

# FAQS

## *FLOODS: YELARBON*

**FLOOD RISK**

**ROAD CLOSURES**

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**EVACUATION**





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### *Is Yelarbon town at risk of being impacted by floods?*

Like most towns across Australia, floods can pose a risk to Yelarbon.

**Yelarbon town has faced inundation before**, most recently in 1956 and 1976 as water from Inglewood worked its way downstream.

In December 2021, residents were evacuated from Yelarbon to the Goondiwindi Evacuation Centre as a precaution following a major flood event and inundation upstream in Inglewood. Fortunately, in that instance, Yelarbon escaped inundation - however, **every flood event is different**.

Yelarbon has minor discontinuous levee banks around various parts of the township to further protect it from flood events.

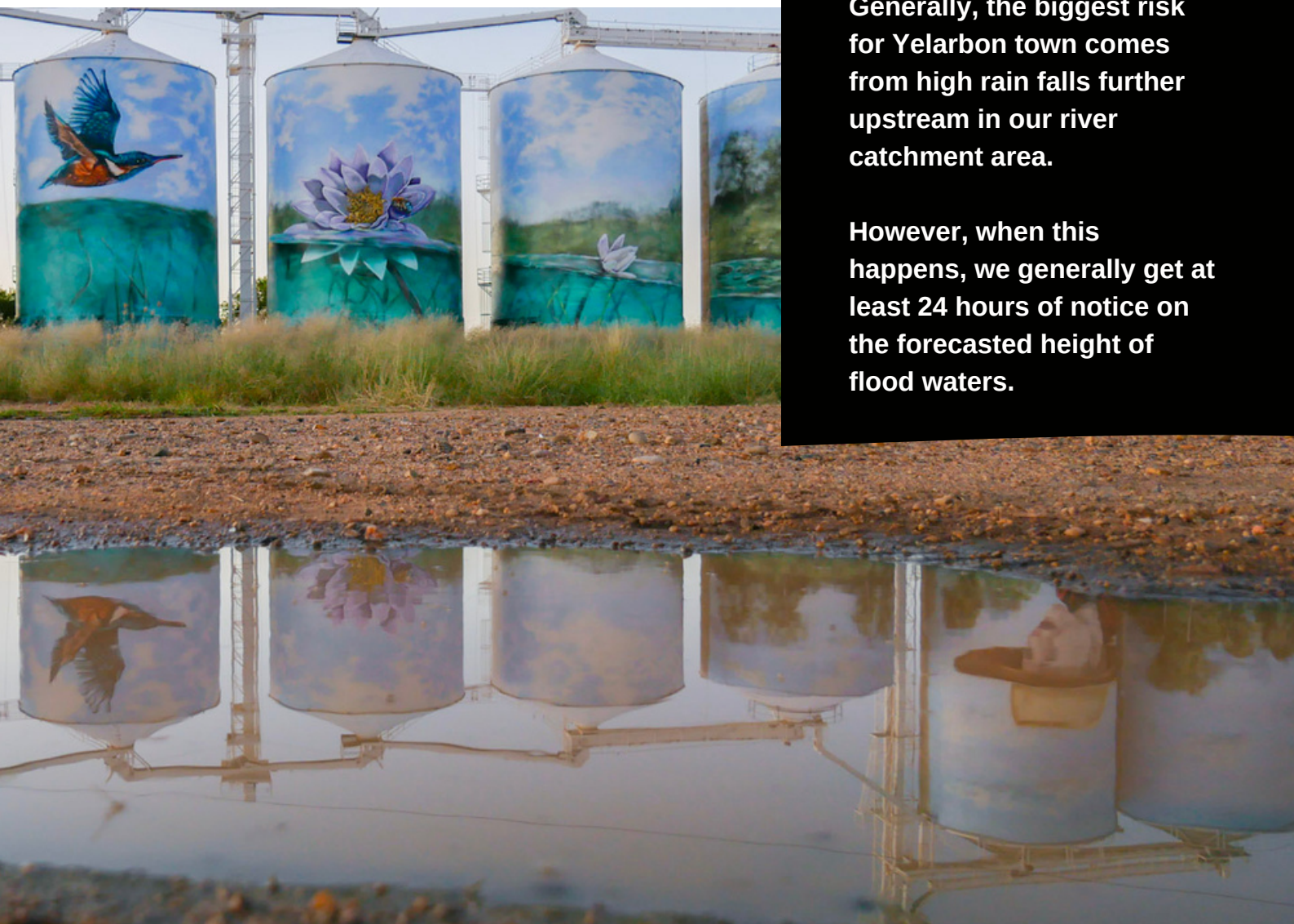
While the risk to the town of serious inundation is minimal, ANY flood water throughout the Yelarbon town will result in an immediate health and safety risk for residents, as the town sewage system must be immediately shut off. If this scenario becomes likely, it may be necessary to evacuate. Early evacuation is advised to avoid likely road closures.

