

Bicheno to Triabunna and surrounds

Riverine and flash flooding information for communities around puthimiluna/ Great Oyster Bay on Tasmania's East Coast

Version 1.0 October 2025





To see the maps in more detail, go to www.ses.tas.gov.au/floodmaps/ .

Tasmanians need to prepare for flood events that may not happen often as well as the minor flooding they may have experienced.

Flooding from intense rainfall can cut the Tasman Highway in multiple places. This flooding could be

- deep
- impassable, and
- potentially dangerous.

The Tasman Highway may also be cut in places to the north and south of this plan. Inland alternative routes are

- also likely to be cut, and
- can be more isolated and dangerous.

Flood can isolate communities and properties along the coast for a short time. Travel in the area is likely to be difficult or impossible until roads are clear. Waterways in the area are short, so flooding is likely to be for hours rather than days after rain stops.

The maps in this guide show the level of flooding that has a 1% chance of happening any year. You are likely to experience flooding such as that shown in the maps in your lifetime.

Even if your home is not flooded you should prepare for

- isolation
- potential power and telecommunications outages.

Floodwaters will likely isolate many areas along the East coast for a few hours at the most. If you are safe at home or elsewhere, it is usually best you stay where you are until the flooding subsides. If you need to evacuate, you should leave early, before flood waters rise. Flood waters are likely to disperse quickly, once rain stops.

Check TasALERT.com or listen to ABC local radio for warnings and advice.

- Bicheno area: ABC Northern Tasmania 89.7 FM or 91.7 FM
- Swansea area: ABC Radio Hobart 106.1FM or 936 AM
- Triabunna area: ABC Radio Hobart 90.5FM or 936 AM

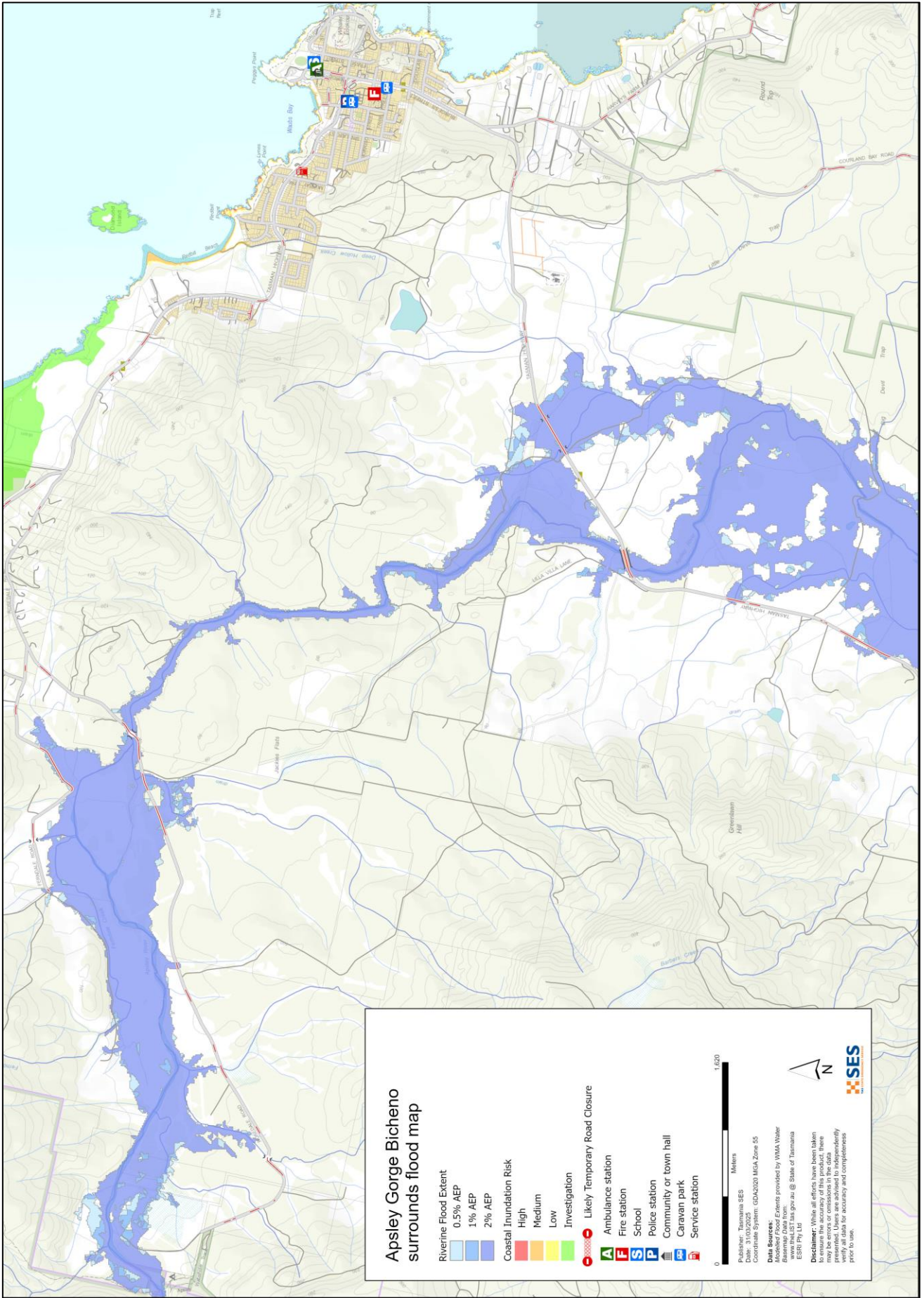
Note areas outside townships may lack mobile internet and local radio coverage.

