



Local Flood Guide Wangaratta



Flood information for the Ovens River, King River, Fifteen Mile Creek, One Mile Creek and Three Mile Creek at Wangaratta township



WANGARATTA



RURAL CITY OF
WANGARATTA



NORTH EAST
CATCHMENT
MANAGEMENT
AUTHORITY



 FLOOD STORM
EMERGENCY **132 500**

 For more information visit
ses.vic.gov.au

About this guide

In floods, knowing what to do and when to do it can save lives and reduce damage. This guide provides advice to residents and businesses about what to do before, during and after floods, where to find flood warnings and areas that are at risk.

In 2008, Victoria State Emergency Service and the Rural City of Wangaratta delivered flood information to flood-prone areas. This guide updates that information and any FloodSmart meter box stickers can now be discarded. The map below represents the 1% AEP (Annual Exceedance Probability) flood spread, 12.97 metres on the Ovens River gauge, and is consistent with the flooding which occurred in October 1993. A 1% flood extent means there is a 1% chance of a flood this size occurring in any year, not that it can only happen once every 100 years. This map shows one of many possible flooding scenarios for Wangaratta and a flood may be larger or smaller than shown below. Find and circle your property on this map to help you understand what might happen around you.



Disclaimer 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. Flood information is provided by North East Catchment Management Authority.

Your Local Flood Information

Know your risk

The Wangaratta local area

Four main waterways can cause flooding in Wangaratta. They are the Ovens River, the King River, the One Mile Creek (part of the Fifteen Mile Creek system) and the Three Mile Creek (also part of the Fifteen Mile Creek system).

These waterways collect rainfall and snow melt from the Alpine National Park to the Warby Ranges and Springhurst Hills. Depending on where rain falls, one waterway can flood with little or no impact on the others or all waterways can be in flood at the same time.

The Ovens River flows from alpine catchments towards Wangaratta where it runs around the northern and eastern edge of Wangaratta, finally joining the Murray River near Bundalong. The King River starts in steep country near Lake William Hovell then flows towards south and east Wangaratta, joining the Ovens River near the corner of Chisholm and Faithfull Streets. The Fifteen Mile Creek system begins near Tolmie and branches into the One Mile and Three Mile Creeks near Greta West. These creeks then flow through Wangaratta's residential and industrial areas, creating Wangaratta's main flood risk.

Are you at risk of flood?

Flooding in the Fifteen Mile, One Mile and/or Three Mile Creeks can happen separately to flooding in the Ovens and/or King Rivers. This means different parts of Wangaratta can be at risk depending on where floodwater is coming from.

Riverine flooding in and around Wangaratta

The Ovens and King Rivers frequently flood. At the Moderate flood level, flooding can affect about 40 homes and farms on the Ovens floodplain east and north of town but does not result in overfloor flooding. High levels in the Ovens River can also cause floodwater to back-up, particularly at the northern end of One Mile Creek. Flooding in the Fifteen Mile Creek and the area south of the Hume freeway can bring flooding into town, threatening properties along the One Mile and Three Mile Creeks. In 1993, flooding in both creeks inundated or isolated over 180 properties. The diversion channel beside the Hume Freeway is designed to divert floodwater from One Mile Creek into the King River, helping to reduce, but not completely remove, flooding into areas adjoining the creek.

Parts of Wangaratta are behind levees that can reduce how often floods affect low-lying areas. Levees reduce the risk of flooding but no levee is flood proof. Along the Three Mile Creek, the Sunset Drive - Walter Street levee has been designed to reduce the risk of major flooding to nearby residences. During a significant Ovens and/or King River flood, homes and businesses inside the Parfitt and Wilson Road levees can be threatened. If the Ovens and King Rivers both reach flood peak at Wangaratta at the same time, the Wilson Road levee can come under intense impact from deep and powerful floodwater.

Flash flooding in and around Wangaratta

Wangaratta can also experience flash flooding after heavy rain in a short period of time. The Rowan Street railway underpass can often flood, disrupting traffic. Flat areas on the north, south and west of town and within the levee banks can flood when heavy rainfall overwhelms the local drainage networks.



