



Local Flood Guide Sale



Flood information for the Thomson River at Sale



FLOOD STORM
EMERGENCY **132 500**

For more information visit
www.ses.vic.gov.au

The Sale local area

Sale sits on the edge of a large wetlands system near the western edge of the Gippsland Lakes. The town is on the Princes Highway where it meets the South Gippsland Highway.

Sale lies downstream of where the Macalister River enters the Thomson River at Bundalagwah (south of Maffra). These two rivers are the major source of flooding for Sale. When either or both of these rivers flood, water flows into Flooding Creek after breaking out of Lavers Creek and flows across the upper end of Desailly Flats. Additional water will break out of the Thomson River at various points resulting in extensive flooding of the Desailly Flats. Flooding Creek channels this water past the western side of Sale where it then enters the Sale Canal at the Port of Sale, causing widespread flooding throughout the low-lying Desailly Flats and Myrtlebank area. The Sale Canal provides a passage for floodwater to enter the Latrobe River prior to entering the Gippsland Lakes, however, water will spill over the banks of the Sale Canal in times of flood.

This map shows the areas of Sale, Myrtlebank and Wurruk that are prone to flooding, and is a useful planning tool.

Your local emergency broadcasters are:

- GIPPSLAND ABC 828 AM
- 100.7 FM
- TRFM 99.5 FM
- GOLD 1242 1242 AM
- SKY NEWS Television

Wellington Shire Contact details:

- Phone: 1300 366 244
 Email: enquiries@wellington.vic.gov.au
 Web: www.wellington.vic.gov.au



Disclaimer

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Are you at risk of flood?

Flooding in Sale is most common in the low-lying streets in the south and west of town, between Sale and the wetlands along the South Gippsland Highway such as Stephenson, Johns, Dargo, Stevens and Parks Streets and Billabong Road. Flooding also occurs at the Port of Sale where the Sale Canal meets the Shire offices behind Foster Street.

To the west and north-west of Sale, flooding can occur in the areas of Wurruk, Desailly Flats and Myrtlebank. The Princes Highway at the Thomson River Bridge between Wurruk and Sale does not flood until the Major Flood Level of 4.0 metres is exceeded at the Sale Wharf Gauge on Flooding Creek.

Flooding across the South Gippsland Highway between Longford and Sale affects travel in the area. Whilst this section of road has now been re-built above the wetlands and the caravan park has closed, flooding still occurs on the western edge of town where the South Gippsland Highway leaves for Longford.

Sale is also prone to flash flooding when large rain events overwhelm the storm water drains in town and Flooding Creek, impacting internal roadways such as the intersection of York (Princes Highway) and Macarthur Streets.

While the upstream gauges of the Thomson River and Macalister River, particularly at Lake Glenmaggie, are used to provide initial warnings for Sale, the condition of the Latrobe River at Longford, where it meets the Thomson River, can also have a significant impact on flood duration and severity, meaning that warnings from these gauges do not always align to what will happen in Sale.

The severity of flooding in Sale itself is measured at the Sale Wharf Gauge on Flooding Creek, and the Port of Sale behind the Shire Offices in Foster Street, Sale.

Did you know?

Sale has a history of flooding including in 1978, 1990 and 2007. The picture below shows the 2007 flood, which was recorded as a major flood at a level of 4.23 metres at the Sale Wharf Gauge on Flooding Creek. The levels in 1978 were higher than this, reaching 5.20 metres.

It is important to remember that no two floods are the same and where one may not affect you, another one could, so it's important to be prepared and know what to do.



Sale Common and Heart Morass including South Gippsland Highway, June 2007

Fishermen can get trapped in the wetlands around Sale and Longford. They drive down a track to camp for a weekend's fishing and the water comes up and floods the road behind them. Pays to always check the weather forecast and make sure you'll have a clear exit before you decide.

Flood levels at the Flooding Creek Gauge at Sale Wharf, Port of Sale

When the Bureau of Meteorology (BoM) issues Flood Warnings they include a prediction of the flood height at the Flooding Creek Gauge at Sale Wharf, Port of Sale. While no two floods are the same, the following table can give you an indication of what you can expect at certain heights, including when your access may be cut off and when your property may be affected.

