



Traralgon Local Flood Guide

Flood information for Traralgon Township



Shakespeare Street, Traralgon, 2012.



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





Traralgon Local Area

Traralgon is the largest and fastest growing city in Gippsland with approximately 25,000 residents, as well as being a major centre for regional shopping, industry and medical services. It lies on the northern reaches of Traralgon Creek, with parts of the existing residential and commercial areas being located in the creek's floodplain.

The Traralgon Creek catchment lies on the northern side of the Strzelecki Ranges and drains northwards to the Latrobe River. The catchment is well defined, with Traralgon Creek consisting of a single main waterway through the centre of the long narrow catchment. The creek then meanders onto the flatter floodplain until it reaches the Latrobe River, only a few kilometres north of Traralgon. The catchment has a high rate of runoff which is mostly generated in the upper part of the catchment.

Significant flooding has been recorded in Traralgon as a result of flooding from Traralgon Creek, which at times has also combined with stormwater flooding from rain falling within the town.

Are you at risk of flood?

Traralgon Creek is the main waterway through the township where floodwaters enter from the south. There are also a number of other smaller streams which can contribute to the movement of water flows around the town. When Traralgon Creek floods, it follows a fairly defined path.

Flooding in Traralgon and its rural surrounds can occur quickly at any time of the year as a result of prolonged heavy rainfall in the upstream catchment around Mount Tassie. Traralgon Creek can flood within approximately six to eight hours of the start of heavy rain. Localised rainfall throughout Traralgon is likely to cause flash flooding but will generally cause only a minor rise in Traralgon Creek levels.



Hyland Highway turnoff, Traralgon, 2012.

