

Preparing your Business for Flood

State Emergency Service Victoria



Victorian Seasonal Outlook

- December to February rainfall is likely (greater than 60% chance) to be above median
- December to February are likely to experience below median temperatures
- Several climate drivers are contributing to this wet outlook, including La Niña

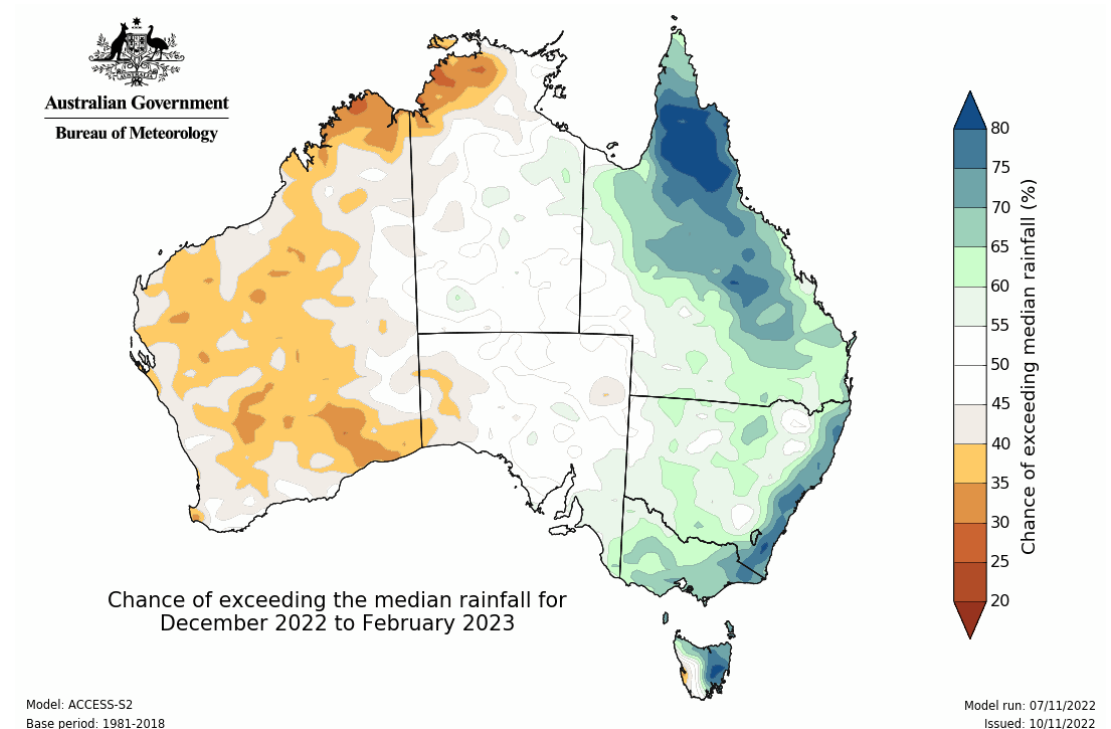
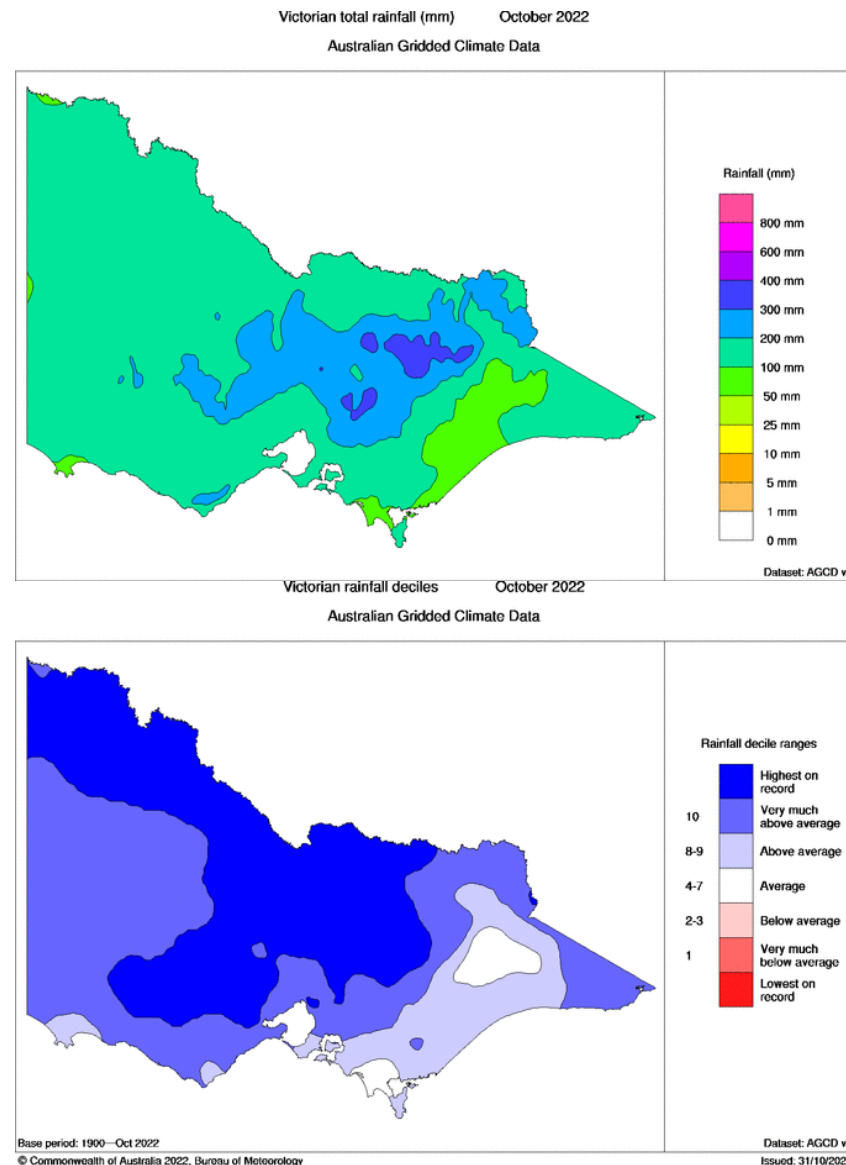


