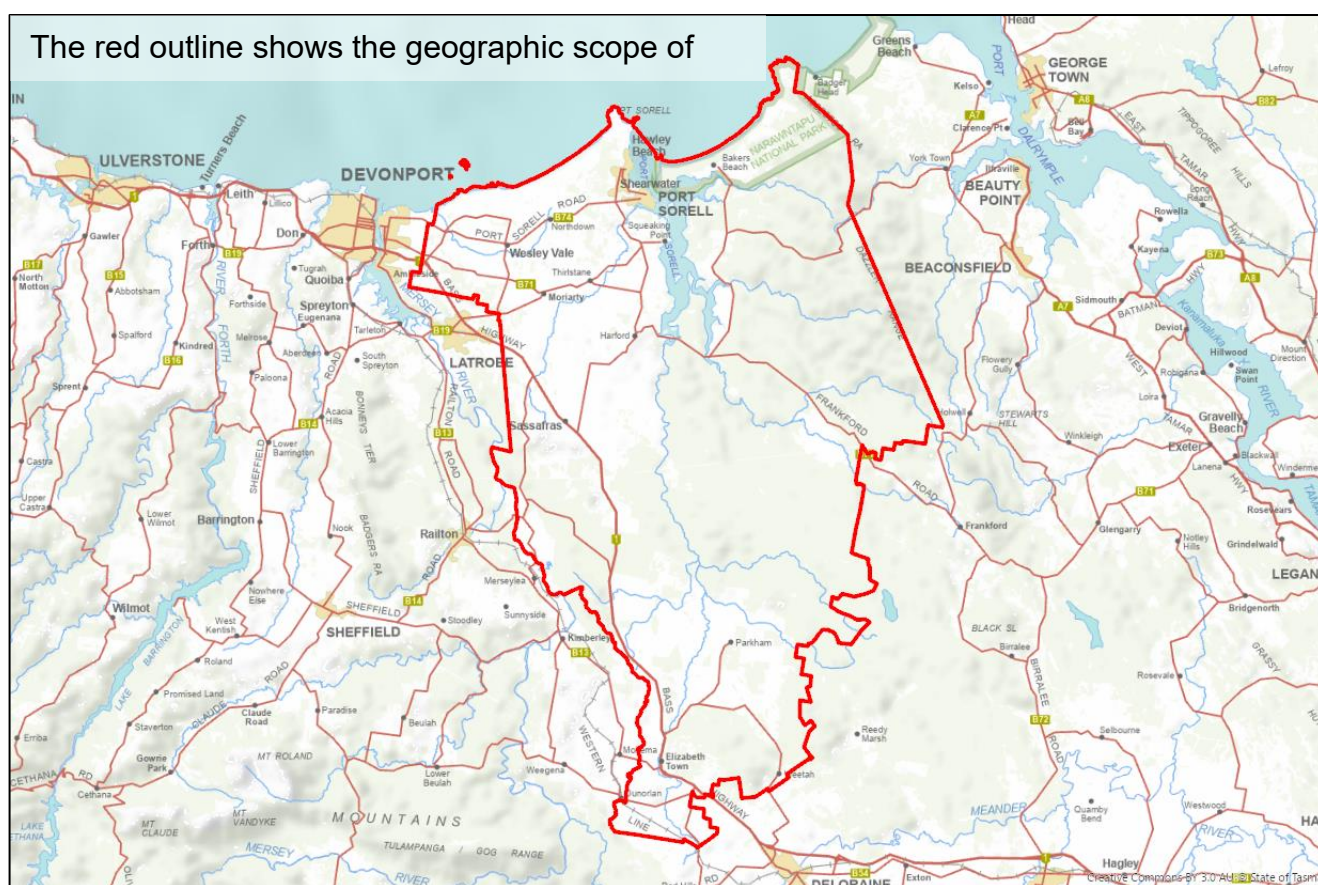
