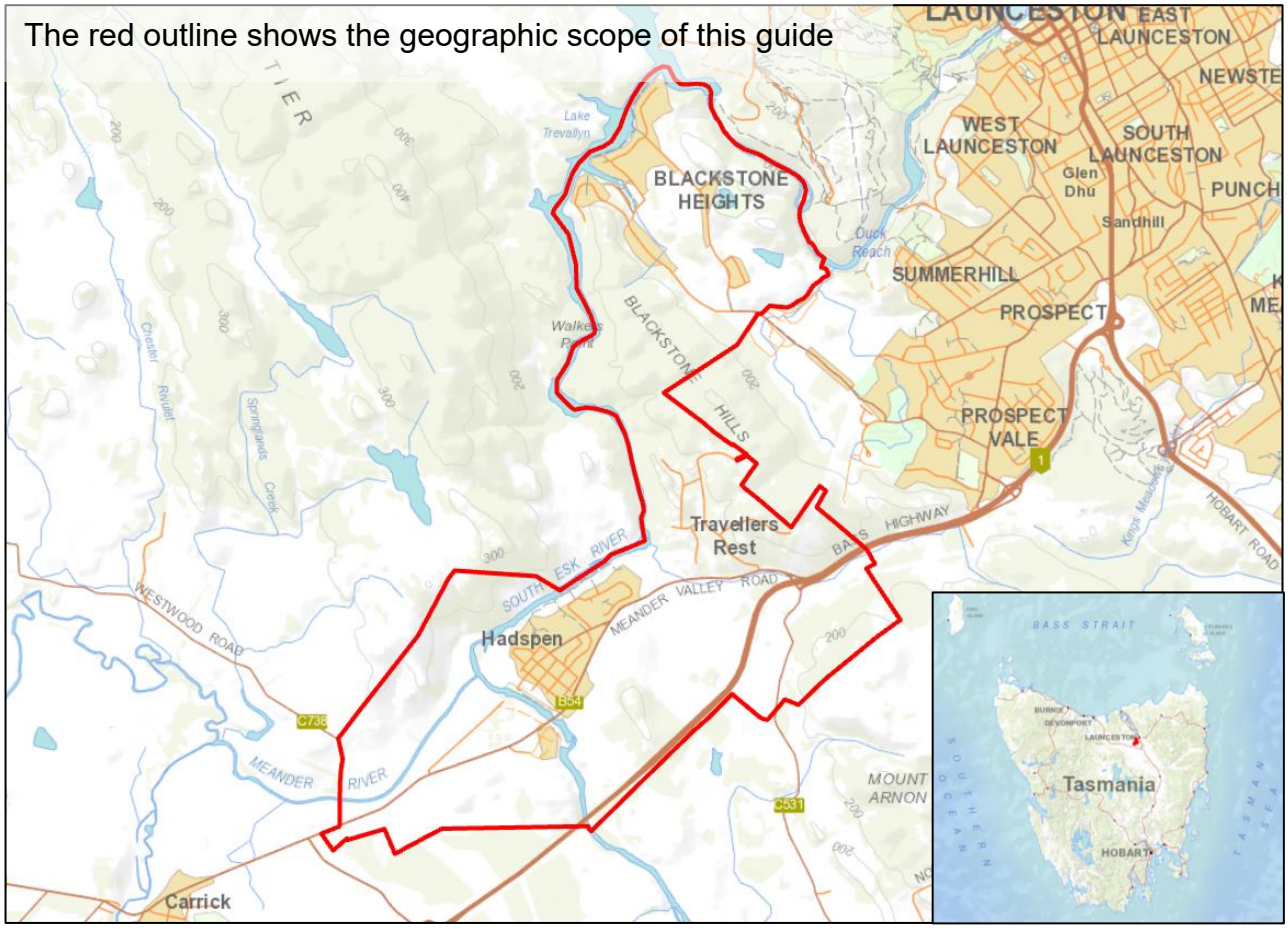
Flood Guide

storm and flood ready

Hadspen and surrounds including Blackstone Heights

Riverine flooding information for communities and properties on the lower Meander and South Esk Rivers

