



Trafalgar Local Flood Guide

Flood information for Trafalgar Township and Surrounds



Flooded farmland north of Trafalgar



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





Trafalgar Local Area

Prior to settlement, much of the Trafalgar area was swamp land. In the 1880s, the land was drained and reclaimed through construction of the Moe Drain and surrounding channel networks, some of which remain as designated waterways today.

While the Trafalgar township is relatively flat, the steepness of the Strzelecki Ranges to the south generates significant runoff in large rainfall events, which can impact Trafalgar township quite quickly.

Flooding can impact the township of Trafalgar in three main ways:

- Local storm water runoff from within the township itself;
- Runoff from the Strzelecki Ranges into Loch and Sunny Creeks and other smaller waterways;
- Riverine flooding from the Moe drain.



Flash flooding November 2017.

Are you at risk of flood?

The older parts of the township south of the Princes Highway are largely free from significant flooding, even in larger flood events, with water only pooling in localised lower lying areas. New development to the east of the township is largely flood proofed by the fill levels and internal drainage layout.



Some of the most significant flooding starts just south of the Princes Highway and stretches from Dodemaides Road through to Ashby Street. It can reach up to 0.8 metres deep. Alto Motors has flooded up to the front door in the past.



Lois Court, December 2016.

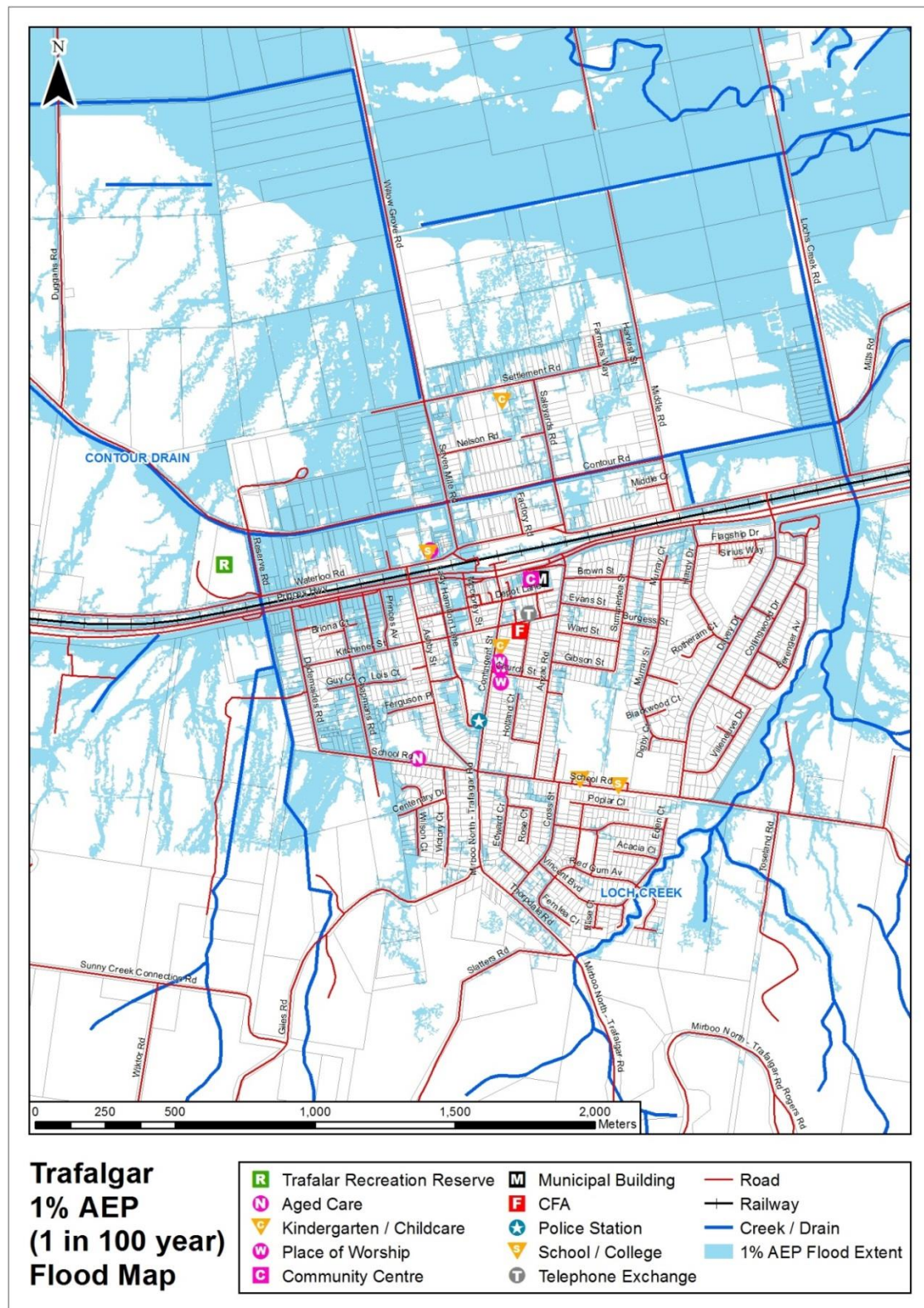
Water has broken out of the waterway channel and flowed west along the Princes Highway, eventually flowing over the road around the location of the new wetland feature inside the Strzelecki Views estate. This occurred in the 2012 flood event.