Are you at risk of flood?

East Coast Lows can often bring intense rain that sometimes leads to flooding in areas along Tasmania's East Coast. Significant local flooding events happened in 2016, 2011, 1974, 1969, 1923, 1922, 1914, 1911, 1876, 1972 and 1870.

What should I do?

- Check the maps to see whether your home or business could flood.
- Check 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. See [Get Ready for Emergencies](#) – A guide for individuals and households to prepare for emergencies.
- If you may be isolated and you must have access to services, you may need to evacuate early.



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 Swan River or Meredith River is expected, the Bureau will issue a Flood Watch – a "heads up" early advice of forecast weather that may lead to flooding. There are no formal warning levels for waterways in the area as the river systems are too short.

Rainfall Observations at places such as

- Bicheno
- Friendly Beaches
- Swansea, and
- Lake Leake

can indicate possible flood risks. Given the very short warning times, it is best to act on the BoM warnings rather than wait for any flood alerts during rainfall.

The [Mt Koonya Radar](#) is useful to be aware in real-time where heavy rain is falling for the areas south of Swansea. Radar Rainfall estimates can also fill in gaps in areas where there are no rainfall stations. The North East of Tasmania is not well covered by BoM radar.

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.

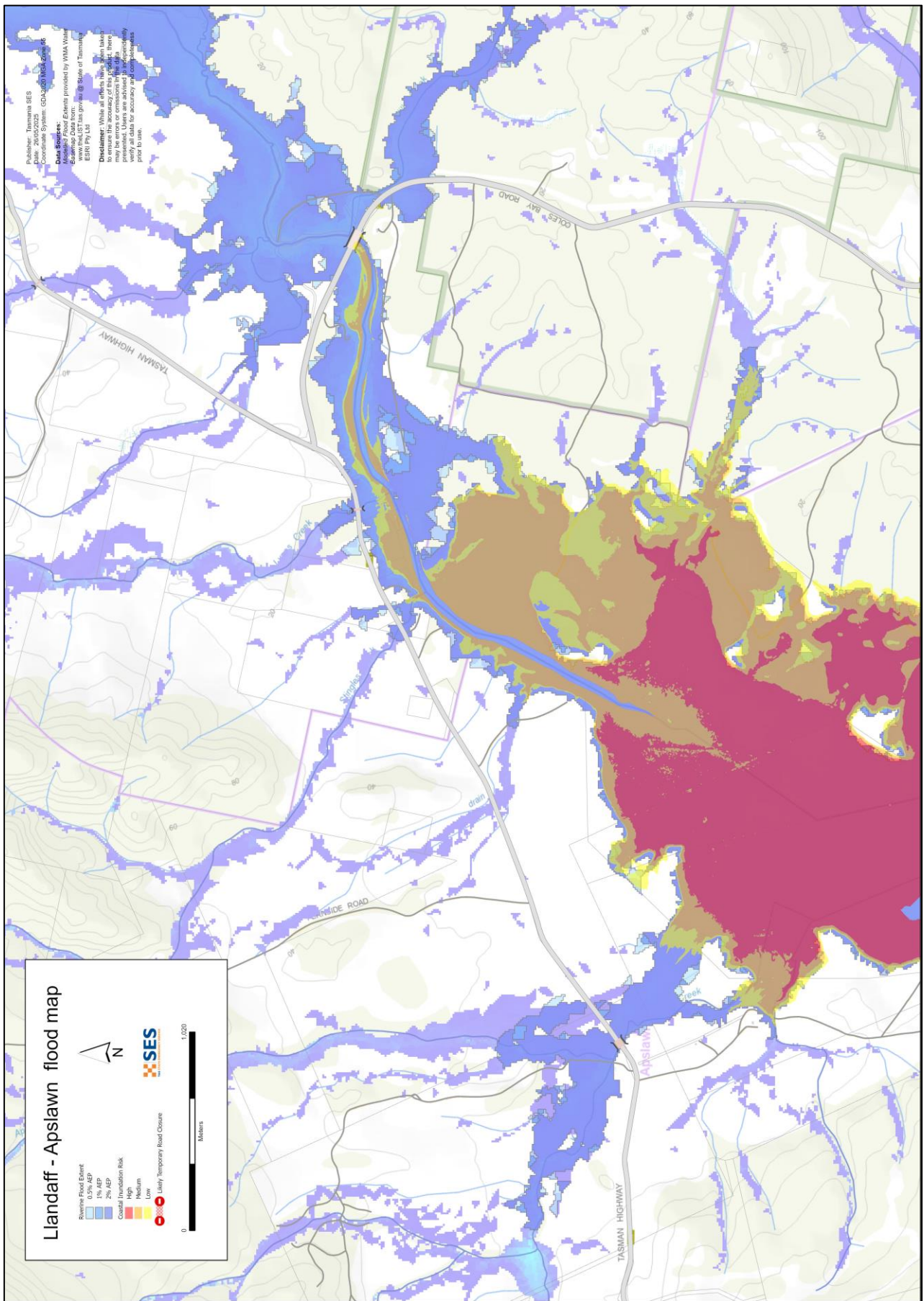


Community update (Blue): Specific information and updates for affected communities regarding a particular event or incident.



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 published 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
- how wet the ground is beforehand, and
- where the rain falls.

Minor flooding can impact low-lying agricultural land. Livestock and equipment near waterways should be moved. There may be low level flooding across some roads, particularly (from North to South):

- Rosendale Road access to Apsley Gorge, parts of the Campground/ picnic area
- Tasman Highway
 - South of the Lilla Villa Bridge
 - North of Lake Leake Road
 - South of Springvale Road
 - North of Meredith River
 - Near Sandy Creek, Mayfield Beach
 - Near Trehawke Creek (Buxton River area)
 - North of Lisdillon Rivulet
 - South of Little Swanport River
 - Near Ravensdale Rivulet
- Lake Leake Road near Whelans Bridge
- Coles Bay Road East of the Tasman Highway junction (Apsley River)
- Glen Gala Road, Cranbrook
- Grange Road, Cranbrook
- Some properties around Llandaff may flood, along with nearby property on Coles Bay Road. There are several low-lying properties along the Tasman Highway that are flood prone.

Major flooding

Rainfall of about the following amounts will cause major flooding in the area. This level of rainfall has a 2% chance of happening any given year (based on rainfall records at Swansea up to 2016).

- 35mm in 1 hour
- 45mm over 2 hours
- 54mm over 3 hours
- 77mm over 6 hours
- 113mm over 12 hours

Key transport routes most likely to flood include (from north to south):

- Tasman Highway, many places, but particularly
 - Between Bicheno and Apslawn
 - Extended areas around Cranbrook
 - Near the Cygnet River, south of Cranbrook
 - North of Lake Leake Rd
 - Around the Wye River, south of Crossins Road
 - North of Meredith River
 - Near the mouth of Saltwater Creek, Swansea
 - Near Stony River, south of Swansea
 - Around Buxton River
 - South of Little Swanport River and north of Ravensdale
 - North and south of Triabunna.
- Rosedale Road – access to Apsley Gorge
- Coles Bay Road
 - Near the junction with Tasman Highway
 - Around the Friendly Beaches Road junction
 - Near Swanwick
- Old Coach Road river crossings
- Glen Gala Road, Cranbrook, extended areas
- Lake Leake Rd near Whelans Bridge
- Crossins Road
- Grange Road several places
- Swan River Road access to Dolphin Sands
- Esplanade area, Swansea, and some areas around Maria Road
- Freestone Point Road near the intersection with Tasman Highway

Aside from key routes prone to flooding, properties and some campsites in the area that are prone to flooding. Of most concern (from North to South):

- Apsley Gorge waterhole access and campground
- Landaff riverside properties and some nearby properties on Coles Bay Rd
- Low lying areas northern parts of Swanwick, which may also be impacted by coastal inundation
- Cranbrook properties near Glen Gala Rd, Grange Rd, Springs Road and Tasman Highway
- At Swansea, Saltwater Creek may flood
 - Maria St
 - several properties on River Street, and
 - the Esplanade area, especially at high tide.
- At Triabunna, the Esplanade area. This area is also prone to coastal inundation.

Storm water runoff (overland flow) can affect other properties after intense rainfall.

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.

