

# Gippsland Region Extreme Weather Event June 2021



# Our Values



We pride ourselves on our credibility



We are part of our community



Safety drives our decisions



Focused and adaptable



Together we are VICSES



# Background

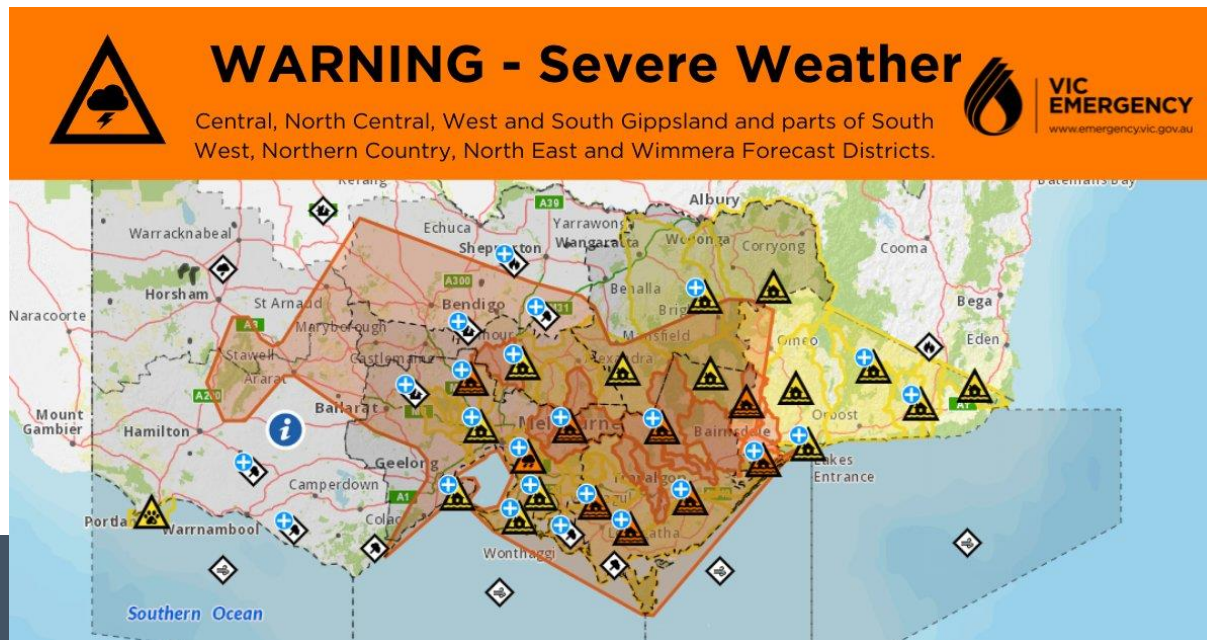
- Bureau of Meteorology (BoM) issued an initial Flood Watch for Gippsland on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> June and confirmed the predictions 9<sup>th</sup> June.
  - Predicted rainfall totals of **60-100mm** expected across the flood watch area through Wednesday and Thursday, with up to **150-250 mm** likely about the ranges focussed on East and Central Gippsland however the focus of the heaviest rainfall would be across West and South Gippsland.
  - Bureau of Meteorology also warned that **19 catchments** (across the state) could be impacted with minor to moderate flooding expected across West Gippsland and the Mitchell River catchment from late Wednesday evening, with major flooding possible.
- A Severe Weather warning for damaging winds was issued on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> June for West and South Gippsland and parts of East Gippsland.

# Severe Weather event

- Throughout the night of Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> June 2021 and into the early morning of following day, Victoria experienced:
  - A severe weather event with damaging winds with wind gusts recorded upto 120k/mh in some areas.
  - Roads and transport were impacted by trees and landslides
  - Heavy rain resulting in Flash Flooding which caused widespread damage to buildings.
  - Communication and Power outages.
- Victoria State Emergency Service (VicSES) received over **9,000 RFAs** (requests for assistance) in one week which was the busiest period in the history of service .

# Severe Weather event

- The Victorian government declared a state energy emergency after flooding caused cracking at Yallourn power station's Morwell River Diversion wall.
- V-Line trains on the Gippsland line between Traralgon and Bairnsdale were suspended.
- An increased risk of beach erosion was present due to the unusual, perpendicular (south-east) wind direction, which would cause swells to impact Gippsland beaches.

