

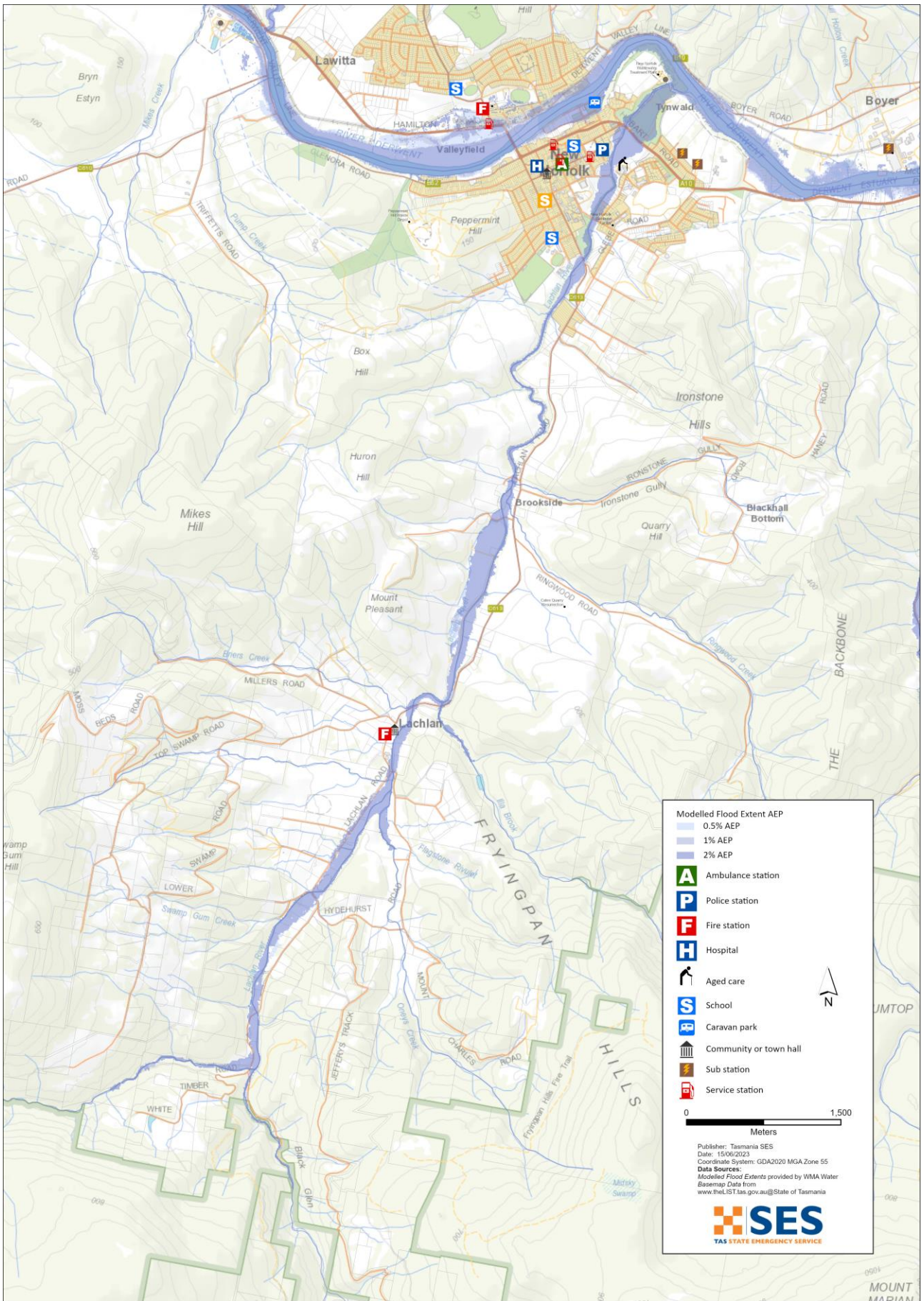
Lachlan and surrounds

Riverine and flash flooding information for communities on the Lachlan River and its tributaries

Draft version 0.1 October 2023

The shaded area shows the geographic scope of this guide. See flood prone areas in the maps inside this guide.