5.20 m	June 1978 flood level.
4.23 m	June 2007 flood level. Widespread flooding in and around Sale, Maffra, Heyfield and Stratford, affecting access to the area and travel along the Princes Highway and South Gippsland Highway. School buses and travel to work disrupted.
4.10 m	June 2010 flood level. At major flood level, there will be extensive flooding at the western end of Sale including Desailly Flats, Cunninghame Street near the sports fields, Finegan Court, Stephenson street, Dargo Street and Lacey Street. The Port of Sale at the mouth of Sale Canal floods in the car park of the Shire Offices and at the south end of the ACES building in Canal Road. Princes Highway closed at Wurruk if river tops Thomson Bridge. Cemetery Road, also known as Back Maffra Road is blocked.
4.00 m	MAJOR FLOOD LEVEL
3.75 m	April 1990 flood level. At moderate flood level, up to 50 properties are flooded in Stephenson, Johns, Dargo, Stevens and Parks Streets. Billabong Road and the South Gippsland Highway will be flooded. Low-lying agricultural land will be flooded and many local rural roads may be cut. Fishermen may become stranded at Dowd's Morass by water rising quickly in Dowd's Lane, and east of Sale. Floods rise extremely quickly at Desailly Flats. Extensive flooding of rural land through to Myrtlebank and beyond.
3.00 m	MODERATE FLOOD LEVEL At minor flood level, access along minor rural roads may be cut and extensive flooding of paddocks near the river is possible as the area around Sale is so low-lying. The South Gippsland Highway is now built above wetlands so will not close as has happened previously at this level. Thomson Caravan Park no longer operates. Fishermen should take care entering Lake Wellington and Sale Wetlands as access to fishing spots may be cut by rising waters, stranding fishermen without warning.
2.40 m	MINOR FLOOD LEVEL

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 (SES) 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.

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 Alert

SES may provide alerts to parts of the Sale 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 Sale

For Flooding Creek, Flood Warnings are issued by the Bureau of Meteorology. Flood Warnings provide predictions of flood size (minor, moderate or major), time and possible peaks of:

- Flooding Creek at the Sale Wharf Gauge
- Thomson River at the Bundalaguah Gauge

It is important to know how the predicted flood levels are likely to impact you as you may be affected before the peak, *see page 3: Flood levels at the Flooding Creek Gauge at Sale Wharf, Port of Sale.*

Use this table to figure out when you need to start following your flood emergency plan.

NOW – before a flood

- Check if your home or business is subject to flooding. For more information, contact Wellington Shire 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.

When a flood is likely

- Take action. Follow your emergency plan.
- Listen to your radio for information and advice.
- Check your neighbours are safe and know about the flood.
- Stack possessions on benches and tables with electrical goods in the highest places.
- Anchor objects that are likely to float and cause damage.
- Move rubbish bins, chemicals and poisons to the highest place.
- Put important papers, valuables, photos and other special personal items into your emergency kit.
- Business owners should raise stock, business records and equipment onto benches and tables.
- Rural property owners should move livestock, pumps and machinery to higher ground.
- If you are likely to be isolated, have enough food, drinking water, medicine, fuel and other needs to last at least three days.
- Do not forget pet food and stock feed.

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.

Emergency Kit

Every home and business should have a basic emergency kit:



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 _____
- Photos _____
- Family keepsakes _____
- Valuables _____
- Documents _____
- Other _____

During and After a Flood

Never
Drive, Ride or Walk
Through Floodwater

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

The 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



Emergency Checklist

NOW: Flood preparation

- Check if your insurance policies cover flooding.
- Keep this list of emergency numbers 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 covered 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 or temporary 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 Wellington Shire Council for information and advice.
- Have all electrical and gas equipment professionally tested before use.

For more information visit:

-  ses.vic.gov.au
-  facebook.com/vicses
-  twitter.com/vicseswarnings

Emergency Contacts

Life-threatening emergency Triple Zero
Police Fire Ambulance **000** TTY106

Victoria State Emergency Service (SES) **132 500**
For SES emergency assistance ses.vic.gov.au

SES information line **1300 842 737**
Operates during major floods or storms **1300 VIC SES**

VicEmergency emergency.vic.gov.au
Victorian emergency warnings

Bureau of Meteorology (BoM) **1300 659 217**
Weather information, forecasts, warnings 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 www.iprelay.com.au/call/
then enter: **132 500 or 000**

VicRoads **13 11 70**
Road closures and hazard reporting service vicroads.vic.gov.au

Wellington Shire Contact Details

Phone: **1300 366 244**
Email: enquiries@wellington.vic.gov.au
Web: wellington.vic.gov.au

Weather District: East Gippsland

Catchment Management Authority: West Gippsland

Emergency Broadcasters

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

	Gippsland ABC	828 AM
		100.7 FM
	TRFM	99.5 FM
	Gold1242	1242 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: _____