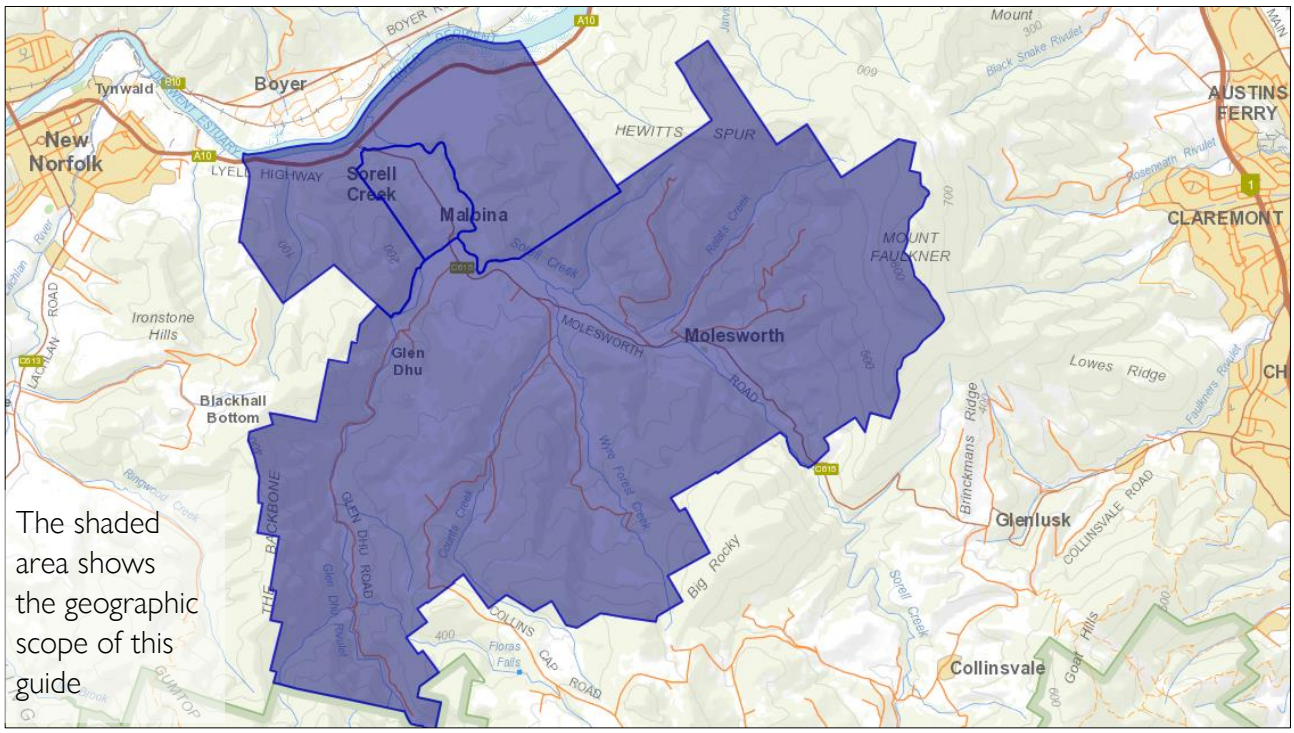
Community Protection
Flood Guide

Molesworth and surrounds

Riverine and flash flooding information for communities on Sorell Creek and its tributaries including Sorell Creek, Glen Dhu, Malbina and surrounds