The Lachlan River and its tributaries can cause flooding to low lying properties around Lachlan township, New Norfolk and surrounds. There may be little warning and flood waters are likely to have high velocity. Some areas may become isolated.

The map shows flooding that has a 2%, 1% and 0.5% chance of happening any year (2%, 1% and 0.5% annual exceedance probability (AEP)). You are likely to experience a flood of this size at least once in your lifetime.

Flooding in the area is due to high rainfall on kunanyi/ Mount Wellington or local heavy rainfall. The area is subject to flash flooding. This means there may be unexpected flooding without warning if heavy rain falls. Some properties may also flood without warning due to storm water run-off when there is very heavy rain.

Flooding around the Lachlan River is likely to only last a few hours. Due to the short catchment, once rain stops, waterway flows will drop. However, there may be debris or trees over roads, damage to bridges and other infrastructure as flood waters move quickly through the area.

Tynwald park and the Lyell Highway near the park may also be affected by flooding from the Derwent River.

Are you at risk of flood?

The area has most recently had major flooding in May 2018. Such levels of flooding are likely to happen again.

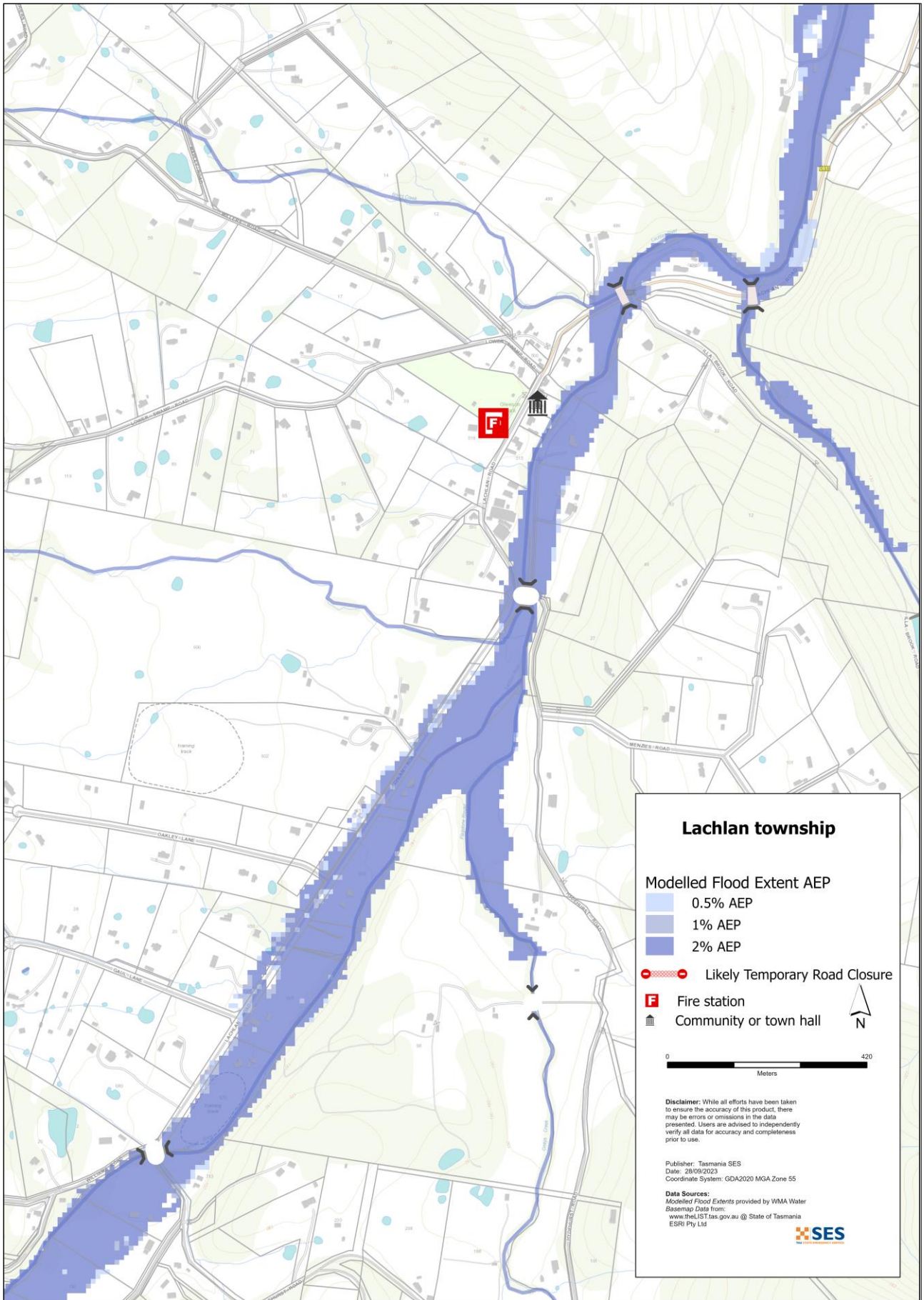
What should I do?