The Princes Highway can also be affected between Yarragon and Trafalgar by runoff from the hills to the south exceeding the capacity of culverted drainage lines on the sides of the road.

Run off from the steep hills behind the town can sometimes combine with that from the township, overwhelming the drainage system. In major floods, water flow breakouts over the Princes Highway can occur between Reserve and Seven Mile Roads.



The map below shows the expected flooding extent of a 1% flood event in Trafalgar. A 1% flood means that there is a 1% chance of a flood of this size occurring in any given year.



Disclaimer

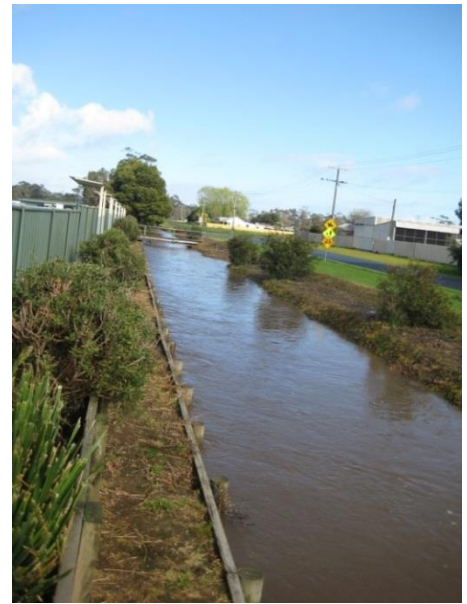
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Water flow in the Reserve Road Drain has to turn 90 degrees when it meets the Contour Drain. This causes the water in the drains to back up, break out and flood properties. Back up flooding from the Contour Drain can impact the Princes Highway particularly around Maladys Lane and Princes Avenue. These flows drain to the north through the recreation reserve, before flowing north east towards the Seven Mile Road Drain.

Did you know?

- As many as 482 residential, commercial and industrial properties in Trafalgar are estimated to be subject to flooding from a 1% flood event.
- Trafalgar does not have a formal flood warning system in place. The information on page 5 and 6 will assist you with being aware of the weather conditions which may result in flooding in Trafalgar.



Contour Drain almost at capacity



Flooded farmland north of Trafalgar, 2019.



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.

Remember, NEVER walk, play or drive in floodwater.

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 (100.7 FM and 828 AM)
TRFM (99.5 FM) & Gold (1242 AM)
SKY NEWS Television | |
| ■ 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 | |
| ■ West Gippsland Catchment Management Authority | wgcm.vic.gov.au | 1300 094 262 |
| ■ Baw Baw Shire Council | bawbawshire.vic.gov.au | 1300 229 229 |

**Life-threatening
Emergency
000**






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](#).



VICESSES Warnings

VICESSES utilises the VicEmergency app, website and hotline to distribute flood warnings and emergency information in Victoria. You can also access this information through our social media channels and emergency broadcasters.

VICESSES 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 of community impact.

WARNING LEVELS

	EMERGENCY WARNING You are in imminent danger and need to take action immediately. You will be impacted. A Major flood warning usually fits into this category.
	WARNING (WATCH AND ACT) 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.
	ADVICE 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.

ADDITIONAL MESSAGES

	PREPARE TO EVACUATE/ EVACUATE NOW An evacuation is recommended or procedures are in place to evacuate.
	COMMUNITY INFORMATION 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.
	EMERGENCY ALERT During some emergencies, communities may be alerted by the sounding of a local siren, or by sending an SMS to mobile phones or a voice message to landlines.

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 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)
- | 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 [redcross.org.au/prepare](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 [bom.vic.gov.au](https://www.bom.vic.gov.au) and warnings through [emergency.vic.gov.au](https://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.
- ☐ If you are staying in a caravan, move to higher ground before flooding begins.

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.
- ☐ 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. Stay safe by never entering 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](https://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. 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.

For VICSES emergency assistance, call 132 500, or Triple Zero (000) in life threatening emergencies.