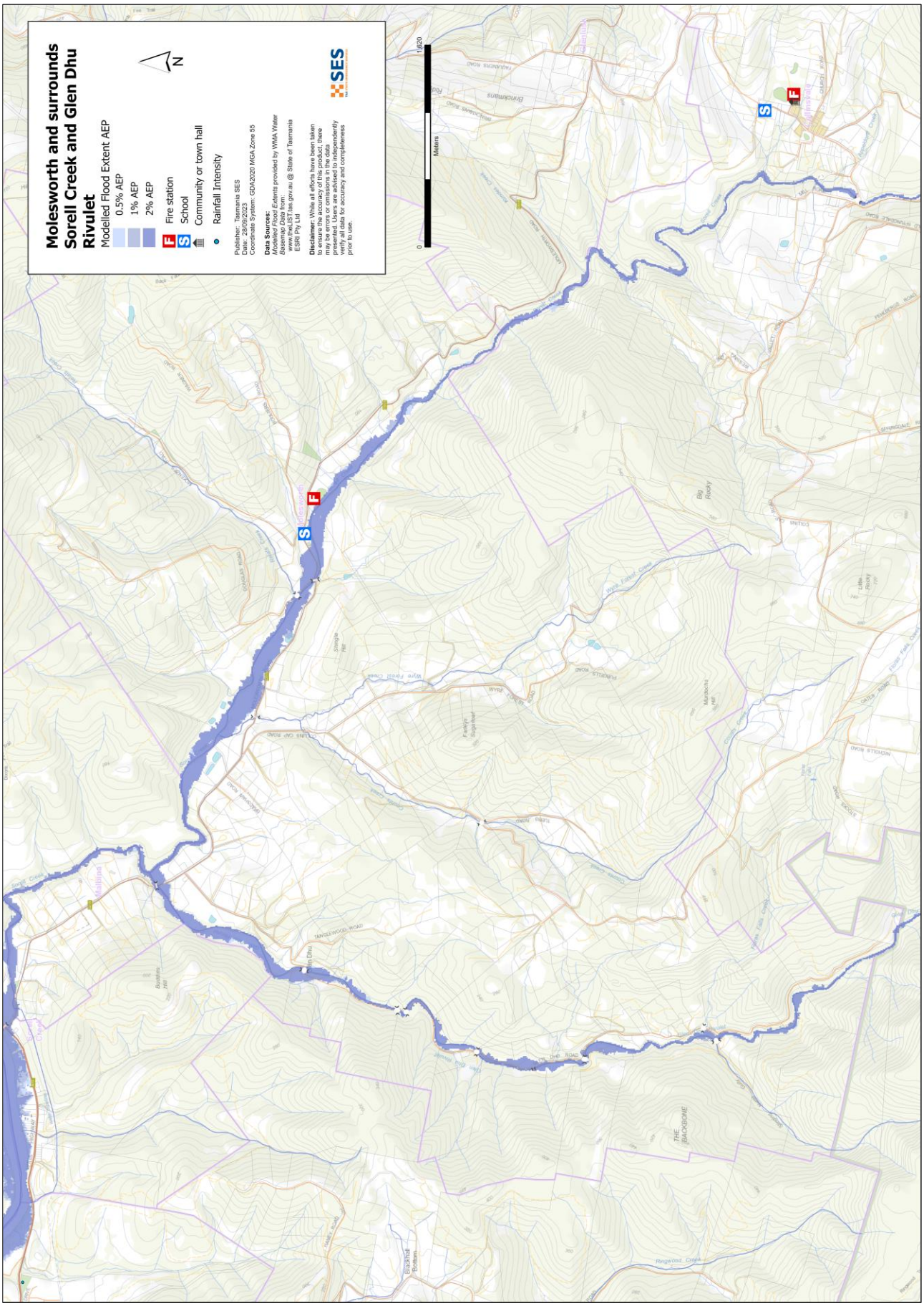
Draft version 0.2 February 2024 - Please email any comments to ses@ses.tas.gov.au



Derwent Valley COUNCIL

SES TAS STATE EMERGENCY SERVICE

Tasmanian Government


Molesworth and surrounds
Sorell Creek and Glen Dhu
Rivulet
Modelled Flood Extent AEP
0.5% AEP
1% AEP
2% AEP
Fire station
School
Community or town hall
Rainfall Intensity
N
Publisher: Tasmania SES
Date: 28/09/2023
Coordinate System: GDA2020 MGA Zone 55
Data Sources:
Modelled Flood Extents provided by WMA Water
Basemap: Topo
Roads: LIST.tas.gov.au @ State of Tasmania
ESRI Pty Ltd
Disclaimer: While all efforts have been taken to ensure the accuracy of this product, there may be errors or omissions in the data presented. Users are advised to independently verify data for accuracy and completeness prior to use.
SES
0
Meters
1,620

Sorell Creek, Glen Dhu Rivulet and their tributaries can cause flooding to low lying properties around Molesworth township 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 Sorell Creek and Glen Dhu Rivulet is likely to only last a few hours. Due to the short catchments, 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. Some roadways also prone to landslides, and it may be difficult to turn around.

