1974, an earthen levee bank system was built across Merri Park in the 1980s. Part of this area was made into a retarding basin which echoes the form of the original creek bend and is designed to fill during major flooding events.

Table A1 – Melbourne Water Drains and Waterways within or bordering the City of Darebin

2.2.1 Dam spilling/failure

No dams, either in or upstream of the City of Darebin are expected to affect the Municipality from flooding. See Dam Failure in Section 3 of this plan for more information.

Service Reservoirs located within the Municipality are listed below.

Melbourne Water Service Reservoir	Location	Owner	Material	Reservoir Capacity	Melway Reference
Preston Res-Earthen Basin No. 1	883 High Street Reservoir	Melbourne Water	Bluestone	61.4MI	18G7
Preston Res-Earthen Basin No. 2	832-838 High Street, Reservoir	Melbourne Water	Concrete	122MI	18 H7
Preston Res-Earthen Basin No. 3	832-838 High Street, Reservoir	Melbourne Water	Concrete	125MI	18H7

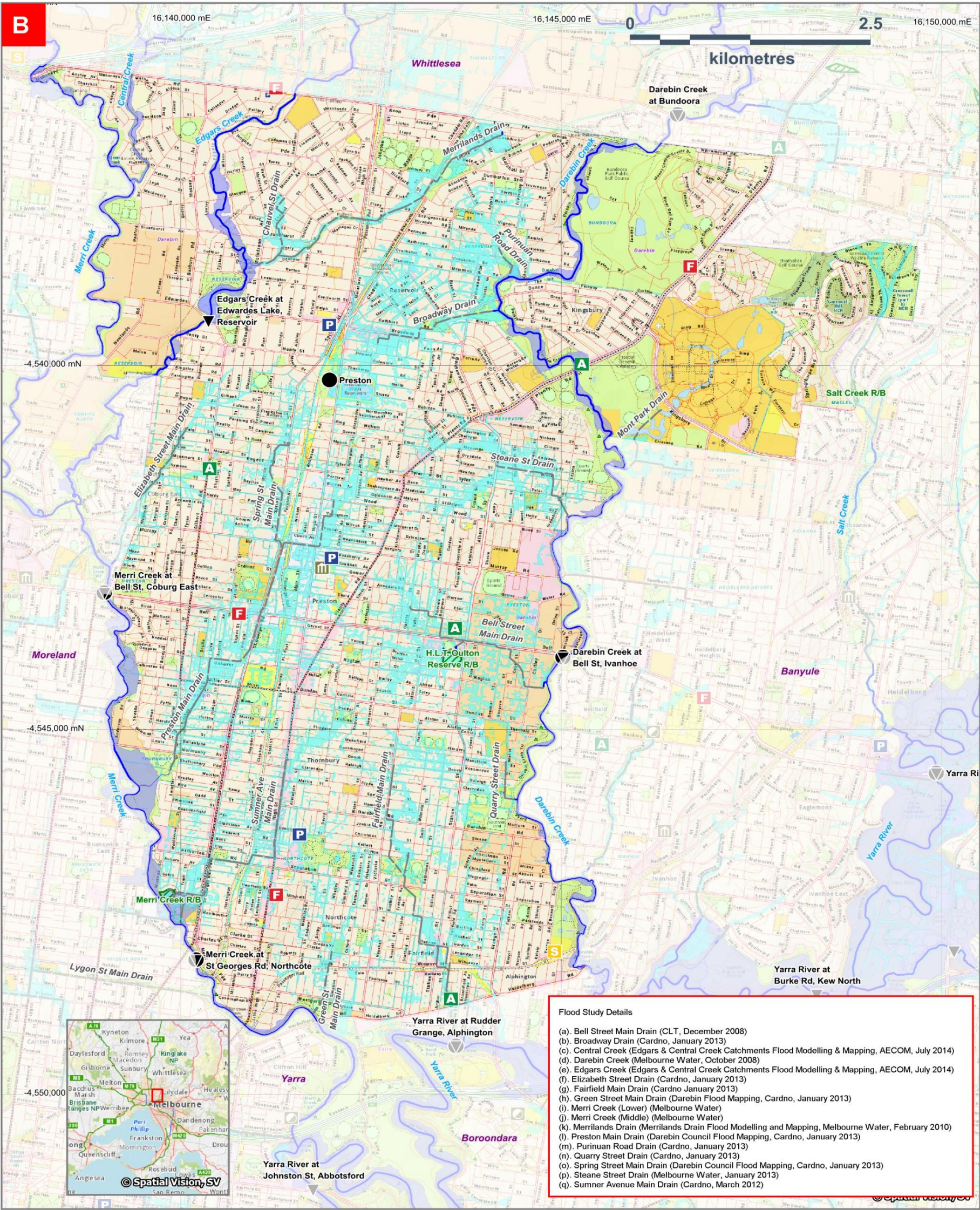
Table A2 – Melbourne Water Service Reservoirs in the City of Darebin

DEECA has developed the [Dam Safety Response Plan](#) to assist in managing its obligations associated with dam safety incidents.

