



# Dimboola

## Local Flood Guide

Riverine flood information for Wimmera River at Dimboola



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





### Dimboola

The Dimboola township is located on the Wimmera River floodplain making it susceptible to flooding when the Wimmera river overflows its banks.

During intense storms Dimboola can also experience flash flooding with large flows overtopping town drains particularly at road crossings and drain entrances.

The flood impacts described in this guide relate to riverine flooding originating from the Wimmera River. The map below shows the expected flooding in Dimboola for a 1% Annual Exceedance Probability (AEP, explanation on page 4) flood. This means a flood of this size has a 1% chance of occurring each year.

This is one of many possible flood scenarios for Dimboola. Larger and smaller floods may occur in the future.



#### Disclaimer

This map publication is presented by Victoria State Emergency Service for the purpose of disseminating emergency management information. The contents of the information has 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?



Dimboola is at risk of riverine flooding when the Wimmera River overflows its banks and flows into the southern and western areas of the town. Riverine flooding usually occurs after a period of heavy, intense rainfall on already wet ground. The town is also at risk of flash flooding when intense rainfall overwhelms the local stormwater drainage system.

The Walmer Gauge, located near Horsham, approximately 35 kilometres upstream (south) of Dimboola, provides an early indication of flood impacts in Dimboola. When flood heights exceed the major flood level (3.6 metres) at Walmer, flood water can be expected to breakout of the river at Dimboola and impact low-lying areas of the town one and a half to two days later. Initially floodwater flows into the depression running from Park Street to Wimmera Street, and through the open space adjacent to the football grounds. When the Wimmera River is in flood, town stormwater cannot drain into the river, increasing the flood risk from storms. Levees and floodways help to reduce the impacts of flooding in low-lying areas of south-west Dimboola during minor floods (see gauge description below). Floods higher than minor flood level (at the Upstream Dimboola gauge) may result in water overtopping the levees and flooding northern parts of the town.

## Did you know?

Dimboola has a history of flooding, with 12 significant floods affecting the town since records began in 1894. The flood of 1909 is the most severe on record. Nearly all of the town and surrounding rural areas flooded. In January 2011 record rainfall fell over much of the Wimmera River catchment for 3 days, with over 180 millimetres of rain recorded in some areas.



- Extensive sandbagging in the town prevented flooding of many buildings, with only 9 flooding above floor. Homes were evacuated, the Dimboola Weir was extensively damaged and many roads were closed in the town and the surrounding rural areas.
- The Dimboola Weir has since been repaired, with improvements undertaken to minimise future flood damage. The Weir is opened during floods to prevent floodwaters backing up behind it.



**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.**



### Wimmera River flood levels at Dimboola gauge

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

This will provide early advice to the community of potential heights and impacts at Dimboola. It takes approximately three days for a flood to peak to travel from the Walmer gauge at Horsham to Dimboola. Flood impacts may occur, as water steadily rises, before the peak arrives.

While no two floods are the same, the following table can give you an indication of what you could expect at certain 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.
<b>6.0m</b>	<b>Major flood level</b>
5.93m	61 properties in Dimboola experience below floor flooding, 5 properties have water within 100mm of the floor level and 11 properties experience over floor flooding.
5.77m	43 properties experience below floor flooding, 4 properties have water within 100mm of the floor level and 8 properties experience over floor flooding.
5.75m	January 2011 flood level
<b>5.70m</b>	<b>Moderate flood level</b>
5.49m	20 properties in Dimboola experience below flood flooding, 3 properties experience flooding within 100mm of the floor level and 1 property is flooded above floor. Lloyd street and the Western Highway are flooded.
5.19m	Floodwaters begin to encroach on the western side of Dimboola, with 6 properties experiencing below floor flooding. Park and Wimmera street become flooded.
<b>5.30m</b>	<b>Minor flood level</b>
4.78m	2 properties in Dimboola experienced below floor flooding. The Dimboola Golf Course can be flooding in low lying areas. Riverside Road and Swallows Lane also can be flooded.
4.78m	September 2016 flood level





### Staying Informed and Further Information

- Current warnings (VicEmergency) [emergency.vic.gov.au](http://emergency.vic.gov.au) 1800 226 226
- Bureau of Meterology (BoM) [bom.gov.au/vic/warnings](http://bom.gov.au/vic/warnings) 1300 659 217
- VicRoads Traffic [traffic.vicroads.vic.gov.au](http://traffic.vicroads.vic.gov.au)
- Emergency Broadcasters  
ABC Local 594 AM  
SKY NEWS Television  
3WM 1089 AM  
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](http://ses.vic.gov.au/get-ready)
- Creating an Emergency Plan [redcross.org.au/prepare](http://redcross.org.au/prepare)
- Catchment Management Authority [wcma@wcma.vic.gov.au](mailto:wcma@wcma.vic.gov.au) (03) 5382 1544
- Hindmarsh Shire Council [hindmarsh.vic.gov.au](http://hindmarsh.vic.gov.au) (03) 5391 4444
  
- National Relay Service NRS [relayservice.gov.au](http://relayservice.gov.au)

**Life-threatening  
Emergency  
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# Flood warnings and emergency checklist

## Bureau of Meteorology Warnings

**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. 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 our social media channels and emergency broadcasters.

VICSES warnings aim to provide you with as much 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> 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> 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> An incident is occurring or has occurred in the area. Access information and monitor conditions. 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> An evacuation is recommended or procedures are in place to evacuate.</p>
	<p><b>COMMUNITY INFORMATION</b> A newsletter containing updates for communities affected by an emergency. 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> 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, 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.

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 a supply of 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 [www.bom.vic.gov.au](http://www.bom.vic.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 flood water. 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 they are safe.
- 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.