PURPOSE OF THIS BROCHURE

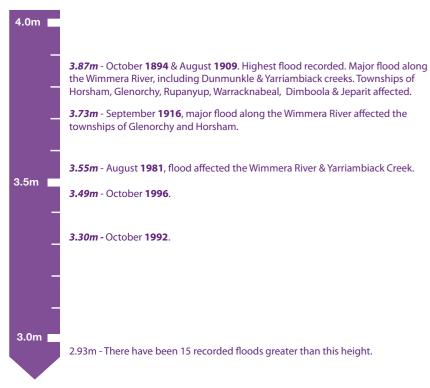
This brochure has been developed to provide information to the community in the event of riverine and localised storm flooding. It also aims to encourage you to start thinking about how to prepare for a flash flood, where there is limited time for flood warnings.

INFORMATION ON FLOODING IN HORSHAM

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 year ARI or 1% AEP floods are significant enough to cause severe damage.

IMPORTANT FLOOD HEIGHTS

Important flood heights, measured in metres at Horsham stream gauge (located at Walmer) are:

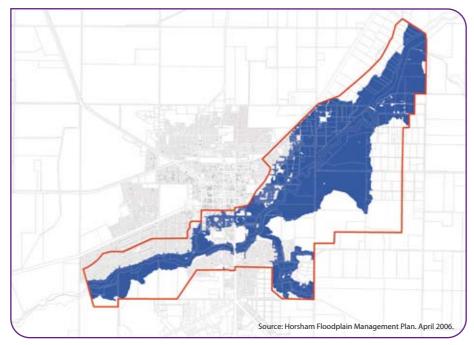


DESCRIPTION OF FLOOD BEHAVIOUR AT HORSHAM

The features and interaction of the Wimmera River and Burnt Creek influence the nature of flooding in and around Horsham. During low flow periods, water levels in the Wimmera River through the town are controlled by Horsham weir. In this instance, water extends into Burnt Creek downstream of Williams Rd. 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)	Minor inundation upstream of Cameron Rd.
1 in 10 year ARI or 10% AEP (equivalent to 1996 event)	Overbank flooding upstream of Cameron Rd.
1 in 20 year ARI or 5% AEP (equivalent to 1981 event)	Wotonga Basin mini-weir overtopped.
1 in 50 year ARI or 2% AEP	Breakout to town on river branch that occurs at showgrounds. Extensive inundation along Burnt Crk.
1 in 100 yearARI or 1% AEP (less than 1909 event)	Breakout around upstream end of Menadue St/Peppertree Lane levee.

Map Showing Riverine Flooding Extent In Horsham



CONTACT DETAILS FOR ASSISTANCE IN AN EMERGENCY - who to call

Life threatening emergency - 000

Victorian State Emergency Service – **132 500** (emergency calls) **www.ses.vic.gov.au/floodsmart**

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

Horsham Rural City Council – (BH) 03 5382 9777

Duty Officer (AH) 0408 504 255











flood information HORSHAM

GENERAL INFORMATION

WHO CAN HELP?

- Call 132 500 from anywhere in Victoria for emergency assistance (VICSES) in a flood or storm.
- Victorian State Emergency Service (VICSES) www.ses.vic.gov.au/ can be regularly checked for updates on the status of flooding in the state. Look under 'Community Information'.
- Horsham Rural City Council (business hours) 03 5382 9777 or Duty Officer (after hours) 0408 504 255
- Bureau of Meteorology www.bom.gov.au/hydro/flood/vic 1300 659 217
 can be regularly checked for flood warnings and levels.
- For information on road closures contact VicRoads www.vicroads.vic.gov.au – 13 11 70

How VICSES Can Help You

The Victorian State Emergency Service (VICSES) is responsible for dealing with floods in Victoria. Locally, VICSES works with Wimmera Catchment Management Authority and Horsham Rural City 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. Horsham Rural City Council can also provide information on how to protect yourself and your property from floods.

Key Sources of Flood Information

Stay informed

Horsham Rural City 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 Horsham Rural City Council Flood Response Plan and the VICSES Horsham 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.

oding in Horsham 1981

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 (far right) 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

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 Horsham Rural City 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 Horsham Rural City Council on 0408 504 255 for information about the relief/recovery centre, which will most likely be at Horsham Town Hall

Recovering From a Flood

In the event of a flood, Horsham Rural City 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 Horsham Rural City Council at the time of the flood incident.



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 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 sewerage
- 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 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