Refer to **Annex A** (restricted) for further information in relation to the risks within the municipality.

2.2.2 City of Darebin Municipal Map

The following map shows the Municipal boundary together with the open waterways and underground stormwater drainage pipe network within the Darebin City Council.



Map Produced by VICSES June 2022

CITY OF DAREBIN
Version 4: June 2022
B. 1% AEP (100yr ARI) Flood Mapping



SES VICTORIA Melbourne Water

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.

2.3. History of municipal flood and storm emergencies

The MEMP details a brief history of all major emergencies that has happened within the municipality.

Below is a list of emergencies relating to flood and storms and their consequences.

3rd February 2005- Water levels at Bell Street (Coburg) and St Georges Rd (Northcote) reached Moderate flood levels. At Bell St (Coburg), the creek level overtopped its banks at 1:00am, causing minor flooding of low areas adjacent to the banks, particularly around bicycle/pedestrian paths and parklands.

Downstream of Merri Creek at St Georges Rd, overbank flow occurred at 2:00am, Associated with the flood flow was moderate level of inundation, including property flooding at Northcote and Coburg. At 6:00pm on the same day, water levels at both locations receded below the minor flood level.

Bank Capacity was also exceeded for Darebin Creek at Ivanhoe and Bundoora.

Though rainfalls were extreme, climatic conditions prior to the event left the catchment very dry, so much of the rainfall was retained in soil and storages, leading to lower-than-expected discharge levels.

3rd December 2003- Significant flows of up to approximately 50-year (ARI) were experienced in a number of waterways, including Merri and Darebin Creeks. This resulted in some damage to these creeks, including the loss of a footbridge.

Significant floods (with high flood gauge levels and likely flooding consequences to property and infrastructure) to have occurred within the City of Darebin are as follows in the table below. Levels and rain totals in black indicate large-scale impacts to surrounding areas were recorded, whereas grey figures indicate localised impacts if any occurred. To view the locations of a selection of these severe weather events.

Refer to **Annex A** (restricted) for additional response information.

% AEP Frequency	1EY or more	50% AEP	20% AEP	10% AEP	5% AEP	2% AEP	1% AEP	Less than 1% AEP
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Event	Merri Creek at Coburg East (229645A)		Merri Creek at Northcote (229149A)		Edgars Creek at Reservoir (229610A)	Darebin Creek at Bundoora (229612A)		Darebin Creek at Ivanhoe (229403A)	
	Rainfall at Gauge	Creek Level	Rainfall at Gauge	Creek Level	Creek Level	Rainfall at Gauge	Creek Level	Rainfall at Gauge	Creek Level
Normal Water Level		0.5m		0.3m	0.05m		0.45m		0.20m
Minor Flood Class		2.9m		3.2m	Not Classified		Not Classified		Not Classified
Moderate Flood Class		3.4m		3.8m	Not Classified		Not Classified		Not Classified
Major Flood Class		4.8m		5.0m	Not Classified		Not Classified		Not Classified
18 th September 1960	-	-	-	-	-	-	3.66m	-	-
13 th July 1963	-	-	-	-	-	-	3.89m	-	-
15 th May 1974	-	-	-	-	-	-	4.82m	-	-
25 th October 1975	-	-	-	3.36m	0.45m	-	-	-	-
7 th April 1977	-	-	-	4.81m	0.69m	-	-	-	-
19 th June 1977	-	-	-	3.39m	0.52m	-	-	-	-
8 th August 1978	-	-	-	3.29m	0.46m	-	2.15m	-	-
19 th November 1978	-	-	-	3.32m	0.68m	65mm / 12 hrs	2.60m	-	-
16 th October 1983	72mm / 24 hrs	3.18m	-	3.64m	0.69m	86mm / 48 hrs	2.68m	-	-
30 th July 1987	51mm / 24 hrs	3.91m	-	3.98m	0.57m	57mm / 48 hrs	3.28m	-	-
5 th April 1989	39mm / 6 hrs	2.55m	-	2.76m	0.77m	-	3.78m	-	-
11 th June 1989	40mm / 48 hrs	3.98m	-	3.91m	0.66m	54mm / 72 hrs	3.15m	-	-
14 th December 1989	59mm / 6 hrs	2.4m	-	3.40m	0.76m	50mm / 6 hrs	2.86m	-	-
18 th July 1990	46mm / 6 hrs	3.27m	-	3.34m	0.62m	34mm / 6 hrs	3.23m	-	-
5 th December 1992	14mm / 30 mins	2.33m	-	2.81m	0.86m	8mm / 30 mins	4.41m	-	-
27 th December 1993	116mm / 48 hrs	2.95m	-	3.69m	0.57m	78mm / 48 hrs	2.94m	-	-
23 rd June 1996	44mm / 24 hrs	1.59m	-	2.39m	0.57m	51mm / 24 hrs	3.18m	-	-
27 th December 1999	32mm / 1 hr	2.75m	40mm / 1 hr	2.87m	1.19m	68mm / 1 hr	2.08m	28mm / 1 hr	2.12m
3 rd December 2003	105mm / 2 hrs	4.13m	86mm / 2 hrs	4.64m	-	22mm / 30 mins	0.91m	91mm / 3 hrs	2.14m
3 rd February 2005	124mm / 24 hrs	4.28m	124mm / 24 hrs	4.35m	1.19m	125mm / 24 hrs	2.60m	132mm / 24 hrs	2.59m
5 th February 2011	58mm / 12 hrs	3.08m	30mm / 1 hr	3.09m	0.95m	87mm / 12 hrs	2.77m	67mm / 12 hrs	2.19m
25 th December 2011	40mm / 3 hrs	3.33m	46mm / 4 hrs	3.68m	0.13m	73mm / 3 hrs	3.17m	50mm / 3 hrs	2.71m
1 st June 2013	59mm / 6 hrs	3.85m	64mm / 6 hrs	4.21m	1.29m	92mm / 6 hrs	3.25m	77mm / 6 hrs	3.21m
29 th December 2016	43mm / 3 hrs	3.64m	29mm / 3 hrs	3.89m	1.63m	87mm / 3 hrs	3.09m	33mm / 1 hr	2.57m
3 rd December 2017	53mm / 12 hrs	1.84m	63mm / 12 hrs	2.54m	0.58m	40mm / 12 hrs	1.24m	49mm / 12 hrs	1.36m
7 th October 2022	21mm / 6 hrs	2.93m	11mm / 15 mins	3.13m	0.95m	28mm / 1 hr	2.23m	31mm / 14 hrs	1.73m
14 th October 2022	86mm / 168 hrs	3.72m	93mm / 168 hrs	4.03m	0.89m	100mm / 168 hrs	2.19m	90mm / 168 hrs	1.91m