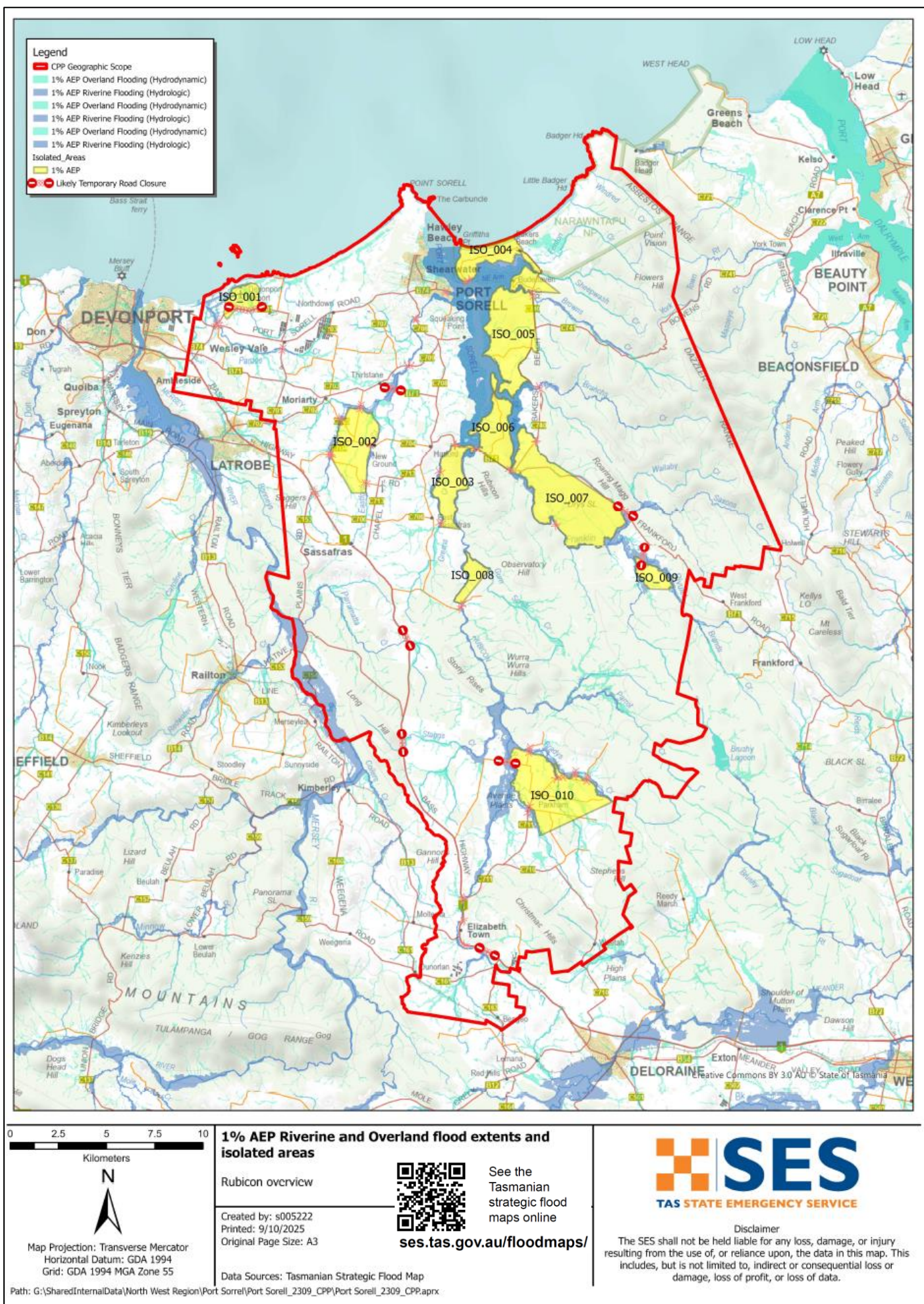