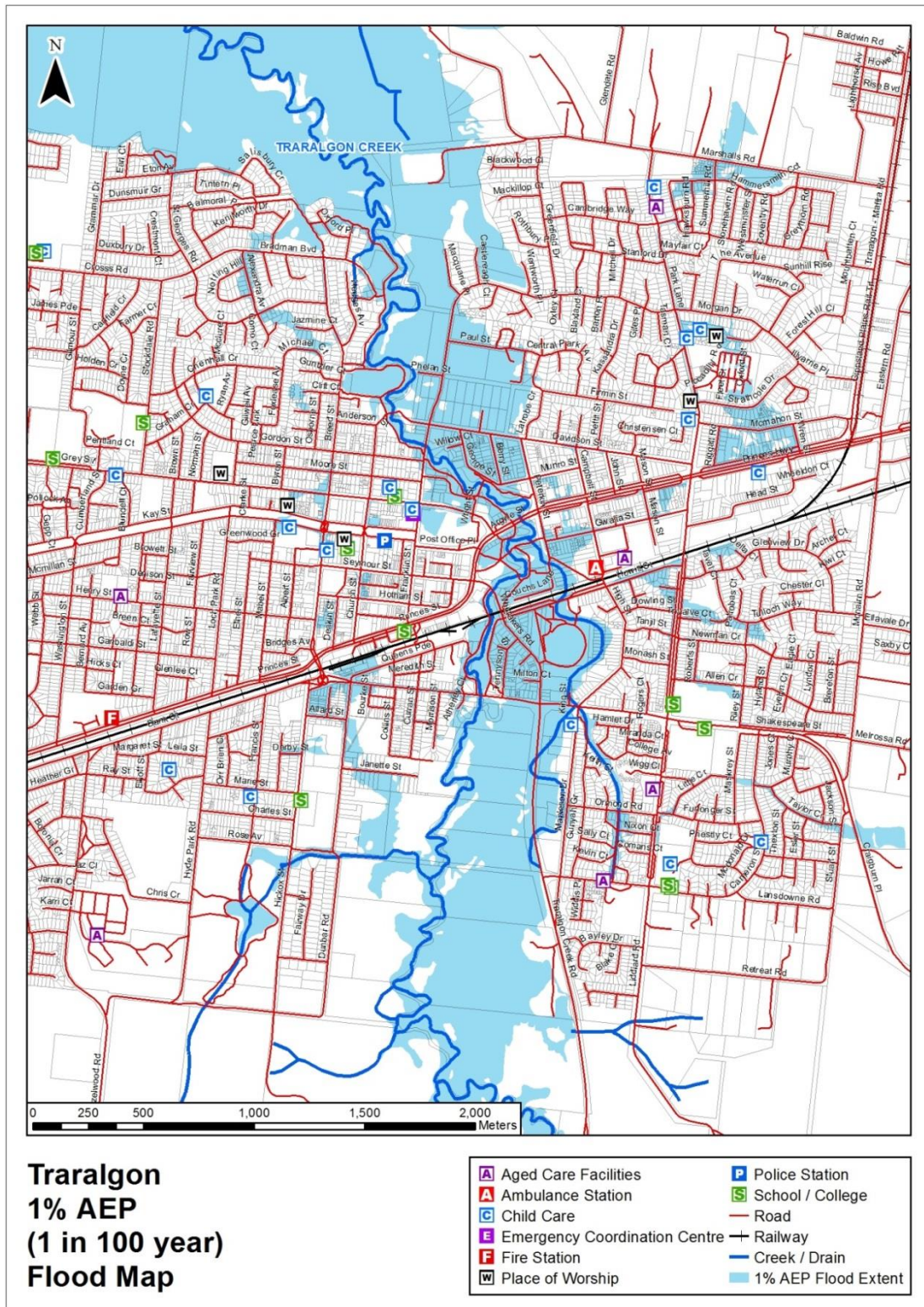


Throughout the Traralgon Creek catchment, there are number of areas that have significant rural flood risk. Though these areas are not highly populated, rural properties are susceptible to isolation or inundation.

Roads inundated during floods include the Princes Highway through eastern Morwell and Traralgon and a large number of rural roads such as the Hyland Highway south of Traralgon, Glengarry West Road, Tyers Road, Traralgon-Maffra Road and Traralgon Creek Road, that are near and/or cross waterways. Areas on the eastern side of the town near the Princes Highway and Liddiard Road are particularly prone to flash flooding.



The following map shows the expected flooding extent in Traralgon during a 1% flood, measuring 5.99 metres on the Traralgon flood gauge. A 1% flood means that there is a 1% chance of a flood of this size occurring in any given year. Areas of disconnected flooding shown on the map are due to flash flooding from intense local rainfall.



Disclaimer

This map publication is presented by Victoria State Emergency Service for the purpose of disseminating emergency management information. The contents of the information has 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 risk information is provided by West Gippsland Catchment Management Authority.



Did you know?

The urban areas of Traralgon have experienced major flooding from Traralgon Creek in 1978, 1993, 1995, 2011 and 2012.

- Many properties experienced over-floor flooding and a number of roads were inundated during these events.
- Under existing conditions, the 1% flood damage was calculated at \$6.8M with 90 residential properties and 13 commercial properties flooded above floor.
- The Franklin Street bridge was raised in 2012 by one metre, however the impact of this on flood flows around this area is yet to be understood in a major flood event.



Traralgon Floods, 1993.



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.

Remember, **NEVER** walk, play or drive in floodwater.

Traralgon Flood Warning System

Flood information is available for Traralgon as part of the Traralgon Creek Total Flood Warning System, which aims to provide at least 6 hours warning of peak flooding at Traralgon. This short warning time is due to the steep landscape of the catchment and how fast water in the creek can rise.

The Bureau of Meteorology (BOM) will issue a Flood Warning for Traralgon Creek once water levels reach a certain height on the Traralgon Gauge at Traralgon. See page 7 of this guide for more information on flood warnings.



Flood marker, Traralgon Creek, 2012.



Traralgon Creek flood levels at the Traralgon Gauge

When the Bureau of Meteorology (BoM) issues Minor, Moderate or Major Flood Warnings, they include an estimate of the flood height at the Traralgon Gauge in Traralgon. The following table can give you an idea 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
3.5	Minor	Bert Thompson Reserve, Victory and Newman Park may experience some flooding.
4.0	Moderate	Franklin Street and Whittakers Road bridges are close to overtopping. Railway underpass flooded.
4.5	Major	Shakespeare Street and Peterkin Street overtop. Stockland shopping centre carpark likely to commence inundation.
4.8		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Some breakout flooding along George Street and significant flooding along Franklin Street. Area upstream of Shakespeare Street likely to flood and overtop Traralgon Creek Road. Paul and Gwalia Streets flooded, ASIC building carpark flooded.
5.25		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Traralgon Creek Road overtopped and significant flooding along Whittakers Road (including Milton Court, Moonabeal Court and Tennyson Street) and Howitt Street, including some properties flooded above floor. George, Franklin, Berry and Davidson Streets significantly impacted (including Willow Court) and ASIC building on Grey Street likely to be inundated. Properties at Phelan Street likely to be completely flooded.
5.59		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Atherley Close and Harney Place likely flooded (including some above floor). Further properties on Tennyson Street flooded above floor. Princess Highway inundated on westbound lane (at Post Office Place).



