Click the suburb maps on the right for your local flood information.
The Maribyrnong local area

The City of Maribyrnong covers the suburbs of Maribyrnong, Yarraville, Seddon, Footscray, West Footscray, Maidstone, Braybrook, Kingsville, and Tottenham.

The Maribyrnong River borders the council area to the north, north-east, and east. Heavy rainfall in or north of Maribyrnong can cause flooding in parks, roads, homes and businesses near the river.

The map below shows the probable flooding for minor, moderate, and major levels in Maribyrnong. Even minor changes in blocked or clear drainage (caused by rubbish, high tide, and leaves for example) can affect where flooding occurs. This map represents one of many possible flooding scenarios in Maribyrnong.

Your local emergency broadcasters are:
- ABC Radio 774 AM
- STEREO 97.4 FM
- SKY NEWS Television

Council contact details:
Phone: 03 9688 0200 Business Hours
Phone: 03 9688 0363 After Hours Emergency
TTY: 9688 0564
Fax: 9687 7793
Are you at risk of flood?

Some sections of the Maribyrnong River are historically more prone to flooding than others. The Maribyrnong River gathers water from higher altitudes further inland and channels it towards Port Phillip Bay. The terrain flattens out as the river gets closer to the coast. When there is an intensive or prolonged rain event north of Melbourne, the excess water coming together in the Maribyrnong River overflows the banks and spreads out across the surrounding area.

The EA Coulson Gardens, Maribyrnong Park and other green spaces downriver help to absorb some of the surplus water, however the large volume of water moving through the suburb means there are many homes, properties and businesses at risk of flooding along the Maribyrnong floodplain.

Since 1871 there have been 27 recorded floods in the Maribyrnong area, with large floods occurring approximately every 10-20 years.

Did you know?

The highest recorded flood affecting the Maribyrnong floodplain was in September 1906, and the next known highest was in May 1974.

The 1974 flood caused the most damage to homes, industries and public utilities in the Maribyrnong area. Impacts included:

- Traffic gridlocked for 18 hours as the flood cut most of the major access roads across the river.
- 370 houses and businesses flooded or cut-off
- $16.5 million in costs (adjusted in 2012)

Floods like this or worse could occur again. Knowing what to do can save your life and help protect your property.

If you live close to a creek, river or in a low-lying area you may be at risk of flooding. Even if you are not directly affected, you may still need to detour around flooded areas.

Maribyrnong River Flood Levels at the Maribyrnong Gauge

When the Bureau of Meteorology (BoM) issues Flood Warnings they include a prediction of the flood height at the Spotswood Gauge. 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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Height (m)</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4.65</td>
<td>Highest recorded floodwater level in 1906</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.45</td>
<td>'1 in 100 year flood' level</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.20</td>
<td>1974 flood level</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.78</td>
<td>Dynon Road, Farmsworth Avenue and Smithfield Road all become inundated. Flood levels above 3.48m result in major increases in the number of houses affected.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.90</td>
<td>MAJOR FLOOD LEVEL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.68</td>
<td>Raleigh Road crossing first becomes covered by shallow water. The number of homes/businesses isolated by floodwater increases to 63. Houses become inundated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.30</td>
<td>MODERATE FLOOD LEVEL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.68</td>
<td>River breaks its banks. Minor flooding occurs and the Anglers Tavern becomes inundated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>MINOR FLOOD LEVEL</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Based on the gauge and my knowledge the time for me to act is:

- Historical flood marker, corner of Chiefly Drive and Plantation Street
The Footscray local area

Footscray is one of Melbourne’s oldest suburbs and was originally called Saltwater, after the river bordering it on the east (now the Maribyrnong River). It has always been a hub of activity, developing into a major rail junction and home to the popular Footscray Markets. Today, Footscray is also one of Melbourne’s most ethnically diverse suburbs.

The age of the suburb means that there are Victorian cottages amongst 50s and 60s flats and high density housing. The urban characteristic of the area means that rain water is not easily absorbed and tends to run off towards lower lying areas. During high intensity rainfall the amount of run off can lead to stormwater drains overflowing, causing flash flooding. Flash flooding occurs with little warning, only lasts a short time and can cause severe localised damage.

The map below shows the probable flooding in a 1% Annual Exceedance Probability (AEP) flood. A 1% AEP flood means there is a 1% chance of a flood this size occurring in any year. Even minor changes in blocked or clear drainage (caused by rubbish, high tide and leaves for example) can affect where flooding occurs. This map represents one of many possible flooding scenarios in Footscray.
Are you at risk of flood?

In Footscray, Newell’s Paddock and Footscray Park provide major buffer zones, holding and absorbing most of the flood water from the Maribyrnong River.

