

## Let's get flood ready

### A guide for residents

In our region it is natural and part of our environment, that areas within the Strathbogrie Shire are subject to flooding. Back in 1993 there was a significant flood event that impacted the townships of Violet Town, Euroa, Avenel and large areas of rural land which caused extensive property damage.

This year the State Emergency Service (SES) is preparing for a wetter than normal Spring, due to the La Nina weather pattern, with possible flooding to top off a very unusual year for us all.

Being alert to the possibility of a flood, there are simple things you can do to prepare your family/household to minimise the impact of flooding on your property.

Within the Strathbogrie Shire creeks tend to rise quite quickly and arrive within the townships adjacent to the waterways within 6 to 12 hours after the start of heavy rainfall.

Strathbogrie Council staff will work along with the SES which is the lead agency managing any flood event.

### Sandbags

Sandbags are located throughout the Shire at designated depots and you should become familiar as to how to use them.

How to bag doors and water entry points and how to block drains and toilets to prevent back-flow with sandbags inside a garbage bag.

At the same time raise other items onto tables and benches.

### Bag It, Block It, Lift It, Leave!

### Prepare a flood emergency plan and a final check:

- Use the Red Cross Rediplan guide to make your own Flood Emergency Plan ([www.redcross.org.au/prepare](http://www.redcross.org.au/prepare))
- For emergency assistance, call 132 500 for SES.
- Never drive, ride or walk through floodwater. This is the main cause of death during floods.
- Never allow children to play in floodwater. This is the main cause of death during floods for children and young people.
- Stay away from drains, culverts and waterways. Water can flow quickly and have strong currents.
- Stay well clear of fallen trees, power lines and damaged buildings.

### How to survive a flood: six things to know:

- Stay informed; understand the terminology.
- Prepare your family well in advance of severe weather.
- Have an emergency communications plan in place before the threat of severe weather.
- Know about flooding and know what to watch for.
- Turn around, don't drown.
- Return home when authorities say it is safe to do so.



[www.ses.vic.gov.au](http://www.ses.vic.gov.au)

# Fact Sheet

## Flood Emergencies

### Questions & Answers

- Q:** What is a flood warning and are there classifications for floods?
- A:** Flood Warnings mean flooding is about to happen or is already happening. Flood Warnings are classified into Minor, Moderate and Major depending on the expected size and impact of the flood.
- Q:** Will I be alerted to a possible flood.
- A:** During floods, SES may provide an alert through the National Emergency Alert Telephone Warning System. All Emergency Services can use Emergency Alert to warn communities about dangerous situations by voice message to landline telephones or text message to mobile phones. If you receive an Emergency Alert, you should pay attention and act accordingly.
- Q:** Can I drive through flood water?
- A:** You should avoid walking or driving through flood waters. Just 150mm (six inches) of moving water can sweep your vehicle away.
- Q:** What should I include in my disaster supplies kit?
- A:** Outside of your food and essentials that will last you for 72 hours take bottled water, medications and prescriptions, phone charger and batteries, first aid kit and pets. Refer to the Red Cross website for guidance on preparing your emergency plan ([www.redcross.org.au/prepare](http://www.redcross.org.au/prepare))
- Q:** Who will help me?
- A:** Response agencies and relief workers will be on the scene after a disaster, but they cannot reach everyone immediately.
- A:** However, every household should prepare their own flood emergency plan which will identify their preferred option in case they are required to evacuate their property.
- Q:** How long does it take for flood water to go away?
- A:** Flash flooding occurs within 6 hours of the rain event. Flooding is a longer-term event and may last a week or more.
- Q:** Where are my safety areas in Strathbogie Shire?
- A:** Emergency Relief Centres (ERCs) have been identified in several townships including Euroa and Violet Town in the Council's Municipal Emergency Management Plan which is also available on Council's website. However, they will not be activated until they are required.
- Q:** Where can I obtain sandbags prior to flooding?
- A:** Council maintains a stock of sandbags and will work with the SES and the community to make sandbags available to assist owners to protect their properties. Already sandbags are located at the Council's Euroa and Nagambie depots and the CFA in Violet Town and Avenel.
- Q:** Where can I find more information about flooding in Strathbogie Shire?
- A:** Council's website has a copy of the latest Strathbogie Shire Council's Flood Emergency Plan which contains detailed information on the extent of flooding possible in various towns including Euroa and Violet Town.