Table A2 – Selection of historical flood and storm events along Merri Creek, Edgars Creek, and Darebin Creek



3. Managing Flood and Storm Emergencies

3.1 State Emergency Management Priorities

The State Emergency Management Priorities that are outlined in the [SEMP](#) guide all decisions before, during, and after any emergency, and apply to all aspects of this plan.

3.2 Roles and Responsibilities

An agency that has a role or responsibility under this plan must act in accordance with the plan.

There are a few agencies with specific roles that will act in support of VICSES and provide support to the community in the event of a serious storm or flood within the Darebin City Council. These agencies will be engaged through the Incident Emergency Management Team (IEMT).

The general roles and responsibilities of supporting agencies are as detailed in the MEMP, SEMP, [SEMP Flood Sub-plans](#) and [SEMP Storm Sub-plan](#).

3.3 Mitigation and Preparedness

3.3.1 North West Metro Floodplain Management Strategy

The Victorian Floodplain Management Strategy sets the policy and accountability framework for flood related mitigation activities in Victoria. [Floodplain Management Strategy for Port Phillip and Westernport](#) sets out the implementation of flood mitigation activities for the Region, including for Darebin City Council.

3.3.2 Structural flood mitigation measures

Structural flood mitigation measures are any physical construction to reduce or avoid possible impacts of flood hazards, or the application of engineering techniques or technology to achieve flood hazard resistance and resilience in structures or systems.

For more detailed Flood Intelligence and VICSES Response arrangements surrounding structural flood mitigation measures refer to **Annex C** in the Flood Intelligence and VICSES Response Arrangements for Flood and Storm in Darebin City Council (operational use only).

3.3.3 Planning controls

Flood mitigation within the municipality is supported through planning scheme controls such as the Land Subject to Inundation Overlay (LSIO), Floodway Overlay (FO), and Special Building Overlay (SBO), which guide development in flood-prone areas. These overlays help manage flood risk by ensuring appropriate building siting, floor levels, and drainage requirements. The planning controls work alongside building regulations and the National Construction Code to support safer, more resilient development across the municipality.

Planning overlays play a critical role in reducing flood risk by mandating floor levels above the predicted flood level, requiring new developments to incorporate adequate drainage measures, and protecting overland flow paths from being obstructed.

Council is proactively applying these planning tools to assess new proposals, regularly updating overlays as new flood modelling becomes available, and advocating for stronger planning provisions across Victoria to further support community resilience.

3.4. Community Resilience

A resilient community is socially connected and has infrastructure that can withstand disaster or shocks and foster community recovery. Resilient communities support the wellbeing of individuals and the community, effectively use available resources, and foster cohesion to strengthen their capacity both in everyday life and during extreme events.

3.4.1 Flood and storm specific community engagement and programs

Community education and engagement is a vital component in the community understanding risks and preparing for emergencies. The development of relevant and appropriate community resources and activities empower the community and enhance their resilience through being well informed and therefore being equipped (emotionally and physically) for an emergency.

