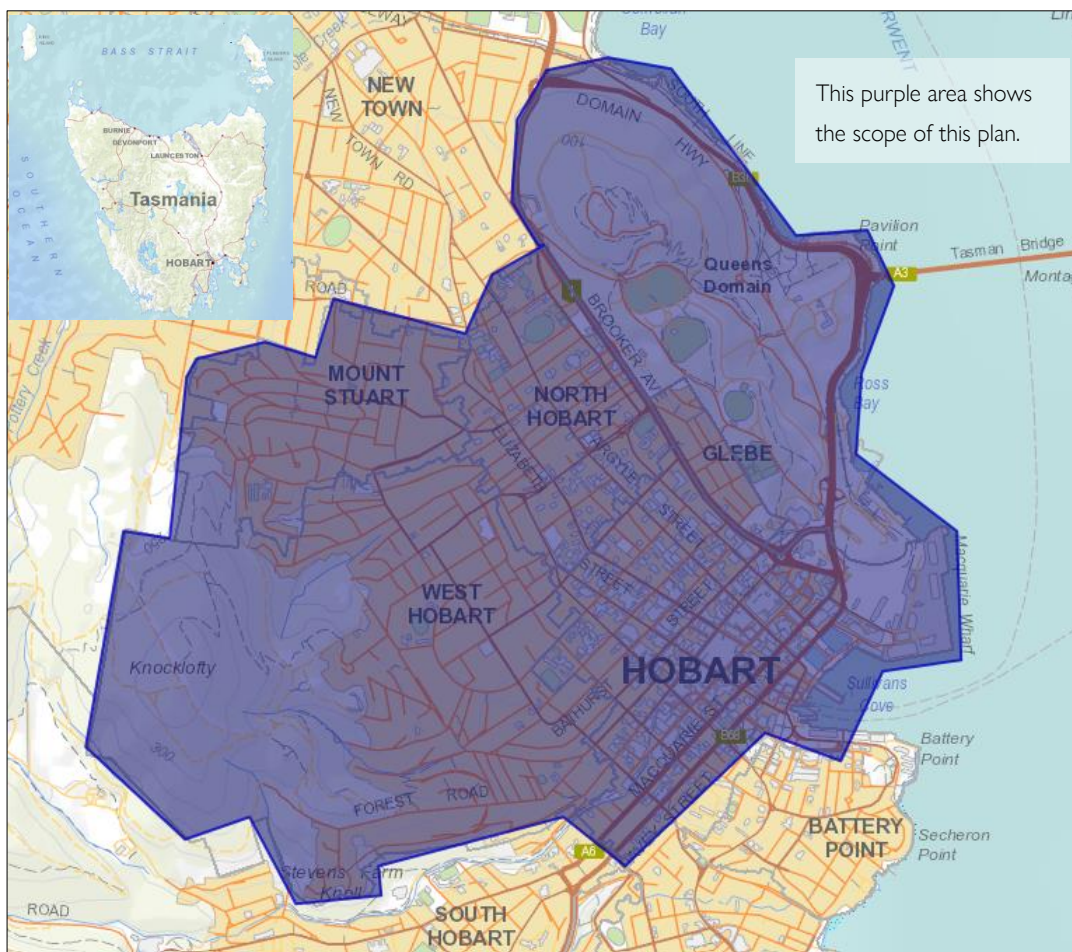




Hobart CBD and surrounds

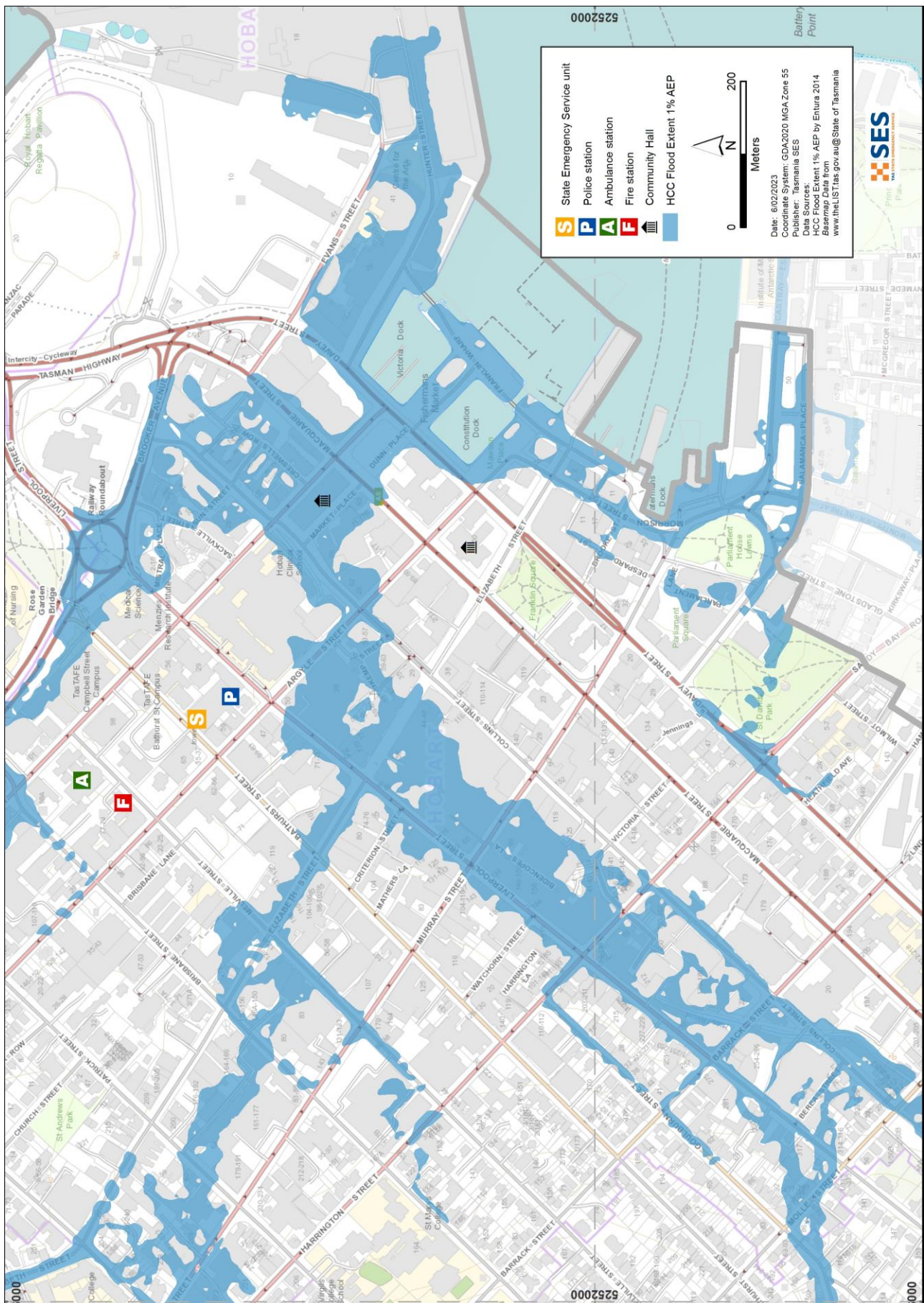
Flood Guide

Riverine flooding information for Hobart Rivulet and nearby minor waterways below Gore St including Hobart Central Business District, West Hobart, North Hobart, Mount Stuart & Glebe



City of **HOBART**

Version 1 13 July 2023



To see map information in detail, go to: www.hobartcity.com.au/City-services/Stormwater-and-urban-waterways/Understanding-flood-risk

Parts of Hobart Central Business District (CBD) and surrounding areas are at risk of flooding from Hobart Rivulet and nearby minor waterways. Please see the flood plan for South Hobart for Hobart Rivulet flood information above Gore Street - www.ses.tas.gov.au/plan-prepare/flood-plan/. There are also other plans for surrounding areas such as New Town- Lenah valley and Dynnyrne – Sandy Bay.