Image sourced from BOM.gov.au

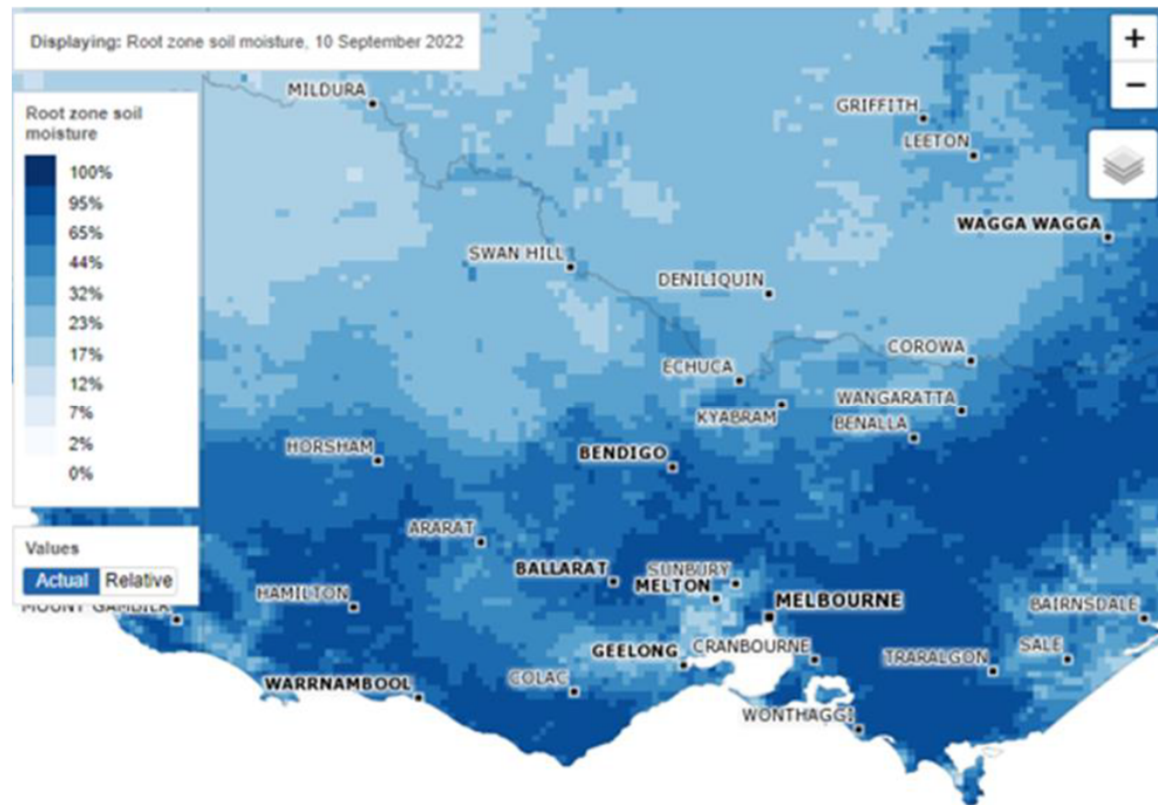
Contributing Factors for higher risk

- Wettest October on record. Rainfall was more than double the October average
- Third consecutive La Niña which typically increases chances of above average rainfall
- Melbourne Water storage level is currently at 97.9%, with levels not seen at these levels since 2011 and 2016



Contributing factors for higher risk

- Eastern and Southwest Metro are close to saturation levels, similar to those seen in 2016
- Saturated soils contribute towards additional flooding as soil is unable to absorb excess moisture



Never Drive through Floodwater!



Driving on flooded roads is dangerous, and it doesn't take much to make your car become unstable, lose traction or wash away



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Your car's float point



Small

A small car can be moved by water only 15cm deep

(A 1.05 tonne car with water flow speed of 3.6 km/h)



Mid-sized

A mid-sized car can be moved by water only 30cm deep

(1.5 tonne car with water flow speed of 3.6km/h)

Fact: Since September 2016, almost 10% of Victoria SES requests for assistance related to vehicles involved in floodwater



Large 4WD

A four wheel drive can be moved by water only 45cm deep

(2.5 tonne car with water flow speed of 3.6km/h)

Fact: Fatalities associated with 4WDs in floodwater have increased significantly in the last 15 years

Floodwater Risks

- No depth is safe to cross as roads beneath may be eroded or damaged
- Driving through floodwater may encourage others to enter
- Historically the highest incidence of fatalities during flood events have resulted from people entering floodwater
- Water levels will not remain fixed. You may become isolated throughout the day
- Driving through floodwater places yourself and emergency service members at risk
- Floodwater may contain chemicals, sharp debris or other contaminants



Develop a plan for your Business

- Business Flood Planning Checklist available
- Business Flood Planning Template
- Available at SES.VIC.GOV.AU
- Checklist provides a range of preparedness items that can be implemented before a flood event to assist businesses mitigate the impact of an event