VICSES with the support of the MEMPC and other emergency management services/agencies will coordinate and collaborate targeted community flood and storm engagement programs to engage the community through:

- Community programs and projects
- Community events
- Media (e.g. social media, VICSES website, print and publications)
- Local Flood Guides
- Targeted events when funding becomes available and communicated through Council and VICSES

Emergency planning - businesses and facilities, such as retirement villages and schools, are encouraged to maintain their own emergency management plans to ensure preparedness and support coordination during flood and storm events

As with all hazards, the effects of floods and storms on the community cannot be fully mitigated. As such, it is imperative that there is a shared and individual responsibility for action and all of society taking responsibility for preparing for disasters which for community members may include:

- Being aware of their flood risk and undertaking preparedness activities such as developing a home emergency plan and emergency kit – see the [VICSES website](#).
- Staying informed and following advice from emergency services when responding to warnings.
- Developing Community Emergency Management Plans (CEMPs).

Refer to the MEMP for more detailed municipal level community engagement programs.

3.4.2 Public information and warnings for flood and storm emergencies

The SEMP Flood Sub-Plan and the SEMP Storm Sub-Plan detail the arrangements for public information and warnings for flood and storm. VICSES [SOP008 Severe Weather Notification and Activation Process](#) and VICSES [SOP009 Flood Notification and Activation Process](#) outline in detail the actions that VICSES will undertake upon receipt of a Severe Weather Warning or Flood Watch/Flood Warning from the Bureau of Meteorology.

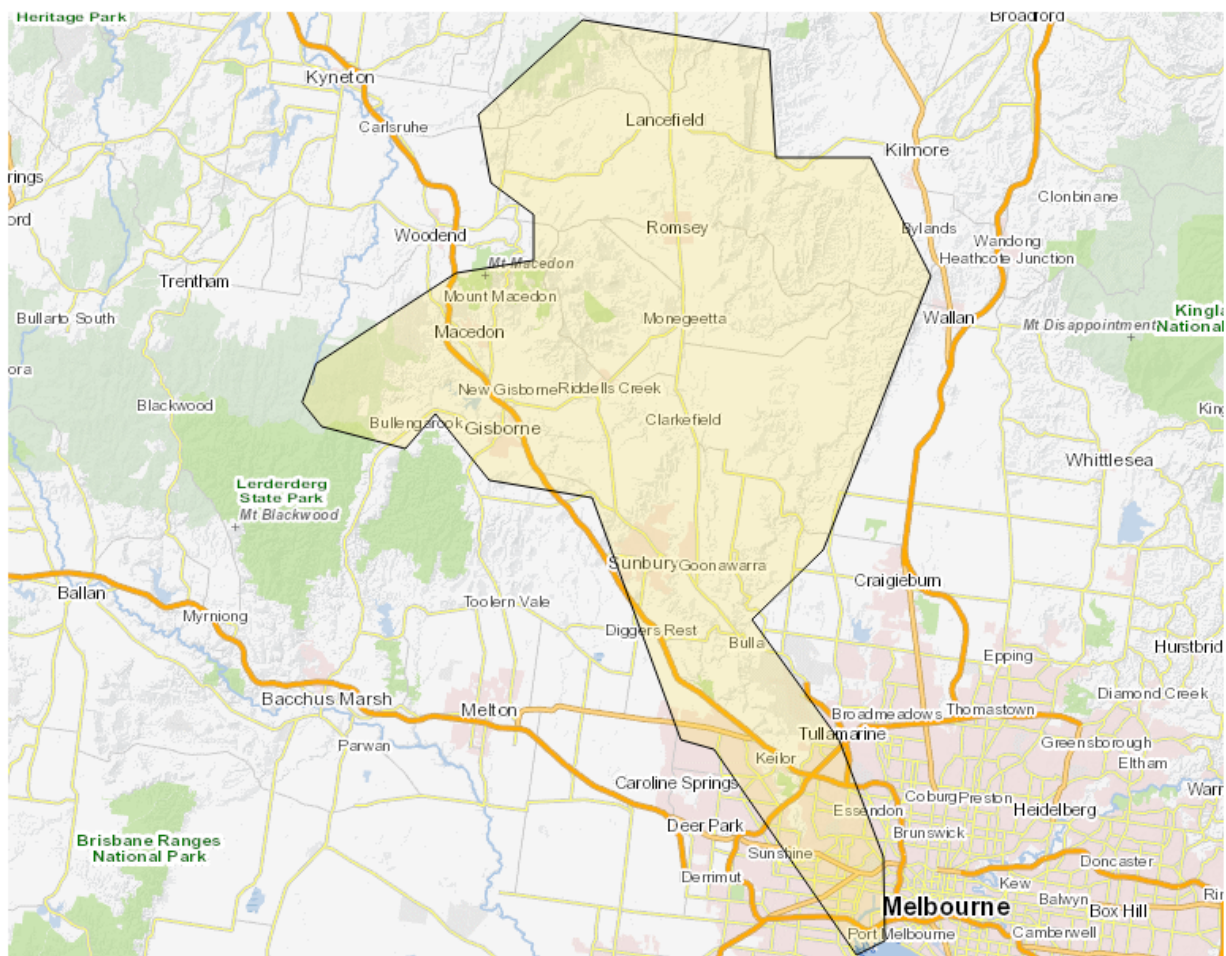
Details on Warnings issued by VICSES through [VicEmergency](#) and VICSES channels, including for areas or impacts not covered by a Bureau warning, are outlined in **Annex F** (operational use only).

