

Gippsland Region Extreme Weather Event June 2021



Our Values



We pride ourselves on our credibility



We are part of our community



Safety drives our decisions



Focused and adaptable



Together we are VICSES

Background

- Throughout the night of Wednesday 9th June 2021 and into the following day, Victoria experienced a severe weather event with strong winds and heavy rain which caused widespread damage, flooding and power outages.
- What would unfold would be the busiest 24 hours in the history of the Victoria State Emergency Service with over 9,000 RFAs in one week.
- An initial Flood Watch for Gippsland was issued on Tuesday 8th June with rainfall totals of 60-100mm expected across the flood watch area through Wednesday and Thursday, with up to 150-250 mm likely about the ranges. The focus of the heaviest rainfall would be across West and South Gippsland.
- The Bureau of Meteorology warned 19 catchments could be impacted with minor to moderate flooding expected across West Gippsland and the Mitchell River catchment from late Wednesday evening, with major flooding possible.
- A Severe Weather warning for damaging winds was issued on Wednesday 9th June for West and South Gippsland and parts of East Gippsland.

Background

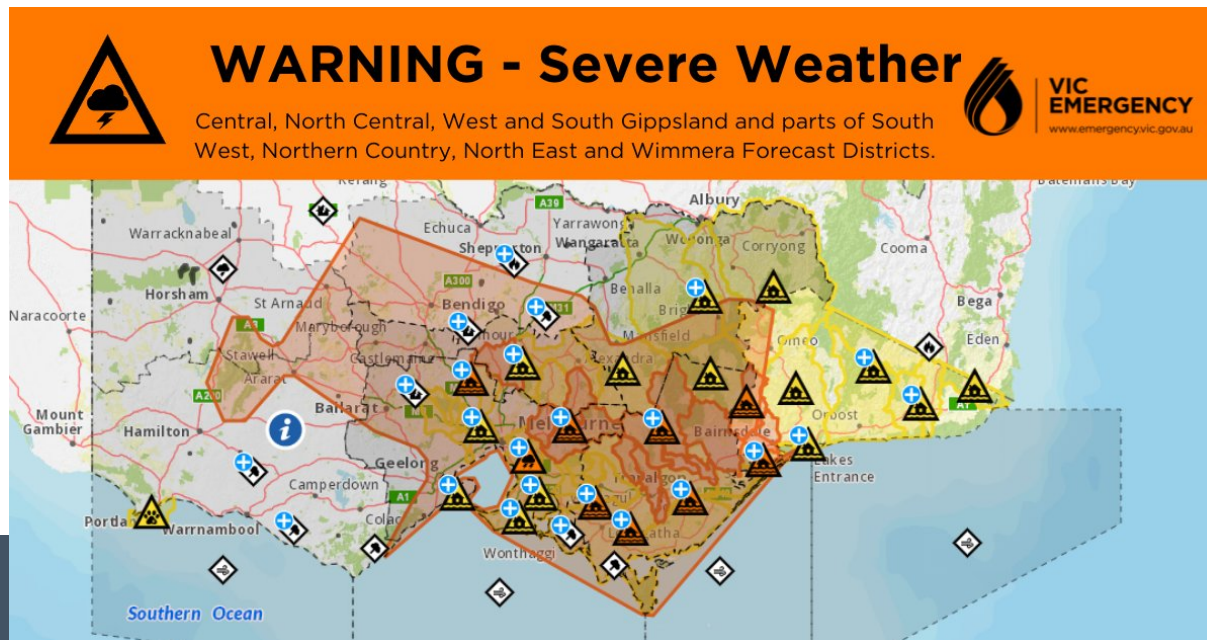
- A Severe Weather warning for HEAVY RAINFALL was issued on Wednesday 9th June for heavy rainfall developing about West Gippsland and Central Highlands.
- The East Coast Low would deliver heavy rain leading to flooding and damaging destructive winds and was expected to have multiple centres that would influence the location and timing of the heavy rain.
- 24 hour rainfall totals from late Wednesday morning to late Thursday morning were expected to be 70 to 120mm across the warning area, reaching 150 to 250mm about higher terrain in West Gippsland.
- Catchments are already saturated across much of West and South Gippsland, and wet to moderately wet through East Gippsland.