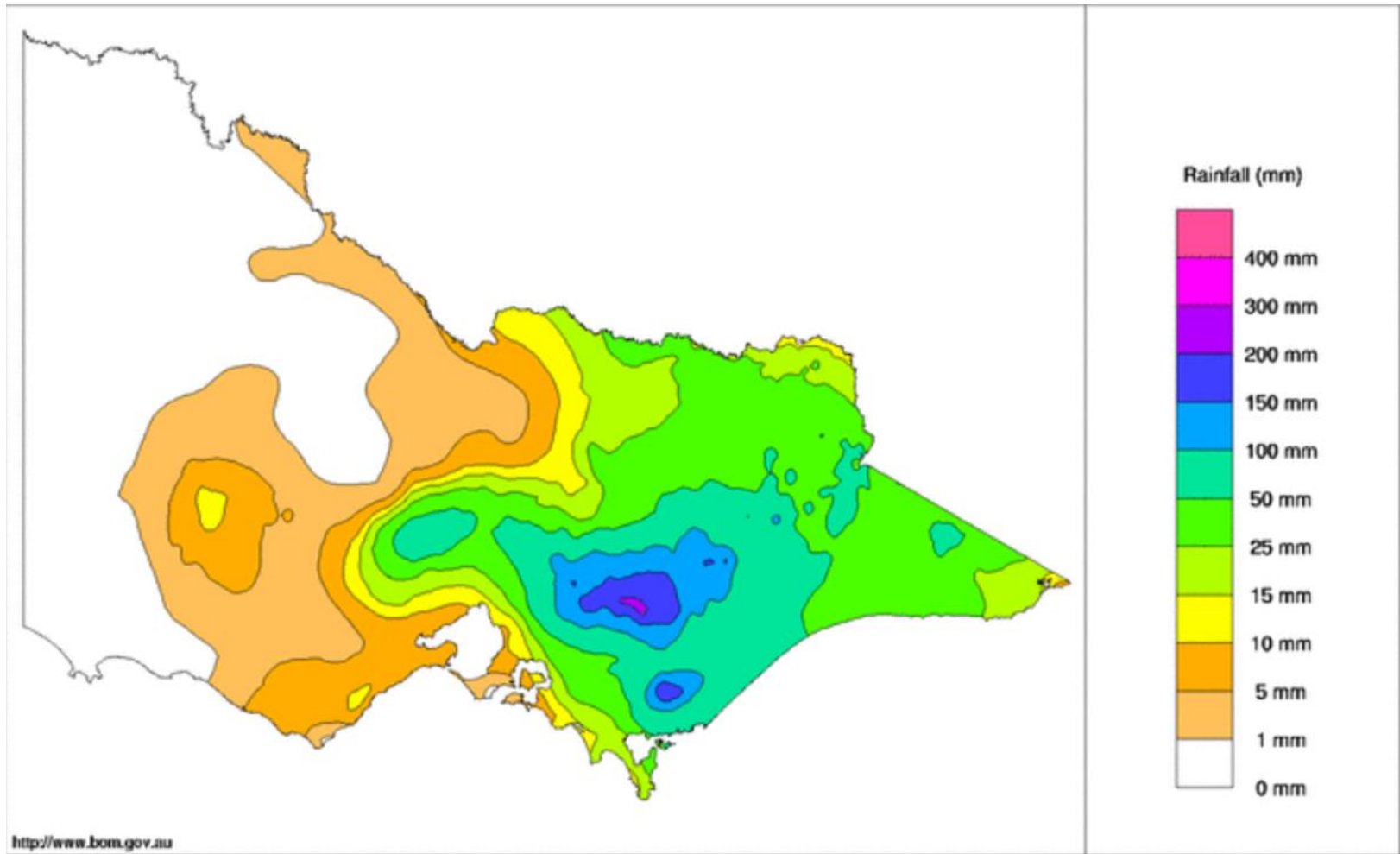


# Severe Weather event

- An initial **Major** Flood Warning for the Macalister River was issued by the BoM at 3:52 PM on Wednesday 9th June.
- An initial **Major** Flood Warning for the Thomson River was issued by the BoM at 4:19 PM on Wednesday 9th June.
- An initial **Major** Flood Warning for the Avon River was issued by the BoM at 4:27 PM on Wednesday 9th June.
- An initial **Moderate** Flood Warning for the Traralgon Creek was issued by the BoM at 4:43 PM on Wednesday 9th June.
- An initial **Moderate** Flood Warning for the Mitchell River was issued by the BoM at 5:43 PM on Wednesday 9th June.
- A **Major** Flood Warning for the Traralgon Creek was issued by the BoM at 1:59 AM on Thursday 10th June.