As Footscray was settled before civic planning was common practice, original subdivision owners were mainly concerned with getting floodwater off their own land. With more urban development covering up absorbent pastures, water had less and less areas to move to. Major drains were developed to transport excess water to the Maribyrnong River, but the large amount of water that can fall during high intensity rainfall events (more than 25 millimetres per hour) can lead to flash flooding in Footscray.

The map on page 2 shows an extreme event. Nonetheless if you live close to the river or in a low-lying area you may be at risk of flooding. Even if you are not directly affected, you may still need to detour around flooded areas.

Areas to avoid include:
- Buckley Street, Seddon at the bus depot
- Geelong Road (city bound lane), Footscray near Barkly Street
- Geelong Road, Footscray (Gordon Street underpass on-road)
- Hampstead Road, Maidstone at Richards Street
- Napier Street, Footscray at the railway underpass
- Whitehall Street, Footscray at Youell Street

The Sunbury, Werribee and Williamstown Metro Railway Lines as well as V/Line Regional services on the Ararat & Maryborough Lines could flood on the city side of Footscray Railway Station.

Did you know?

Footscray has a history of flooding, including flooding in 1891, 1934, 1974, 1983, 1993, 2005 and 2011. The 1993 flood measured 3.83 metres on the Maribyrnong gauge and affected around 225 homes. It also led to:
- Several cars having to be pulled out of the Gordon Street underpass at Geelong Road. The underpass remained closed for almost a day.
- Flooding of the Victoria Street Rail underpass north of Buckley Street.
- Flooding in Footscray park to the foot of the hill.

During the 2005 flood the Footscray rainfall gauge recorded 124 millimetres of rain within 24 hours, followed by another 23 millimetres in the following 4 hours.

The photo below shows some of the instances of flash flooding in the Footscray area.

The Maribyrnong City Council has been working to ensure risk from flooding is minimised as much as possible, this includes evacuation exercises, emergency information for residents and drainage works.

While no two floods are the same, floods like this or worse could occur again. Knowing what to do can save your life and help protect your property.

Tips for Businesses

It is not just homes that can be affected by flooding, flooding may also pose a risk to your business.

As stories from previous flooding have shown, it can happen at any time and there is very little warning. Think of how much you could lose in stock, equipment and fittings, along with the profits you could lose for the days and weeks cleaning up after the flood. This is why it is important for businesses to prepare for flooding.

SES has created an online self-guided Business FloodSafe Toolkit which you can find at ses.vic.gov.au.

The Plan does not have to be very complex but it needs to be:
- written down,
- duplicated/ copied and
- understood by your staff and key stakeholders.

Improvising or adapting to circumstances at the last minute is not wise nor safe and often impacts how the business will recover.

For more information aimed at business and emergencies visit the Small Business Institute emergency portal, tsbi.com.au.
Your local emergency broadcasters are:

- ABC Radio 774 AM
- STEREO 97.4 FM
- SKY NEWS Television

Council contact details:
Phone: 03 9688 0200 Business Hours
Phone: 03 9688 0363 After Hours
Emergency TTY: 9688 0564
Fax: 9687 7793

Yarraville
1 in a 100 year (1% AEP)
Flood Map

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.
The Yarraville local area

Yarraville has its origin in housing workers from the factories in Footscray and Williamstown. It is located eight kilometres west of the Melbourne Central Business District and the village centre has maintained much of its Victorian era architecture, including the Sun Theatre.

During high intensity rainfall the amount of water run off can lead to stormwater drains overflowing, causing flash flooding in low-lying areas of Yarraville. Stony Creek is the only waterway running through the suburb and due to the amount of urban development in the area much of the floodwater runs into this creek to drain into the Yarra River by Spotswood.

The map on the previous page shows the probable flooding in a 1% AEP flood in Yarraville. A 1% AEP flood means there is a 1% chance of a flood this size occurring in any year. Even minor changes in blocked or clear drainage (caused by rubbish, high tide, and leaves for example) can affect where flooding occurs. This map represents one of many possible flooding scenarios in Yarraville.

Are you at risk of flood?

Stony Creek meanders through Yarraville from the north-west towards the south-east corner, passing Cruickshank Park, Anderson Reserve, Westgate Golf Course and Stony Creek Reserve.

Yarraville’s urban characteristic also means that rain water is not easily absorbed and tends to run off towards lower lying parts of the suburb, including Stony Creek. Although the green spaces along the Creek act as a buffer and protect many properties from flooding, areas around Waratah Street, Hawkhurst Street, Benbow Street, Severn Street and The Boulevard, as well as those surrounding Anderson Reserve could be affected by flooding along Stony Creek.

During high intensity rainfall events (more than 25 millimetres per hour) the high volume of water can lead to stormwater drains overflowing. This means that other areas like Buninyong Street or Anderson Street, or major transport routes such as Francis Street and Williamstown Road could also be affected.