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

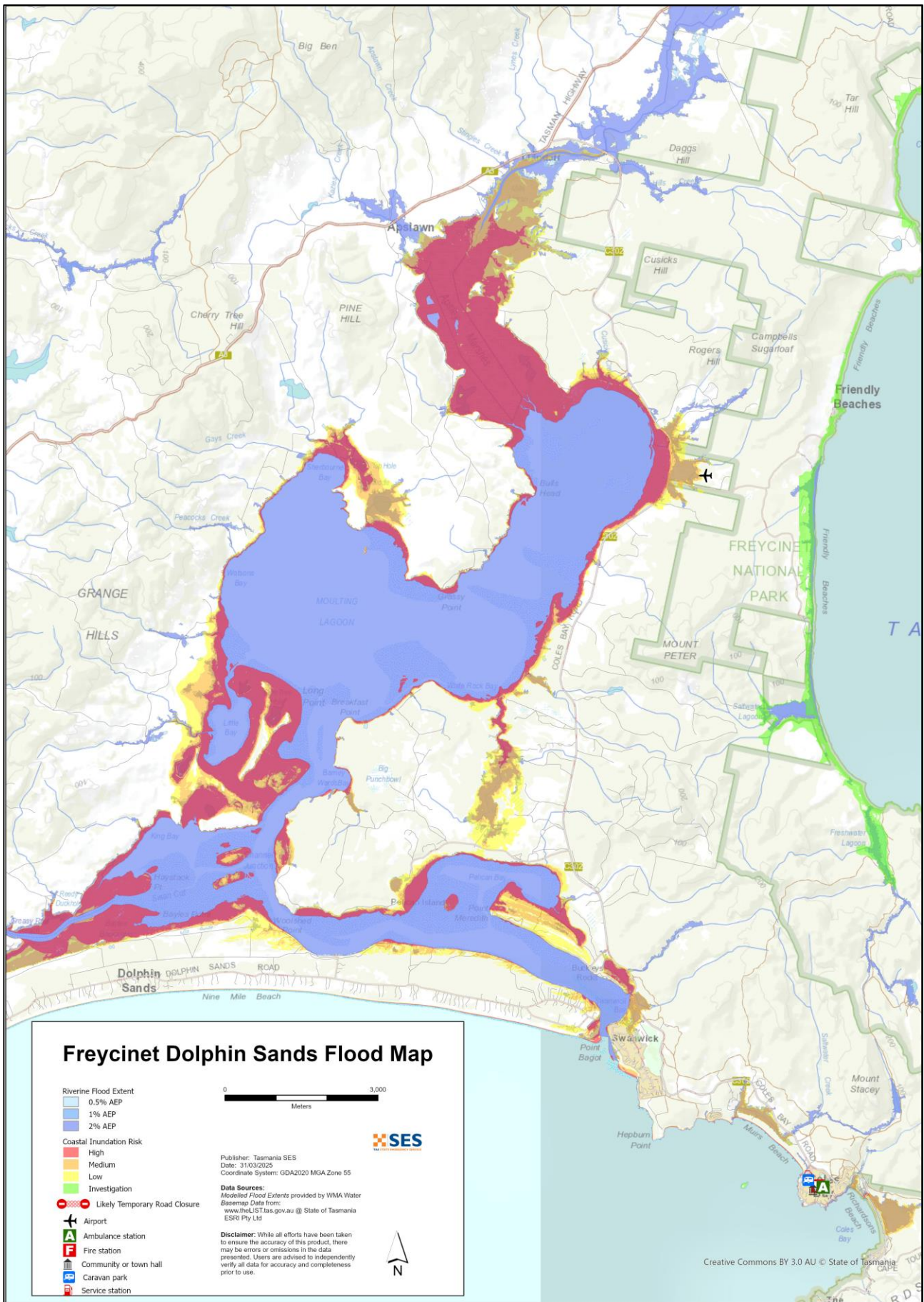
Have an emergency plan that covers storms and floods

