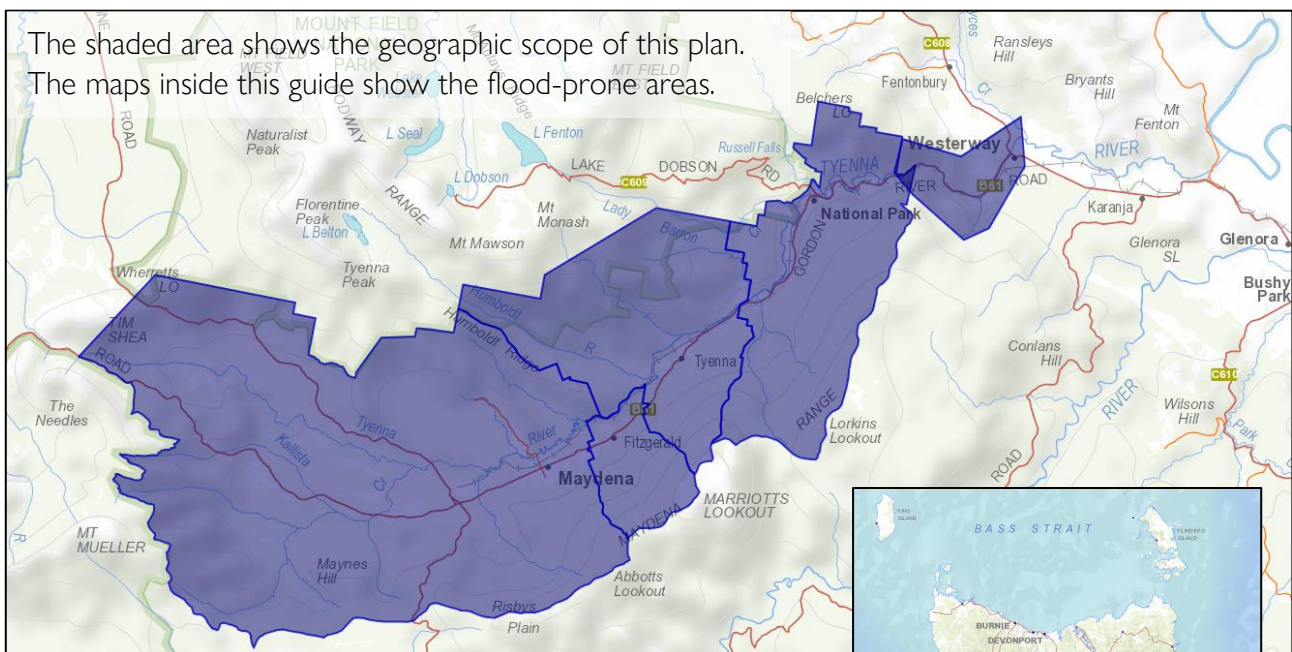


# Westerway to Maydena and surrounds

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

DRAFT version 0.2 February 2024 - Please email any comments to [ses@ses.tas.gov.au](mailto:ses@ses.tas.gov.au)





Much of Westerway township is prone to flooding, as is the lower part of Mount Field National Park. There are some private properties along the river upstream of Westerway that can become flooded.

Heavy rain in the Tyenna River catchment can also flood Gordon River Road, isolating many properties.

Agricultural areas and the picnic area at Mount Field National Park can be impacted by more common heavy rain events in the Tyenna catchment. The entrance to the National Park may be closed.

Areas around Ellendale may also become isolated due to flooding around the Ellendale Road intersection with Gordon River Road if there is also flooding along the Derwent River. If there is widespread rain around the Derwent River catchment, all areas around the Tyenna River may become isolated for possibly a few days.

The maps show the likely areas to be flooded in a rain event that has a 2%, 1% and 0.5% chance of happening any year (% Annual Exceedance Probability). Events with a 2% chance of happening any year can have major impacts around Westerway, inundating homes, other buildings and roads, and isolating many properties. You are likely to experience this level of flooding at least once in your lifetime. Tasmanians need to be prepared for levels of flooding most people may not have experienced.

The Tyenna River is fast flowing, and so flood waters are likely to be hazardous. Flood waters are likely to drop quickly once rain stops falling in the catchment.

## Are you at risk of flood?

The area most recently had moderate flooding in July 2016, when the lower part of Mount Field National Park was flooded. Westerway experienced major flooding in March 1931 and May 1948. This impacted buildings, the highway and the railway line. Such levels of flooding are likely to happen again. It is important to be prepared for flooding events that may not have happened within most people's living memory.

