



Flooding in Main Street Jeparit 1909

## ✓ QUICK CHECK LIST

### flood pre-preparation

- Check your home and contents insurance. Check exactly what you are covered for
- Keep a list of emergency numbers near the telephone
- Assemble an emergency kit
- Prepare a home emergency plan. You can download your action kit from [www.ses.vic.gov.au](http://www.ses.vic.gov.au) and follow the links to FloodSmart

### when you hear the flood warning

- Listen to ABC radio (AM 594) for warnings and advice
- Check your meter box for your property-specific flood warning chart (if installed)

### when flooding may be imminent

- Safely secure valuables and important documents as high as possible
- Turn off mains water, gas and electricity
- Secure chemicals and oils on high shelves in an enclosed area
- If necessary, collect sandbags and sand to protect your property
- Install any available flood-proofing devices and block toilets, sinks and floor wastes with sandbags
- Ensure your neighbours are aware and prepared
- Make arrangements for alternative pet and animal care
- For emergency assistance, call VICSES on 132 500

### during the flood

- DO NOT drive through floodwaters
- DO NOT allow children to play in floodwaters. If you must enter floodwaters, wear solid shoes, not thongs or bare feet and check the depth and current with a stick. Stay away from drains, culverts and water more than knee-deep. Note: floodwaters may contain sewage
- Beware of fallen power lines, damaged trees and flooded creeks

### after the flood

- Contact your local municipal recovery manager for information and advice
- Review [www.dhs.vic.gov.au](http://www.dhs.vic.gov.au) and follow the 'emergency' link for factsheets, or contact your nearest Department of Human Services office for a series of detailed fact sheets on how to recover from floods
- Have all wet electrical items professionally tested prior to use
- Have gas appliances inspected and cleaned to prevent a gas explosion or fire
- Check your smoke detectors are still working

## CONTACT DETAILS FOR ASSISTANCE IN AN EMERGENCY - who to call

Life threatening emergency - **000**

Victoria State Emergency Service - **132 500**  
(emergency calls) [www.ses.vic.gov.au/floodsmart](http://www.ses.vic.gov.au/floodsmart)

Victoria State Emergency Service, Flood & Storm Information Line  
(activated during emergencies) - **1300 842 737**

Hindmarsh Shire Council - **(BH) 03 5391 1811**  
**Duty Officer (AH) 0427 319 529**

Bureau of Meterology - **1300 659 217**  
for flood warning levels - [www.bom.gov.au/hydro/flood/vic](http://www.bom.gov.au/hydro/flood/vic)

**VicRoads - 13 11 70**  
for information on road closures - [www.vicroads.vic.gov.au](http://www.vicroads.vic.gov.au)

## DESCRIPTION OF FLOOD BEHAVIOUR OF JEPARIT

The township of Jeparit lies on the Wimmera River adjacent to Lake Hindmarsh, a terminal lake of the Wimmera River. Flood behaviour in Jeparit is heavily influenced by the storage in Lake Hindmarsh prior to a significant flood event.

Jeparit and surrounds have been subject to flooding on a number of occasions including 1894, 1909, 1915, 1923, 1955, 1956, 1960, 1964, 1974, 1975, 1981, 1983, 1992, 1993 and 1996. The 1909 event was the worst with most of the township being inundated.

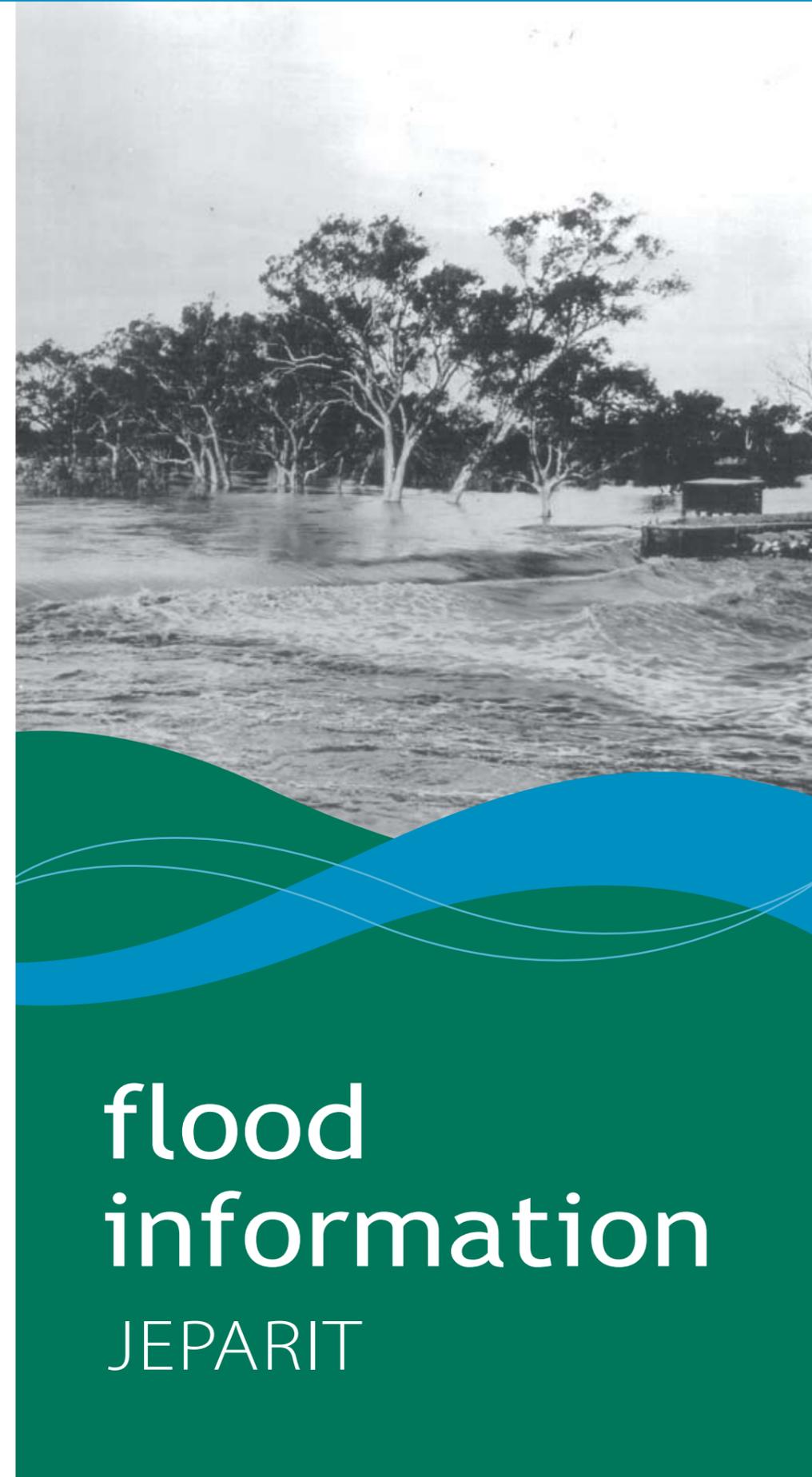
In higher flows, depending on the magnitude of the flood water, the following will be experienced:

FLOOD EVENT	MAGNITUDE BEHAVIOUR
1 in 5 year ARI or 20% AEP (equivalent to 1992 event)	No above floor flooding in residential properties
1 in 10 year ARI or 10% AEP (equivalent to 1996 event)	Flooding contained within the Wimmera River corridor. Limited impact on surrounding properties and infrastructure.
1 in 20 year ARI or 5% AEP (equivalent to 1981 event)	Flooding contained within the Wimmera River corridor. Limited impact on surrounding properties and infrastructure.
1 in 50 year ARI or 2% AEP (greater than 1974 event and less than 1956 event)	No above floor flooding in residential properties. Football ground levee overtopped. Breakaway over museum levee results in extensive inundation to north of the Rainbow-Dimboola Road.
1 in 100 year ARI or 1% AEP (less than 1909 event)	Breakout across football ground and museum levees. Number of buildings with the museum affected.

Ref: Jeparit Flood Study Study Report. Report No J403/R02 Final 2. June 2008, Jeparit Floodplain Management Plan. Report No J403/R02 Final 2. June 2008



December 2008



# flood information

## JEPARIT

# GENERAL INFORMATION

## HOW VICSES CAN HELP YOU

The Victoria State Emergency Service (VICSES) is responsible for dealing with floods in Victoria. Locally, VICSES works with Wimmera Catchment Management Authority and Hindmarsh Shire Council to plan for floods and inform people about how to protect themselves and their property.

During floods, VICSES is responsible for flood information, safety advice, evacuation, rescue and providing essentials to people cut off by flood waters. Hindmarsh Shire Council can also provide information on how to protect yourself and your property from floods.