# Daily rainfall totals for Victoria 10/6/21



# Rainfall magnitudes across the region

Location	9 June	10 June	11 June	ARI	AEP
Jindivick	3	71	2	2 to 5	50% to 20%
Darnum *	2.8	67	0.8	5 to 10	20% to 10%
Mt Baw Baw AWS *	1.6	280	17	>100	>1%
Nilma North (Warragul) *	3.6	47	1.8	<2	<50%
Erica	0	181	0.8	50 to 100	2% to 1%
Tanjil South *	0.6	87	5.2	10 to 20	10% to 5%
Boolarra *	0	137		50 to 100	2% to 1%
Latrobe Valley AWS *	0	55	4.6	2 to 5	50% to 20%
Sale AWS *	1	72	2.8	2 to 5	50% to 20%





Report in the Warragul Gazette stated 204mm in less than 24 hours at Walhalla. This would be very close to a 1% rainfall



# River flows across the region

River	Gauge	Date	Time of Peak	Height	FCL	ARI
<b>Avon</b>	Stratford	10-Jun	7:37pm	6.89	Major	13
<b>Macalister</b>	Licola	10-Jun	1:04pm	4.2	Major	32
<b>Aberfeldy</b>	Beardmore	10-Jun	1:06pm	6.17		40-50
<b>Thomson</b>	Cooper Creek	10-Jun	11:42am	5.3	Major	28
	U/s Cowwarr Weir	10-Jun	12:03pm	7.6	Major	30
	Wandocka	10-Jun	5:02pm	6.89	Major	8
	Bundalaguah	11-Jun	3:08am	7.8		10
	Sale wharf	11-Jun	9:22pm	3.45	Moderate	
<b>Tanjil</b>	Tanjil Junction	10-Jun	10:15am	5.72	Major	17
	Tanjil South	10-Jun	10:00pm	3.15	Moderate	>100
<b>Latrobe</b>	Noojee	10-Jun	0:44am	3.82		
	Willow Grove	10-Jun	4:30pm	4.7	Minor	>100
	Thoms Bridge	11-Jun	2:00am	6.39	Moderate	12.5
<b>Traralgon Creek</b>	Traralgon	10-Jun	9:00am	5.76	Major	75
<b>Moe</b>	Darnum	12-Jun	4:00pm	4	Minor	3
<b>Morwell</b>	Boolarra	10-Jun	6:00am	5.1	Moderate	20-50

# Warnings issued

	Warning Level	Hazard Type	Total
	Advice Message - Flood Watch	Flood	51
	Advice Message - Minor Flood Warning	Flood	101
	Advice Message - Final Minor Flood Warning	Flood	12
	Warning - Moderate Flood Warning	Flood	56
	Warning - Major Flood Warning	Flood	33
	Warning - Severe Weather	Storm	3
	Emergency Warning - Major Flood Warning	Flood	13
	Evacuate Now	Flood	16
	All Clear - Final Flood Watch	Flood	2
	All Clear - Safe to Return	Flood	2
	<b>Total Messages</b>		<b>289</b>

*Warnings issued from the 8<sup>th</sup> June 2021 to 14<sup>th</sup> June 2021*

# Gippsland Region - Impacts

- Damage was widespread – impacting five of the region’s six Gippsland LGA’s which included 48 regional towns.
- A significant number of communities were isolated, some for several days.
- Access was cut to most roads and major highways by either flooding or trees down which compounded the isolation of local communities.
- Widespread power and telecommunications outages (200K +).
- 552 stock losses (predominantly sheep) 4152 ha pasture/crop loss, hay 245 tonnes, 356 km fences destroyed, infrastructure losses 52.
- Damage to roads and bridges through erosion, landslides and trees down.
- At start of the incident 196 road closures reported across RRV and LGAs.

# Gippsland Region - Impacts

- Storm damage (fallen trees, damaged road infrastructure and landslides) affecting roads throughout Gippsland.
  - Strzelecki Ranges,
  - Great Alpine Rd,
  - Baw Baw Tourist Rd and
  - Baw Baw NP (Mt St Gwinear Rd)
  -
- Parks and state forests closed across Gippsland (including Wilson's Prom National Park and Thomson Dam)
- Residential properties impacted with above floor flooding.
- Commercial properties impacted with above floor flooding.
- Communities evacuated.
- Timber Plantations – 258 ha impacted.

# Response

- A total of **1,185** request for assistance (RFAs) were received by VicSES from the 9<sup>th</sup> June to 13<sup>th</sup> June 2021. The impacts are likely to be higher with reports going directly to RRV and Local Government (LGA's).
  - 759 Trees down on roads and access.
  - 94 Building damage
  - 121 Flooding
  - 57 Flood Rescues
- Multi agency response from VICSES, CFA, FRV, DELWP, VicPol, Local Government Authorities, ADF, Life Saving Victoria, VicRoads and Ambulance Victoria and other partner agencies.
- Taskforces from other SES regions deployed into the Gippsland Region ahead of the forecasted flooding.
- The Bairnsdale and Traralgon Incident Control Centres (ICC's) operated 24/7.
- 17,363 SES Volunteer hours across the 5 days



# Response

- We received extensive support from businesses and community members to support volunteers and the Incident Control Centre.
- FFMV crews working from local management areas assessed impacts and facilitated safe access and egress for communities and essential services.
- A road planning/operations cell was activated in the Traralgon ICC to manage road recovery across Gippsland.