



Whittlesea

Local Flood Guide

Flood information for the Plenty River at Whittlesea



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





Whittlesea

The City of Whittlesea is one of Victoria’s fastest growing municipalities. During 2018 – 2019 it was the sixth largest growing local government area (LGA) in Victoria (6.891), as well as the ninth fastest growing LGA (3.1%). The township of Whittlesea is located approximately 40 kilometres north east of Melbourne’s Central Business District. European settlement of the town dates back to 1837 and many of the buildings still maintain their historical character. It is a major rural centre at the foothills of the Plenty Ranges with multiple parks, a showground, recreation reserves, several schools as well as business and residential areas. The Plenty River is the major waterway in the town.

The City of Whittlesea’s population of 234,989 in 2020 is expected to increase by 62.7% to 382,439 by 2040, which is 147,450 more residents and 55,823 more houses. It is still a very multicultural community with 33 % speaking another language at home and 39% born in overseas (City of Whittlesea Household Survey 2019).

The following map shows the expected flooding that may occur in the Whittlesea area in a 1% flooding event. A 1% flooding event means that there is a 1% chance that a flood of this size could occur in any one 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 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 Melbourne Water



Are you at risk of flood?

The City of Whittlesea has a diverse landscape and significant waterways such as the Plenty River, Darebin Creek and Merri Creek. The Plenty River, which begins in Kinglake National Park, is the major waterway in the Whittlesea township. Sustained rainfall over a period of days or weeks may lead to the Plenty River overflowing and causing flooding. Flash flooding is also a possibility in the event of heavy rainfall over a short period of time. Flash flooding can occur with little warning, last only a short time but leave severe localised damage.

Flooding may last for several days in areas of low-lying flat terrain in and around Whittlesea. During floods, a number of roads in the Whittlesea township area could be at risk of flooding or isolation including:

- Whittlesea – Yea Road, at the Whittlesea Showgrounds
- Bruces Creek Road
- Chandler Avenue
- Kinglake View
- Gardenia Place
- Laurel Street
- McPhees Road
- Showgrounds Road
- Wildwood Road



Whittlesea Showgrounds, November 2010

Community infrastructure that may be impacted by flooding includes:

- Whittlesea Showgrounds
- Whittlesea Park, Beech Street
- Whittlesea Childcare Centre, Laurel Road
- Whittlesea Community Activity Centre, Laurel Road
- Bus Route 384 along Whittlesea-Yea Road.



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.

Did you know?

The City of Whittlesea has a history of flooding with 14 floods recorded since 1946 including 1952, 1959, 1960, 1963, 1970, 1971, 1973, 1974, 1977, 1978, 2005, 2010 and 2011.

- In February 2011 flash flooding caused streets to be cut off and shops on Church Street bordering on Laurel Street had to sweep water away as the drains could no longer cope with the huge amount of water from the deluge.
- In November 2010, flooding occurred which impacted on the Whittlesea Showgrounds and well as flooding Showgrounds Road, Yea Road and Cades road in Whittlesea.



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 774 AM SKY NEWS Television Plenty Valley 88.6 FM	
■ VICSES Social Media	facebook.com/vicses twitter.com/vicsesnews	
■ SES Whittlesea Unit	facebook.com/whittleseases	
■ Preparing for Flood Emergencies	ses.vic.gov.au/get-ready	
■ Creating an Emergency Plan	redcross.org.au/prepare	
■ Melbourne Water	melbournewater.com.au	131 722
■ City of Whittlesea	whittlesea.vic.gov.au	9217 2170




**Life-threatening
Emergency
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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, and 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>EMERGENCY WARNING</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>WARNING (WATCH AND ACT)</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>ADVICE</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>PREPARE TO EVACUATE/ EVACUATE NOW</p> <p>An evacuation is recommended or procedures are in place to evacuate.</p>
	<p>COMMUNITY INFORMATION</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>EMERGENCY ALERT</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 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.

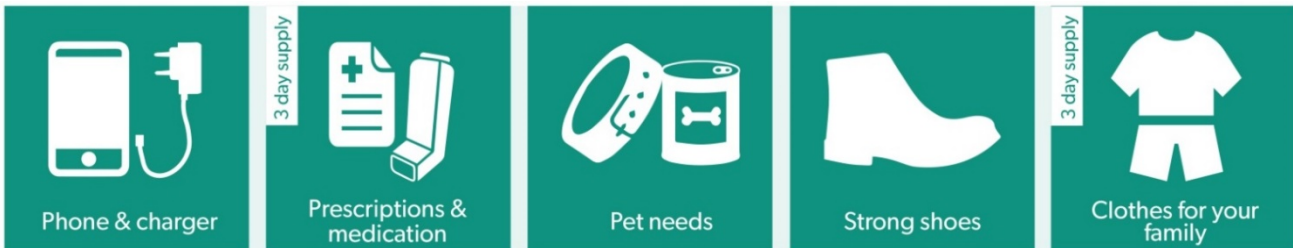


Emergency Kit

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 (e.g., 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
- 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://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 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.