If you live close to a creek, river or in a low-lying area you may be at risk of flooding. Even if you are not directly affected, you may still need to detour around flooded areas.

Did you know?

Yarraville has a history of flooding, including flooding in 1891, 1919, 1934, 1974, 1983, 1993, 2001, 2005 and 2011. In 1993 flash flooding along the Stony Creek led to:

- Damaged cars along Waratah Road.
- Houses affected along Benbow Street where it crosses the Creek.
- Francis Street was flooded to 600 millimetres at the Stony Creek crossing and to 1 metre by the railway crossing.
- The SES Footscray Unit received around 20 requests for assistance for Yarraville alone.
- Overall 225 homes were affected in the Maribyrnong City Council area.

While no two floods are the same, floods like this or worse could occur again. Knowing what to do can save your life and help protect your property.

The Maribyrnong City Council has been working to ensure risk from flooding is minimised as much as possible, this includes evacuation exercises, emergency information for residents and drainage works.

Stony Creek flood levels at the Spotswood gauge

When the Bureau of Meteorology (BoM) issues Flood Warnings they include a prediction of the flood height at Spotswood gauge. 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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Height</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4.61 m</td>
<td>Height shown on map. Water over the road at the Westgate Freeway city-bound on-ramp at Williamstown Road.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.40 m</td>
<td>2% AEP – Pedestrian Bridge over Stony Creek at Austin Crescent West, Yarraville likely flooded Westgate Golf Course on Creek Street, Spotswood flooded in parts on the north bank of Stony Creek</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.14 m</td>
<td>5% AEP – Water over the road at The Boulevard</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.74 m</td>
<td>1977 flood level</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.72 m</td>
<td>1946 flood level</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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 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.

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 during a flood.

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. Maribyrnong, Footscray and Yarraville residents should listen out for warnings with flash flooding and remember that flash flooding:

- Occurs so fast that it is difficult to provide a detailed warning. Often it arrives without warning.
- Results from heavy rainfall during short, severe storms.

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 the Maribyrnong, Footscray and Yarraville communities 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 Maribyrnong

For the Maribyrnong River, Flood Warnings are issued by BoM. Flood Warnings provide predictions of flood size (minor, moderate or major), time and possible peaks of the Maribyrnong River.

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: Maribyrnong gauge at Maribyrnong

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

During flash flooding

When flash flooding is likely, if you decide to leave, do so well before flooding occurs. Leaving early before flooding occurs is always the safest option. You may decide to shelter with neighbours, family or friends in a safer area.

Evacuating through floodwater is very dangerous and you may be swept away. Never drive, ride or walk through floodwater.

If you do not leave early enough and become trapped by rising floodwater inside your home or business, stay inside your building and seek the highest part such as a second storey.

Stay there and call Triple Zero (000) if your emergency is life-threatening.
Preparing for Floods

Now – before a flood

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

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 service providers, your insurance company, friends and family.

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.

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

Every home and business should have a basic emergency kit:

- Copy of your emergency plan
- Radio
- Torch
- Spare batteries
- Copy of documents & records
- Long life food
- Safe drinking water
- First aid kit
- Gloves
- Mobile phone and charger
- Prescriptions & medicines
- Pet needs
- Strong shoes
- Clothes for your family
- Radio
- Torch
- Spare batteries
- Copy of documents & records
- Long life food
- Safe drinking water
- First aid kit
- Gloves
- Mobile phone and charger
- Prescriptions & medicines
- Pet needs
- Strong shoes
- Clothes for your family

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:

- Mobile phone and charger
- Prescriptions & medicines
- Pet needs
- Strong shoes
- Clothes for your family

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

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 provider. 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](http://ses.vic.gov.au).
Emergency Checklist

Now: Flood preparation
- Check if your insurance policy 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 the 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.

After the flood: recovery
- If your property has been flooded, check with Maribyrnong City 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
Police Fire Ambulance 000
Triple Zero
TTY106

Victoria State Emergency Service (SES)
For SES emergency assistance 132 500

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

VicEmergency
Victorian emergency warnings 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:
- Speak and Listen (SSR) users phone 1300 555 727
- TTY / Voice users phone 13 36 77

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

Maribyrnong City Council contact details:
Phone: 03 9688 0200 Business Hours
Phone: 03 9688 0363 After Hours Emergency
TTY: 9688 0564
Fax: 9687 7793

Weather District: Central
Catchment: Melbourne Water

Emergency Broadcasters
Emergency broadcasters include ABC
Local Radio, designated commercial radio stations across Victoria and SKY NEWS Television.
- ABC Radio 774 AM
- STEREO 97.4 FM
- 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: