



# Warracknabeal

## Local Flood Guide

Riverine flood information for the Yarriambiack Creek at Warracknabeal



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

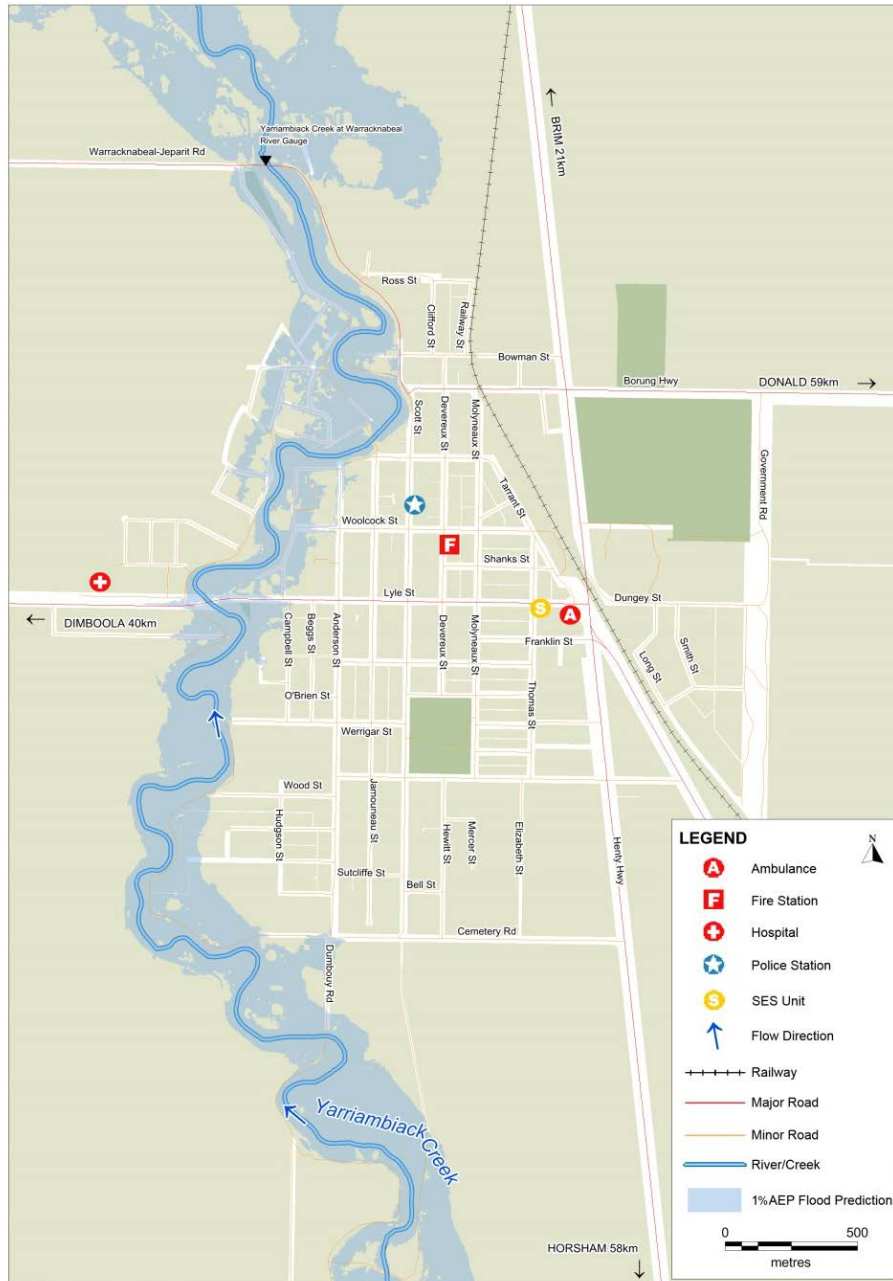




### Warracknabeal

Warracknabeal is located on the banks of Yarriambiack Creek which flows northwards into Lake Coorong near Hopetoun (60 kilometres north of Warracknabeal). The flow of the creek is irregular and depends almost entirely on the level of the Wimmera River. Since the early 1990's, Yarriambiack Creek has rarely flowed, with the exception being during the floods of 2010, 2011 and 2016.

Many homes in the town have been built on the floodplain of the creek and can be severely impacted when the Yarriambiack Creek floods.



#### Disclaimer

This map publication is presented by Victoria State Emergency Service for the purpose of disseminating emergency management information. The contents of the information have 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 information is provided by Wimmera Catchment Management Authority.



## Are you at risk of flood?

The Wimmera River directly impacts flooding of Yarriambiack Creek. During moderate to major floods, the Wimmera River spills over into the Yarriambiack Creek which then flows to the north, impacting on towns and properties along the creek.



Since flooding in 2011, the Warracknabeal community, Yarriambiack Shire Council and the Wimmera Catchment Management Authority have developed plans to construct a levee to protect the town from future flooding. Although it is recognised that no two flood events are the same, the proposed levee aims to provide protection for up to 157 houses in Warracknabeal during major floods similar to those experienced in 2011.

Warracknabeal also experiences large areas of stormwater flooding when very heavy rainfall overwhelms the town drainage system., with Tarrant, Woolcock and Molyneux Streets, and areas around the old railway station particularly vulnerable to inundation.