Rubicon Catchment

Flooding information for communities from Elizabeth Town to Port Sorell and surrounds

Version 1.0 January 2026





If the Rubicon River has a major flood, low lying areas near the river can flood. Floodwater can cut roads such as

- Bass Highway near Elizabeth Town
- Port Sorell Road, and
- Local streets like Rice Street and Seabreeze Avenue in several places.

If there is heavy local rain, other areas can also have flash flooding from local waterways such as

- Panatana Rivulet
- Pardoe Creek, and
- Franklin Rivulet.

In a flash flood, you cannot rely on flood warnings from rivers, only forecasts for heavy rain or severe weather. Higher than usual tides and storms may also increase the risk of flooding in lower lying areas surrounding the Port Sorell waterway.

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

Even if your home is not inundated, you should be prepared for isolation plus potential power and telecommunications outages. Depending on where the rain falls and how heavy it is, roads throughout the area may be impassable. Travel in the area is likely to be difficult or impossible until the roads are clear. If you are safe at home or elsewhere, it is usually best you stay where you are until the flooding subsides, unless there is an emergency. If you need to evacuate, you should leave early, before flood water rises.

Listen to ABC local radio 91.7FM for warnings and advice.

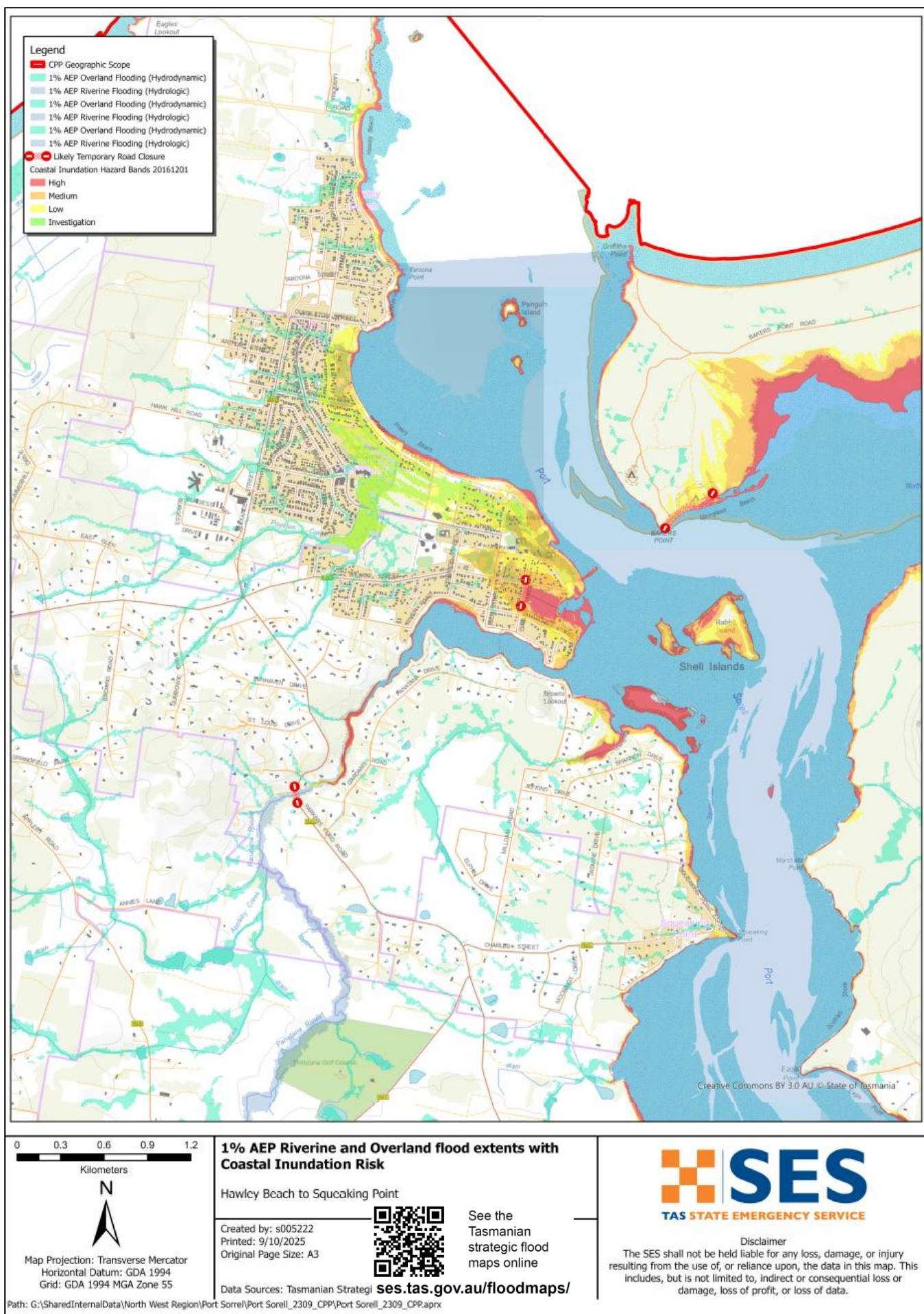
Are you at risk of flood?

The Rubicon River has a history of flooding with flooding impacts seen as recently as 2022.

What should I do?

- Check the map to see whether your home or business could flood.
- Assess 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. Consider if you need to evacuate before a flood. 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.

To see the maps in more detail, [see the Tasmanian Strategic Flood Maps](#).