The Incident Controller (IC), through the Public Information Unit established at the Incident Control Centre (ICC), will manage public information and warnings. If the ICC is not established, the VICSES Regional Duty Officer (RDO) and VICSES Regional Agency Commander (RAC) are responsible for managing all public communication. The Darebin City Council will work with the IC/VICSES to assist with the dissemination of public messaging and/or warnings to ensure that consistent and timely messaging occurs.

Flood Symbol	Storm Symbol	Warning Level	Meaning	Agency/Community Action
		Advice (yellow)	Flood or storm possible; no immediate danger.	An incident has started. There is no immediate danger. Stay up to date in case the situation changes
		Watch and Act (Orange)	Flooding or severe storm likely; may impact safety and property.	There is a heightened level of threat. Conditions are changing and action is required now to protect community safety.
		Emergency Warning (Red)	Severe flooding or dangerous storm occurring or imminent.	An emergency warning is the highest level of warning. Action needs to be taken immediately, any delays puts life at risk.

 ADVICE - FLOOD

Map



Message

This **Minor Flood Warning** is being issued for Maribyrnong River.

- The Maribyrnong River catchment has received rainfall averaging about 31mm since 0900am yesterday. Rainfall totals of 5mm have been forecast for the catchment in the next 2 hours.
- Water levels of the Maribyrnong River and its tributaries at various locations are rising in response to the rain.
- The level of the Deep Creek at Darraweit Guim is currently 5.41m and rising. It is expected to peak above the Minor Flood Level (5.50m) this morning.
- Minor flooding in the Deep Creek and Maribyrnong River catchment is expected to affect low lying areas adjacent to the waterway. Minor roads may be closed.

The river heights at 08.14am 14/09/2016 were:

- Deep Creek at Doggetts Bridge, Lancefield: 2.22 metres, rising
- Deep Creek at Darraweit Guim: 5.47 metres, falling
- Deep Creek at Konagaderra: 3.62 metres, falling
- Bolinda Creek at Clarkefield: 1.19 metres, rising
- Deep Creek at Bulla: 2.39 metres, falling
- Rosslynne Reservoir, Head Gauge: 38.52 metres, rising
- Jacksons Creek at Sunbury: 2.13 metres, rising
- Steele Creek at Keilor East: 1.19 metres, rising
- Maribyrnong River at Keilor North: 3.58 metres, rising
- Maribyrnong River at Keilor: 1.84 metres, rising
- Maribyrnong River at Maribyrnong: 0.04 metres, rising

Stay informed - monitor your local conditions and remain alert.

What you should do:

- Be prepared to act if your situation changes.
- You should stay informed by listening to emergency broadcasters and monitoring warnings.
- Monitor weather forecasts and river levels. Go to www.bom.gov.au/vic/warnings.
- Floodwater is dangerous - never drive, walk or ride through floodwater.

Impacts in your area:

- Flooding above floor level of a single story home is likely to occur in some locations.
- Local roads may be closed and low bridges may be underwater.
- Areas around rivers and streams may be flooded.

This message was issued by State Emergency Service.

The next update is expected by 4PM this afternoon or as the situation changes.

Flood information:

- For river heights check www.bom.gov.au or phone 1300 659 217.
- For urgent animal welfare issues call [Agriculture Victoria](http://www.agriculture.vic.gov.au) on 136 186 or your local vet.

3.4.3 Flood Intelligence

Flood intelligence supports decision making and planning for flooding by providing reliable and accurate information relating to:

- The expected level, depth, and velocity of floodwater and its consequences.
- Determination of actions to be undertaken in response to the identified consequences.

The Department Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA) maintains the [FloodZoom](#) flood intelligence platform. Inquiries regarding FloodZoom access should be directed to accounts@floodzoom.vic.gov.au.

For more detailed Flood Intelligence and VICSES Response arrangements refer to **Annex C** in the Flood Intelligence and VICSES Response Arrangements for Flood and Storm in Darebin City Council (operational use only).

3.4.4 Cross-border Collaboration and Area of Operations

The North West Metro Emergency Management Collaboration may recognise there is a high proportion of similar or shared flood and storm issues, risks, and memberships leading to opportunities for cross-border municipal collaboration.

The area of operations concept is detailed within the [SEMP](#) and provides flexibility to managing flood and storm response when it is geographically located across several municipalities where it encourages collaboration between municipalities as part of the Victoria's [emergency management planning framework](#) and the [Victorian Preparedness Framework](#).

3.5. Local Knowledge

As the control agency for flood and storm in Victoria, VICSES is committed to ensuring the incorporation of local knowledge in decision making before, during and after incidents. This is guided by the [VICSES policy 10.02 Local Knowledge](#) (VICSES access only).