Version 1.0 January 2026



Meander Valley Council
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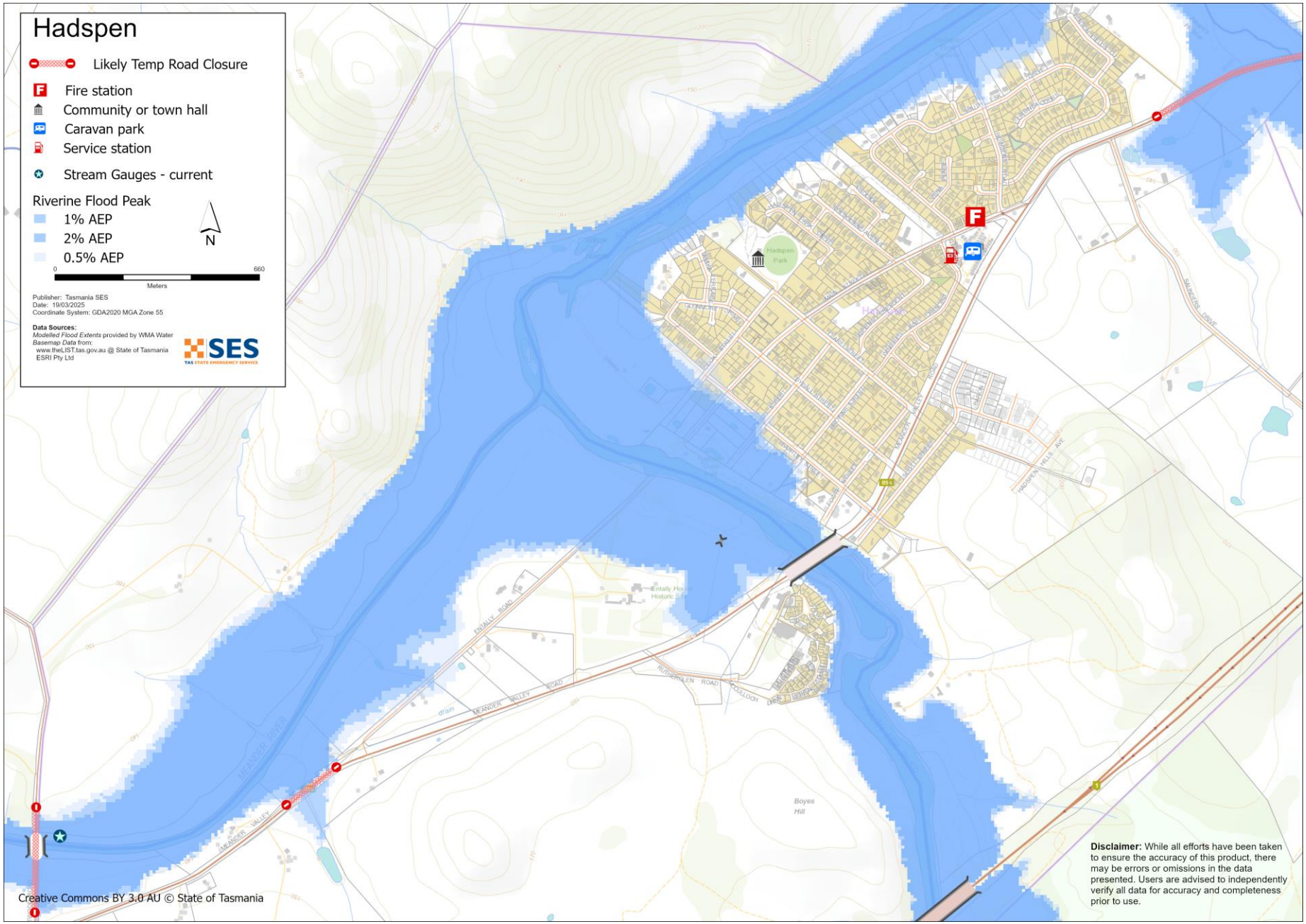
Tasmanian Government