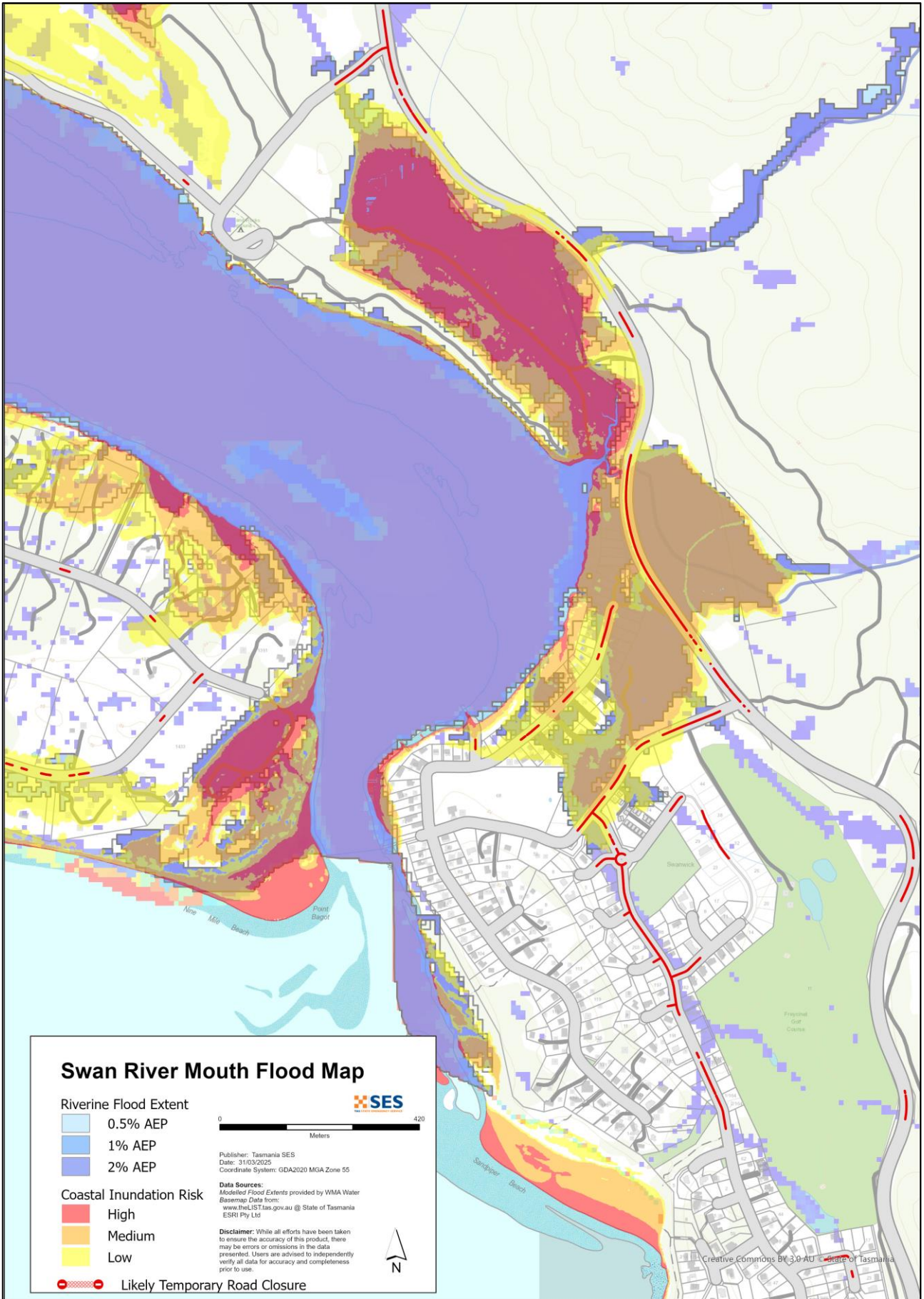
Thinking about what you would do in a storm or flood means you are more prepared and everyone is safer. Have an emergency plan that everyone in your household understands. There are checklists to help you think through your plan – see [Get Ready for Emergencies](#) – A guide for individuals and households to prepare for emergencies.

Check your plan regularly and test that everyone in the household understands 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.