Wangaratta, 1917 flood

Local Contacts

Your local emergency broadcasters are:

- ABC Local Radio 106.5 FM or 97.7 FM
- Edge 102.1 FM
- 3NE 1566 AM
- SKY NEWS Television

Rural City of Wangaratta Contact details:

Phone: (03) 5722 0888
Email: wangaratta.vic.gov.au
Web: council@wangaratta.vic.gov.au

Did you know?

The Wangaratta district has a history of significant floods including those in 1851, 1870, 1917, 1956, 1974, 1993, 1998, 2010 and 2012.

The 1917 flood became a tragedy when six people drowned. October 1993 is the largest recorded flood, measuring 12.98 metres at the Wangaratta Gauge.

During the 1993 flood, the Ovens River, King River, One Mile Creek and Three Mile Creek all flooded. As a result:

- Wangaratta became an island as roads were closed in all directions.
- Over 180 homes, businesses and public buildings were flooded or cut off by floodwater.
- The Wilson Road levee was overtopped and houses within the levee were flooded.
- Roads, bridges, water treatment and sewage plants, crops, pumps and 800 kilometres of fencing were damaged or destroyed.

In 2012, over 300 millimetres of rain caused flash flooding across the Warby Ranges, Peechelba, Springhurst and Boorhaman damaging many roads and bridges.

While no two floods are the same, floods like this or worse could happen again. If you live close to a creek, river, low-lying area or within a levee, you may be at risk of flooding. Even if you are not directly affected, you may still need to detour around flooded areas, be stranded where you are or unable to live your normal life.

Your Local Flood Information

River level gauges in and around Wangaratta

When the Bureau of Meteorology (BoM) issues Flood Warnings for Wangaratta they include a prediction of the flood height. For Wangaratta, there are three gauges which may provide warnings and can inform you about what may happen during floods:

- The Wangaratta Gauge on the Ovens River.
- The Greta South Gauge on Fifteen Mile Creek.
- King River Gauge at Docker Road.

During floods, gauges on the Three Mile Creek at Sunset Drive footbridge and the One Mile Creek at Cribbes Road are read manually. Flooding in the Three Mile Creek tends to rise and fall quickly, reaching its peak earlier than flooding in the One Mile Creek.

While no two floods are the same, the following tables can guide your planning.

Ovens River flood levels at the Wangaratta Gauge

Located on the Ovens River in Wangaratta near the railway bridge, this gauge may provide warnings about potential flooding.

Unknown	1870 flood level. Similar to the 1917 and 1993 floods. Historically known as Wangaratta's largest flood.
12.98 m	October 1993 and estimated 1917 flood levels. Extensive flooding across many areas of Wangaratta damaging houses, businesses, caravan parks, farms, roads, bridges, water and sewage systems, equipment, fences and livestock.
12.97 m	Current declared 1% flood level. Height shown on map page 2.
12.80 m	September 2010 and estimated 1974 flood levels. The 2010 flood caused significant riverbank erosion with several areas advised to evacuate. In 1974, widespread flooding caused more than 260 houses to be flooded prompting the construction of the town levees and diversion channel. Likely key road closures include the Old Hume Highway (Parfitt Rd) to the north of town.
12.78 m	October 2016 flood level.
12.77 m	September 1998 flood level. Over 300 mm rainfall across the Ovens and King catchments. Extensive King Valley flooding.
12.76 m	December 2010 flood level.
12.70 m	MAJOR FLOOD LEVEL
	Painters Island caravan park is closed. Extensive road closures. Widespread flooding occurs around the airport and along the Ovens River flats north of Wangaratta to Peechelba.
12.48 m	March 2012 flood level. Widespread heavy rain caused flooding particularly north of Wangaratta from the Warby Ranges to Rutherglen.
12.40 m	MODERATE FLOOD LEVEL
	Residents in Wilson and Parfitt Road levees are advised to prepare to evacuate (unless the levees are damaged before this). The Great Alpine Rd is likely to close near Wangaratta, traffic detour is via Detour Rd. Extensive flooding through APEX Park. Bickerton St carpark closed and access road to Painters Island Caravan Park flooded. Shallow flooding to Pinkerton Cres and backyards along Templeton St and Baker St.
11.90 m	MINOR FLOOD LEVEL
	Apex Park and farmland along the Ovens, King and possibly the Fifteen Mile Creek floodplains north, south and east of Wangaratta begin flooding. Bike paths and walking tracks around and downstream of Apex Park and the Northern Beaches are closed. Many riverside carparks are closed including Sydney Beach, Bickerton St and Baker St.