Council is currently working to address this issue by raising the height of certain key infrastructure.

The best thing to do is to be prepared, with your **individual flood plan** in place for your household.

**Generally, the biggest risk for Yelarbon town comes from high rain falls further upstream in our river catchment area.**

**However, when this happens, we generally get at least 24 hours of notice on the forecasted height of flood waters.**



### What rivers can impact Yelarbon town?

The Yelarbon town is located in the **Border Rivers** catchment and is affected by the following tributaries.

1. The **Dumaresq River** - flowing east to west from the Tenterfield and Stanthorpe areas, through Texas and on past Yelarbon. It joins the Macintyre River before Goondiwindi.
2. The **Macintyre Brook** - flowing east to west through Coolmunda and Inglewood. It joins the Dumaresq River just south of Yelarbon.

The timing and location of the **flood peak** in both the Dumaresq and the Macintyre Brook is important: for example, if the flood peaks hit where the two rivers merge, at the same time, the flood risk would be much higher.

Typically, there is sufficient warning of riverine flooding from these systems to allow for limited preparations to be made.

During large flood events, the Macintyre Brook interacts with **Kippenbung Creek** as well as the **Brigalow Creek** near Yelarbon.

For more information about floods in our region, click [here](#).

### What are the typical impacts of a flood event on the Yelarbon town community?

Road closures are a typical disruption associated with flood events around Yelarbon - especially the **Cunningham Highway** west towards Goondiwindi and north-east towards Inglewood.

- The Keetah Bridge crossing (**Keetah Road**) is often impacted by flows in the Dumaresq River.
- The 'Sunnygirl' bridge crossing (**Texas-Yelarbon Road**) is often impacted by flows in the Macintyre Brook.

Click [here](#) for information about live flood cameras at Sunnygirl and Whetstone.

*Be cautious and check road conditions before you travel:*

- **Goondiwindi Region Disaster Dashboard:**  
<https://dashboard.grc.qld.gov.au>
- **QLD Traffic Flood Cameras:**  
<https://qldtraffic.qld.gov.au/cameras.html>



Road closures can lead to temporary isolation, supply issues and loss of services in the town. Ensure you have essential provisions (food, medication, etc.) to sustain your household for a minimum of three days in case of isolation and/or service disruption due to road closures.

A large or prolonged flood event may also impact essential services such as power, water & sewerage although providers will continue to monitor these services and provide information to customers throughout an event.



## FLOOD PREPARATION

### *What can I do to prepare for a flood event in Yelarbon town?*

The best way to minimise the impacts of a flood (or any natural disaster) is to **be prepared**.

Follow the 3 simple steps to Get Ready:

#### **STEP 1: Understand your Risk**

- Stay informed about local updates
  - Visit <http://www.bom.gov.au> for up-to-date weather forecasts and warnings.
  - Listen to your local ABC Radio on 92.7FM, 104.9FM or 747AM
  - Visit the [Goondiwindi Region Disaster Dashboard](#) for all the latest road closures, river heights, dam levels and more.

#### **STEP 2: Prepare a Household Emergency Plan**

#### **STEP 3: Pack an Emergency Kit**

- Remember to include essential provisions to sustain your household for a minimum of three days in case of isolation and/or service disruption due to road closures.



Download the ABC  
[listen app](#)



Download the  
[Emergency + app](#)

**For detailed information on what to  
do, visit the Get Ready website**

**<https://www.getready.qld.gov.au/>**



### *Will I need to sandbag my house/business?*

While Yelarbon town has not faced inundation for a considerable time, every flood is different, and not without risk.

Sandbags can reduce the impact of flooding. They won't stop it entirely, but can reduce the amount of water entering your home or business.

In the event that Yelarbon town faces a major risk of inundation, Council will establish designated stations where sand and limited sandbags will be available. (You will need to bring your own shovel and fill your own sandbags).

Make sure to follow Goondiwindi Regional Council for the latest updates and more information.





*I am, or am responsible for, a vulnerable person in our community. How should I prepare for a flood event?*

The Local Disaster Management Group has a **Vulnerable Person Plan** for community members who require support. This is actioned by local service providers (such as Blue Care or Care Goondiwindi) - if you are registered on their caseload, that service provider will plan for and be responsible for you.

Please note that the Goondiwindi Evacuation Centre has limited resources available to support residents, and vulnerable community members are encouraged to make alternative arrangements suitable to their own individual circumstances.

