



Kensington and North Melbourne Local Flood Guide

Flooding information for Kensington and North Melbourne



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





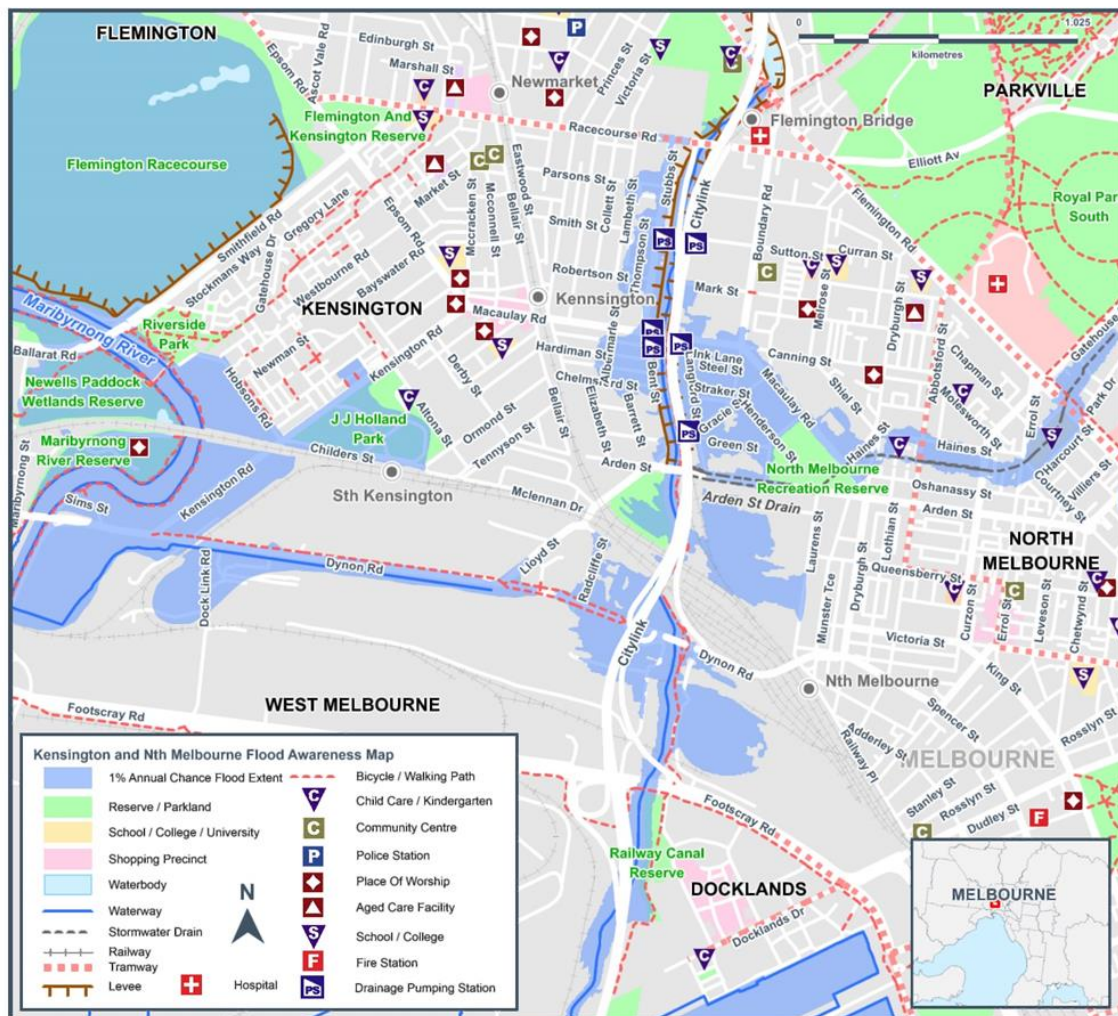
Kensington and North Melbourne

This guide focusses on the suburbs of Kensington and North Melbourne that are located within the City of Melbourne, North West of Melbourne's Central Business District.

The two suburbs are divided by Moonee Ponds Creek and the Maribyrnong River runs along the Western border of Kensington. They are predominantly residential suburbs, but also contain some industry and commercial as well as many cafes and restaurants, major parks and markets. Whilst the parklands help to absorb much of the water that helps avoid some flooding in the area, the flat terrain around the Maribyrnong River makes it easier for flood water to spread in very large rain events. In these occasions, some roads and public transport may be impacted for more than 48 hours.

This guide provides an overview of the localised risk of flood and includes information that can help you be more prepared in case of an emergency. It covers key agencies that can provide assistance, where to find flood warning and storm information, helpful websites and practical tips for packing an Emergency Kit.

Map of potential flood extent



The map above shows the possible flood impact of a 1 in 100-year flood (1% chance of occurring in any given year) within the Melbourne CBD area

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 Melbourne Water



Are you at risk of flood?