Hadspen
Likely Temp Road Closure
Fire station
Community or town hall
Caravan park
Service station
Stream Gauges - current
Riverine Flood Peak
1% AEP
2% AEP
0.5% AEP
N
0
660
Meters
Publisher: Tasmania SES
Date: 19/03/2025
Coordinate System: GDA2020 MGA Zone 55
Data Sources:
Modelled Flood Extents provided by WMA Water
Basemap Data from:
www.theLIST.tas.gov.au @ State of Tasmania
ESRI Pty Ltd
SES
TAS STATE EMERGENCY SERVICE
Hadspen Park
Boyes Hill
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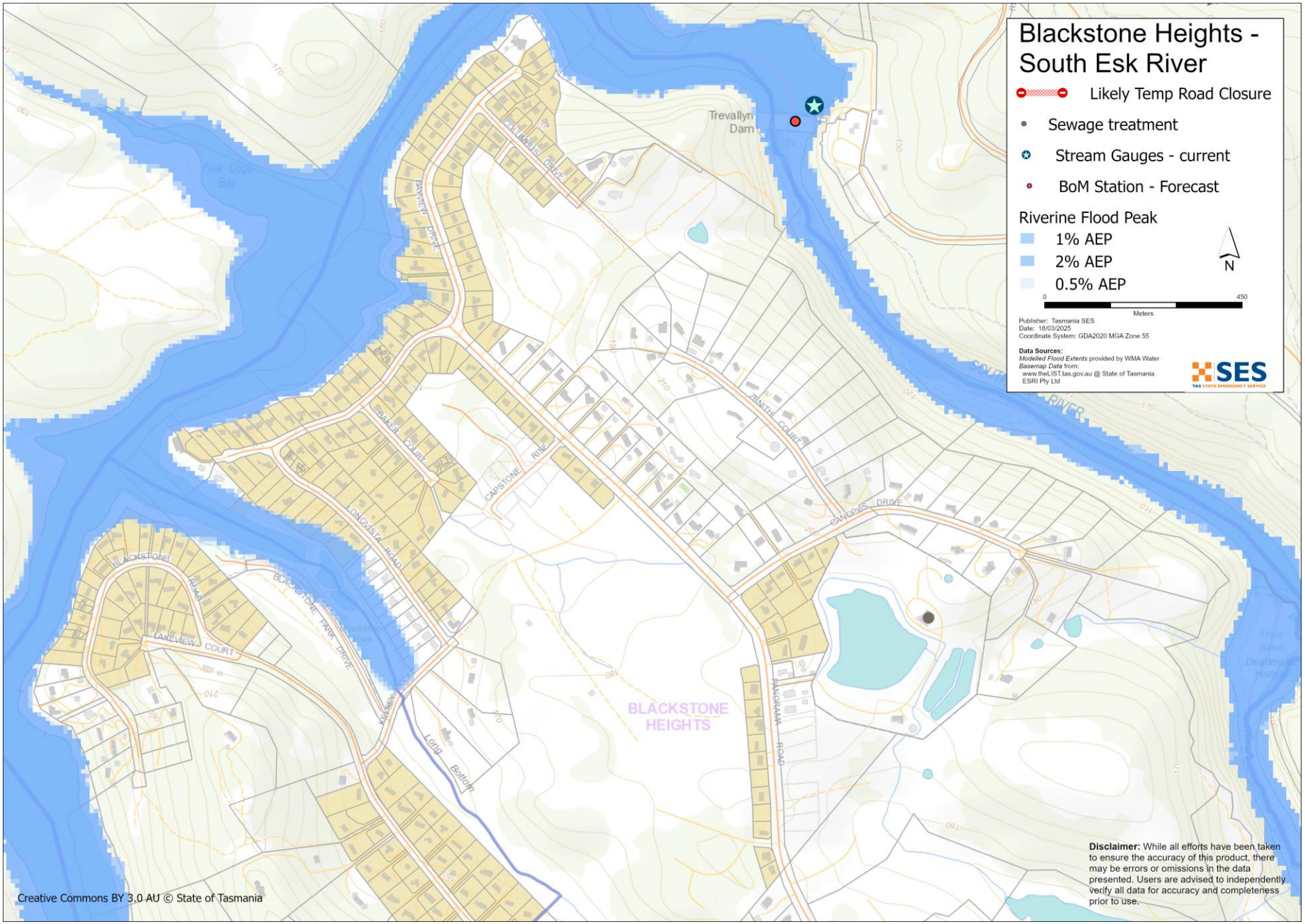
Blackstone Heights - South Esk River
Likely Temp Road Closure
Sewage treatment
Stream Gauges - current
BoM Station - Forecast
Riverine Flood Peak
1% AEP
2% AEP
0.5% AEP
N
0
450
Meters
Publisher: Tasmania SES
Date: 18/03/2025
Coordinate System: GDA2020 MGA Zone 55
Data Sources:
Modelled Flood Extents provided by WMA Water
Basemap Data from:
www.theLIST.tas.gov.au @ State of Tasmania
ESRI Pty Ltd
SES
TAS STATE EMERGENCY SERVICE
Trevallyn Dam
Five Logs Bay
BLACKSTONE HEIGHTS
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If the South Esk River or the Meander River have a major flood, people who live in

- Hadspen
- Blackstone Heights
- Travellers Rest, or
- surrounding areas

may experience flooded roads, driveways, parks and fields.