- TasALERT.com
- [your local ABC radio station](#) or
- the [Bureau of Meteorology's](#) website.

6. Act safe

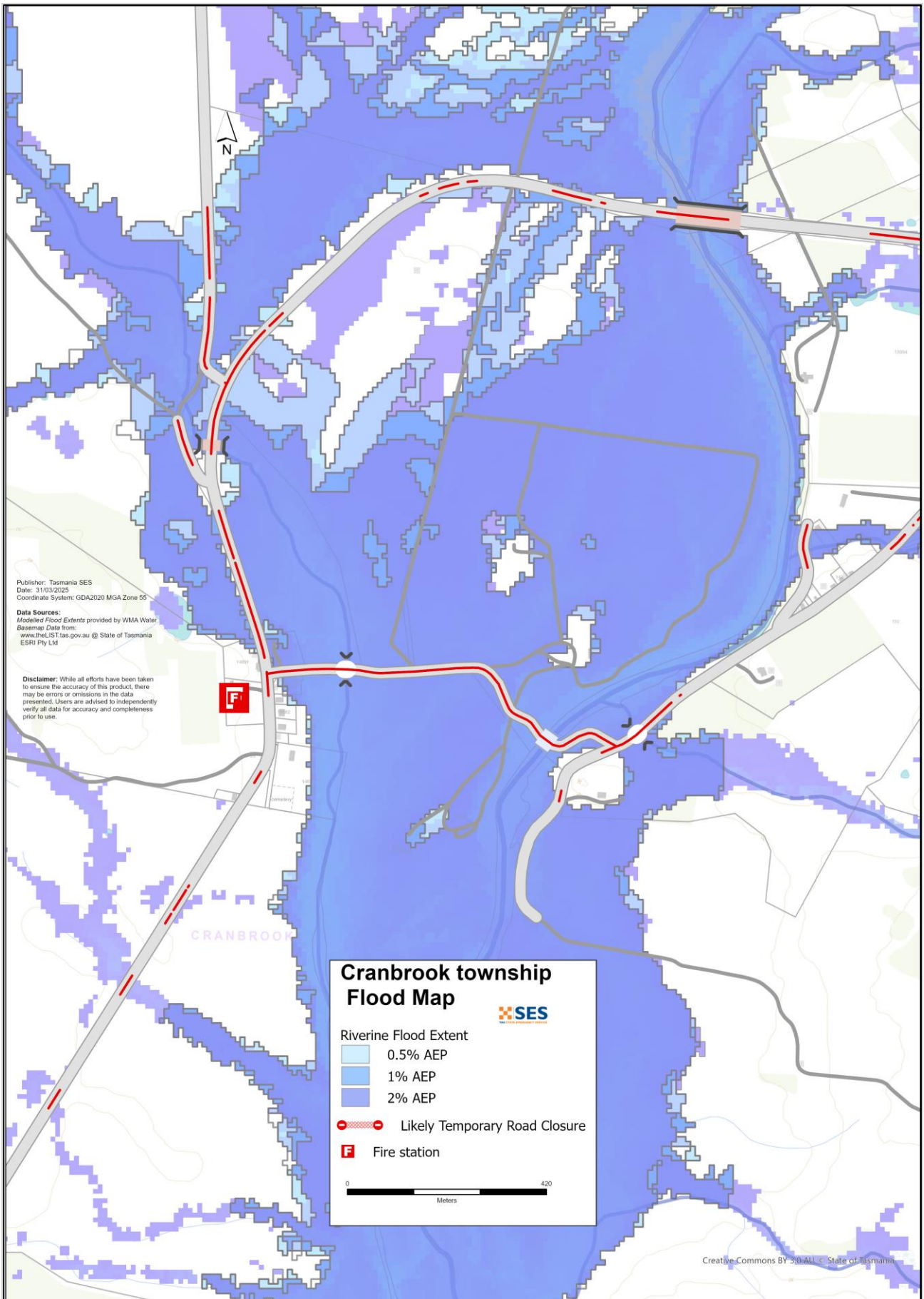
- Supervise children.
- Prepare for possible power, water or internet outages.
- Check your emergency kit is ready to go.
- Keep clear of flooded areas such as drains. **NEVER** walk, play, ride or drive in floodwater. You can't always see what is under the water or how deep or fast-moving the water 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

