



Glenorchy

Local Flood Guide

Riverine flood information for Wimmera River at Glenorchy



Glenorchy, January 2011 (D Todd)



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





Glenorchy

Glenorchy is located on the Wimmera River, in the municipality of the Northern Grampians Shire. The upper reaches of the Wimmera River drains Mt Cole and the Pyrenees Mountain Ranges. The map below shows a flood extent similar to the January 2011 flood event, the Glenorchy stream gauge peaked at 5.03m.



Disclaimer: this map 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. Flood risk information is provided by Wimmera Catchment Management Authority.



Are you at risk of flooding?

There are many homes and farming properties at risk of flooding along the Wimmera River and in the Glenorchy Township. Flooding is most likely to occur in Glenorchy when:

- The catchment/ground is saturated from previous rainfall and further rainfall occurs, causing flooding from the Wimmera River.
- Floodwater breaks out from a stream on the east side of town, runs under the railway embankment bridges, and then flows to the Wimmera River through the township. When this happens, you will see water crossing the Glenorchy-Campbell Bridge Road.

Areas along the Wimmera River in and around Glenorchy that are most at risk of flooding are the low lying areas of Carfrae, Marl, Forest, Arapiles, Bunbury and Cameron Streets and rural farms. Flooding often cuts access to the Stawell-Warracknabeal Road.

Did you know?

Since 1894 there have been around 18 significant floods in Glenorchy and district. Widespread flooding occurred in the township most recently in September 2010 and January 2011.

- Flooding in 2010 and 2011 was caused by rainfall north of Stawell, with 44 millimetres of rain falling over two days.
- In September 2010 following heavy rainfall throughout August.
- In January 2011, 184 millimetres of rain fell over four days in the area causing further flooding. The January 2011 flood in Glenorchy measured 5.03 metres on the Glenorchy stream gauge, classifying it as a major flood. This flood was caused by heavy rainfall on a wet catchment. The catchment was saturated by the rainfall during December 2010.
- In 2011, 38 properties were impacted by flooding including 21 with water above floor level. The impact of the 2011 flood could have been much worse if not for the hard work of residents who sandbagged many properties, providing some protection from the floodwater.



Flooding impacting Carfrae Street, Glenorchy during January 2011.



Flooding impacting Bunbury Street, Glenorchy during January 2011 event.

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 594 AM, 107.9 FM
3WM 1089 AM
Mixx 101.3 FM
SKY NEWS Television
- VICSES Social Media facebook.com/vicses
twitter.com/vicsesnews
- Preparing for Flood Emergencies ses.vic.gov.au/get-ready
- Creating an Emergency Plan redcross.org.au/prepare
- Wimmera Catchment Management Authority <http://www.wcma.vic.gov.au> (03) 5382 1544
- Northern Grampians Shire Council ngshire.vic.gov.au (03) 5358 8700

**Life-threatening
Emergency
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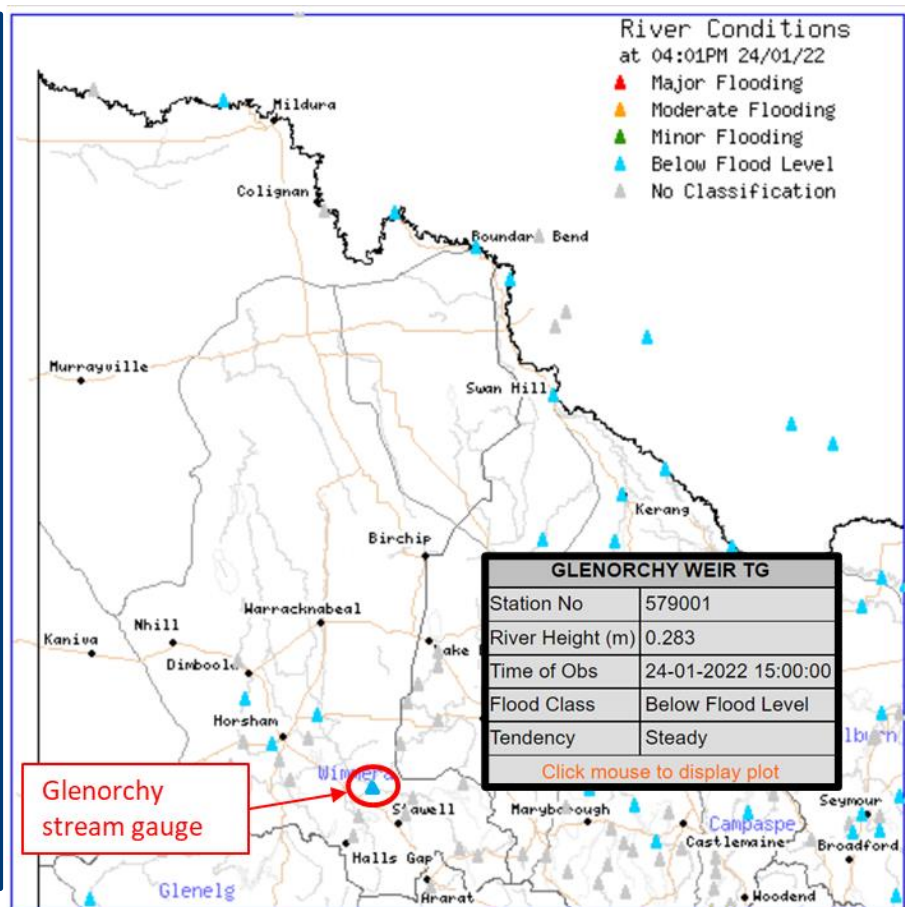
How to monitor the Glenorchy stream gauge