Fifteen Mile Creek flood levels at the Greta South Gauge

Located on Fifteen Mile Creek approx 30 km south of Wangaratta.

8.54 m	1993 flood level. 53 homes flooded along One Mile Creek.
8.10 m	Above floor flooding occurs at the lowest houses in Valdorice Ave, Graham Ave, Crisp St, Bronmar St and Swan St.
6.08 m	September 2010 flood level.
6.00 m	MAJOR FLOOD LEVEL
	At Major Flood Level, roads and land along One Mile and Three Mile Creeks are likely to start flooding. More extensive flooding into back yards of residential properties in Wangaratta and farmland north and south of the Hume freeway between the One Mile and Fifteen Mile Creeks near Greta Road.
5.86 m	December 2010 flood level.
5.73 m	1974 flood level.
4.20 m	MODERATE FLOOD LEVEL (previously 5.00 m)
3.98 m	October 2016 flood level.
3.20 m	Along the Three Mile Creek, shallow flooding commences north of the Hume Freeway over low lying farmland, Gravel Pit Rd, and the South Wangaratta Industrial area (eg Tone Road near the GOTAFE paddocks, CFA/SES Training Ground). Around the One Mile Creek, Rattray Ave footbridge closed and low-level flooding likely along roads and land in other areas including Swan and Bronmar Sts. Around the One Mile Creek Rattray Avenue footbridge closed and low-level flooding likely along roads and land in other areas including Swan and Bronmar Streets.
2.80 m	MINOR FLOOD LEVEL (previously 3.20 m)

About Flood Warnings

What warnings mean

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.

A **Flood Warning** means flooding is about to happen or is already happening. There are general, minor, moderate and major flood warnings.

A Minor Flood Warning means floodwater can:

- Reach the top of the river banks.
- Come up through drains in nearby streets.
- Cover low-lying areas including riverside camping areas.
- Affect some low-lying caravan parks.
- Cover minor roads, tracks and low level bridges.
- Spread across land or go into buildings on some properties and farms.

A Moderate Flood Warning means floodwater can:

- Spill over river banks and spread across low-lying areas.
- Start to threaten buildings, roads, rail, power and other developments.
- Require evacuation in some areas.
- Cover main roads.

A Major Flood Warning means floodwater can:

- Cause widespread flooding.
- Threaten more houses and businesses.
- Cause properties and whole areas to be isolated by water.
- Disrupt major roads and transport routes.
- Require many evacuations.

The Victoria State Emergency Service (VICSES) will give information about how the floodwater might affect people and properties. This includes safety messages to remind you what to do.

Severe Thunderstorm Warnings

Thunderstorms are classified as severe, due to their 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 happens quickly. There may be little or no warning. The arrival time or depth of a flash flood cannot always be predicted.

Remember, you may not receive any official warning.

Never wait for a warning to act.

Emergency Alert

SES may provide alerts to the Wangaratta community through the Emergency Alert telephone warning system. All emergency service providers can use Emergency Alert to warn communities about dangerous situations by voice message to landline telephones or text message to mobile phones.

If you receive a warning, make sure that all family members, people at work and your neighbours are aware of the situation.

If you receive an Emergency Alert you should pay attention and act. It could mean life or death.

If you need help to understand a warning, ask a friend, neighbour or family member.

Warnings for Wangaratta

Flood Warnings for the following gauges are issued by the Bureau of Meteorology and can provide predictions of flood size (minor, moderate or major), arrival time and possible peak flood heights based on gauges on the:

- Ovens River at Rocky Point and Wangaratta
- King River at Cheshunt and Docker- Carboor Road
- Fifteen Mile Creek at Greta South and Glenrowan

These gauges are located upstream and near Wangaratta and their flood levels can be found at: bom.gov.au/vic/flood/rain_river

During floods, extra gauges are read manually to monitor local flood conditions including the One Mile Creek at Cribbes Road and the Three Mile Creek at Sunset Drive footbridge. Their data is not available on the BoM website.