Stockland Shopping Centre carpark, Traralgon, 2012.

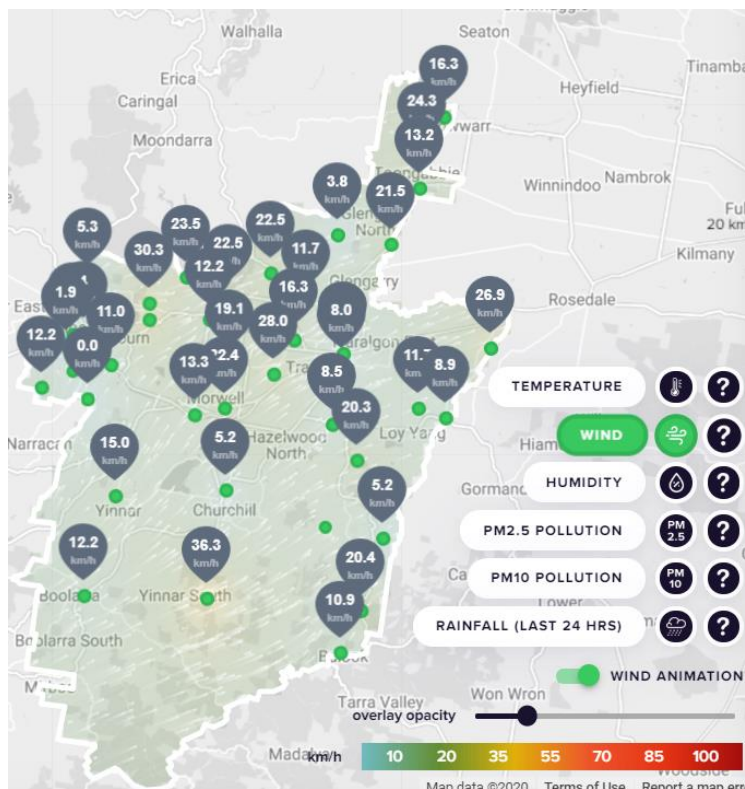


Latrobe Valley Information Network (LVIN) (www.lvin.org)

The LVIN provides 24 hour monitoring of plantations, rivers, water catchments, coal mines and power stations to assist in the protection of these industry resources in the region.

The Network provides information to help mitigate the impacts of large scale events, such as fire, flood and storm, that have affected the region over the last decade. Further targeted sites include dam wall safety and landfill monitoring.

Sensors for the LVIN are located all over Latrobe City, providing the 75,000 residents of the Latrobe Valley free access to monitor real-time information including live weather, rainfall and air composition.



Sensor near Peterkin 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 (100.7 FM and 828 AM)
TRFM (99.5 FM) & Gold (1242 AM)
SKY NEWS Television
- VICSES Social Media
facebook.com/vicses
twitter.com/vicsesnews
ses.vic.gov.au/get-ready
redcross.org.au/prepare
- Preparing for Flood Emergencies
- Creating an Emergency Plan
- West Gippsland Catchment Management Authority wgcm.vic.gov.au 1300 094 262
- Latrobe City Council latrobe.vic.gov.au 1300 367 700
- 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, 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. You can also access this information through our social media channels and emergency broadcasters.

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

The warning level is based on severity, conditions and the likelihood of community impact.

WARNING LEVELS

	EMERGENCY WARNING You are in imminent danger and need to take action immediately. You will be impacted. A Major flood warning usually fits into this category.
	WARNING (WATCH AND ACT) 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.
	ADVICE An incident is occurring or has occurred in the area. Access information and monitor conditions. 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.

ADDITIONAL MESSAGES

	PREPARE TO EVACUATE/ EVACUATE NOW An evacuation is recommended or procedures are in place to evacuate.
	COMMUNITY INFORMATION Updates for communities affected by an emergency. Can also be used as a notification that an incident has occurred but there is no threat to community.
	EMERGENCY ALERT During some emergencies, communities may be alerted by the sounding of a local siren, or by sending an SMS to mobile phones or a voice message to landlines.

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 (eg, babies, Elderly)
- | 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 [redcross.org.au/prepare](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 [bom.vic.gov.au](https://www.bom.vic.gov.au) and warnings through [emergency.vic.gov.au](https://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.
- ☐ If you are staying in a caravan, move to higher ground before flooding begins.

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.
- ☐ 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](https://www.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. 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.

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