If you live, work or often visit Hobart city and surrounding areas, it is important you understand what a flood can look like so you can be prepared. There is likely to be a flood that causes significant damage in the area at least once in your lifetime.

Parts of Hobart are prone to flash flooding, depending on how rain falls across Kunanyi/ Mount Wellington. This means there can be little warning before waterways flood. There can also be stormwater run-off in other places if there is heavy rain. This can be difficult to predict.

Flooding may isolate some areas for up to 6 hours but is more likely to be for just a few hours. You should prepare for isolation plus power or telecommunications outages.

Some roads may be flooded. Traffic is likely to be congested. Travel may be difficult or impossible. If you are safe at home or wherever you are at the time, it is usually best you stay there until the flooding goes down. Flooding around Hobart generally only lasts a few hours.

Are you at risk of flood?

Example past flooding events around Hobart include:

- May 2018 - The Southern Tasmanian Extreme Weather Event caused flooding around Hobart. There was 236mm of rain on Kunanyi/ Mount Wellington.
- April 1960 - About 200mm of rain over 3 days and caused damage across Hobart.
- June 1947 - Two separate flooding events impacted the Hobart area.

What should I do to be prepared?

- Check the map to see whether your home or business is at risk of being flooded. If it is, you should have a plan for leaving during a flood event. During a flood event, go to [TasALERT](#) or listen to ABC local radio to find out about evacuation centres or other places to shelter.
- Check if you can safely get to or from your home, work, or school during a flood. If you need to leave during a flood, make sure your route is safe or leave early before floodwaters rise. If you need to evacuate during a flood, make sure your route safe and think about:
 - where you would go
 - how you could get there
 - what you need to take.
- Prepare your home or business to minimise possible flood damage.
- Prepare a [Home Emergency Plan](#).
- If you have a business in the area, you should have a plan that covers flooding. Business Tasmania can help— see www.business.tas.gov.au/manage_a_business/

Floods like the one shown on 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

Whenever **heavy rain** is expected in an area, the Bureau issues

- a Flood Watch
- Severe Weather Warning and/or
- Thunderstorm Warning for heavy rainfall that may lead to flash flooding.

The time between the warning and heavy rain falling can vary from an hour to 24 hours or more. It is best to act on the warnings from the Bureau of Meteorology rather than wait for local flooding alerts.

Tracking Rainfall on Kunanyi/ Mount Wellington can help predict flooding around Hobart. Go to www.bom.gov.au/tas/.

The [Mt Koonya Radar](#) is useful to see when and where heavy rainfall is falling.

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 of 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](#) published basic information including the type and location of incident.

For more information see <http://www.ses.tas.gov.au/warnings/>.

Flood levels around Hobart

While no two floods are the same, the following table shows what is likely to happen if there is flooding around Hobart. Even if your property is not flooded, you need to think about access.

The rainfall amounts that might cause such an event are examples. Other levels of rainfall can cause flooding depending on

- where the rain falls
- how heavy the rain is
- how long the rain lasts and
- how wet the ground is beforehand.

