



# Traralgon Local Flood Guide

Flood information for Traralgon Township



Franklin Street, Traralgon, 2021.



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





## Flood risk in Traralgon

Significant flooding occurs in some areas of Traralgon due to flooding from Traralgon Creek resulting in potential for water over roads, entering and surrounding properties and businesses. Flooding at this level has occurred six times since 1978. The impacts of flooding can be significantly increased by heavy rain falling within the town resulting in flash flooding from stormwater, and may occur with little or no warning.

If you live in the Traralgon Creek catchment area you may be at risk of flooding. [Get ready, have a plan.](#)



*Franklin Street, Traralgon, June 2021.*

## Impacts of flooding

Throughout the Traralgon Creek catchment, there are a 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:

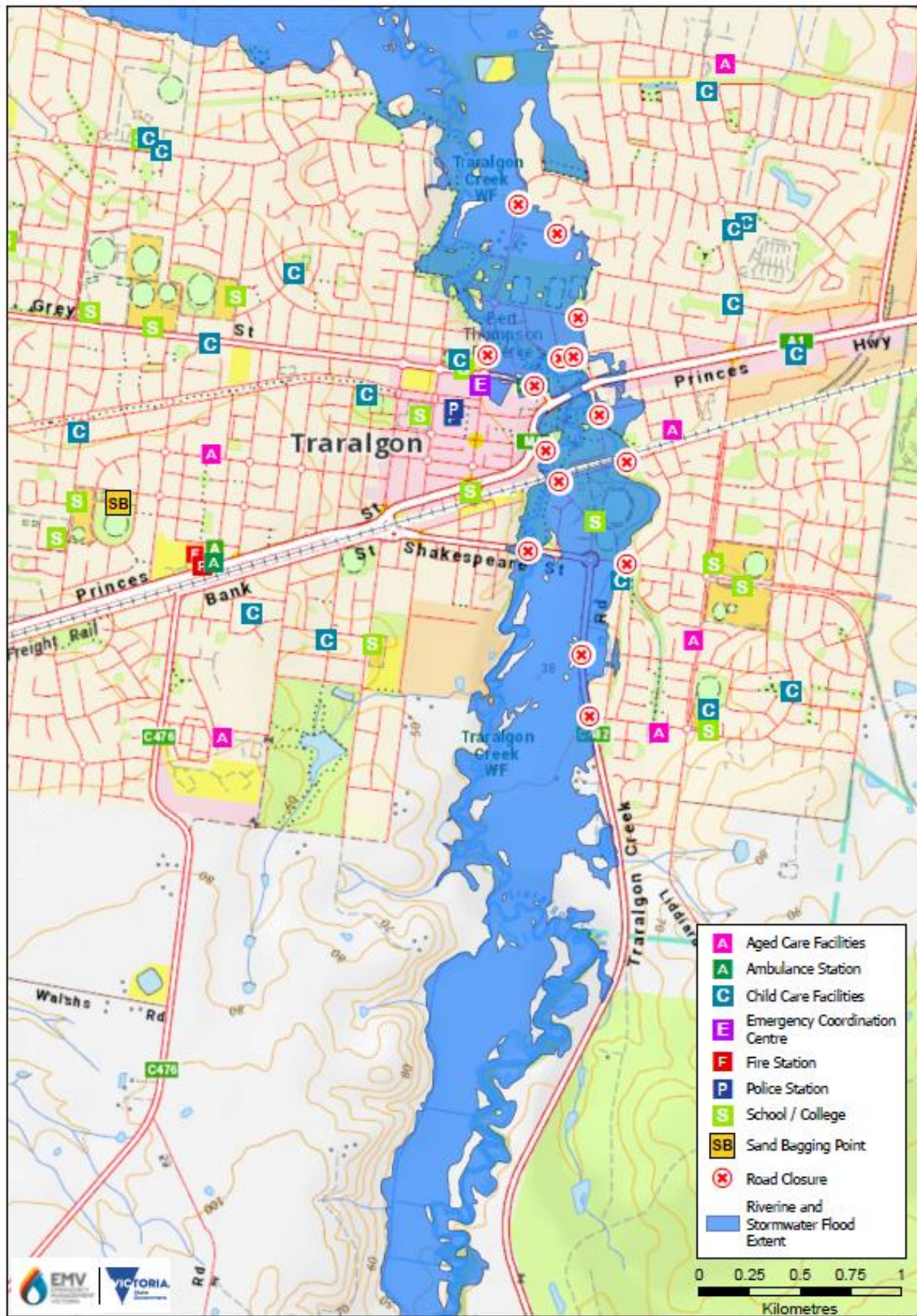
- Princes Highway through eastern Morwell and Traralgon, and
- Rural roads such as the Hyland Highway south of Traralgon, Glengarry West Road, Tyers Road, Traralgon-Maffra Road and Traralgon Creek Road, that are near and/or cross waterways.