Bicheno to Triabunna and surrounds flood guide

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

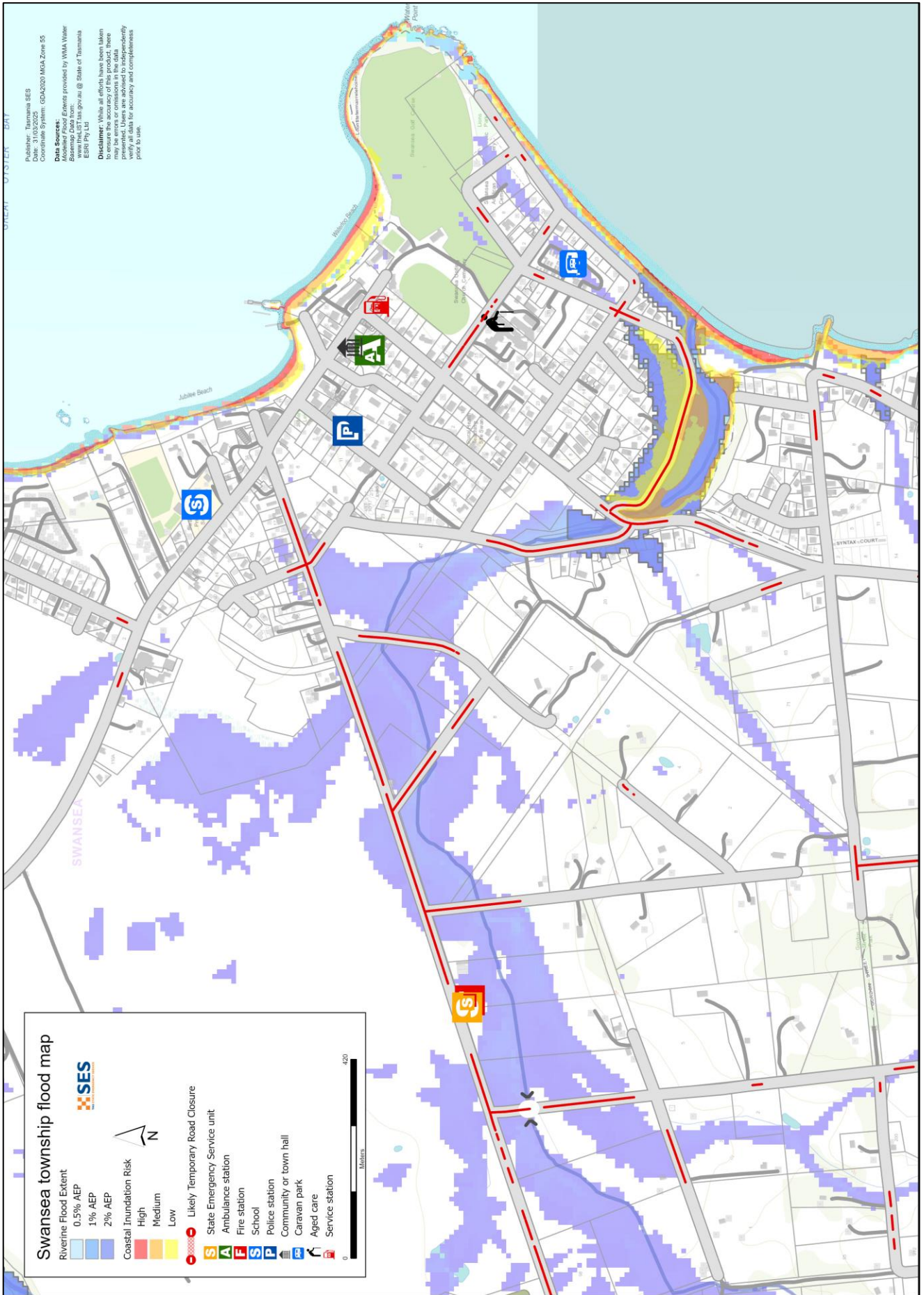
- Keep checking tasalert.com and/or listen for ABC Local Radio updates on road re-openings, community meetings, etc.
- If you left your home, do not return home until SES or Tasmania Police tell you it is safe.
- Be aware of road hazards, such as mud or debris on the road, damaged roads/bridges and crews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

