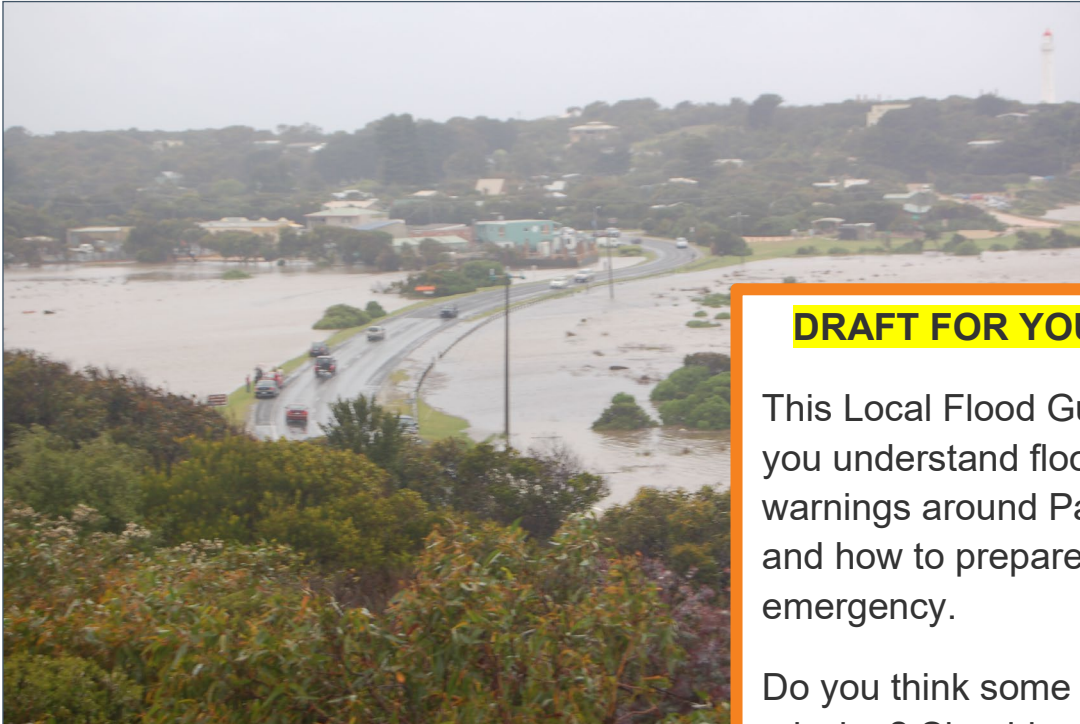




Aireys Inlet

DRAFT Local Flood Guide

Flood information for Painkalac Creek at Aireys Inlet



DRAFT FOR YOUR FEEDBACK

This Local Flood Guide aims to help you understand flood risk and warnings around Painkalac Creek, and how to prepare for a flood emergency.

Do you think some information is missing? Should anything change? Tell us your thoughts!