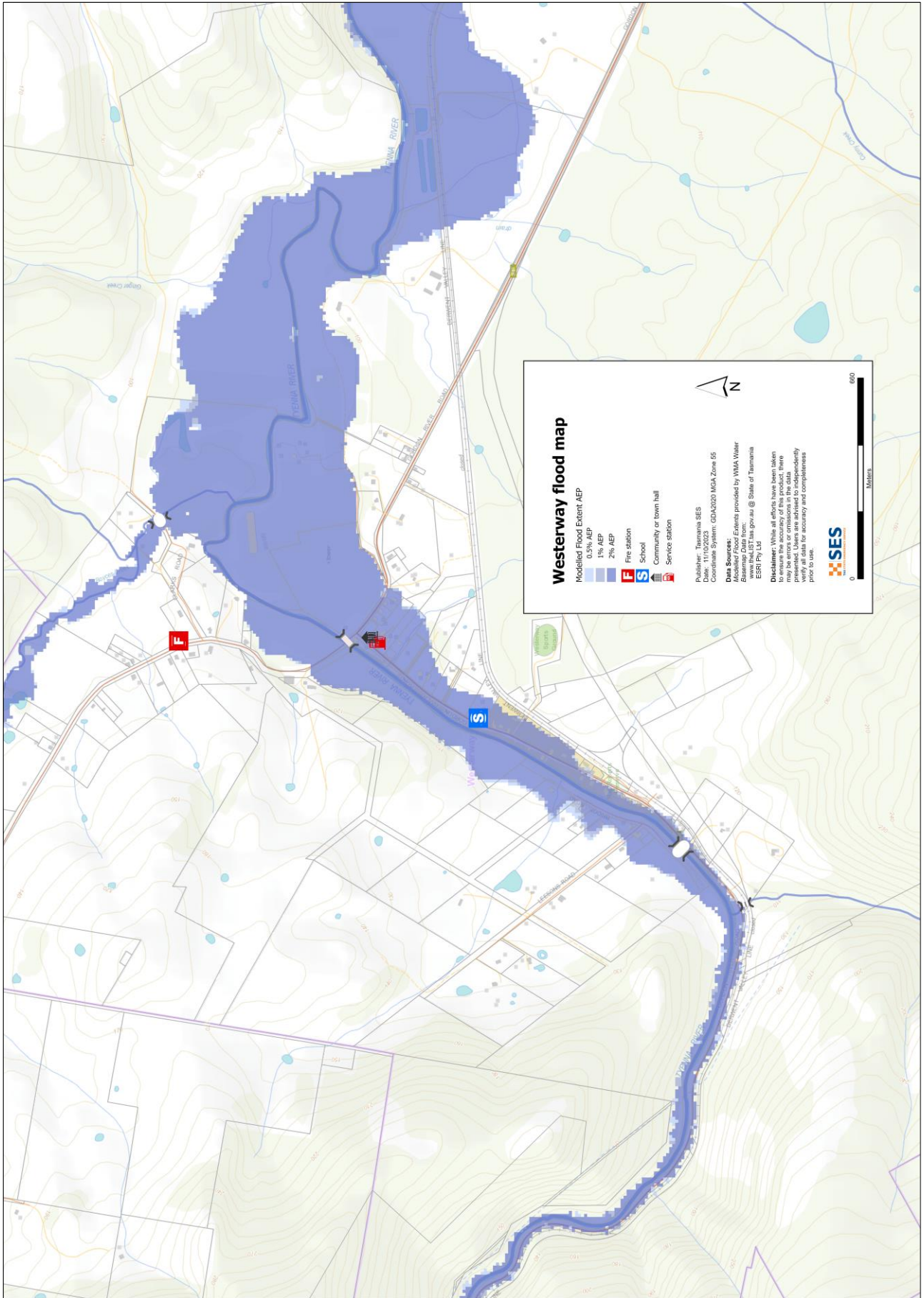
## What should I do?

- Check the maps 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/](http://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, 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 Tyenna River can rise quickly after rainfall and so there can be little warning of flooding. There is [a river gauge on the river at Newbury](#) (between Maydena and National Park) – see [http://www.bom.gov.au/tas/flood/rain\\_river.shtml](http://www.bom.gov.au/tas/flood/rain_river.shtml). There are no Bureau of Meteorology formal minor, moderate and major riverine flood warnings issued for the Tyenna River. The short river length between Newbury and Westerway means there would not be enough warning time.