Traralgon Creek is not the source of flooding on these roads. Areas on the eastern side of the town near the Princes Highway and Liddiard Road are particularly prone to flash flooding.

## Traralgon flood map

The following map shows the expected flooding extent in Traralgon in a 1% flood, measuring 5.99 metres on the Traralgon flood gauge. A 1% flood means that there is a 1 in 100 chance of a flood of this size occurring in any given year.





**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.



## How floods happen in Traralgon

When Traralgon Creek floods, it follows a fairly defined path. Flooding happens when water overtops waterways and flows into areas that do not normally have water. The Creek is the main waterway through the township. There are a number of smaller streams which can contribute to water flows around town.

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.

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 due to the steep landscape of the catchment and how fast the water in the creek can rise. Localised rainfall throughout Traralgon is likely to cause flash flooding when waters rise in 6 hours or under.

For further information about flooding visit the [VICSES website](#).

## Flood history

The urban areas of Traralgon have experienced major flooding from Traralgon Creek in 1978, 1993, 1995, 2011, 2012 and 2021 .

- Many properties experienced over-floor flooding, and a number of roads were inundated.
- Under existing conditions, the 1% flood damage was calculated at \$6.8 million dollars, with around 100 properties (including residential and business) experiencing over-floor flooding.



*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.**





## Flood warnings and flood heights

When BOM issues Minor, Moderate and Major Flood Warnings, they include an estimate of the flood height at the Traralgon stream gauge in Traralgon. The table below provides an indication of what you can expect at certain Traralgon stream gauge heights, including when your access may be cut off and when your property may be affected. More information from BOM: [Victoria Links to Rainfall and River Data \(bom.gov.au\)](https://www.bom.gov.au/victoria/links-to-rainfall-and-river-data/).



*Flood marker, Traralgon Creek, 2012.*

Traralgon stream gauge height (metres)	Flood Impact
6.36 m	170 buildings may be flooded above floor. 365 properties are impacted by flooding including Alfred Close, Latrobe Crescent, Chisholm Court, Mapleson Drive, Bradman Boulevard, Waterford Court, Oxford Place, Bowral Way. Flooding may cut access to the Princes Highway (Argyle Street) in both the east and westbound lanes (at Post Office Place).
5.99 m	Flooding may cut access to the Princes Highway (Argyle Street) in the westbound lane (at Post Office Place). 103 buildings may be flooded above floor. 319 properties are impacted by flooding, including properties in Atherley Street and Harney Place. See page 2 of this LFG for example of flood height.
5.78 m	June 2021 flood level. More than 100 buildings were flooded above floor. Flooding impacted houses in Milton Court, Tennyson Street, Moonabeal Court, Booth Court, Whittakers Road, Davidson Street, Willow Court, George Street, Berry Street, Peterkin Street, Munro Street and Couchs Lane.
5.66 m	1993 flood level. 27 buildings were flooded above floor and 99 properties were impacted by flooding. Slightly larger than 1978, but floodplain management works reduced flooding impacts.
5.59 m	The Stockland Shopping Centre carpark (Franklin Street) may be impacted by flooding. 40 buildings may be flooded above floor in Howitt Street, Berry Street, Peterkin Street, Willow Court, Milton Court, Shakespeare Street, Whittakers Road, George Street, Franklin Street and Gwalia Street, including the Gippsland Rangers Roller Derby clubrooms. 265 properties are impacted by flooding. Deep flooding along Paul Street may cut access to houses in Le Grange. Shallow flooding in Tyers Road.
5.35 m	2012 flood level. More than 10 houses were flooded above floor.
5.25 m	Widespread flooding throughout the urban area. 13 buildings may be flooded above floor in Gwalia Street, Berry Street, Peterkin Street, Willow Court, Munro Street, Whittakers Road, Davidson Street, Franklin Street and Moonabeal Court, including several buildings at the Traralgon Recreation Reserve. 206 properties are impacted by flooding including properties in Phelan Street. The Mantra carpark (Franklin Street) and the ASIC building (Grey Street) may be flooded. Deep flooding may cut access to George Street (depth up to 0.30m).
4.81 m	The ASIC building carpark may be impacted by flooding. Flooding impacts the grounds of the Traralgon Tennis Centre and Traralgon Soccer Club (Franklin Street). One building may be flooded above floor in Alfred Close, and 88 properties are impacted by flooding. Deep flooding may cut access to Paul Street and Davidson Street (depth up to 0.23 m).
4.5 m	Deep flooding may cut access to Franklin Street and Phelan Street (depth up to 0.26m).