Local knowledge is a critical element of planning. The community and other organisations can provide valuable local information about hazards, incidents and how they may evolve. This information is commonly referred to as local knowledge. This plan aims to ensure that planners and responders capture appropriate local knowledge before, during and after incidents.

As an incident escalates from local control to a larger incident management structure, it is essential that local knowledge capability is retained within the overall structure. This should include how local subject matter experts are embedded into divisional and sector command structures.

3.5.1 Field Observers

Field Observers provide local knowledge to VICSES and the Incident Control Centre regarding local insights and the potential impacts and consequences of an incident and may assist with the dissemination of information to community members.

Heidelberg Unit have trained Field Observers who can be deployed to gather intelligence in areas impacted by both flood and storm events

[VICSES SOP073](#) outlines the role of the Field Observer and process for their activation which is via the VICSES RDO.

3.6. Response (including relief)

3.6.1 Activation of Response

VICSES may be notified of flood and storm incidents through several sources, but the most common source is calls received via 132 500 or if the emergency is life threatening, Triple Zero (000). Other sources are via other emergency management agencies and local government. In most cases, these events are of a small scale (a level 1 incident), which local VICSES units manage without significant outside support.

In the case of more significant level 2 (regional level) or level 3 (an incident that has high complexity and may have statewide implications) flood and storm response arrangements may be activated by the VICSES North West Metro Region Regional Duty Officer (RDO) or Regional Agency Commander (RAC).

The VICSES IC/RDO/RAC will activate agencies as required as documented in the SEMP [Flood Sub-plan](#) or SEMP [Storm Sub-plan](#).

3.7. Concept of Operations

The SEMP defines the responsibilities of the Incident Controller (IC), Incident Control Centre (ICC), Incident Management Team (IMT) and Incident Emergency Management Team (IEMT).

3.7.1 Control

Sections 5(1)(b) and 5(1)(c) of the Victoria State Emergency Service Act 2005 detail the authority for VICSES to respond to storms and floods.

The Role Statement within the SEMP identifies VICSES in its response functions as the [Control Agency for flood and storm](#). It identifies DEECA as the [Control Agency responsible for dam safety as well as reticulated water and wastewater \(sewerage\) service](#).

All flood and storm response activities within the Darebin City Council including those arising from a dam failure or retarding basin / levee bank failure incident will therefore be under the control of the appointed Incident Controller, or delegated representative.

3.7.2 Incident Control Centre (ICC)

The ICC may be activated in advance based on the severity of warnings and in accordance with VICSES readiness arrangements:

- [VICSES readiness and activation levels – flood](#).
- [VICSES readiness and activation levels – severe weather](#).

3.7.3 Escalation

Resourcing and event escalation arrangements are described in the [SEMP](#).

3.8. Considerations for operating with other agencies and stakeholders

As other agencies are deployed to assist the IC should consider the following actions.

- Establish a communications plan to enable the tasking of other agency resources which should be included in briefings.
- Embedding and determining an agreed response to downed powerlines as this is often a predominant hazard for storm events.
- Ensuring other agency personnel who are undertaking the Emergency Management Liaison Officer (EMLO) roles have access to EM-COP.
- Preparing a briefing to support in-coming other agency resources to identify:
 - staging area location and any safety issues with accessing it (closed roads/powerlines down)
 - resources available such as re-supply of consumables (tarps/sandbags)
 - welfare arrangements
 - duty time limitations (these should be consistent with [VICSES SOP 003](#))

3.9. Initial Impact Assessment

As part of the [Victorian Preparedness Framework](#), the [SEMP](#) and [SEMP flood sub-plan \(3.6.11 Initial impact assessment\)](#) details agencies and their roles and core capabilities when it comes to flood and storm impact assessments.

3.10. Storm Response Arrangements

In the initial response phase, units will receive RFA's direct from Triple Zero Victoria and will typically respond in a business-as-usual mode, typically attending events in order of receipt or priority. This is in accordance with the [VICSES Operations Management Manual](#).

For more detailed storm damage specific response arrangements refer to **Annex E** in the Flood & Storm Intelligence and VICSES Response Arrangements for the City of Darebin (operational use only) and the City of Darebin MEMP.

3.11. Evacuation Arrangements

Under the SEMP, Victoria Police (VicPol) has the responsibility for evacuation (Evacuation Manager) – in consultation with the control agency and other expert advice.

The IC is responsible for making a decision in consultation with VicPol as to whether evacuation is a safe option for communities and individuals.

In making this decision the IC may seek advice from other agencies or communities, as detailed in [JSOP 03.12 – Planned Evacuation for Major Emergencies](#).

3.12. Response to flash flooding

Flash flooding can be defined as flooding that occurs within six hours or less of the flood-producing rainfall within the affected catchment. This may result in isolation of individuals and communities as time to warn and respond to flash flooding is limited. The safest place to be in a flash flood is well away from the affected area. Accordingly, pre-event planning for flash floods should commence with an assumption that evacuation is the most effective strategy, provided evacuation can be safely implemented.