Please let us know at:
ust.barwon@ses.vic.gov.au

(03) 9256 9359
By Sunday 26 Feb 2023



For flood emergency assistance call
VICSES on 132 500

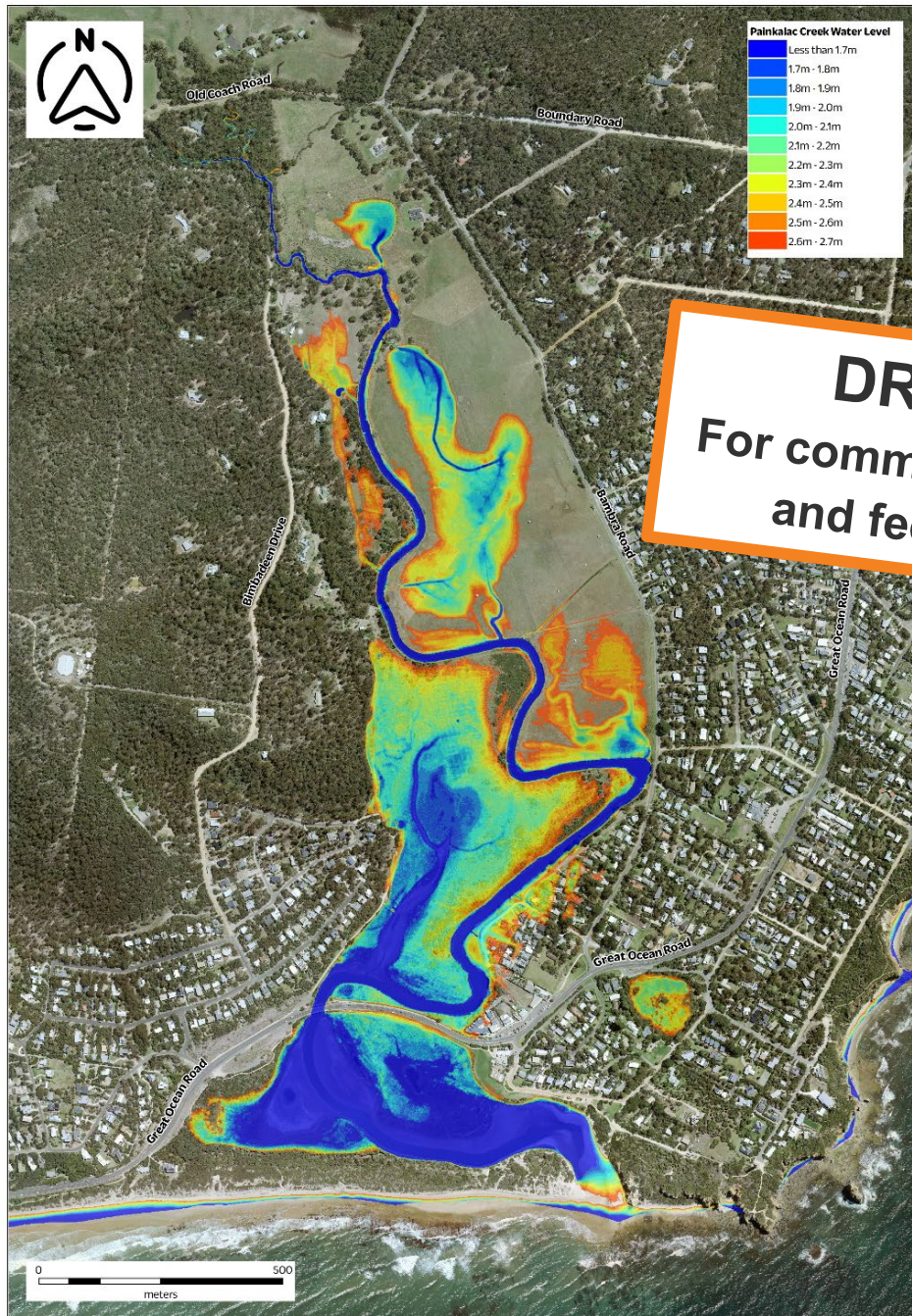




Aireys Inlet

- Aireys Inlet is a small coastal town located on the Great Ocean Road, approximately 120 kilometres southwest of Melbourne, situated on the banks of Painkalac Creek.
- Painkalac Creek begins at the top of the Otway Ranges, approximately ten kilometres northwest of Aireys Inlet, at Painkalac Reservoir. It then flows down the range and through Aireys Inlet into the ocean. Distillery Creek joins Painkalac Creek at Aireys Inlet near Boundary Road.

The following map shows expected flooding when Painkalac Creek reaches various heights in Aireys Inlet. As a general guide, flood impacts may begin to occur when water levels are above 1.8m AHD (Australian Height Datum).



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 Corangamite Catchment Management Authority.



Are you at risk of flood?

Painkalac Creek runs through town, creating a wide floodplain/estuary of significant environmental value. Controlling the flow of the creek into the ocean are sand bars or berms. Normal wave action along the beach also contributes to the natural creation of an inlet forming behind the berms.

Flooding in Aireys Inlet can occur in a few different ways including:

- When widespread prolonged rainfall occurs across the catchment to the north west of the town, filling Painkalac Reservoir and diverting runoff to the natural watercourse of the floodplain surrounding Painkalac Creek in Aireys Inlet.
- When intense rainfall over a short period of time falls onto already saturated ground (following earlier rainfall).
- When the height of the Inlet berms have naturally built up to a height that prevents normal drainage out of the creek outlet into the ocean. Even during normal river flow, water can back up and spread out over the floodplain, breaking the creek banks creating localised flooding.

Storm Surge

Low lying coastal areas of Aireys Inlet may also be subject to flooding as a result of storm surge, which is an abnormal rise in sea level during a storm, caused by wind action and low pressure on the ocean's surface.

Did you know?

Rainfall has been recorded in Aireys Inlet by the Bureau of Meteorology since 1990. By looking at the rainfall averages over a number of years, you can gain an understanding of what levels of rainfall, over what duration, may cause flooding in the area.