Areas near the Lyell Highway 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. Areas along the Derwent River flooded in 1960.

What should I do?

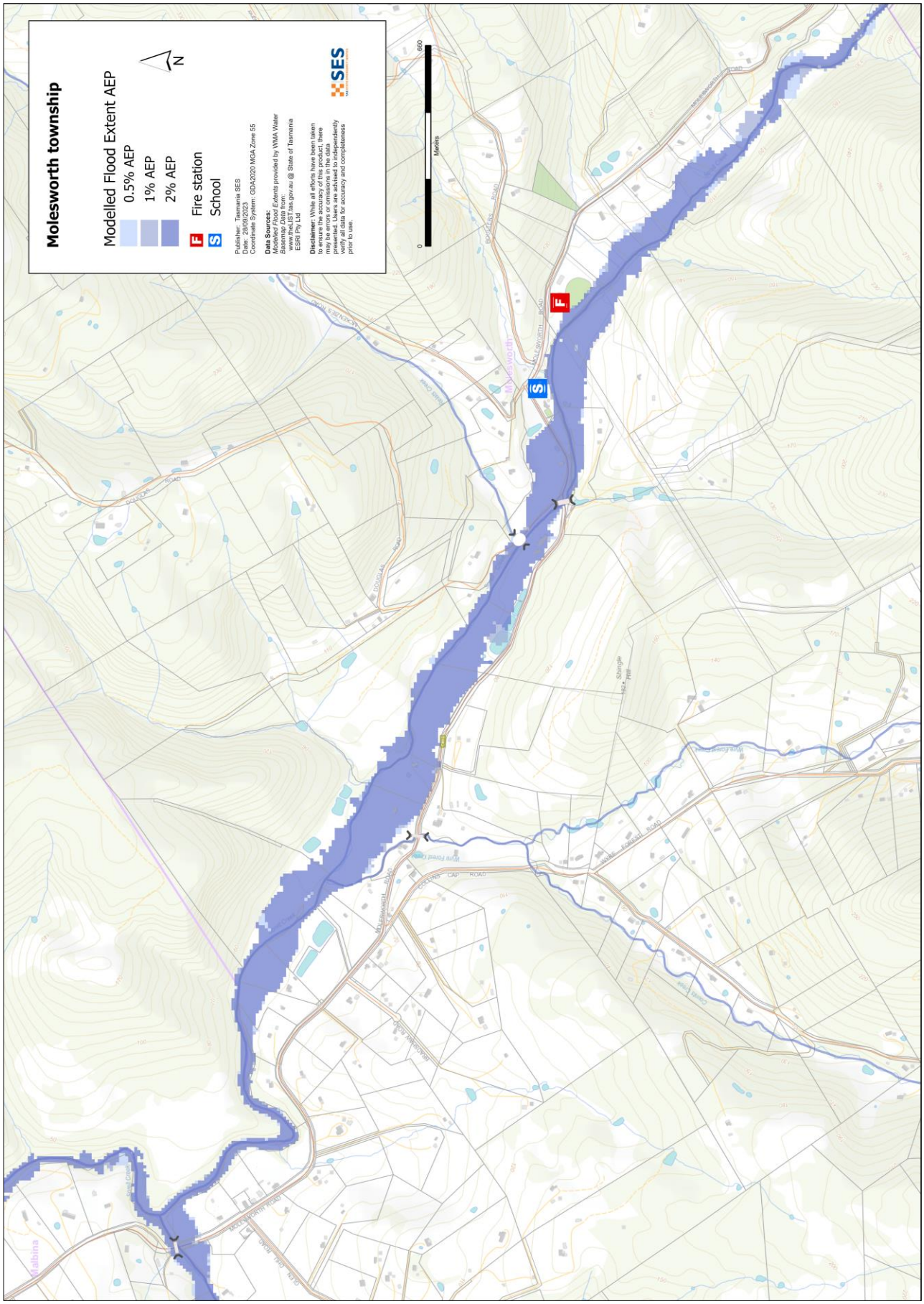
- Check the map opposite to see whether your home or business is likely to be at risk of flooding during a flood.
- Prepare a Home Emergency Plan, including whether you need to evacuate in advance of a flood, where you will go and what you need to take.
- If you have a business in the area, you should 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.
- Asses 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.