Most areas within the municipality of Melbourne experience some level of flooding during an extreme storm event. Suburbs with buildings and street systems constructed prior to the 1970's tend to experience greater impacts.



The City of Melbourne Council has done significant work to prevent riverine flooding through building levees and pumping stations along key parts of the Maribyrnong River and Moonee Ponds Creek to protect properties. The Kensington and North Melbourne area are still prone to flash flooding caused by high intensity, short rainfall events, which can occur because of storms

A lot of water can be soaked into the ground by the major parks in the area which reduces the risks of flooding. However, during significant events where a large amount of rain falls in a short period of time, the water may not be able to be absorbed which can lead to flash flooding. Flash flooding occurs with little warning, only lasts a short time but can cause severe localised damage.

The below table details the streets in Kensington and North Melbourne that would be likely to flood due to the Moonee Ponds Creek if a 1% flood event occurred.

Albemarle Street	Stubbs Street	Fogarty Street	Langford Street
Bent Street	Abbotsford Street	Gracie Street	Little Cobden Street
Chelmsford Street	Arden Street	Green Street	Reynolds Street
Hardiman Street	Boundary Road	Haines Street	Steel Street
Little Chelmsford Street	Dryburgh Street	Henderson Street	Traker Street
Little Hardiman Street	Errol Street	Ink Lane	

Did you know?

- During the January 2011 rain event, flash flooding affected North Melbourne and Kensington with water over roads. Cars were trapped in flood water in Stubbs Street and McCauley Road and other areas.
- Other significant flooding occurred in February 2011, March 2010, July 2008, December 2007, January 2004, and January 1998.
- Since these events, drains and infrastructure improvements have reduced the risks of a similar flood having the same impact. Find out more about recent work on drainage at melbourne.vic.gov.au and learn more about what the council advises when preparing for floods or storms.



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.

If you require assistance during a flood or storm, contact SES on 132 500.



Maribyrnong River flood levels at the Maribyrnong Gauge

When the Bureau of Meteorology (BoM) issues Flood Warnings they include a prediction of the flood height at Maribyrnong Gauge at Chifley Drive, Maribyrnong. While no two floods are the same, the following table can give you an indication of what you could expect at certain flood heights, including when your access may be cut off and when your property may be affected.

Height (metres)	Impact/level
2.9 metres	Major flood level
3.78 metres	Water over road: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Smithfield Road, Kensington
4.4 metres	23 properties are at risk of flooding
	Water over road: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Hobsons Road, KensingtonChilders Street, Kensington
2.3 metres	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Moderate flood level
	No properties are at risk of flooding
1.7 metres	Minor flood level
	Community infrastructure that may be flooded includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Maribyrnong Trail begins flooding in sections
	No properties are at risk of flooding

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 774 AM SKY NEWS Television	
■ VICES Social Media	facebook.com/vices twitter.com/vicesnews	
■ Preparing for Flood Emergencies	ses.vic.gov.au/get-ready	
■ Creating an Emergency Plan	redcross.org.au/prepare	
■ Melbourne Water	melbournewater.com.au	131 722
■ City of Melbourne	Melbourne.vic.gov.au	9658 9658

**Life-threatening
Emergency
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Flood warnings and emergency checklist

Understanding Weather and Emergency Warnings

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 riverbanks and cover nearby low-lying areas.	Spill over riverbanks 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.
Cover minor roads paths, tracks, and low-level bridges.	Require evacuation in some areas.	Cause properties and whole areas to be isolated by water.
Affect backyards and buildings below floor level.	Affect traffic routes.	Closes major roads and rail routes.
		Require many evacuations.
		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	
	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 A newsletter containing 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, we may alert communities by sounding 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 and with little warning. People who plan and prepare for emergencies can reduce the impact and recover faster.

Taking the time to think about emergency scenarios and making your own plan helps you to think clearly, have more control and make better decisions when an emergency occurs.



Visit redcross.org.au/prepare to develop your plan today.

- Remember, you may not receive any official warning. Never wait for a warning to act.
- Emergency assistance may not be immediately available.
- Be aware of what is happening around you to stay safe.



Pack an 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 regularly. Keep it in a high place. Make sure things work. Replace out of date items.



Tips:

- Large plastic zip-lock bags are useful for keeping your important documents and photos dry.
- You may also like to pack a book, earphones, a deck of playing cards or colouring books to help pass time, if you're required to wait in a Recovery Centre for an extended period.
- When a warning is issued, be ready to pack additional personal items such as medications, pet food and care products.

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.
- ☐ Consider sand-bagging the property entrance doors, low windows and drains.
- ☐ 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.
- ☐ Seek shelter indoors, away from floodwater.
- ☐ If floodwater comes inside, move to a higher point such as a kitchen bench or second storey.
- ☐ Do not use lifts or escalators, as electrical systems may be damaged, and you risk electrocution.
- ☐ 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, visit - 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.