Rainfall levels across the catchment during heavy rain events can give less accurate but more timely warning of possible flooding along the Tyenna River. Go to [www.bom.gov.au/tas/](http://www.bom.gov.au/tas/). Rainfall gauges in or near the catchment include:

- Tim O'Shea
- Meuller Ridge
- Maydena
- Newbury
- Mt Field National Park (Weir Road)

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.

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/](http://www.bom.gov.au/app/)).

Listen to ABC 936AM or go to [tasalert.com](http://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 Tyenna 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 minor roadways and driveways.
- Some low-lying properties may have flooding around buildings below floor level, particularly properties on the river side in Westerway.
- There may be some areas of the Mount Field National Park picnic grounds inundated.

### Moderate flooding

- There is more extended and deeper flooding of agricultural land along the river flats with some stock losses if not moved. There may be damage to fences and equipment such as pumps.
- Flooding may reach above floor heights of some low-lying houses and other buildings particularly on the river side of the Gordon River Road through Westerway.
- Some properties above low-lying bridges may become isolated.
- There is more extended flooding at Mount Field National Park picnic grounds and surrounding low lying areas. The road into the National Park may become inundated.

### Major flooding

Widespread heavy rainfall across the catchment that has a 2% chance or less of happening can cause major flooding, particularly around Westerway and the lower part of Mount Field National Park. This level of rainfall might be for example around:

- 53mm over 6 hours
- 73mm over 12 hours
- 101 mm over 24 hours
- 132mm over 48 hours

Note the level of flooding can depend on many factors, such as how wet the catchment is beforehand. Major flooding may also start happening in less severe rain events. Impacts can include the following.

- Several areas of the Gordon River Road will become flooded and impassable, particularly through Westerway and upstream. The Gordon River Road intersection with Ellendale Road

is likely to be flooded. Areas upstream of Westerway are likely to become isolated, particularly if the Styx River is also in flood.

- Many properties in Westerway township may become flooded, including parts of the Primary School, the shop/ service station and other local businesses. Residents would need to evacuate, most likely to New Norfolk. There may not be enough time for sandbagging.
- Many river crossings will be impassable due to flooding or become hazardous. This can isolate areas upstream. High velocity flood waters can damage bridges and wash out roadways.
- Other low-lying properties on the river side of Gordon River Road. may be flooded above floor level. It may be necessary to evacuate some dwellings.
- There is likely to be significant crop loss and stock loss unless the stock are moved to higher ground.
- There will be some flooding of land near the river around Maydena. Properties to the north of the river may become isolated.
- Flooding in the Tyenna River may happen at the same time as more widespread flooding in the Derwent River catchment. This may close roads between Westerway and New Norfolk, Ouse and other townships.

Go to [tasalert.com](https://tasalert.com) or listen to ABC local radio for detailed up to date information and advice during heavy rainfall events.

# 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"><li>• Your emergency plan</li><li>• Battery powered radio and torch, spare batteries – regularly tested</li><li>• Other Important information</li><li>• Rubber or strong leather gloves</li><li>• A list of emergency numbers</li><li>• First aid kit</li><li>• Food and water</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Warm clothes, sturdy shoes or boots</li><li>• Medicines, glasses and other essential items</li><li>• Mobile phone and phone charger</li><li>• Pet food and anything else your pets need</li><li>• Photos and special keepsakes</li><li>• Important documents, for example<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• insurance papers</li><li>• passports</li><li>• birth certificates</li></ul></li><li>• Money</li></ul>

### 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](http://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](https://www.ses.tas.gov.au).

### Disclaimer

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.

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/codj>.



## Staying informed and further information

Current warnings (TasAlert)	<a href="http://alert.tas.gov.au">alert.tas.gov.au</a>	
Bureau of Meteorology (BoM)	<a href="http://bom.gov.au/tas/warnings">bom.gov.au/tas/warnings</a>	
Emergency Broadcasters	ABC 936AM	
TASSES Social Media	<a href="https://facebook.com/sestasmania">facebook.com/sestasmania</a> <a href="https://twitter.com/sestasmania">twitter.com/sestasmania</a>	
Preparing for Flood Emergencies	<a href="http://ses.tas.gov.au/plan-prepare/flood">ses.tas.gov.au/plan-prepare/flood</a>	
Derwent Valley Council	<a href="http://derwentvalley.tas.gov.au">derwentvalley.tas.gov.au</a>	6261 8500
National Relay Service (NRS)	<a href="http://relayservice.gov.au">relayservice.gov.au</a>	



For flood assistance call

**132 500**

[ses.tas.gov.au/plan-prepare/flood](http://ses.tas.gov.au/plan-prepare/flood)