DRAFT


Molesworth township
Modelled Flood Extent AEP
0.5% AEP
1% AEP
2% AEP
Fire station
School
N
Publisher: Tasmania SES
Date: 28/06/2023
Coordinate System: GDA2020 MGA Zone 55
Data Sources:
Modelled Flood Extents provided by WMA Water
Basemap: TasMap
www.theLIST.tas.gov.au @ State of Tasmania
ESRI Pty Ltd
Disclaimer: While all efforts have been taken to ensure the accuracy of this product, there may be errors or omissions in the data presented. Users are advised to independently verify data for accuracy and completeness prior to use.
SES
0
660
Meters
Molesworth
MOLESWORTH ROAD
DOUGLAS ROAD
DOUGLAS LAP ROAD
MAIN FOREST ROAD
Stingle Hill
Kalbina

Bureau of Meteorology Forecasts, Warnings, and Observations

Sorell Creek and its tributaries can rise quickly after rainfall and so there can be little to no warning of flooding. There are no river gauges on Sorell Creek or Glen Dhu Rivulet. Even if there were a gauge, the short length of the catchment means there would not be enough warning lead 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 the area.

Tracking Rainfall on Kunanyi/ Mount Wellington can help predict flooding around the area. 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.

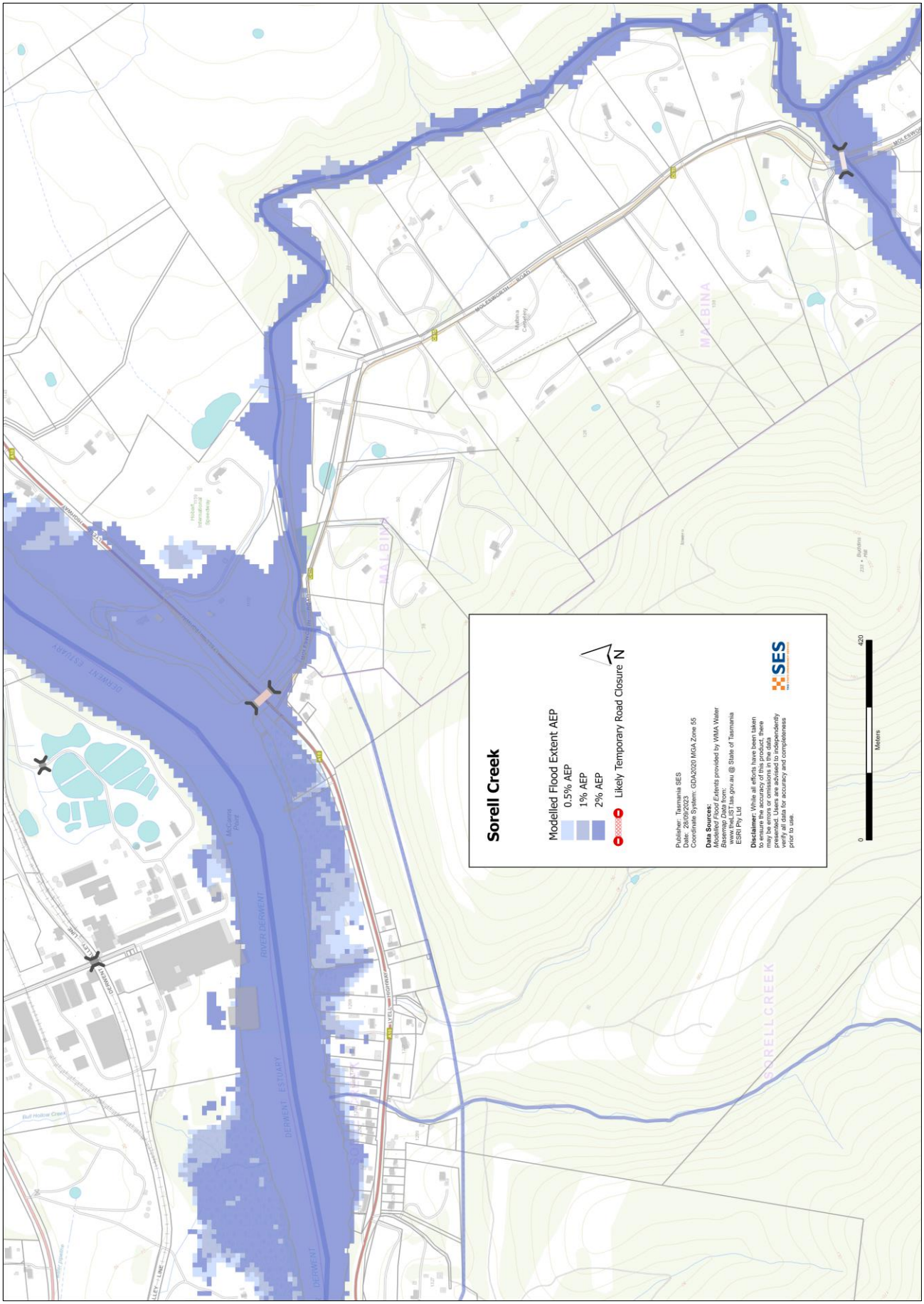
Watch and Act (Orange): There is a heightened level of threat. Conditions are changing and you need to start taking action now to protect you and your family

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.

DRAFT


Sorell Creek
Modelled Flood Extent AEP
0.5% AEP
1% AEP
2% AEP
Likely Temporary Road Closure
N
Publisher: Tasmania SES
Date: 28/09/2023
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
Disclaimer: While all efforts have been taken to ensure the accuracy of this product, there may be errors or omissions in the data presented. Users are advised to independently verify all data for accuracy and completeness prior to use.