Emergency management response to flash flooding should be consistent with the [SEMP Storm Sub-plan](#).

3.13. Evacuation and relocation

The IC is responsible for making a decision in consultation with VicPol as to whether evacuation is a safe option for communities and individuals.

In making this decision the IC may seek advice from other agencies or communities, as detailed in [JSOP 03.12 – Planned Evacuation for Major Emergencies](#).

Refer to the MEMP for additional local evacuation considerations for the municipality.

3.14. Flood Rescue

Under Victoria's emergency management arrangements, rescue is considered separately to the relocation of people who are stranded or isolated by floodwater. Where the water is either fast or swift flowing and/or the people being assisted are facing actual or threatened danger of physical harm, the response escalates from relocation to rescue.

Under the [SEMP Response table 9](#) the control agency for rescue from land and water is VicPol, who operate the **State Police Search and Rescue Coordination Centre (SPSARCC)**. VICSES is a support agency for search and rescue on land and water evacuations and incidents involving mass casualties.

To conduct water rescues during a flood, VicPol will often require assistance of appropriately trained and equipped personnel from support agencies including VICSES, Volunteer Marine Search and Rescue Organisations, CFA, FRV and Life Saving Victoria. VicPol will coordinate with these agencies to ensure operational readiness for activation.

On occasion, VicPol may opt to respond a field capability of its rescue coordination centre to a location near the emergency. It may also work with the Triple Zero Victoria to deploy its dispatch capability to the same location to enhance rescue coordination and dispatch. Details in this plan may assist VicPol and Triple Zero Victoria in undertaking this function in the field or from the primary SPSARCC.

Refer to **Annex C** for known high-risk areas/communities (such as low-lying islands) where rescues might be required in the Flood & Storm Intelligence and VICSES Response Arrangements for the Darebin City Council (operational use only).

3.15. Aircraft Management

Aircraft can be used for a variety of purposes during flood operations including evacuation, resupply, reconnaissance, intelligence gathering and emergency travel.

The IC controls the conduct of Air support operations.

3.16. Resupply

Communities, neighbourhoods or households can become isolated during floods and in some cases, storms. This can be as a consequence of road closures or damage to roads, bridges and causeways. Under such circumstances, the need may arise to resupply isolated communities/properties with essential items.

When predictions/intelligence indicates that communities, neighbourhoods and/or households may become isolated, VICSES will advise businesses and/or households that they should stock up on essential items.

After the impact, VICSES can support isolated communities through assisting with the transport of essential items to isolated communities and assisting with logistics functions.

Resupply operations are to be included as part of the emergency relief arrangements with VICSES working with the relief agencies to service communities that are isolated.

For more detailed arrangements/information refer to **Annex C** in the Flood Intelligence and VICSES Response Arrangements for Flood and Storm in City of Darebin (operational use only).

3.16.1 Animal welfare

Matters relating to the welfare of livestock and companion animals are to be referred to DEECA - [Agriculture Victoria](#).

Emergency fodder may be available. Requests for emergency fodder for livestock can be referred to DEECA - Agriculture Victoria. Matters relating to the welfare of wildlife can be referred to [DEECA - Wildlife](#).

The [Victorian Emergency Animal Welfare Plan](#) further outlines the roles and responsibilities for emergency animal welfare in Victoria.

3.17. Essential community infrastructure and property protection

Essential community infrastructure and property such as residences, businesses, roads and utilities, may be affected in the event of a flood.

VICSES maintains a stockpile of sandbags. City of Darebin does not supply them. The IC will determine the priorities related to the use of sandbags, which will be consistent with the strategic priorities.

The [VICSES Operations Management Manual](#) sets out the principles for sandbag use and allocation to the community. These principles do not apply to the use of sandbags by VICSES to construct and/or alter a levee. Refer to [Sandbag filling and collection point guide](#) and [SOP036 Construction, Removal or Altering of Levee and Removal of Debris](#) for further detail.

The IC will ensure that owners of essential community infrastructure are kept advised of the flood situation. Essential community infrastructure providers must keep the IC informed of their status and ongoing ability to provide services.

Contact your local VICSES representative for the most current sandbag guidelines or download it from IMT Toolbox in [EMCOP](#)-Operations.

For more specific details of essential infrastructure requiring protection and location of sandbag collection point(s) refer to **Annex C** in the Flood Intelligence and VICSES Response Arrangements for Flood and Storm in Darebin City Council (operational use only).

3.17.1 Disruption to services

Disruption to services other than essential community infrastructure and property can occur in flood and storm events.

For more detailed arrangements of likely disruption to services and proposed arrangements to respond to service disruptions refer to **Annex C** in the Flood & Storm Intelligence and VICSES Response Arrangements for the City of Darebin (operational use only).

3.17.2 Traffic Management

Darebin City Council and Department of Transport and Planning (DTP) will continue to carry out their formal road management functions where safe to do so, including surveillance, placement of warning signs, and supporting overall traffic management arrangements in conjunction with VICPOL and the Incident Controller.