If your home has been damaged

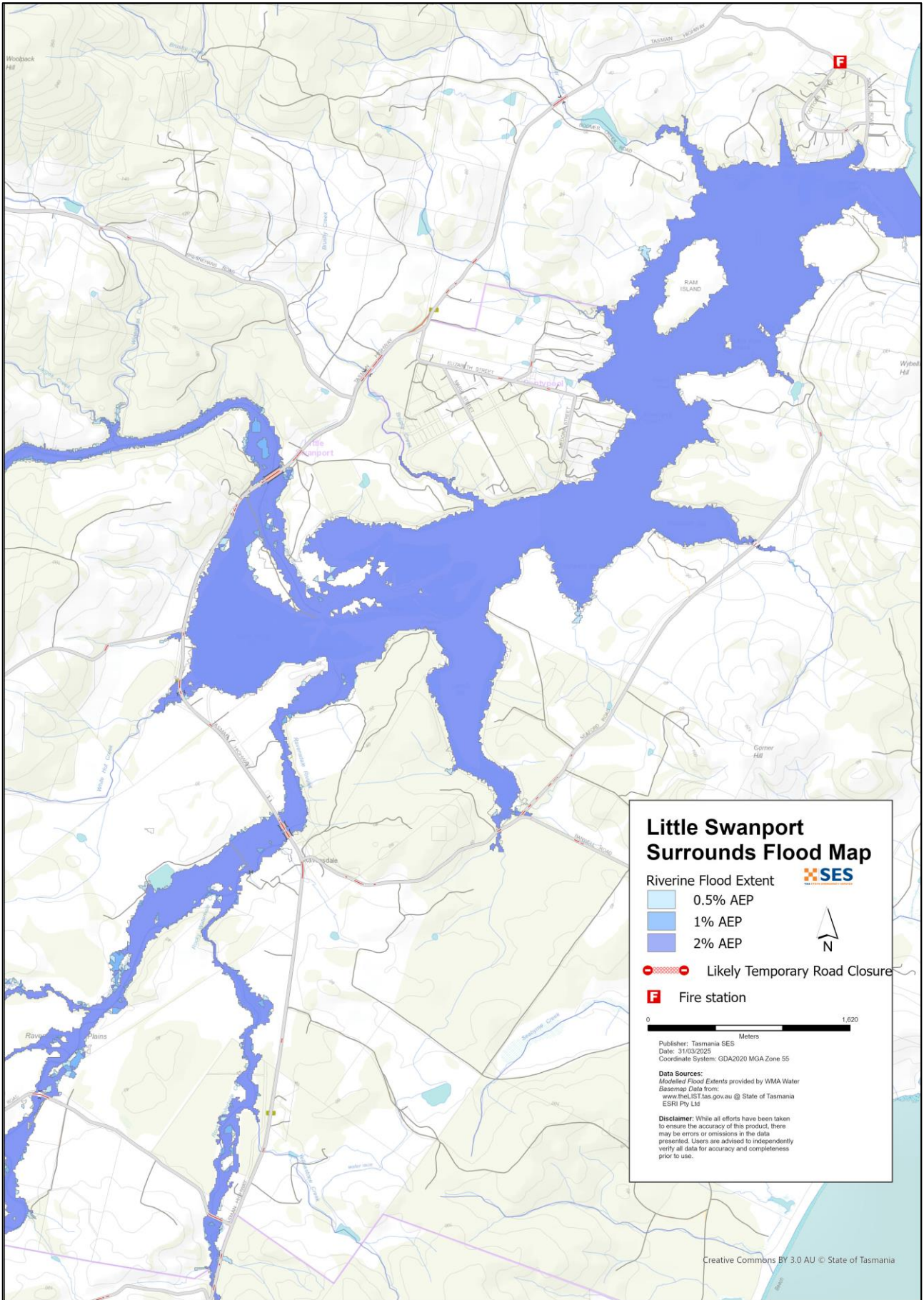
- Stay at ground level while checking for damage. Be careful of fallen trees, broken glass, loose roofing or other hazards.
- Wear strong boots, gloves and protective clothes.
- Supervise children.
- Use a torch, never use matches or candles inside flood affected buildings.
- Do not turn on electricity 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.