Background

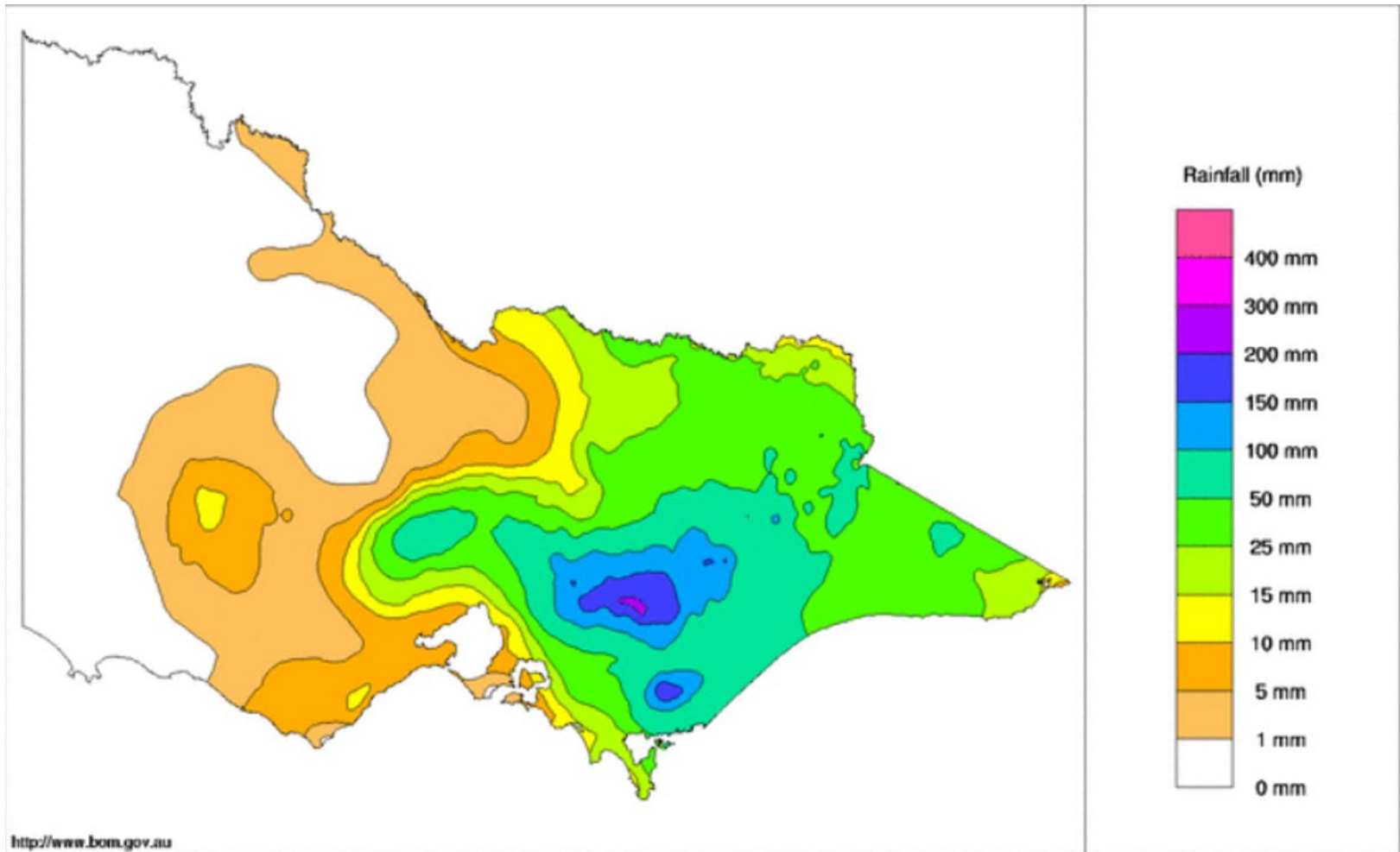
- An initial **Major** Flood Warning for the Macalister River was issued by the BoM at 3:52 PM on Wednesday 9th June.
- An initial **Major** Flood Warning for the Thomson River was issued by the BoM at 4:19 PM on Wednesday 9th June.
- An initial **Major** Flood Warning for the Avon River was issued by the BoM at 4:27 PM on Wednesday 9th June.
- An initial **Moderate** Flood Warning for the Traralgon Creek was issued by the BoM at 4:43 PM on Wednesday 9th June.
- An initial **Moderate** Flood Warning for the Mitchell River was issued by the BoM at 5:43 PM on Wednesday 9th June.
- A **Major** Flood Warning for the Traralgon Creek was issued by the BoM at 1:59 AM on Thursday 10th June.

Background

- The Victorian government declared a state energy emergency after flooding caused cracking at Yallourn power station's Morwell River Diversion wall.
- V-Line trains on the Gippsland line between Traralgon and Bairnsdale were suspended.
- An increased risk of beach erosion was present due to the unusual, perpendicular (south-east) wind direction, which would cause swells to impact Gippsland beaches.



Daily rainfall totals for Victoria 10/6/21



Rainfall magnitudes across the region





Location	9 June	10 June	11 June	ARI	AEP
Jindivick	3	71	2	2 to 5	50% to 20%
Darnum *	2.8	67	0.8	5 to 10	20% to 10%
Mt Baw Baw AWS *	1.6	280	17	>100	>1%
Nilma North (Warragul) *	3.6	47	1.8	<2	<50%
Erica	0	181	0.8	50 to 100	2% to 1%
Tanjil South *	0.6	87	5.2	10 to 20	10% to 5%
Boolarra *	0	137		50 to 100	2% to 1%
Latrobe Valley AWS *	0	55	4.6	2 to 5	50% to 20%
Sale AWS *	1	72	2.8	2 to 5	50% to 20%