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 Rubicon River is expected, the Bureau may issue a Flood Watch – a "heads up" early advice of forecast weather that may lead to flooding.

SES and the Bureau are unlikely to be able to issue specific local warnings when flooding impacts are observed in this area. There are no formal warning levels for other waterways in the area.

Rainfall Observations at Deloraine Railway Bridge, Kimberley and Devonport Airport and other nearby rain gauges can indicate possible flood risks. Given the very short warning times, it is best to act on the predictive BoM warnings rather than wait for any flood alerts during rainfall.

Rainfall may start impacting the area at the following thresholds:

- 25-30mm rainfall in 1 hour
- 90-145mm rainfall over 12-24 hours
- 160-230mm rainfall over 48-72hrs

Abnormally high tides may also cause flooding in low-lying coastal areas around the Port Sorell waterway near the mouth of the Rubicon River.

The [West Takone](#) is useful to be aware in real-time where heavy rainfall is falling. Radar rainfall estimates can also fill in gaps in areas where there are no rainfall stations.

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.

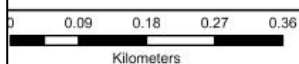
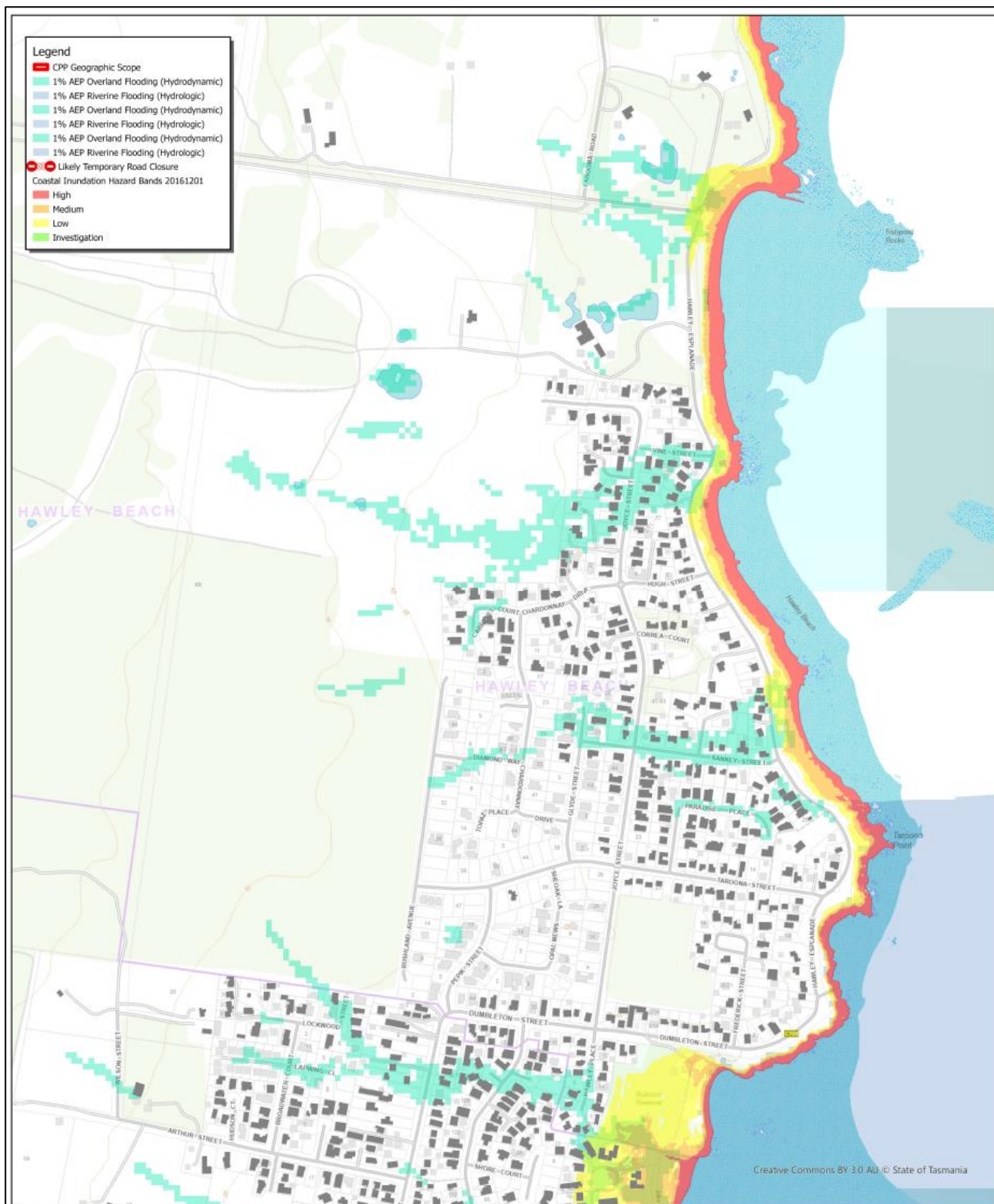