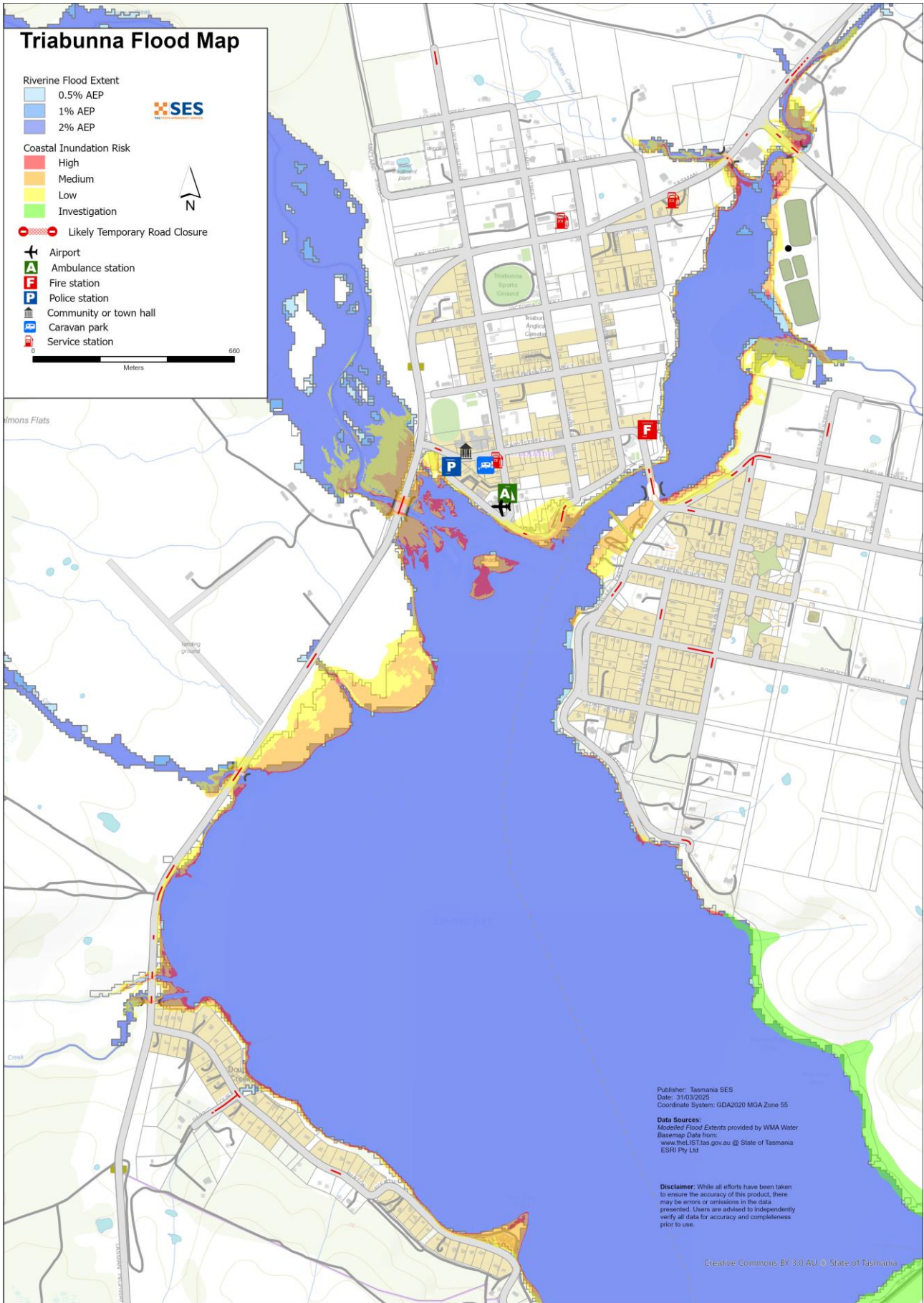
For further information go to www.ses.tas.gov.au.













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	
Preparing for Flood Emergencies	ses.tas.gov.au	
Glamorgan Spring Bay Council	gsbc.tas.gov.au	03 6256 4777
National Relay Service (NRS)	relayservice.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/codi> .



For flood assistance call

132 500