Glenorchy generally floods due to heavy rainfall upstream, within the upper Wimmera River catchment. There are three stream gauges within the upper Wimmera River catchment;

- Stream gauge located at Glenorchy Weir Tail Gauge
- Stream gauge located at Glynwylln
- Stream gauge located at Eversley

Monitoring these stream gauges will provide early clues of possible flooding in Glenorchy. To monitor the Glenorchy stream gauge height go to the BoM website bom.gov.au/vic/flood/

- Select 'River Conditions' (above the map)
- Click on Wimmera Mallee on the right.
- Find the Glenorchy (above Stawell) gauge and hover over it.
- Compare stream height to the stream gauge heights in the table below to determine if flooding is likely.



Flooding impacting a Garage in Forest Street, Glenorchy during January 2011 .



The table below provides an indication of what you can expect at certain Glenorchy stream gauge heights, including when your access may be cut off and when your property may be affected. A key consideration that influences flooding is the wetness of the catchment. The table below assumes the catchment is already wet.

| Glenorchy stream gauge height (metres) | Flood Impact |
|--|--|
| 5.05m | 25 buildings are flooded above floor including the Glenorchy CFA station. |
| 5.03m | January 2011 flood level (flood extent shown on page 2 map). At this height, access to town is severely affected. 21 buildings are flooded above floor, including the Glenorchy Town Hall and the Post Office in Forest Street. 38 properties are impacted by flooding. |
| 5.01m | One additional building in Carfrae Street is flooded above floor level. |
| 4.97m | September 1998 and October 1973 flood level. |
| 4.96m | Four buildings are flooded above floor in Forest, Bunbury, Marl and Boyd Streets. 14 properties in Edwards, Forest and Marl Streets may experience flooding in yards. |
| 4.80m | Major flood level |
| | At major flood level (4.80 m), access to most roads may be cut by deep, fast moving floodwater, these include Arapiles, Bunbury, Boyd, Carfrae, Dry, Green and Wills Streets up to 0.25m. Access to residents living in Glenorchy and surrounding farms are isolated by deep floodwater. |
| 4.72m | 1980 August flood level |
| 4.69m | 1992 August flood level |
| 4.68 | Shallow flooding may begin to overtop Campbells Bridge Road and the Stawell-Warracknabeal Road. |
| 4.50m | Moderate flood level |
| | At moderate flood level (4.50 m), flooding enters Glenorchy via an anabranch of the Wimmera River. Flooding may cut access to roads (depth 0.3m), these include Forest Street, Old Glenorchy Road, Ti Tree Swamp and Cameron Street. |
| 4.0m | Minor flood level |
| 3.95 | Flooding along the Wimmera River surrounding Glenorchy starts to impact low lying farmland and minor roads. |



Sandbag Collection Point



A Sandbag Collection Point may be opened at the Glenorchy Golf Club, Arapiles Street.

Residents can call in to fill and collect sandbags to protect your home.

Northern Grampians Shire Council will promote when this collection point is opened through local radio and other media.



Flooding overtopping the Stawell-Warracknabeal Road, north-west of Glenorchy during January 2011.






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.