A Minor Flood (less than 20% chance of happening in a year) (Annual Exceedance Probability)	A Moderate Flood (above a 20% and below a 1% chance of happening in a year)	A Major Flood (a 1% chance or less of happening in a year in the current climate)
For example, up to about 50mm over 6 hours on Kunanyi/ Mount Wellington and/or up to about 40mm around Hobart	For example, between 50-85mm in 6 hours on Kunanyi/ Mount Wellington and/or between about 40-65mm around Hobart	For example, more than about 86mm in 6 hours on Kunanyi/ Mount Wellington and/or more than 65mm around Hobart
The Hobart Rivulet may threaten to breach its banks south of the Royal Hobart Hospital. Cars parked around this area may be at risk and should be moved. Businesses on the other side of Collins Street should monitor conditions. Extremely sudden heavy downpours, due to a thunderstorm for example, may cause local flash flooding throughout Hobart. Hobart City Council and SES monitor conditions during such events, take precautionary actions and respond to flooding incidents as they occur.	May flood low-lying areas around for example: • Collins, Macquarie and Davey Streets near Campbell Street, Hunter Street to Dunn Place. • Campbell Street between Patrick and Brisbane Streets • Foreshore areas at high tide • Valley, Mellifont, Yardley, and Thomas Streets, Cato Avenue in North Hobart If Hobart Rivulet underground channels overflow, there may be flooding around Molle Street near Collins Street and areas below. There may be some water over parts of the Booker Highway near the Glebe and the Railway Roundabout plus many other roadways – see maps for details Flooding may impact some properties above floor level – see maps for details.	May also flood low-lying properties, including around • Elizabeth Street Mall, Cat and Fiddle, Centrepont • Campbell Street and surrounds, including parts of Campbell Street Primary School and lower Letitia Street • Mistral Place • Molle Street near Liverpool Street • In North Hobart, Lower Newdegate, Lefroy, Wignall, and Pine Streets, Commercial Road and surrounds • In West Hobart, Goulburn Street between Cavell and Faraday Streets, Upper Warwick Street There may be many properties flooded above floor height – see maps for details. Some major and many minor roads may be dangerous for a short period. Traffic is likely to become gridlocked. Some properties may be isolated for a few hours until flood waters go down.

Unless there is an emergency or you are not safe where you are, you should shelter where you are during a flooding event. Floods around Hobart rarely last more than a few hours. Traffic is likely to be very congested. Listen to ABC local radio or go to [TasALERT](#) for advice.

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 often happens in Tasmania and can cause widespread damage. In the past 200 years there have been 78 flood related deaths. 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

Thinking about what you would do in a storm or flood means you are more prepared and everyone is safer. Have an emergency plan that everyone in your household knows and understands. There are checklists to help you think through your plan – see the [SES website](#) or [Red Cross Rediplan](#).

Check your plan regularly and test it by everyone in the household thinking through a flooding scenario that may affect your household.

Prepare an Emergency Kit

Ready to go	Pack when needed
• Battery powered radio and torch, spare batteries • Important information, such as your emergency plan • 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

Regularly test batteries in radios and torches.

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 buildings or powerlines on your property.
- Keep your gutters and drains clear.

4. Connect with others

Know your neighbours and get involved in your community. A connected community is a safer and more resilient community 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](https://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

- Do not go sightseeing. Sightseers delay emergency services and cause accidents.
- Watch out for hazards such as
 - water over roads
 - damaged powerlines
 - landslides
 - damaged roads
 - falling trees or roofing iron.
- 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.

AFTER

- Keep checking [TasALERT](#) 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 to do so.
- 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.
- Use a torch, never use matches or candles inside flood affected buildings.
- Boil all drinking water until you are told the tap water is safe again.
- Do not turn on electricity or gas until it is tested by a licensed electrician or gas fitter for safety.
- 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.
- Supervise children.
- Check neighbours are okay.

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



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)	alerts.tas.gov.au or tasalert.com	
Bureau of Meteorology (BoM)	bom.gov.au/tas/warnings	
Emergency Broadcasters	ABC 936AM	
TASSES Social Media	facebook.com/sestasmania twitter.com/sestasmania	
Preparing for Flood Emergencies	ses.tas.gov.au/plan-prepare/flood	
Hobart City Council	hobartcity.com.au	6238 2711
National Relay Service (NRS)	relayservice.gov.au	



For flood assistance call

132 500

ses.tas.gov.au/plan-prepare/flood



City of **HOBART**