Livestock kept near the river may be at risk and farm infrastructure like pumps and tractors should be moved to safety. People who live on the river should relocate any equipment, boats or pontoons that can be moved.

In Hadspen, there are some properties that could flood in the south of town, near where the Meander and the South Esk meet. The Lions Club Reserve will likely flood, along with the boat ramp and playground. Houses and roads near Beams Hollow may also flood. The stormwater systems in this part of Hadspen have been known to back up.

In Blackstone Heights, Blackstone Park will likely flood. Very heavy rain could cause landslips along the river, possibly affecting houses. There may also be flooding on the main access roads, Panorama Rd and Blackstone Rd, causing temporary isolation. It is possible that Meander Valley Rd could flood, isolating Travellers Rest.

Intense rainfall can cause flash flooding or overland flow. This kind of flooding is hard to predict and depends on where the rain falls.

The maps in this guide show the level of flooding that has a 1% chance of happening any year, known as the annual exceedance probability (AEP). You are likely to experience flooding such as that shown in the maps in your lifetime. Tasmanians need to prepare for flood events that may not happen often as well as the minor flooding they may have experienced.

Even if your home is not inundated, you should be prepared for isolation plus potential power and telecommunications outages.

Roads that could be flooded include:

- Meander Valley Rd
- Westwood Rd, at the bridge
- Blackstone Rd
- Panorama Rd

Depending on where the rain falls and how heavy it is, minor roads and driveways throughout this area may also be impassable. Travel in the area is likely to be difficult or impossible until roads are clear.

If you are safe at home or elsewhere, it is usually best you stay where you are until the flooding subsides, unless there is an emergency. If you need to evacuate, you should leave early, before flood waters rise.

Listen to ABC local radio 91.7FM for warnings and advice or check TasALERT.com.

To see the maps in detail, see the Tasmanian Strategic Flood Maps on the SES website.

Travellers Rest
Likely Temp Road Closure
Riverine Flood Peak
1% AEP
2% AEP
0.5% AEP
0
420
Meters
Publisher: Tasmania SES
Date: 19/03/2025
Coordinate System: GDA2020 MGA Zone 55
Data Sources:
Modelled Flood Extents provided by WMA Water
Basemap Data from:
www.theLIST.tas.gov.au @ State of Tasmania
ESRI Pty Ltd
SES
N
TRAVELLERS REST
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Are you at risk of flood?

This area has seen large floods in recent years, including 2022 and 2016. Roads, bridges and houses flooded.

What should I do?

- Check the map to see whether your home or business could flood.
- Assess your home or business and prepare it to minimise possible flood damage.
- Check if you can safely get to your home, work, or school during a flood.
- Prepare a Home Emergency Plan. Consider if you need to evacuate before a flood. See Get Ready for Emergencies – A guide for individuals and households to prepare for emergencies.
- If you are a primary producer, the Farm Flood Readiness Kit provides advice on preparing for a flood to help protect your business and stock.
- If you may be isolated and you must have access to services, you may need to evacuate early.
- If you are camping in a flood prone area, make sure you stay informed and move to higher ground early if a flood is likely.

Floods like the one shown in the map, or worse, will occur again. No two floods are the same.

If you live in a low-lying area or near a watercourse, your house may flood. Even if your home is safe, you may need to detour around flooded areas or your road access may be cut. Never drive into or enter flood waters. Roads and bridges may be washed out or unsafe. Avoid travel during floods.

Knowing what to do can save your life and help protect your property. Having a Home Emergency Plan is one of the best ways to prepare. Decide on weather and rainfall triggers for when to act.

Bureau of Meteorology Forecasts, Warnings, and Observations

The Bureau issues **a Flood Warning, Severe Weather Warning and/or Thunderstorm Warning for heavy rainfall that may lead to flash flooding** whenever **heavy rain** is expected in an area. The time between the warning and heavy rain occurring can vary from an hour to 24 hours or more.

Whenever rain that may lead to flooding along the Jordan River is expected, the Bureau will issue:

- A Flood Watch – a "heads up" early advice of forecast weather that may lead to flooding
- A Flood Warning – giving a prediction of when flooding is likely to develop at gauge locations and possibly forecasting the likely peak river level. Warnings are updated regularly.

SES and the Bureau will issue warnings when the river reaches the following levels.