### **Additional Resources**

- Get Ready Queensland has a number of resources on how to prepare for disaster with disability.
- Download the Person-Centred Emergency Plan (P-CEP) Workbook by the Centre for Disability Research and Policy in partnership with the Queenslanders with Disability Network and the Community Services Industry Alliance.





### *How will I know if I have to evacuate?*

If you have NOT been advised to evacuate, you should shelter in place, prepare your home, and stay informed of the developing situation via:

- **Local radio** - 92.7FM, 104.9FM or 747AM
- Online channels such as the **Goondiwindi Region Disaster Dashboard** [dashboard.grc.qld.gov.au](https://dashboard.grc.qld.gov.au)
- **Council news channels** - [www.grc.qld.gov.au/council-news](https://www.grc.qld.gov.au/council-news) or [www.facebook.com/grcqlld](https://www.facebook.com/grcqlld)

If you are concerned, it may be best to self-evacuate early to a friend or relative's residence (out of the impact zone) to await further updates.

#### **When an evacuation is directed:**

- Emergency services and the Queensland Police Service will doorknock each home that has been identified as at-risk. All residents are requested to follow the instructions of police.
- The Local Disaster Management Group will use the Emergency Alert System to notify residents of an evacuation. The Emergency Alert System is a national telephone warning system, which sends a voice message to your home phone, and a text message to your mobile phone. It is vital that you follow the advice in these warnings and leave early, if required, to avoid being isolated.
- Alerts and notices will also be distributed via Council media channels.

The Evacuation Centre at the Goondiwindi Showgrounds (323 Boundary Road, Goondiwindi) will be opened if an evacuation is directed. The Local Disaster Management Group will arrange for Yelarbon residents to be evacuated, likely via buses, to the Goondiwindi Evacuation Centre.





## EVACUATION AND ISOLATION

### *Where do I go if I am advised to evacuate?*

If directed to evacuate, residents have two options:

1. Self-evacuate to a place of safety out of the impact zone.
2. Self-evacuate or join the co-ordinated evacuation to the Evacuation Centre at the Goondiwindi Showgrounds (323 Boundary Road, Goondiwindi).

Follow the Household Emergency Plan you have already prepared.

When you evacuate, take your Household Emergency Kit that you have already prepared with you. This should include essential provisions to sustain your household for a minimum of three days.

Aim to be self-sufficient whether you stay with a friend or relative, or at the Evacuation Centre. Even taking a sleeping bag, pillows and blankets with you can decrease the demand on limited supplies.

### *What can I expect at the Goondiwindi Evacuation Centre?*

The Evacuation Centre at the Goondiwindi Showgrounds (323 Boundary Road, Goondiwindi) is intended only as temporary accommodation and has limited resources, with basic amenities (toilets, showers, basic sleeping arrangements).

- Residents will be asked to scan a QR code on arrival and complete a digital registration.
- One vehicle per household is preferred. There is an area for self-sufficient caravans/camper trailers.
- Food and water supplies will be provided.

In addition to your prepared Household Emergency Kit, residents should bring the following to the Evacuation Centre:

- Bedding or sleeping equipment (e.g. swag, pillow, blankets, sheets)
- Spare clothing
- Medication
- Important documents (e.g. insurance papers)
- Mobile phone and charger



**GOONDIWINDI EVACUATION CENTRE**





### *Can I take my pet to the Goondiwindi Evacuation Centre?*

Include your pets in your [Household Emergency Plan](#). You can find extensive resources on how to plan for your pet at the [Get Ready Queensland](#) website.

There is limited space for pets at the Goondiwindi Evacuation Centre - residents are strongly encouraged to plan ahead to make other arrangements. If you bring your pet to the Evacuation Centre, you will be responsible for your pet and should plan to be self-sufficient, bringing your own cages/leads/food/water/etc. Dogs should be on leads and cats in cages. Should your pet cause any issues, you may be asked to find a more appropriate location off-site.

Make sure you have your pet microchipped and [registered with Council](#). Have them wear a collar with up-to date contact information and identification at all times to make reuniting with your pet, if you are separated, easier when it is safe to do so.

### *If major inundation is unlikely in Yelarbon, why should I evacuate?*

While major flooding throughout the town is unlikely, [ANY](#) flood water throughout the Yelarbon town will result in an immediate health and safety risk for residents, as the town sewage system must be shut off and evacuation will be directed.

Road closures are a common occurrence during major flood events in the Goondiwindi Region, even if the town itself does not face risk of inundation, and can lead to temporary isolation, supply issues and loss of services in the town.