Business Flood Planning

Get ready, have a plan, know what to do...

Checklist to prepare

Do you know if your business is at risk of flooding and are you prepared?

Easy steps to prepare yourself and your business for a flood event can be taken by following the simple checklist below. The earlier you prepare to protect your property and employees the quicker your business will recover after a flood event.

Further preparation steps can be taken by creating a Business Flood Plan, the template is available at ses.vic.gov.au.

Before - prepare

- ☐ Contact your local Catchment Management Authority (CMA) who will be able to provide you with flood information specific to your area and property (contact details available online).
- ☐ Speak to your local SES unit and nearby businesses who may be able to share their local knowledge and experiences of flooding.
- ☐ Check to see if there is a Local Flood Guide for your community on the SES website.
- ☐ Develop a Business Flood Plan found on the SES website, complete this with your employees, SES and CMA to gather valuable information.
- ☐ Set up warning notifications.
- ☐ Identify evacuation routes and staff meeting points.
- ☐ Prepare and maintain an emergency kit.
- ☐ Create and maintain a list of emergency contact numbers of staff and services.
- ☐ Check that you have business insurance or your business insurance is up to date and adequately meets your business needs.
- ☐ Train staff about flood awareness in the local area and flood response procedures.
- ☐ Complete a property check to identify risks and hazards and stock relocation.
- ☐ Investigate options to flood-proof your business, where possible:
 - ☐ Use furniture, floor coverings and fittings made of flood resistant materials.
 - ☐ Store essential equipment and fittings well above floor level.
 - ☐ Check your building for damage.
 - ☐ Back up important computer files.
 - ☐ Store critical paper based records in a safe location.
- ☐ Sandbagging
 - ☐ Find out where you can purchase sandbags locally and watch the VICSES sandbagging training video on the SES website.