SES
0
420
Meters
MALBINA
SORELL CREEK
RIVER DERWENT
DERWENT ESTUARY
MOLESWORTH ROAD
HIGHWAY
McCoares Point
Molesworth Cemetery
Bull Hollow Creek

Flood levels around Sorell Creek and Glen Dhu Rivulet

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 roadway and bridges along Glen Dhu Road and minor roadways.
- Some low lying properties may have flooding around buildings below floor level.

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.

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 Sorell Creek, Glen Dhu Rivulet and possibly other minor waterways 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:
    - Molesworth Road below the school and the school grounds, nearby properties along Molesworth Road and lower Douglas Road
    - Glen Dhu Road west of Tanglewood Road, and other areas of roadway, isolating properties above
- There is likely to be significant crop and stock loss unless the stock are moved to higher ground.
- Depending on where heavy rain falls, the Lyell Highway at Sorell Creek may be inundated for a short time. Flooding from the Derwent River can also affect this area.
- Many roads are likely to have areas that are flooded plus there may be landslides or fallen vegetation. Please think about the safety of your route if you need to leave.

DRAFT

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

• 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.
- Keep your gutters and drains clear.

DRAFT

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.

DRAFT

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.

DRAFT

storm and flood ready

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	

DRAFT

000 EMERGENCY

For flood assistance call

132 500

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

Derwent Valley COUNCIL

SES

Tasmanian