If the town becomes isolated by road closures, there may be limited resources available to assist residents who have chosen not to evacuate and stayed behind. For example, in December 2021, Yelarbon was isolated for a number of days, but most resources had to be directed to Inglewood, which was inundated.





### *I have been cut off by road closures. How do I arrange for resupplies?*

Residents who are isolated by floodwaters and in need of essential supplies (such as medications or groceries) may be eligible for Council-coordinated resupplies. Residents should contact Council on 07 4671 7400 to arrange as early as possible.

Residents should schedule a delivery with Council well before their supplies run out. Goods (including pharmacy scripts) will need to be ordered and paid for by the resident in advance, with a copy of the order provided to Council. Local suppliers recommend a minimum 24-hour lead time between an order being received and picked up for delivery.

Residents also need to make sure they know their property's GPS location.

In disaster events, the Local Disaster Management Group will cover the cost of delivery for essential supplies, meaning affected residents won't incur any transport costs.

This service will be available only to residents isolated by road closures who are unable to access other service centres. Each application will be assessed to determine genuine need, and guidelines apply about what goods are permitted to be carried. Dangerous items (such as aerosol cans and flammable liquids) cannot be flown.

### *What is the Goondiwindi Region Disaster Dashboard?*

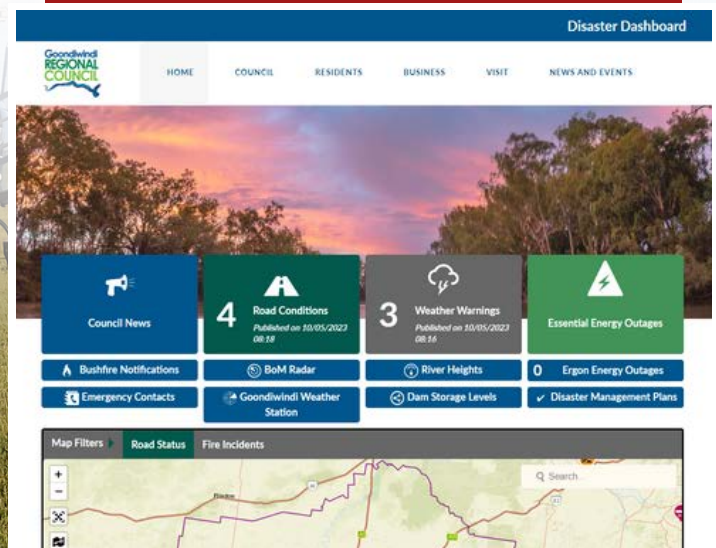
The Goondiwindi Region Disaster Dashboard features all your Goondiwindi Region Disaster Management information in one spot - including current road closures, river heights, dam levels and more.

Bookmark or save the Disaster Dashboard for quick access:

<http://dashboard.grc.qld.gov.au>

Remember that the Disaster Dashboard shows information relating to the Goondiwindi Regional Council area only.

The Disaster Dashboard will show live updates from external sources such as <https://qldtraffic.qld.gov.au/>. Road closures etc. will only be updated if and when there is a change in condition - i.e., if it hasn't been updated, assume the warning is still current.





### *Can I view live images of local floodways?*

QLD Traffic has a number of [flood cameras](#) available that show live updates of floodways in the Goondiwindi Region, including:

- The 'Sunnygirl' bridge crossing on Texas-Yelarbon Road at the Macintyre Brook
- Whetstone - Cunningham Highway at MacIntyre Brook - 4387.

The cameras are a useful tool to check crossing levels and allow the community to better prepare and plan their response to flooding, including seeking alternative routes to stay safe where flood waters have impacted the road network.

It is the responsibility of the user to make their own decision about the currency, accuracy and completeness of the information and images. Goondiwindi Regional Council accepts no responsibility or liability for any loss or damage incurred as a result of this information or its use in any way.

**Do not drive in floodwaters and remember - if it's flooded, forget it.**

### *How will I know if a road is safe to drive?*

Temporary 'Road Closed' signs are generally only placed on significant local Council roads and state-controlled roads. Do not assume that the lack of a 'Road Closed' sign means that the road is safe to drive.

**Do not drive in floodwaters and remember - if it's flooded, forget it.**

Check road closures before travel. Remember that once a road has been closed due to flooding, the structural integrity must be assessed in-person by a Department of Transport and Main Roads representative before the road can be re-opened.

For example, in December 2021, the **Cunningham Highway** towards Goondiwindi remained closed for several days despite the water receding. This was due to structural damage and to prevent further damage.

**Do not drive past a 'Road Closed' sign, even if the road looks clear, as it may still be awaiting inspection and may not be structurally sound.**





# FAQs

*Floods: Yelarbon*



**Australian Government** Queensland Government



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