South Esk River

Gauge	Alert	Minor	Moderate	Major
Fingal	2.7m	4.0m	5.0m	7.0m
Llewellyn	2.7m	4.0m	5.0m	8.5m
Perth	-	4.3m	7.2m	8.9m
Longford	-	3.5m	5.0m	7.0m
Trevallyn Pond (Height AHD)	-	128.2m	129.9m	130.9
Trevallyn Pond (Flow in cumecs)		420 cu	1400 cu	2250 cu

Meander RIver

Gauge	Alert	Minor	Moderate	Major
Meander	1.8	2.0m	3.0m	3.5m
Deloraine Bridge	-	2.0m	2.5m	3.0m
Strathbridge	-	5.0m	6.5m	7.0m
Westwood Bridge	-	4.0m	6.0m	7.0m

Rainfall Observations at Meander, Deloraine, Launceston, Westwood Bridge and other rain gauges in the upper South Esk River can indicate possible flood risks to Hadspen and surrounds. Given the short warning times, it is best to act on the predictive BoM warnings rather than wait for any flood alerts during rainfall.

The NW Tasmania (West Takone) Radar is useful to be aware in real-time where heavy rainfall is falling. Radar Rainfall estimates can also fill in gaps in areas where there are no rainfall stations.

Understand the warnings and key information

Keep aware of what is happening around you. Check forecasts, observations and warnings regularly.

- TasALERT.com
- your local ABC radio station or
- the Bureau of Meteorology's website.

Advice (Yellow): an incident has started. There is no immediate danger. Stay up to date in case the situation changes.

Watch and Act (Orange): There is a heightened level of threat. Conditions are changing and you need to start taking action now to protect you and your family

Emergency Warning (Red): An Emergency Warning is the highest level warning. You may be in danger and need to take action immediately. Any delay now puts your life at risk.

Community update (Blue): Specific information and updates for affected communities regarding a particular event or incident.

Incident (White): an incident is the initial occurrence of an event before it becomes an emergency warning. As soon as an incident is reported, TasALERT publishes basic information including the type and location of incident.

For more information see www.ses.tas.gov.au/warnings/ .

Flood levels

While no two floods are the same, the following describes what you can expect at different flood levels around the area. Even if your property is not flooded, you need to think about access. Different levels of rainfall can cause flooding depending on its intensity, duration and how wet the ground is beforehand and where the rain falls.

Minor flooding

A minor flood can inundate parks, riverside areas, low lying paddocks and some yards. Stock should be moved for their safety. There may also be flooding across some minor roads.

Moderate flooding

There is more extensive flooding of agricultural land and some buildings may be impacted to above floor height. Bridges may become flooded and some properties may be isolated for a few hours as minor roads are closed. Properties and businesses in the south of Hadspen may be at risk.

Major flooding

If there is major flooding along the South Esk River there may be flooding in low-lying areas close to the river.

A major flood on the South Esk River means the river height is approaching 7m at Longford. If the major flood is occurring in the Meander, the river height will be 7m at Westwood Bridge.

Depending on where heavy rain falls there may also be flash flooding in the urban areas of Hadspen and Blackstone Heights. This kind of flooding is more difficult to predict and can depend on the stormwater system.

Major flooding could be caused by 30mm in one hour, or 100mm over 24 hours in Hadspen, for example.

Know your risk, prepare, reduce risk where you can, connect with others, keep up to date and act safe.

BEFORE

1. Know your risk

Flooding can cause widespread and significant damage. In the past 200 years there have been 78 flood related deaths in Tasmania. This guide is to help you understand flood risk in your area.

2. Prepare your household

Have an emergency plan that covers storms and floods

Create a plan, which covers what you would do in a storm or flood. Make sure everyone in your household understands the plan. There are checklists to help you create your plan – – see Get Ready for Emergencies – A guide for individuals and households to prepare for emergencies.

Check your plan regularly and test that everyone in the household understand what would need to happen in a flood.

Prepare an Emergency Kit

Ready to go	Pack when needed

• Your emergency plan
• Battery powered radio and torch, spare batteries – regularly tested
• Other Important information
• Rubber or strong leather gloves
• A list of emergency numbers
• First aid kit
• Food and water
	• Warm clothes, sturdy shoes or boots
	• Medicines, glasses and other essential items
	• Mobile phone and phone charger
	• Pet food and anything else your pets need
	• Photos and special keepsakes
	• Important documents, for example
	  • insurance papers
	  • passports
	  • birth certificates
	• Money

3. Reduce your risk from flooding where you can do so safely

- Think about flooding and other hazards when buying, maintaining or developing property.
- Trim or remove trees and branches overhanging your home, business or near powerlines on your property.