For example, the average rainfall recorded in the month of January for Aireys Inlet is 30 millimetres, but 152 millimetres of rainfall was recorded for January 2011! This caused flooding to occur in town, with water filling the Painkalac Reservoir and spilling in to the floodplain.



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.

Your photos here!

Do you have photos of flooding or flood impacts in Aireys Inlet from Painkalac Creek? Share them with us for inclusion in this Local Flood Guide!

Email: ust.barwon@ses.vic.gov.au



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The Berm

Surf Coast Shire Council holds a permit allowing them to undertake artificial openings of the Estuary. This involves digging a channel through the berm with machinery to release water into the ocean, and is only undertaken when there is a threat of flooding to houses or other properties. The Surf Coast Shire must receive authorisation from the Corangamite Catchment Management Authority (CCMA) prior to opening, as the CCMA are the regulator of artificial openings. Before CCMA provides authorisation, they undertake a risk assessment of factors associated with opening the estuary, which is provided to Surf Coast Shire. If the threat of flooding is imminent, authorisation is not required and an opening can be undertaken by the Surf Coast Shire under the emergency provision of the permit.



A natural inlet is formed behind the sand dunes



Opening the berm (Surf Coast Shire 2022)

The possibility remains that the berm may not be able to be opened if ocean conditions prevent safe machinery operations. It is also possible that even if the berm is open, storm surge and high tides may not allow for the effective release of water to prevent flooding.

Residents need to be aware that although the berm is actively managed, the risk of flooding remains. More information on the Painkalac Creek page of the Surf Coast Shire website:

<https://www.surfcoast.vic.gov.au/Property/Water/Flooding>.

Corangamite Catchment Flood Portal

A key role of the Corangamite Management Catchment Authority (CCMA) is to find out how far a flood might reach and how high it might rise. Councils also have a responsibility to consider land subject to flooding in planning, zoning, and development approvals. Sharing flood risk information with communities is key to improving flood resilience.

Using the flood portal, community members can search their address in the Flood Portal to find information on flood risk.

Visit: flood.ccmaknowledgebase.vic.gov.au



Disclaimer: This information does not replace the need for planning permits under the Municipal Planning Schemes, nor written advice from Catchment Management Authorities. Use of this web portal is subject to terms and conditions, which can be read and downloaded in the portal. By using this web portal, you are agreeing with these terms and conditions.



Rainfall levels and likelihood of flooding

The Bureau of Meteorology (BoM) may issue warnings when flooding is possible in the area, but not specific river height predictions. Heavy or prolonged rainfall may be your only indication of possible flooding.

It's also important to remember that rainfall over time is only one cause of flooding at Painkalac Creek. Other elements that influence flooding include:

- Painkalac Dam levels
- Painkalac Creek Catchment saturation
- Storm surge
- Estuary Height
- Berm height
- Tide heights

Impacts of flooding in Aireys Inlet

A large number of buildings are impacted by flooding. This includes residential properties at River Reserve Road, River Road, and Coastal Court. The café adjacent to Great Ocean Road, east of Painkalac Creek is also impacted.



Estuary breach after the November 2007 flood (Surf Coast Shire)

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 Radio 774 AM
SKY NEWS Television
Bay FM 93.9
K-Rock FM 95.5 | |
| ■ 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 | |
| ■ Corangamite Catchment Management Authority | ccma.vic.gov.au | 03 5232 9100 |
| ■ Surf Coast Shire Council | surfcoast.vic.gov.au | 03 5261 0600 |
| ■ Email for estuary information: | resilient@surfcoast.vic.gov.au | |

**Life-threatening
Emergency: 000**
**Storm and Flood
Emergency: 132 500**




Flood warnings and emergency checklist

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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.

There is no BOM Flood Warning Service for Aireys Inlet so you may receive a Generalised Flood Warning or advice from VICSES. It is important to remember that you may not receive any warning.

 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](#). Take notice of Flood Watches, Severe Weather Warnings or Thunderstorm Warnings that may relate to high rainfall for Aireys Inlet.






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 now. You will be impacted. A Major flood warning usually fits into this category.</p>
	<p>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. A Minor flood warning or Flood Watch usually fits into this category.</p>

EVACUATION	
If an evacuation is recommended, you will be guided to do so in the action statement in the warning.	
	<p>PREPARE TO EVACUATE/ EVACUATE IMMEDIATELY</p> <p>An evacuation is recommended or procedures are in place to evacuate.</p>

ADDITIONAL MESSAGES	
	<p>COMMUNITY INFORMATION</p> <p>Can be used as a notification that an incident has occurred but there is no threat to community; or to issue a newsletter containing updates for communities affected by an emergency.</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	

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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.

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