### key sources of flood information

#### Stay informed

Hindmarsh Shire Council has information on how flooding may affect your property. VICSES can give you information on what you can do to reduce the effects of flooding on your family and your property. A copy of the Jeparit Flood Response Plan and the VICSES Hindmarsh Local Flood Response Plan are available at the council office.

#### How you will be warned of a coming flood

Flood information including generalised flood forecasts, road closures and advice on evacuations and property protection will be broadcast over local TV and AM radio station ABC 594.

It is likely you will have several days notice of a coming flood. You should use this time to prepare your business and family home. Don't leave preparations until it is too late.

## WHAT CAN YOU DO NOW?

Many homes, businesses and other properties in the Wimmera area have not experienced a flood for some time. Even if your home, place of employment or business is not subject to flooding, you need to consider that in the event of a significant flood, your community will certainly be affected. Perhaps your child's school, your place of recreation or other services you use could be significantly affected. Therefore you need to be prepared.

Follow the quick check sheet to help you and your family be prepared in a flood.

With 10 hours warning, a well-prepared community subject to frequent flooding can reduce damage by up to an estimated 60%. This illustrates the importance of monitoring weather and understanding the steps required to enact an emergency plan successfully.

## WHAT TO DO

### prepare yourself

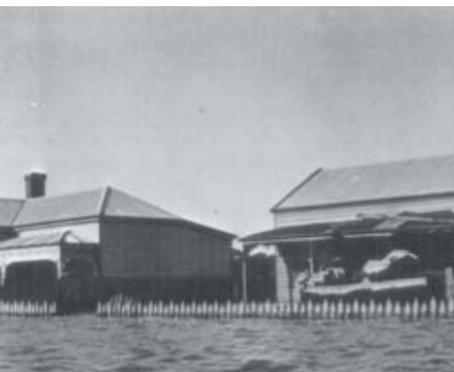
Some basic measures you can take right now include keeping a list of emergency numbers near the telephone, assembling an emergency kit and check your home insurance needs and conditions.

#### Your emergency kit should contain:

- Portable radio with spare batteries
- Torch with spare batteries
- First aid kit
- Candles and waterproof matches
- Important papers and emergency contact numbers
- Waterproof bag for valuables

#### When flooding is likely, place in your emergency kit:

- Important business records to prove your identity and a small amount of cash in case ATMs and EFTPOS are not operational
- Good supply of required medications
- Any special requirements for babies and disabled, infirm or elderly
- Strong shoes
- Fresh food and drinks



Flooding in Charles Street Jeparit 1909 (Ray Natt)

### when flooding is likely

- Stack your possessions on benches and tables, electrical goods on top
- Secure objects that are likely to float and cause damage
- Relocate waste containers, chemicals, and poisons well above floor level
- Move computers, cash and critical records to a flood-free location
- Secure all personal and business records and equipment or relocate them to higher ground
- Put all important papers and valuables in your emergency kit
- Turn off the electricity, gas and water where they enter your property
- Install any available flood proofing devices and block toilets, sinks and floor wastes with sandbags. Contact Hindmarsh Shire Council for information on sourcing sandbags
- Make arrangements for alternative pet care and move livestock (eg. horses, cows, sheep etc) to high ground