- Check the map opposite to see whether your home or business is likely to be at risk of flooding during a flood.
- Prepare a [Home Emergency Plan](#), including whether you need to evacuate in advance of a flood, where you will go and what you need to take.
- 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/
- If you need to evacuate or return home during a flood, make sure your route is safe.
- Assess your home or business and know what you need to do to prepare it to minimise possible damage from water inundation.

Floods like the one shown on the map, or worse, can 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

Lachlan River can rise quickly after rainfall and so there can be little to no warning of flooding. There are no river gauges on the Lachlan River. Even if there were a gauge, the short length of the catchment means that this would not give enough warning time.

Whenever **heavy rain** is expected in an area that may lead to flooding, the Bureau issues

- 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 around Lachlan and New Norfolk.

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

The [Mt Koonya Radar](#) is useful to see when and where heavy rainfall is falling and is available on the BOM Weather app and website.

Download BOM Weather app and set your location to receive push notifications of warnings (more details at www.bom.gov.au/app/).

Listen to ABC 936AM or go to tasalert.com for warnings.

Understand the warnings and key information

SES issues flood warnings based on weather and river gauge information.



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



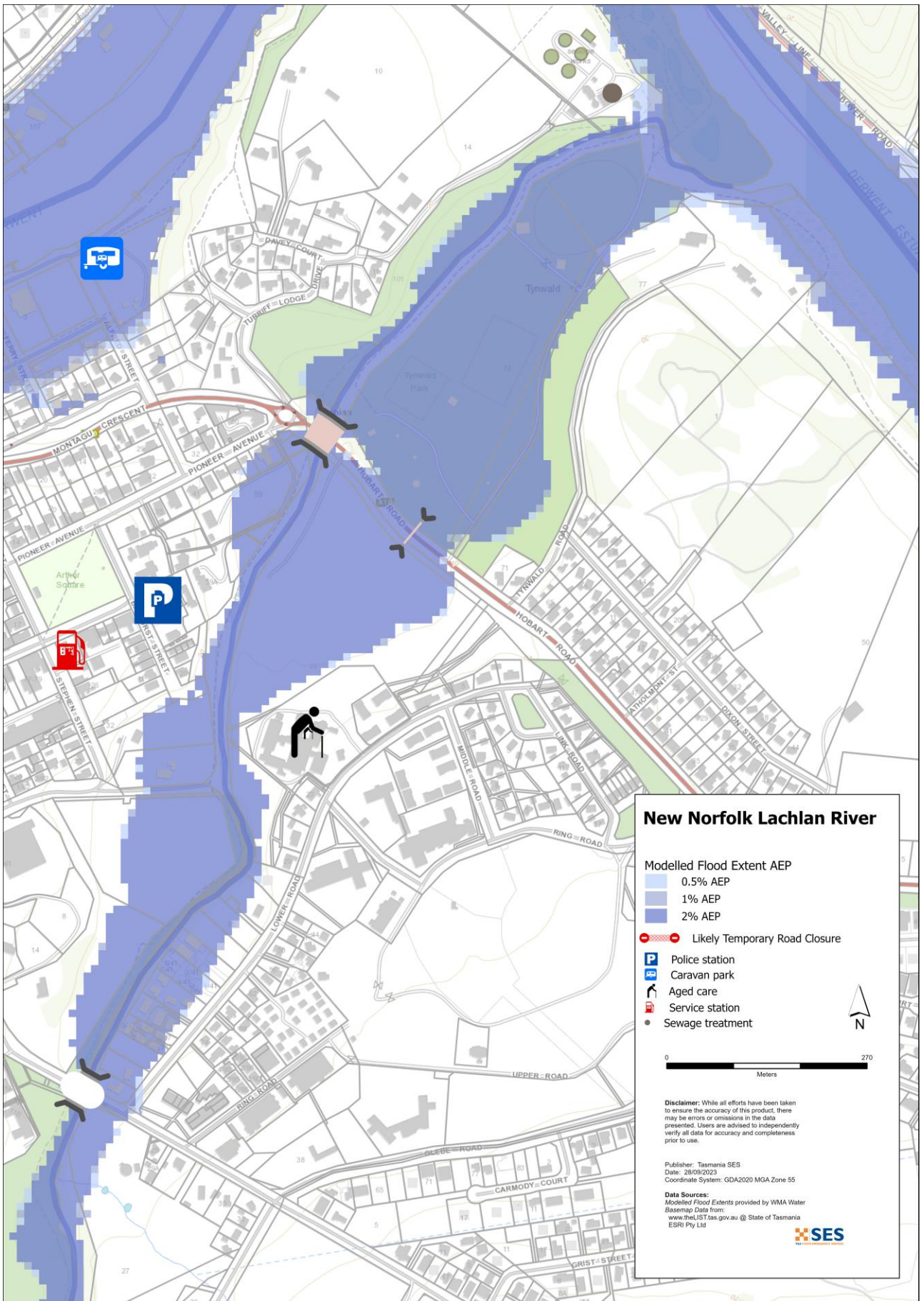
Emergency Warning (Red): An Emergency Warning is the highest level of warning. You may be in danger and need to take action immediately. Any delay now puts your life at risk.