Traralgon stream gauge height (metres)	Flood Impact
4.5 m	<b>Major flood level</b>
4.3 m	2013 flood level. 53 properties may be impacted by flooding. Deep flooding may cut access to Peterkin Street (depth up to 0.26m). Shallow flooding may start to overtop George Street, Grey Street and Argyle Street (Princes Highway) . Franklin St Bridge overtops at 4.1mts.
4.0 m	Deep flooding may cut access to Traralgon Creek Road (Hyland Highway), Shakespeare Street (Hyland Highway), Howitt Street and Gwalia Street (depth up to 0.25m). Shallow flooding may start to overtop Peterkin Street. When access is cut to Shakespeare Street, this will cut access to houses in Booth Court, Tennyson Street, Moonabeal Court and Milton Court. The Railway underpass is flooded.
4.0 m	<b>Moderate flood level</b>
3.5 m	Minor flooding breaks out of Traralgon Creek. Bert Thompson Reserve, Eric Taylor Reserve, Victory Park and Newman Park may experience some flooding. Flooding may cut access to Eton Avenue, also cutting access to Tintern Place and Salisbury Crescent, north west of Traralgon. Deep flooding may cut access to Whittakers Road, depth up to 0.8m. Shallow flooding may start to overtop Franklin Street, Davidson Street and Paul Street.
3.5 m	<b>Minor flood level</b>
3.4 m	Flooding along Traralgon Creek surrounding Traralgon starts to impact low lying farmland and minor roads.

## Latrobe Valley Information Network (<https://lvin.org/>)

The [Latrobe Valley Information Network](https://lvin.org/) (LVIN) provides 24-hour monitoring of live weather, rainfall and air composition across the municipality. This local information is accessible to all local residents and businesses and helps us to prepare for and understand the impacts of significant floods, fire, and other extreme weather events.

### Staying informed and further Information

- Current warnings (VicEmergency) [emergency.vic.gov.au](https://emergency.vic.gov.au) 1800 226 226  
Keep a watch on emergencies near you by tapping the 'Create watch zone' blue box and follow instructions.
- Bureau of Meteorology (BoM) [bom.gov.au/vic/warnings](https://bom.gov.au/vic/warnings) 1300 659 210
- VicRoads Traffic [traffic.vicroads.vic.gov.au](https://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](https://facebook.com/vicses)  
[twitter.com/vicsesnews](https://twitter.com/vicsesnews)
- Preparing for Flood Emergencies [ses.vic.gov.au/get-ready](https://ses.vic.gov.au/get-ready)
- Creating an Emergency Plan [redcross.org.au/prepare](https://redcross.org.au/prepare)
- West Gippsland Catchment Management Authority [wgcm.vic.gov.au](https://wgcm.vic.gov.au) 1300 094 262
- Latrobe City Council [latrobe.vic.gov.au](https://latrobe.vic.gov.au) 1300 367 700
- National Relay Service (NRS) [www.accesshub.gov.au/](https://www.accesshub.gov.au/)




**Life-threatening  
emergency  
000**



# Flood warnings and emergency checklist

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. Communities can also access this information through VICSES 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 that the emergency could impact on the community.

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

## Your emergency plan

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

Taking the time to think about emergencies and make your own plan helps you think clearly, have more control and make better decisions when an emergency occurs.

Visit [redcross.org.au/prepare](https://redcross.org.au/prepare) start creating your plan.



**ARE YOU READY?**  
DO ONE SIMPLE THING TO MAKE YOU SAFER

- 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](http://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 <http://www.bom.gov.au/vic/emergency.vic.gov.au>.
- ☐ If safe to do so, communicate with your neighbours.
- ☐ 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](http://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.**