Community update (Blue): Specific information and updates for affected communities regarding a particular event or incident.



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 publishes basic information including the type and location of incident.

For more information see www.ses.tas.gov.au/warnings/ .



Map Projection: Transverse Mercator
Horizontal Datum: GDA 1994
Grid: GDA 1994 MGA Zone 55

Path: G:\Shared\InternalData\North West Region\Port Sorrell\Port Sorrell_2309_CPP\Port Sorrell_2309_CPP.aprx

1% AEP Riverine and Overland flood extents with Coastal Inundation Risk

Hawley Beach

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Original Page Size: A3



ses.tas.gov.au/floodmaps/

Data Sources: Tasmanian Strategic Flood Map

See the
Tasmanian
strategic flood
maps online



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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.

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 and how wet the ground is beforehand and where the rain falls.

Minor to Moderate Flooding

Minor flooding

A minor flood can inundate low lying paddocks, orchards and other farmland. Stock should be moved for their safety. There may also be some flooding across some minor roads and parkland areas. Areas close to the shoreline may see some higher levels of flooding during higher tides.

Moderate flooding

There is more extensive flooding of agricultural land and some buildings may be impacted to above floor height. Some properties may be isolated for a few hours as minor roads become flooded. For example, some properties may see flooding at:

- Port Sorell:
 - Highwater Lane, Seahorse Lane and Rice Street.
 - The Port Sorell Caravan park may begin to flood
- Hawley Beach:
 - Sankey St
 - Hawley St.

Major flooding

If there is major flooding along the Rubicon River and other waterways, there may be flooding in low-lying areas close to the river. That level of flooding is approximately the level of the 2011, 2016 and 2022 floods and there is about a 5% chance of such a flood happening any year. Tasmanians need to be prepared for floods that have a 1% chance of happening every year.

Depending on where the rain falls and the level of soil saturation, this level of flooding is likely to:

- Flood some properties in low lying areas near the Rubicon River, such as areas of Port Sorell and Shearwater.
- Close several roads in the area, including the Bass Highway, Port Sorell Road and other local roads isolating surrounding properties
- Isolate several parts of the community including parts of the Bakers Beach area, Narawntapu National Park, Harford and Frankford
- Flooding can impact Devonport Airport operations.



Map Projection: Transverse Mercator
Horizontal Datum: GDA 1994
Grid: GDA 1994 MGA Zone 55

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1% AEP Riverine and Overland flood extents with Coastal Inundation Risk

Shcarwater

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ses.tas.gov.au/floodmaps/

Data Sources: Tasmanian Strategic Flood Map

See the
Tasmanian
strategic flood
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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.

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.



Map Projection: Transverse Mercator
Horizontal Datum: GDA 1994
Grid: GDA 1994 MGA Zone 55

1% AEP Riverine and Overland flood extents with Coastal Inundation Risk

Port Sorell

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ses.tas.gov.au/floodmaps/

See the
Tasmanian
strategic flood
maps online

Data Sources: Tasmanian Strategic Flood Map
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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