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.



Flood levels around the Lachlan River

While no two floods are the same, the following describes what is likely to happen if there is flooding around the area. 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.

Melting snow can also contribute to flooding.

Minor flooding

- Water spills over riverbanks and covers nearby low-lying areas. Agricultural and horticultural land on river flats may be at risk. Livestock should be moved from these areas.
- There may be some flooding of low level roadways along Lachlan Road and minor roadways.
- Some low lying properties may have flooding around buildings below floor level.
- There may be some areas of Tynwald Park and nearby river flats inundated.

Moderate flooding

- There is more extended and deeper flooding of agricultural and horticultural land along the river flats with some stock losses if not moved and damage to fences.
- Flooding may reach above floor heights of some low lying houses and other buildings.
- Some properties above low-lying bridges may become isolated.
- There is more extended flooding at Tynwald Park and surrounding low lying areas.

Major flooding

- Many river crossings will be impassable due to flooding or should be considered hazardous. This can isolate areas upstream. Although flooding is likely only for a few hours, the high velocity of flood waters can damage bridges and wash out roadways.
- Low lying properties along the Lachlan River and its tributaries are at risk of being flooded above floor level. There may not be enough time for sandbagging. It may be necessary to evacuate some dwellings. Areas at risk of flooding include:
 - Lower Road properties on riverside
 - Moores Rd and nearby Lachlan Rd
 - Tynwald Park, nearby Lyell Hwy and low-lying properties
 - Lachlan Rd opposite Ironstone Gully Rd, Brookside
 - Hyndhurst Rd and nearby Lachlan Rd and nearby properties
 - Upper Lachlan Rd, multiple areas
- There is likely to be significant crop and stock loss unless the stock are moved to higher ground.

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 the [SES website](#) or [Red Cross Rediplan](#).

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
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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.
- Keep your gutters and drains clear.

4. Connect with others

Get to know your neighbours and your community. A connected community can 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.

- www.TasALERT.gov.au
- [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](https://www.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.



Staying informed and further information

Current warnings (TasAlerts)	alerts.tas.gov.au	
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	
Derwent Valley Council	derwentvalley.tas.gov.au	6261 8500
National Relay Service (NRS)	relayservice.gov.au	



For flood assistance call

132 500

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