### during a flood

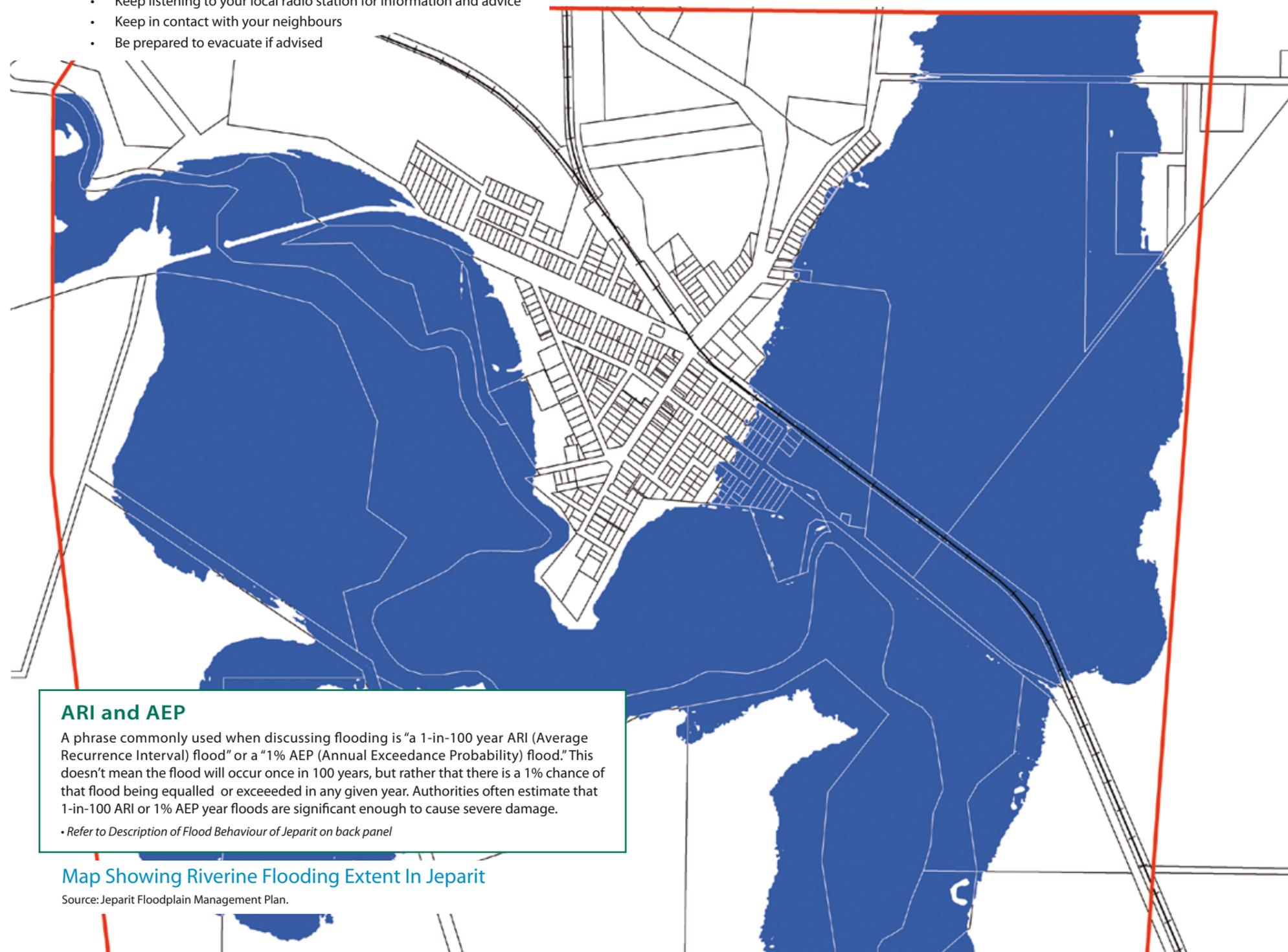
- Avoid driving or walking through flood water; it may be deeper or faster flowing than you realise
- Keep listening to your local radio station for information and advice
- Keep in contact with your neighbours
- Be prepared to evacuate if advised

### if you need to evacuate

- Take your emergency kit with you
- Ensure the electricity, gas and water are turned off where they enter your property and lock your home as you leave
- Don't leave your pets and animals behind; take them with you. Put them on leads or in containers/cages. Dogs should be muzzled
- Leave a message on your answering machine/message bank or divert your phone to your mobile to let people know that you have evacuated your home
- A relief/recovery centre will be established. Contact Hindmarsh Shire Council on 0427 319 529 for information about the relief/recovery centre, which will most likely be at Jeparit Town Hall

### recovering from a flood

In the event of a flood, Hindmarsh Shire Council will establish the local recovery centre which will be staffed by representatives from a range of government departments and community agencies to help you return to normal living. At this centre you will be able to receive flood recovery advice, including insurance and counselling services. Further details regarding the recovery centre will be provided by Hindmarsh Shire Council at the time of the flood incident.



### ARI and AEP

A phrase commonly used when discussing flooding is "a 1-in-100 year ARI (Average Recurrence Interval) flood" or a "1% AEP (Annual Exceedance Probability) flood." This doesn't mean the flood will occur once in 100 years, but rather that there is a 1% chance of that flood being equalled or exceeded in any given year. Authorities often estimate that 1-in-100 ARI or 1% AEP year floods are significant enough to cause severe damage.

• Refer to Description of Flood Behaviour of Jeparit on back panel

### Map Showing Riverine Flooding Extent In Jeparit

Source: Jeparit Floodplain Management Plan.