

Understanding flood maps: What they show and how to read them

Flood maps help identify areas at risk of flooding, showing where water might spread and how deep it could get.

Key flood map features

Flood maps show different types of flood information, including:

Flood extent (how far water reaches)

Shows areas likely to flood, often with colour-coded zones.

For example: Blue shading may indicate areas affected by a flood with a 1% chance of occurring in any year.



Flood depth (how deep water gets)

Indicates water levels in different areas.

For example: Dark blue = deep water, light blue = shallow.



How to read a flood map



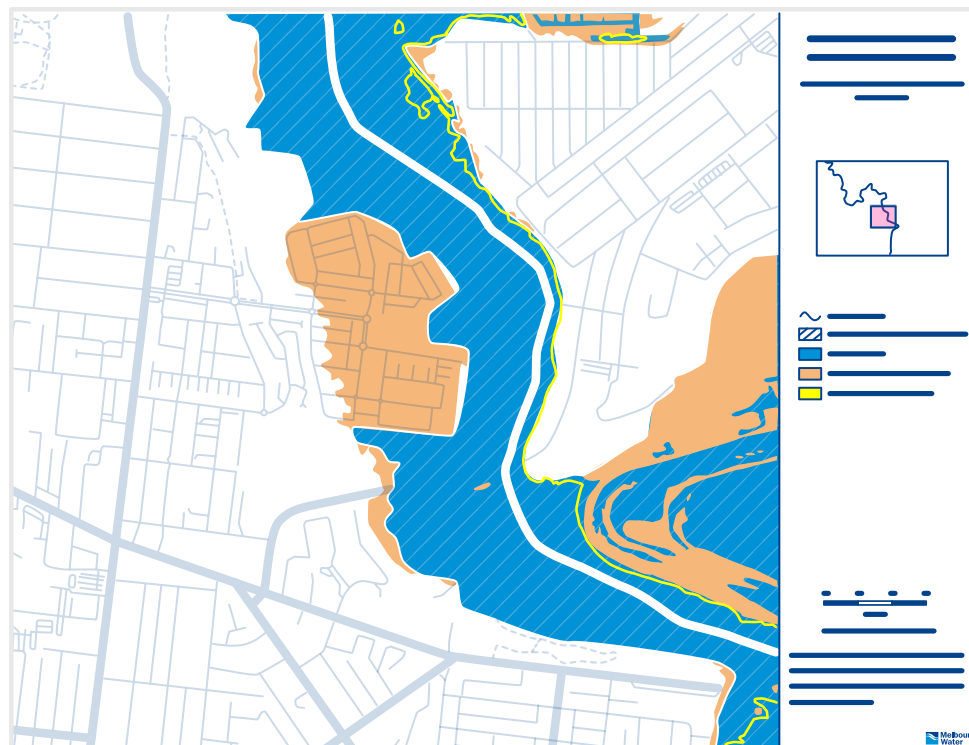
Find your location

Use landmarks, roads, or rivers to navigate.



Look for extra info

Maps show major roads and facilities that might be impacted by flooding, such as schools and childcare centres.



Compare scenarios

Maps may show past floods, current risks, or future predictions.



Check the legend

Darker colours mean deeper water; different shades indicate risk levels.

Why flood maps matter

Flood maps are essential for understanding and managing flood risks. They help:



Homeowners & tenants

Understand flood risks and encourage people to take steps to protect their property.



Builders & developers

Ensure new developments meet flood protection and safety standards.



Emergency services

Plan evacuations and coordinate emergency responses.



Agencies

Make informed decisions on planning, infrastructure, drainage, and flood prevention

Do you want to learn more?

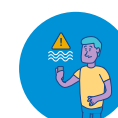
Take a look at our other learning resources for you:



Understanding the types of flooding and how they occur



How to assess your personal flood information



Understanding your community flood risk

Contact us

We're measuring our engagement. To help us track our communications, please contact our team by phone **131 722** or email enquiry@melbournewater.com.au