Report in the Warragul Gazette stated 204mm in less than 24 hours at Walhalla. This would be very close to a 1% rainfall

River flows across the region

River	Gauge	Date	Time of Peak	Height	FCL	ARI
Avon	Stratford	10-Jun	7:37pm	6.89	Major	13
Macalister	Licola	10-Jun	1:04pm	4.2	Major	32
Aberfeldy	Beardmore	10-Jun	1:06pm	6.17		40-50
Thomson	Cooper Creek	10-Jun	11:42am	5.3	Major	28
	U/s Cowwarr Weir	10-Jun	12:03pm	7.6	Major	30
	Wandocka	10-Jun	5:02pm	6.89	Major	8
	Bundalaguah	11-Jun	3:08am	7.8		10
	Sale wharf	11-Jun	9:22pm	3.45	Moderate	
Tanjil	Tanjil Junction	10-Jun	10:15am	5.72	Major	17
	Tanjil South	10-Jun	10:00pm	3.15	Moderate	>100
Latrobe	Noojee	10-Jun	0:44am	3.82		
	Willow Grove	10-Jun	4:30pm	4.7	Minor	>100
	Thoms Bridge	11-Jun	2:00am	6.39	Moderate	12.5
Traralgon Creek	Traralgon	10-Jun	9:00am	5.76	Major	75
Moe	Darnum	12-Jun	4:00pm	4	Minor	3
Morwell	Boolarra	10-Jun	6:00am	5.1	Moderate	20-50

Warnings issued

	Warning Level	Hazard Type	Total
	Advice Message - Flood Watch	Flood	51
	Advice Message - Minor Flood Warning	Flood	101
	Advice Message - Final Minor Flood Warning	Flood	12
	Warning - Moderate Flood Warning	Flood	56
	Warning - Major Flood Warning	Flood	33
	Warning - Severe Weather	Storm	3
	Emergency Warning - Major Flood Warning	Flood	13
	Evacuate Now	Flood	16
	All Clear - Final Flood Watch	Flood	2
	All Clear - Safe to Return	Flood	2
	Total Messages		289

Warnings issued from the 8th June 2021 to 14th June 2021

Region Impacts

- Damage was widespread – impacting five of the region's six LGA's which included 48 regional towns.
- A significant number of communities were isolated, some for several days.
- Access was cut to most roads and major highways by either flooding or trees down which compounded the isolation of local communities.
- Widespread power and telecommunications outages (200K +).
- 552 stock losses (predominantly sheep) 4152 ha pasture/crop loss, 245 tonnes lost, 356 km fences destroyed, infrastructure losses 52.
- Damage to roads and bridges through erosion, landslides and trees down.
- At start of the incident 196 road closures reported across RRV and LGAs.

Region Impacts

- Parks and state forests closed across Gippsland (including Wilson's Prom National Park).
- Storm damage (fallen trees, damaged road infrastructure and landslides) affecting roads throughout Gippsland. Strzelecki Ranges, Great Alpine Rd, Baw Baw Tourist Rd and Baw Baw NP (Mt St Gwinear Rd) and the state forest around Thomson Dam.
- 258ha of windthrown plantation identified near Budgeree and isolated areas between ¼ to 2 ha identified between Budgeree Rd and Hyland Hwy, along Grand Ridge Rd.
- Residential properties impacted with above floor flooding
- Commercial properties impacted with above floor flooding
- Communities evacuated.

Traralgon Community Impacts

Rapid rises in water levels in Traralgon Creek caused widespread damage and disruption, including:

- Many houses and businesses close to Traralgon Creek were impacted from over floor and yard flooding
- Many roads inundated
- Complete inundation of Traralgon Recreation Reserve and tennis club
- Large parts of Victory Park and Bert Thompson Reserve under water



Traralgon Community Impacts

- Mantra carpark flooded
- Traralgon Centre Plaza underground carpark severely flooded
- Large areas of farmland inundated
- Many rescues performed from houses and cars in flood affected areas
- Trees uprooted and debris/mud everywhere



Response

- A total of 1,185 request for assistance (RFAs) were received from the 9th June to 13th June 2021, of these:-
 - 759 Trees down
 - 94 Building damage
 - 121 Flooding
 - 57 Flood Rescues
- Multi agency response from VICSES, CFA, FRV, DELWP, VicPol, Local Government Authorities, ADF, Life Saving Victoria, VicRoads and Ambulance Victoria and other partner agencies.
- Taskforces, IMT staff, and resources from South West, Mid West, and Central regions were deployed into the Gippsland Region ahead of the forecasted flooding.
- The Bairnsdale and Traralgon Incident Control Centres operated 24/7.

Response

- 17,363 SES Volunteer hours across the 5 days
- Extensive support from the business community and community members to support volunteers and the Incident Control Centre.
- FFMV crews working from local management areas assessed impacts and facilitated safe access and egress for communities and essential services.
- A road planning/operations cell was activated in the Traralgon ICC to manage road recovery across Gippsland.