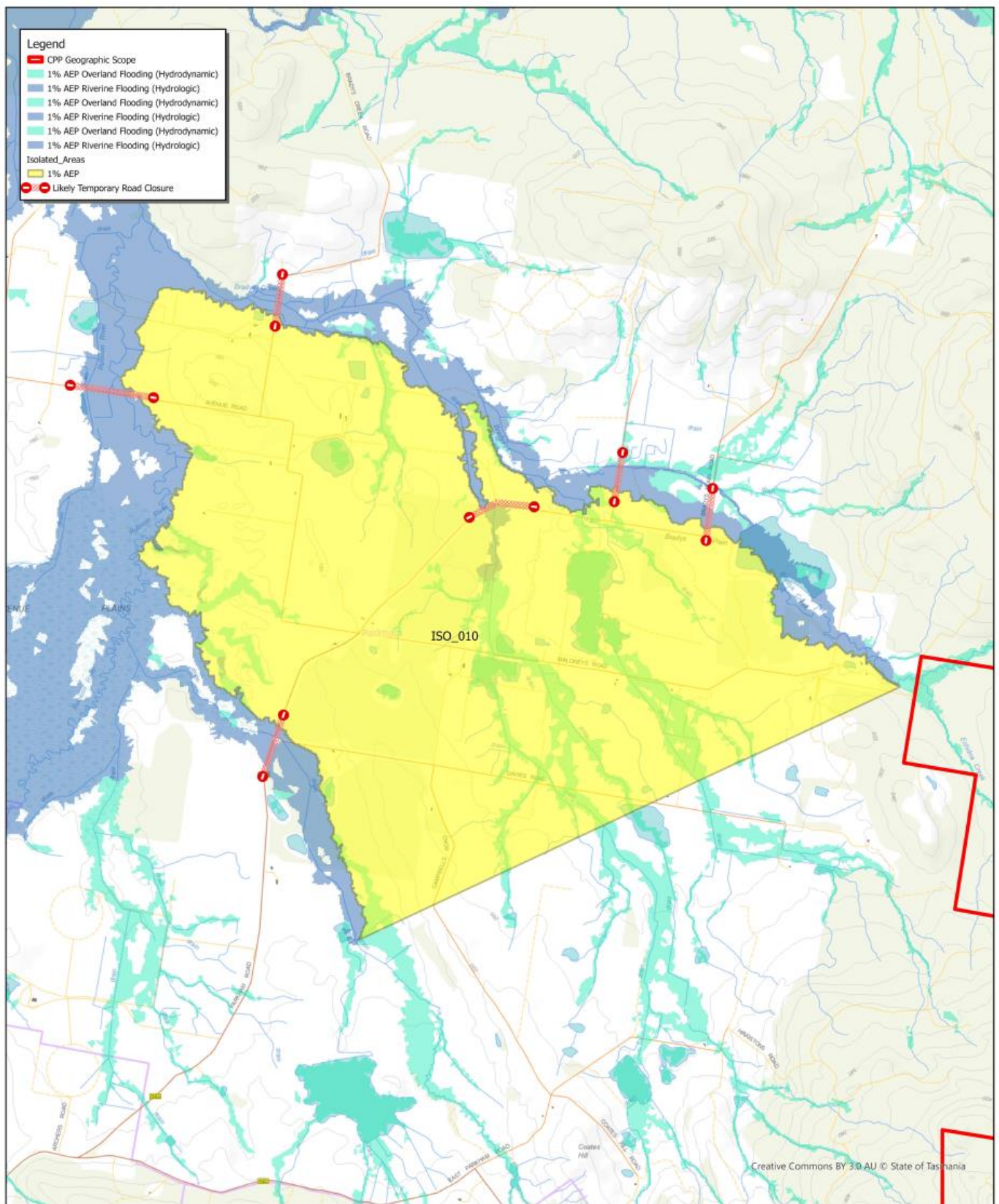
- Follow the advice from SES / Tasmania Police.
- Take your emergency kit.
- Go to friends or family in a safer place or an evacuation centre, if open.
- Let others know where you have gone.

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](#).

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



0 0.35 0.7 1.05 1.4
Kilometers



Map Projection: Transverse Mercator
Horizontal Datum: GDA 1994
Grid: GDA 1994 MGA Zone 55

1% AEP Riverine and Overland flood extents and isolated areas

Parkham

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ses.tas.gov.au/floodmaps/

See the
Tasmanian
strategic flood
maps online

Data Sources: Tasmanian Strategic Flood Map

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- damaged powerlines
- landslides
- damaged roads
- falling trees or roofing iron.
- Do not go sightseeing. Sightseers delay emergency services and cause accidents. It also puts you, your family and vehicle at unnecessary risk.