It is important to know how predicted flood levels are likely to affect you as you may be affected before the peak. You can use the flood tables on page 3 and 4 to figure out when you need to start following your emergency plan.

Flood levees

A levee is an embankment usually along a river or creek designed to protect property, not people from floodwater. There are 3 main levees in Wangaratta at:

- Wilson Road.
- Parfitt Road
- Sunset Drive - Walter Street

Levees can reduce the frequency of flooding but no levee is guaranteed to be flood-proof. A levee is designed to control a certain amount of floodwater. If larger floods occur, water will flow over the levee. Floodwater may also damage the levee, flowing through an opening or break.

Flood levees are to protect property, not people. If the levee is in danger of overtopping or failing, you will be advised to evacuate. It is important that you follow this advice.

For more about local levees go to **Wangaratta Flood Mitigation System: Levees, Drains and Pumps** information guide.

What to do in a flood

Never
Drive, Ride or Walk
Through Floodwater

NOW – before a flood

- Check if your home or business is subject to flooding. For more information, contact the Rural City of Wangaratta Council.
- Develop an emergency plan.
- Check if you could be cut off by floodwater.
- Know the safest way to go if you decide to leave your property and plan an alternative route.
- Check your insurance policies to ensure your equipment, property and business are covered for flood damage.
- Keep a list of emergency numbers near the telephone.
- Put together an emergency kit.
- Stay alert for weather warnings and heavy rainfall.

Your Emergency Kit

Every home and business should have a basic emergency kit. A basic emergency kit includes:



When a warning is issued, place extra items into your Emergency Kit, including:

- Mobile phone and charger
- Mementoes and valuables
- Prescriptions and medications
- Requirements for pets
- Strong shoes
- Clothing for at least three days.

Your emergency plan

Emergencies can happen at any time, with little warning. People who have planned and prepared for emergencies have reduced the impact and recovered 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.

Your emergency plan should identify:

- The types of emergencies that might affect you.
- How those emergencies might affect you.
- What you will do before, during and after an emergency.
- Where to get more information.
- Where you will go if you evacuate and the best way to go in different circumstances.
- A list of phone numbers you will need, including emergency services, your insurance company, friends and family.



Visit ses.vic.gov.au to obtain a copy of your Home Emergency Plan workbook

Evacuation

During a flood, Police, SES and other emergency service providers may advise you to evacuate to keep you safe. It is important that you follow this advice.

There are two types of evacuation notices that may be issued via your emergency broadcaster during a flood:

- **Prepare to evacuate** – means you should act quickly and take immediate action to protect your life and property. Be ready to leave your property.
- **Evacuate immediately** – you must leave immediately as there is a risk to lives. You may only have minutes to evacuate in a flash flooding situation.

Do not return to your home until you are sure it is safe to do so. You do not need to wait to be told to evacuate.

During and After a Flood

During a flood

When flooding has begun:

- **Never drive, ride, swim or walk through floodwater.**
- Remember that floodwater can be deeper than you think and can hide damaged roads and bridges.
- Never let your children play or swim in floodwater. It is dirty, dangerous and deadly.
- Tune in to your emergency broadcasters: ABC Local Radio, Commercial Radio, designated Community Radio Stations and SKY NEWS Television.
- In life-threatening emergencies, call Triple Zero (000).
- For SES emergency assistance during floods and storms call 132 500.
- Stay away from all waterways including drains and culverts.
- Stay away from fallen powerlines as electricity travels easily through water.
- Be aware that animals such as snakes, rats, spiders and other pests may be on the move during a flood. These animals can come into houses and other buildings or hide around sandbags.
- Keep in contact with neighbours.
- Be prepared to act quickly.

After a flood

Flood dangers do not end when the water begins to fall. To make sure you stay safe:

- Keep listening to local emergency broadcasters.
- Do not return home until you are sure that it is safe.

Once you return to your home:

- Investigate the structural safety of your building.
- Drink bottled water or boil all drinking water until advised that the water supply is safe.
- Throw away any food or medicines that may have been in contact with floodwater or affected by power outages.
- When entering a building, use a torch to light your way. Never use matches or cigarette lighters as there may be gas inside.
- Keep the electricity and gas off until checked and tested by a professional.
- Take photographs of all damage for insurance.
- Clean your home straight away to prevent disease.

