



# Flood warning services

Flooding is among Australia's most deadly natural hazards. It also plays an important role in agriculture and the life cycle of many plants and animals.

The Bureau of Meteorology provides the Australian community with flood forecasts and warnings. Different sources are used to help inform flood forecasts and warnings. This includes:

- weather observations
- dam operator information
- scenario modelling
- decision making
- emergency response information.

The Bureau monitors and predicts floods and works with our partners to interpret and communicate available information to the community. Our partners include:

- federal, state and territory governments
- local councils
- state emergency services.

The Bureau issues a flood watch or a flood warning if the information suggests that riverine flooding could or is occurring in an area.



Floodwaters and the buckled train tracks at Crowther, Hilltops Region, New South Wales.

## Flood watch

A flood watch provides early advice of a developing situation that may lead to flooding. It is not a warning of imminent flooding.

A flood watch covers many areas. It provides information about a developing weather situation, including:

- the amount of forecasted rain
- catchments at risk of flooding
- the possible severity of the flood.

It includes links to weather warnings, other flood-related products and emergency service advice.

A flood watch can be issued up to 4 days before flooding is expected. These are updated at least daily.

A final flood watch is issued when warnings have been issued or flooding is no longer expected.

## Flood warning

A flood warning is issued when flooding is expected. This can be when rain has started to fall.

Flood warnings advise that flooding is occurring or expected to occur in a specific area. It may include a prediction about the flooding severity and the level we expect the river to rise to.

When less data is available a general statement may be issued about future flooding.

For example,

‘River levels are elevated along the Coal River around Richmond and are expected to remain elevated into Wednesday’.

The type of information provided depends on the:

- quality of real-time rainfall and river-level data available
- capability of rainfall and hydrological forecast models
- level of service agreed with partner organisations.



Flooded Darling River, far western New South Wales.

## More information

### Flood weather knowledge centre



For more information on flooding visit the Bureau's flood weather knowledge centre at [bom.gov.au/australia/flood/knowledge-centre](http://bom.gov.au/australia/flood/knowledge-centre) or by scanning the QR code.

You should prepare an emergency plan if your local area has a history of flooding. The plan should include an evacuation plan and a flood preparation checklist. Your local emergency services have more information about planning for floods. They also have the latest flood information for your area.

The Red Cross has a host of useful management resources to help you prepare for disasters in your area. Learn more at [redcross.org.au/emergencies/resources](http://redcross.org.au/emergencies/resources)

### BOM Weather app



Stay up to date with the latest forecasts and warnings through the Bureau website at <http://www.bom.gov.au> or the BOM Weather app via the QR code.

Enable notifications to ensure you're receiving the latest warnings for your location.