



Jeparit

Local Flood Guide

Riverine flood information for the Wimmera River at Jeparit



For flood emergency assistance call
VICSES on 132 500





The Jeparit local area

Jeparit is located on the banks of the Wimmera River, near the river's upstream Dimboola gauge at Lake Hindmarsh. With its close proximity to the river, Jeparit is prone to flooding during moderate and major floods. High rainfall in the town can also cause localised flooding.

Flooding in the town is greatly influenced by the level of Lake Hindmarsh. However, the lake has only filled five times in the last century, with 1996 being the most recent.

The map below shows the 1% Annual Exceedance Probability (AEP) flood extent (or 1 in 100 year equivalent event) for Jeparit, meaning there is a 1% chance of a flood of this size happening in any year with one of many flood scenarios possible shown below.



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?

Jeparit and surrounding areas are at risk of flooding due to their location on the floodplain of the Wimmera River.



The earliest indicator of flooding in Jeparit is when water breaks out of the Wimmera River near the Sir Robert Menzies Park. Jeparit has two levees, one near the football club (Sands Avenue) and one near the museum (Dimboola-Rainbow Road). These were constructed following flooding in 1956. These levees provide minimal protection to the Jeparit township. However, it is important to remember that no two floods are the same and factors such as the depth of water in Lake Hindmarsh, and ground dryness, can influence the extent of flooding on Jeparit. Properties located on low-lying sections of Charles Street, Jeparit East Road, Riverside Street, Roy Street, Scott Street, Tullyvea Street and Nhill-Rainbow Road are the most vulnerable to flooding.

Did you know?

Since 1894 there have been more than 16 significant floods that have affected the town, most recently in 2011. The 1909 flood was the most severe, with nearly all of the town and surrounding areas affected by floodwater.

In January 2011, record rainfall was recorded over much of the Wimmera River catchment, with over 180 millimetres falling in some parts of the catchment over three days.

Local rainfall at the Jeparit gauge was recorded as 161 millimetres and 34 millimetres for the 24 hours prior to 9am on Wednesday the 12th and Friday the 14th January 2011 respectively, the highest in the state.

Fortunately Jeparit was not flooded during the 2011 flood.

The levees were not overtopped due to Lake Hindmarsh being almost empty, and floodwater breaking out around the weir.

The proactive actions of the community also contributed to the reduced impact of flooding in the town.



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 the Upstream (U/S) Dimboola Gauge

When the Bureau of Meteorology (BoM) issues Flood Warnings they include a prediction of the flood height at the Upstream (U/S) Dimboola gauge is located off the dirt track immediately north of Hinneberg’s Road.

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
	January 2011 flood level
	Height shown map page 2.
6.0m	Major flood level
5.93m	(U/S) Dimboola Gauge (Height shown map page 2)
4.61m	Lochiel Bridge Gauge - Floodwater overtops the levee and inundates land between Dimboola-Rainbow Road and Jeparit East Road, north-east of Jeparit township. 16 properties experience over-floor flooding, five are flooded within 100 millimetres of floor level and 10 experience below floor flooding. In addition to below road impacts, Charles Street becomes inundated.
	Extent of flooding is very similar to the 5% event. One property in Jeparit experiences below floor flooding. Nhill-Jeparit Road becomes inundated.
5.70m	Moderate flood level
	In addition to the areas impacted below, the area of inundation is more substantial. Main traffic routes may be affected. Some buildings may be affected above floor level. Evacuation of flood affected areas may be required. In rural areas, removal of stock will most likely be required.
5.3m	Minor flood level
	Causes inconvenience. Low-lying areas next to watercourses are inundated. Minor roads may be closed and low-level bridges submerged. In urban areas inundation may affect some backyards and buildings below floor level, and bicycle and pedestrian paths. BOM with publish a minor flood warning for the Wimmera River at the U/S Dimboola gauge.
5.19m	(U/S) Dimboola Gauge Properties between Antwerp and Jeparit become isolated
4.78m	(U/S) Dimboola Gauge Tarraynyurk West Road is inundated. Rural cropping land is inundated.





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 Local 594 AM SKY NEWS Television 3WM 1089 AM Mixx 94.5 FM	
■ VICSES Social Media	facebook.com/vicses twitter.com/vicsesnews	
■ Preparing for Flood Emergencies	ses.vic.gov.au/get-ready	
■ Creating an Emergency Plan	redcross.org.au/prepare	
■ Catchment Management Authority	wcma.vic.gov.au	(03) 5382 1544
■ Hindmarsh Shire Council	hindmarsh.vic.gov.au	(03) 5391 4444
■ National Relay Service NRS	communications.gov.au/	

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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, 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 (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
- 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.