For information on what to do **during** and **after** a flood event please refer to the Business Flood Plan template available at www.ses.vic.gov.au.

ses.vic.gov.au Business Flood Planning Checklist v1 May 2020



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Business Flood Planning Template

Before an event

- Set triggers and review periods for your business plan. An example may be setting up warning notifications via VicEmergency App
- Check your insurance coverage to ensure your needs are met
- Train staff for flood awareness for the local area and your flood response procedures
- Investigate options to flood-proof your business, where possible
- Review storage of your assets and records, have backups for records
- Create and maintain a list of emergency contact numbers of staff / contractors and emergency services



Business Flood Planning Template

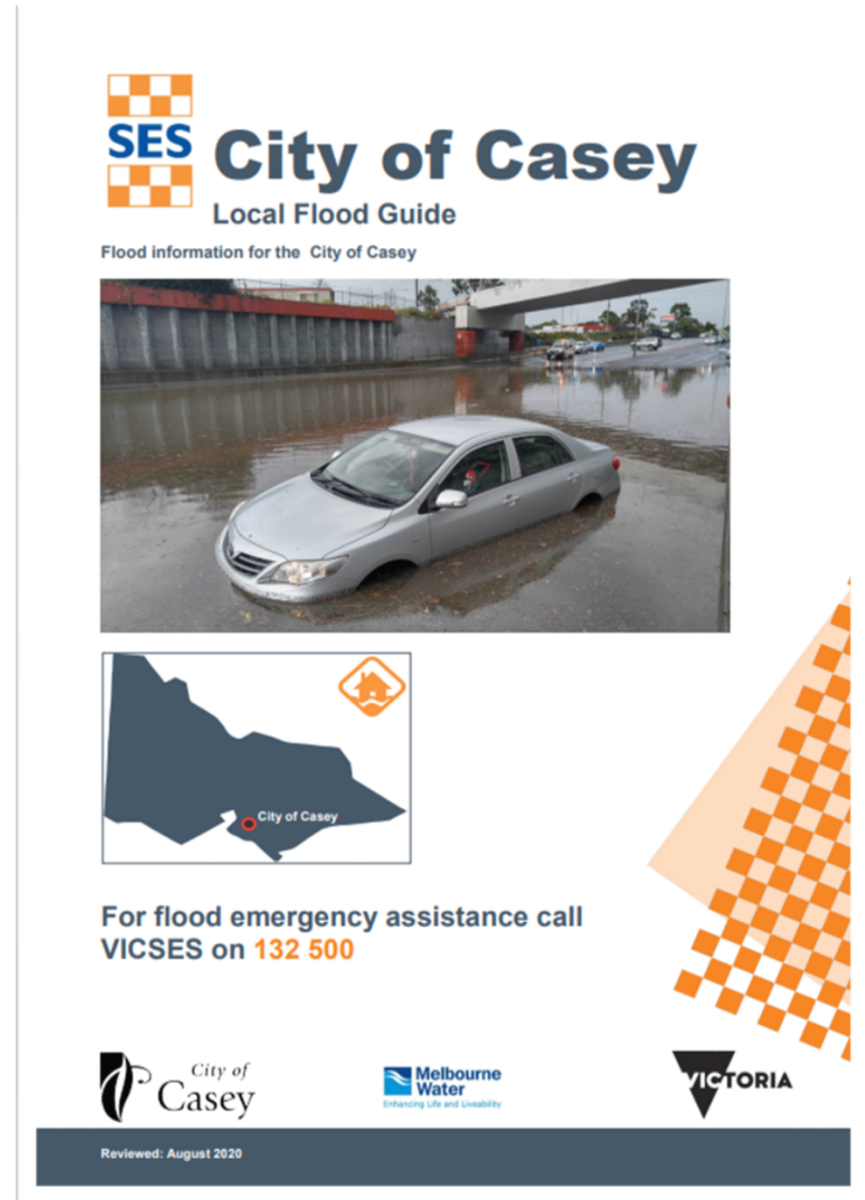
During or likely for an event

- Activation of your plan, contacting relevant staff and contacts who require access to your business
- Staying informed, knowing where to obtain the most up to date information.
- Postponing delivers and contractors
- Implementing evacuation procedures



Local Flood Guide

- Find your local flood guide at [SES.vic.gov.au](https://ses.vic.gov.au)
- Local Flood Guides can help you better understand your flood risk, how flood warnings work and how to prepare yourself, your home or your business
- You can submit photos of local incidents to our media team at Media@ses.vic.gov.au



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THANK YOU