4. Keep your gutters and drains clear.Connect with others

Get to know your neighbours and your community. A connected community can a be safer and more resilient in an emergency and can help everyone recover better afterwards. Check that family and neighbours are safe and aware of what's happening.

DURING

5. Stay alert

Keep aware of what is happening around you. Check forecasts, observations and warnings regularly.

- TasALERT.com
- your local ABC radio station or
- the Bureau of Meteorology's website.

6. Act safe

- Supervise children.
- Prepare for possible power, water or internet outages.
- Check your emergency kit is ready to go.
- Keep clear of flooded areas such as drains. **NEVER** walk, play, ride or drive in floodwater. You can't always see what is under the water or how deep or fast-moving the water is. It is easy to be swept away and drown in as little as 20cm of fast-moving water. Flood water can be dangerous. There may be pollution from sewerage or chemicals.

When your home may be flooded

- Put household items up high to minimise possible damage.
- Turn off the electricity and gas if it is safe to do so.
- A great way to stop sewerage flowing back into your home is to place sandbags inside plastic bags and use them to block toilets and cover drains and sinks.
- Leave while you can get out safely.

If you need to evacuate

- Follow the advice from SES / Tasmania Police.
- Take your emergency kit.
- Go to friends or family in a safer place or an evacuation centre, if open.
- Let others know where you have gone.

Look after your animals

You are responsible for your animals in an emergency. If you have pets and other animals it will take you longer to evacuate in a flood or other emergency. Move animals from flood prone areas well before flood waters may rise. For more information see RSPCA's guidance on preparing for animals in an emergency and City of Hobart's advice on Pet Management and Emergencies.

Avoid travelling during and after storms

- Never drive through flood waters. Most deaths and rescues in floods are from people driving through flood waters.
- Drive slowly and turn your headlights on roads not affected by flood waters.
- Watch out for hazards such as
    - water over roads
    - damaged powerlines

    - landslides
    - damaged roads
    - falling trees or roofing iron.
- Do not go sightseeing. Sightseers delay emergency services and cause accidents.

AFTER

- Keep checking TasALERT.com and/or listen for ABC Local Radio updates on road re-openings, community meetings, etc.
- If you left your home, do not return home until SES or Tasmania Police tell you it is safe.
- Be aware of road hazards, such as mud or debris on the road, damaged roads/bridges and crews working on clean-up and repairs.

If your home has been damaged

- Stay at ground level while checking for damage. Be careful of fallen trees, broken glass, loose roofing or other hazards.
- Wear strong boots, gloves and protective clothes.
- Supervise children.
- Use a torch, never use matches or candles inside flood affected buildings.
- Do not turn on electricity or gas until it is tested by a licensed electrician or gas fitter for safety.
- Boil all drinking water until you are told the tap water is safe again.
- If your home is damaged and you need to stay somewhere else, take your emergency kit and pets with you.
- Take photos of any damage if safe for you to do so and contact your insurance company.
- Check neighbours are okay.

For further information go to www.ses.tas.gov.au.

storm and flood ready

Disclaimer

The information in this guide is current at the date of publication. While every effort has been taken to ensure the validity and accuracy of the data presented, the State Emergency Service does not take responsibility for data error or omission. Please see the standard Tasmanian Government's Copyright and Disclaimer Statement for more details https://www.tas.gov.au/codi .

The maps show potential flooding risks from consistent levels of rainfall across catchments, such as a 1% Annual Exceedance Probability (AEP). In flooding events, rainfall is likely to be more inconsistent across a catchment, so these flood maps should be considered indicative only. The mapped areas of flood risk show higher probability of inundation. Other areas have lower probability of flooding, but in severe and rare events (rarer than 1%AEP), other lower areas may be also at risk of inundation.

Staying informed and further information

Current warnings (TasAlerts)	TasALERT.com	
Bureau of Meteorology (BoM)	bom.gov.au/tas/warnings	
Emergency Broadcasters	ABC 91.7FM	
TASSES Social Media	facebook.com/sestasmania	
Preparing for Flood Emergencies	ses.tas.gov.au/flood-plan/	
Meander Valley Council	meander.tas.gov.au	6393 5300
National Relay Service (NRS)	relayservice.gov.au	

000 EMERGENCY

For flood assistance call

132 500

ses.tas.gov.au/flood-plan

Meander Valley Council
Working Together

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Tasmanian Government