

Flood risk in Hobsons Bay

Transcript

Nicole Sutherland, Melbourne Water, Manager Strategic Flood and Drainage Planning:

In Hobsons Bay, flood maps are being updated to reflect different types of flooding.

There is one flood map for Hobsons Bay that represents different sources of flooding such as stormwater and waterways.

Hobsons Bay experiences a range of different flooding types.

This includes:

- Waterway flooding from waterways such as Skeleton Creek and Kororoit Creek;
- Local stormwater flooding, caused by short, intense rainfall overwhelming the drainage system;
- Coastal flooding (tidal and storm surges)
- Overland flow and ponding, which can occur due to blockages like debris, tree roots and drainage issues; and
- Increased runoff from urban development, where more hard surfaces - like roads and roofs - can cause water to run off more quickly.

These factors can combine to create flooding in different parts of the municipality.

Based on flood modelling for a storm with a 1% chance of occurring in any given year, suburbs including Newport, Altona, Altona North, Altona Meadows, Williamstown and Seaholme are among the most impacted by stormwater flooding.

This consultation is focused on stormwater flooding. This includes drainage systems and some smaller waterways, such as Cherry Creek and Laverton Creek.

The map also shows different hazard levels, which reflect how deep or how fast floodwater might flow.

Across Hobsons Bay:

- Around 88% of flood affected properties that have been identified are in the lower hazard categories (such as H1 and H2)

- Around 12% of flood affected properties have been identified within the higher hazard categories (such as H3 to H6)

This is based on a future flood scenario in the Year 2100.

In general:

- H1 (or low hazard): refers to flooding that is usually shallow and may collect in streets, gardens or driveways after heavy rain.
- H2 to H3 (or moderate hazard): is water that may be deeper, faster flowing and could carry debris, damage fences or gardens, and in some cases enter homes with lower floor levels.
- In H4 to H6 (or a higher hazard): Floodwater may be very deep and flow very quickly, which poses a greater risk to people and property.

Like most parts of Melbourne, Hobsons Bay has experienced both stormwater and waterway flooding in the past. As well as from tidal or storm surges.

The municipality has four main waterways running through it:

- Skeleton Creek
- Laverton Creek,
- Cherry Creek, and
- Kororoit Creek.

Prolonged rain over the waterways has previously caused widespread flooding across the floodplain.

A key example is the storms in December 2018 that caused localised flooding, covering parts of Hobsons Bay like Melbourne Road and Blackshaws Road in water.

Much of Hobsons Bay's flood risk today is driven by localised stormwater and flash flooding.

These flood events can happen when rainfall is intense and falls over a short period of time, affecting streets, drainage lines and low-lying areas – often with limited warning.

Some previous flooding locations include:

- The Westgate Freeway that flooded in December 2021, and
- Kayes Drain area near Laverton Creek.

Melbourne Water takes an integrated approach to managing flood risk broadly across the entire Greater Melbourne Catchment.

This means combining:

- Drainage infrastructure maintenance and upgrades;
- Improving planning and development controls; and
- Targeted investigations and flood studies.

This approach helps reduce flood impacts over time and supports better long-term planning.

Managing flood risk is a shared effort.

Melbourne Water and Hobsons Bay City Council work closely with other major authorities to support asset maintenance and on infrastructure projects – such as:

- Homes Victoria projects, and
- Rail and transport upgrades

These partnerships help ensure that flood and drainage considerations are built into major projects, improving outcomes for the community wherever possible.

When you explore the draft stormwater flood maps, you'll notice natural drainage paths.

These show how water moves across the landscape during heavy rainfall – helping explain why some areas are more prone to flooding than others.

This information is designed to help you better understand flood risk in Hobsons Bay - and what's being done to manage it.

We encourage you to explore the flood maps, learn more about your local area, and share your local knowledge to help improve the information.

To hear answers to some of our most commonly asked questions, watch the final video of the series.

Together, we can plan for a safer and more flood resilient future.