How SES helps the community

Victoria State Emergency Service (SES) is a volunteer based emergency service. Although SES volunteers attempt to reach everyone prior to or during an emergency, at times this is not possible, especially during flash flooding which occurs so quickly. Therefore it is advisable for you to be prepared for emergencies so that you can share responsibility for your own wellbeing during those times. In a flood, SES assistance may include:

- Giving flood advice
- Protecting essential services
- Helping to protect infrastructure
- Rescuing people from floodwater
- Advising of an evacuation

To assist your preparation, it is recommended that you obtain a copy of the SES Home Emergency Plan by visiting ses.vic.gov.au.



Never
Drive, Ride or Walk
Through Floodwater

Emergency Checklist

NOW: Flood preparation

- Check if your insurance policies cover flooding.
- Keep this list of emergency contacts near the telephone.
- Put together an emergency kit and prepare a home or business emergency plan, see ses.vic.gov.au.

When you hear a Flood Watch or weather warning

- Listen to Severe Weather Warnings for flash flood.
- Listen to radio and check the SES website for more 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.
- Leave early if you intend to evacuate.

When flooding may happen soon (heavy rainfall)

- Make sure your family members and neighbours are aware of what is happening.
- Conditions change rapidly, roads and escape routes can be flooded or blocked. Don't forget to take pets and your medicine with you.
- Put household valuables and electrical items as high as possible.
- Turn off water, gas and electricity at the mains.
- Secure objects likely to float and cause damage.
- If you are staying in a caravan, tent or moveable dwelling, move to higher ground BEFORE flooding begins.

During the flood

- For SES emergency assistance, call 132 500.
- DO NOT drive, ride, swim or walk through floodwater. This is the main cause of death during floods.
- NEVER allow children to play in floodwater. This is the main cause of death during floods for children and young people.
- Stay away from drains, culverts and waterways as water can flow quickly and have strong currents.
- Stay well clear of fallen trees, powerlines and damaged buildings.
- If you are trapped inside a building, stay inside and shelter in the highest place. Call Triple Zero (000) in a life-threatening emergency.

After the flood: recovery

- If your property has been flooded, check with the Rural City of Wangaratta for information and advice.
- Have all electrical and gas equipment professionally tested before use.

For more information visit:

- ses.vic.gov.au
- facebook.com/vicemergency
- twitter.com/vicemergency

Emergency Contacts

Life-threatening emergency
Police Fire Ambulance

000 Triple Zero
TTY106

Victoria State Emergency Service (SES)

For flood and storm assistance

132 500

VicEmergency Hotline

For all emergencies in Victoria

1800 226 226

VicEmergency

Victorian emergency warnings
Install the free VicEmergency App

emergency.vic.gov.au

Bureau of Meteorology (BoM)

Weather information, forecasts, warnings

1300 659 217

bom.gov.au

National Relay Service (NRS)

relayservice.gov.au

The deaf, hearing or speech impaired can call SES or Triple Zero (000) using NRS:

	DIAL	THEN ASK FOR
■ Speak and Listen (SSR) users phone	1300 555 727	132 500
■ TTY / Voice users phone	13 36 77	132 500

Internet Relay users log into

iprelay.com.au/call/
then enter: **132 500 or 000**

VicRoads

Road closures and hazard reporting service

13 11 70

vicroads.vic.gov.au

Rural City of Wangaratta Council Contact Details

Phone: **03 5722 0888**
Email: council@wangaratta.vic.gov.au
Web: wangaratta.vic.gov.au

Weather District: North Eastern

Catchment Management Authority: North East CMA
www.necma.vic.gov.au
1300 216 153 (business hours)

Emergency Broadcasters

Emergency broadcasters include ABC Local Radio, designated commercial radio stations across Victoria and SKY NEWS Television.

- ABC Local Radio 106.5 FM/97.7 FM
- Edge 102.1 FM
- 3NE 1566 AM
- SKY NEWS Television

Complete the following and keep this information handy close to the phone:

Your electricity supplier: _____

Your gas supplier: _____

Doctor: _____

Vet: _____

Insurance

Policy Number: _____

Phone Number: _____