AFTER

- Keep checking [TasALERT.com](https://www.ses.tas.gov.au) 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

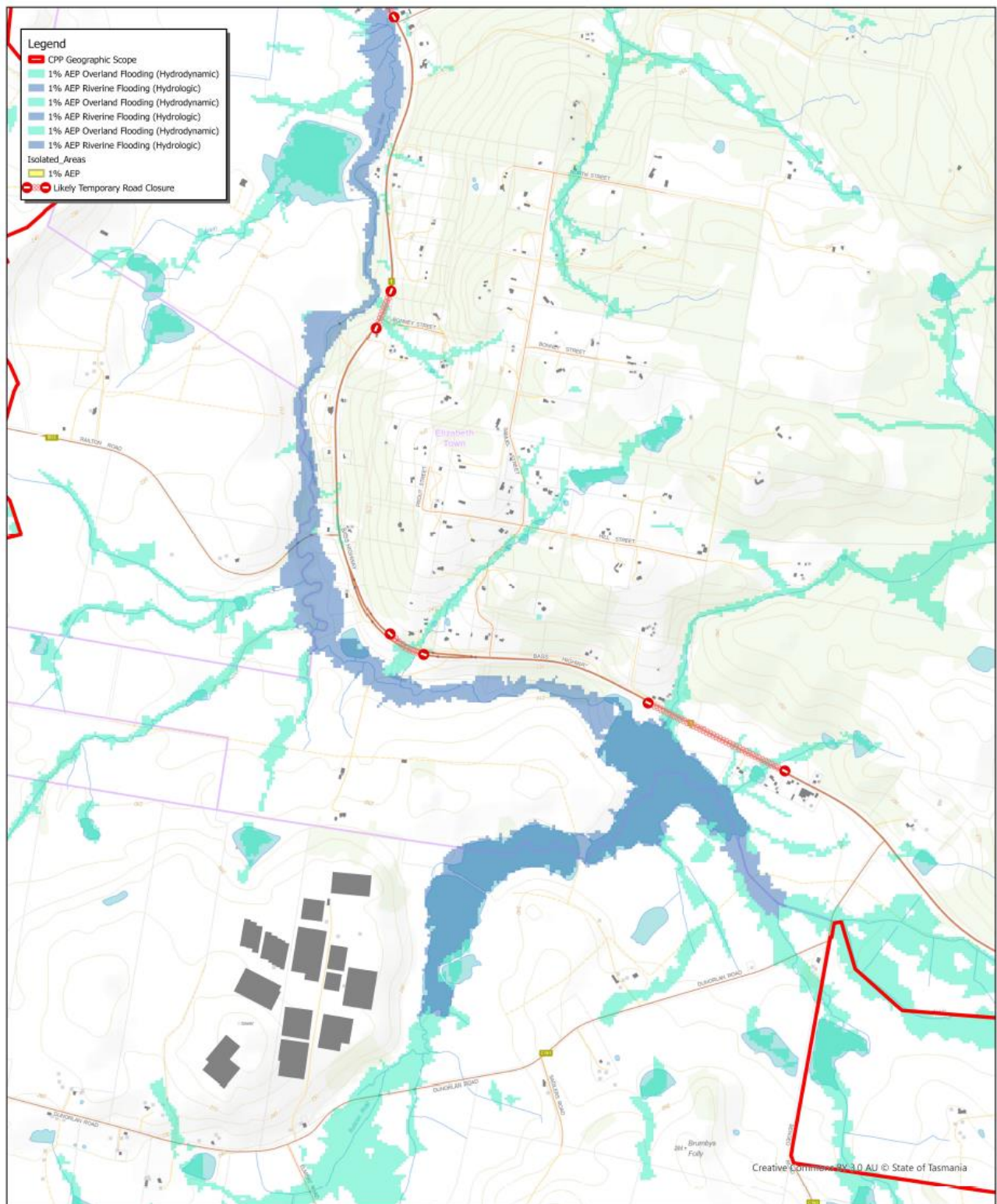
- Stay at ground level while checking for damage. Be careful of fallen trees, broken glass, loose roofing or other hazards.
- Wear strong boots, gloves and protective clothes.
- Supervise children.
- Use a torch, never use matches or candles inside flood affected buildings.
- Do not turn on electricity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

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.





Staying informed and further information

Current warnings (TasAlerts)	TasALERT.com	
Bureau of Meteorology (BoM)	bom.gov.au/tas/warnings	
Emergency Broadcasters	ABC 91.7FM	
TASSES Social Media	facebook.com/sestasmania	
Preparing for Flood Emergencies	ses.tas.gov.au/flood-plan/	
Latrobe Council	latrobe.tas.gov.au	6426 4444
Meander Valley Council	meander.tas.gov.au	6393 5300
National Relay Service (NRS)	relayservice.gov.au	



For flood assistance call
132 500



Meander Valley Council
Working Together