## Did you know?

Warracknabeal has a history of flooding, with over 14 significant flood events since 1894. The August 1909 flood is the largest on record when 82 millimetres of rain fell over 19 hours, causing widespread evacuations, flooding of houses and inundation of many streets.

In January 2011, flood damage was expected to exceed that of the 1909 flood, however due to the effort of the community the flood was kept at bay following the construction of a six kilometre levee which saved many homes from flooding.

Despite the construction of the levee, the flood still caused:

- Flooding of surrounding rural properties
- Flooding of low-lying properties and local businesses in town
- Road closures

The size and impact of flooding expected for Warracknabeal can be estimated using stream height observations for the Yarriambiack Creek. These can be found by searching the Bureau of Meteorology web site for latest Victorian rainfall and river conditions, then choosing the Wimmera River link.



**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.**

**Knowing what to do can save your life and help protect your property.**





## Flood levels at the Warracknabeal Weir Gauge

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

Height (metres)	Impact/level
	Height shown map page 2.
2.10m	Major flood level
2.30m	January 2011 flood level (Height shown map page 2)
	During this flood a significant number of properties were affected by floodwater. At this height, many roads are flooded including the Borung Highway, Kelsall Street and Warracknabeal-Jeparit Road. The Henty Highway will be impacted.
2.00m	Moderate flood level
2.17m	Apex Park and most of the Caravan Park is flooded. Warracknabeal-Jeparit Road is closed by floodwater.
1.80m	Minor flood level
1.20m	The creek breaks its banks across Cemetery Road and Warunda Avenue, and edges of the caravan park begin to flood. Craig Avenue and a number of properties in the area are flooded below floor height. The creek end of Asquith Avenue begins to flood.
0.84m	Water over Cemetery Road near the creek. Flood water is mostly contained within the creek's banks.

## Staying Informed and Further Information

- Current warnings (VicEmergency) [emergency.vic.gov.au](https://emergency.vic.gov.au) 1800 226 226
- Bureau of Meteorology (BoM) [bom.gov.au/vic/warnings](https://bom.gov.au/vic/warnings) 1300 659 217
- VicRoads Traffic [traffic.vicroads.vic.gov.au](https://traffic.vicroads.vic.gov.au)
- Emergency Broadcasters
  - ABC 594 AM
  - SKY NEWS Television
  - 3WM 1089AM
  - Mixx 101.3 FM
- 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)
- Catchment Management Authority [wcma.vic.gov.au/](https://wcma.vic.gov.au/) (03) 5382 1544
- Council name [yarriambiack.vic.gov.au/](https://yarriambiack.vic.gov.au/) (03) 5398 0100
- National Relay Service NRS [relayservice.gov.au](https://relayservice.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	
	<p><b>EMERGENCY WARNING</b></p> <p>You are in imminent danger and need to take action immediately. You will be impacted. A Major flood warning usually fits into this category</p>
	<p><b>WARNING (WATCH AND ACT)</b></p> <p>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.</p>
	<p><b>ADVICE</b></p> <p>An incident is occurring or has occurred in the area. Access information and monitor conditions.</p> <p>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.</p>

ADDITIONAL MESSAGES	
	<p><b>PREPARE TO EVACUATE/ EVACUATE NOW</b></p> <p>An evacuation is recommended or procedures are in place to evacuate.</p>
	<p><b>COMMUNITY INFORMATION</b></p> <p>A newsletter containing updates for communities affected by an emergency.</p> <p>Can also be used as a notification that an incident has occurred but there is no threat to community.</p>
	<p><b>EMERGENCY ALERT</b></p> <p>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.</p>

### 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](http://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.

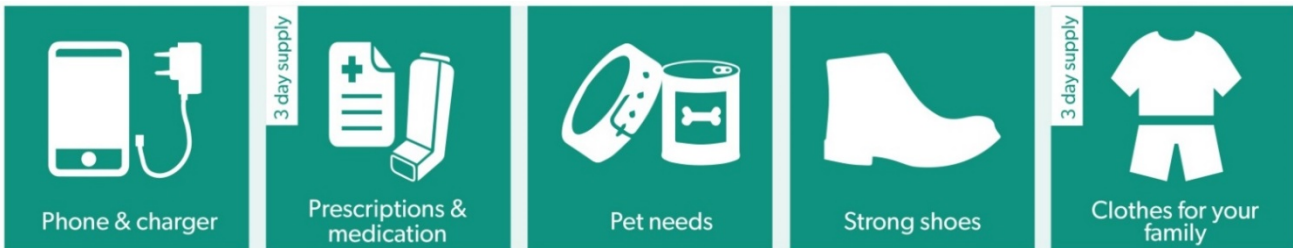


## Emergency Kit

Visit [Emergency Toolkit](#) for more information



Every home and business should have a basic emergency kit with supplies for 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 and people with a disability)	
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 <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 the <http://www.bom.gov.au> and warnings through [www.emergency.vic.gov.au](http://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.

### 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.
- If you are staying in a caravan, move to higher ground before flooding begins.
- 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. Never enter floodwater. 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 until authorities advise it is safe to do so.
- 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 and wash your hands and clothes regularly.

For VICSES emergency assistance,  
call **132 500**, or **Triple Zero (000)**  
in life threatening emergencies.