Supporting agencies will liaise with Victoria Police where possible to develop a traffic management plan. This plan may include traffic diversion routes, which should be established further away from the immediate flooded or storm-affected area to minimise traffic congestion and avoid vehicles needing to turn around.

Darebin City Council will provide public information on road closures, with updates available on the VIC Traffic website: [VicTraffic](#)

For detailed arrangements relating to potential road closures, refer to **Annex C** in the Flood & Storm Intelligence and VICSES Response Arrangements for the Darebin City Council (operational use only).

3.17.3 Traffic Management Plan

Traffic management will be undertaken in accordance with JSOP 03.10 Traffic Management at Major Emergencies. The IC, who has overall responsibility for incident control, will consult with Victoria Police and, where possible, the responsible road authority to develop, implement, and monitor a Traffic Management Plan. Within Darebin, DTP is responsible for the arterial road network, while Darebin City Council is responsible for local and regional roads, bridges, and trails. Victoria Police will coordinate the restriction of access to affected areas as directed by the IC and may support the enforcement of closures and roadblocks.

Traffic management arrangements must ensure safe egress for affected residents and businesses, and access for emergency services. For emergency services, this will include effective movement of vehicles along the length of the flooded area.

3.18. Access to technical specialists

VICSES manages contracts with private specialists who can provide technical assistance in the event of flood operations or geotechnical expertise. The Regional Controller or delegate (e.g.: VICSES RDO or IC) should make a formal request to the VICSES State Duty Officer (SDO) for the engagement of a Flood Analyst or Technical Specialist. [VICSES SOP061](#) outlines this detail, including the procedure for accessing technical specialists.

These services may be required particularly where Melbourne Water or Local Government staff are unable to assist in an Incident Control Centre. Specifically, they can provide the following key professional services:

- Flood intelligence (Flood Analysts).
- Geotechnical assessments.

3.19. Relief

Relief is the provision of assistance to meet the essential needs of individuals, families and communities during and in the immediate aftermath of an emergency.

Suitable relief facilities identified for use during storms and/or floods as with the associated relief arrangements are detailed in Darebin City Council MEMP and the Darebin City Council [Emergency Relief Plan](#)

As per the [role statement for municipal councils](#) within the SEMP, municipal councils are responsible for municipal relief coordination.

Refer to the relief and recovery sub-plan for more detailed arrangements for the Darebin City Council.

3.19.1 Activation of emergency relief

Refer to the [SEMP Roles and Responsibilities - Relief](#) for more detail of services that may be provided and the responsible coordinating agencies.

Arrangements for relief from a flood and/or storm event within the Darebin City Council is detailed in the Darebin City Council MEMP.

3.20. Recovery

As per the [role statement for municipal councils](#) within the SEMP, municipal councils are responsible for coordinating local level recovery activities. They are also the lead agency to coordinate post emergency needs assessment to determine long term recovery needs (Post Emergency Needs Assessment).

Arrangements for recovery from a flood and/or storm event within the Darebin City Council is detailed in the Darebin City Council MEMP.

3.20.1 Transition from response to recovery

The SEMP sets out the transition to recovery arrangements. During the response phase, the IC will ensure they develop a plan for transition from response to recovery. The IC at the municipal tier should take a lead role in facilitating transition to recovery, working with the Municipal Recovery Manager (MRM), as it marks the end of the response phase which the IC leads and manages.

3.20.2 Environmental and cultural heritage recovery

Local recovery planning will recognise and respect culturally significant places, Country, and the health and wellbeing of Aboriginal communities. Recovery activities should support the involvement of Traditional Owner organisations and Cultural Heritage Advisors to enable culturally informed approaches that minimise harm to Country, culture, and community.

At the municipal level, Council coordinates recovery activities and will engage with the Traditional Owner organisations as appropriate. This supports culturally informed recovery outcomes and aligns with Victoria's commitment to self-determination.

Emergency Management Victoria (Relief and Recovery) provides regional coordination and may support engagement with Traditional Owners, particularly during larger or multi-municipality events.

DEECA is the lead agency for environmental recovery and works with relevant stakeholders, including Traditional Owners, to support environmental restoration and rehabilitation.

The integration of Traditional Owner knowledge, cultural values, and practices within flood recovery planning will continue to evolve as partnerships, policy, and guidance develop over time

3.20.3 After action review – Lessons Management

Lessons management is the critical process of learning from how we worked before and during an event, to improve the system for next time.

Depending on the size and scale of the flood or storm event, VICSES will normally coordinate a debrief or after action review of flood or storm operations as soon as practical following an event. Under the [VicPol SEMP role statement](#), it is the responsibility of the Municipal Emergency Response Coordinator (MERC) to ensure that this occurs.

When the flood is being managed as a level 3 event, Emergency Management Victoria (EMV) in consultation with VICSES may assume responsibility for debriefing.

All agencies involved in the flood incident should be represented at the debrief or after action review.