MAJOR FLOOD BULLETIN # 21

Darling River downstream of Bourke

Issued: Monday 24 January 2022 at 3.00pm



What is happening?

MODERATE FLOODING OCCURRING AT BOURKE AND LOUTH.

MAJOR FLOODING OCCURRING AT TILPA.

MINOR FLOODING OCCURRING AT WILCANNIA WITH MODERATE FLOODING LIKELY FRIDAY.

The main flood peak along the Darling River is now at Louth, which peaked Sunday 23 January with moderate flooding.

Major flooding is occurring along the Darling River at Tilpa where river levels exceeded the major flood level (11.50 metres) Tuesday 18 January. River levels at Tilpa are expected to peak at the end of January.

River levels at Menindee are likely to remain near the minor flood level until late February, as releases from the Menindee Lakes system are made to make room for the upstream flood waters.

What we are expecting:

Based on the prediction provided by the Bureau of Meteorology:

Bourke

- Moderate flooding is occurring along the Darling River at Bourke.
- The Darling River at Bourke peaked at 12.29 metres early Saturday 15 January and is currently at 11.53 metres and falling slowly, with moderate flooding.
- Floodwater is expected to impact the Bourke Weilmoringle Road (RLR 49) 16km North of Bourke.
- Dry Bogan Road (RLR42) is closed at Little Bogan Creek Bridge.
- Floodwater has closed Parkdale Road (RLR22) 3km west of Bourke.
- Kamilaroi Highway (SH29) has reopened with caution between Bourke and Brewarrina.
- River Road (RLR-16) is closed at The Big Billabong.
- Bourke Wilcannia Road (MR-68) has closed at Jandra Creek, preventing direct access from Bourke to Louth.
- Floodwaters have impacted the southern approach of Deadmans Creek Bridge on the Bourke Wilcannia Road (MR-68).

Louth

- The Darling River at Louth peaked with moderate flooding at 11.97 metres around 07:00 am Sunday 23 January. The river level is currently at 11.94 metres and steady, with moderate flooding.
- Louth Tilpa Road (SH29) is closed with no access to Louth or Tilpa on the eastern side of the Darling River.
- Floodwater is expected to impact the Louth Tilpa Road 13km south of Tilpa. Alternate routes may be available via Wilcannia, White Cliffs and Cobar.
- Floodwater is expected to reach the deck level of Talyawalka Bridge.

Tilpa

- Major flooding is occurring along the Darling River at Tilpa.
- The Darling River at Tilpa may peak near 12.30 metres around 31 January 1 February, with major flooding.
- Tilpa Wilcannia Road (SH29) is expected to close at Marra Billabong 40kms South of Tilpa Road.
- Tilpa Wilcannia Road may be closed at Wygilla Crossing.
- Tilpa Louth Road is closed at the 1 Mile Creek and 5 Mile Creek.
- Tilpa Louth Road North of Darling River may be impacted by floodwater near Tallywalka Crossing.
- The 52-Mile Road south to the Barrier Highway may be closed with 900mm of water currently aross the roadway.
- Louth-Tilpa Road South of Darling River is closed at Stoney Creek crossing.
- Tilpa Wilcannia Road North of Darling River is expected to close at numerous locations, including Marra, Mount Murchison Station and Rosedale.
- Floodwater may flow over the Talyawalka Creek Bridge.
- Tongo Road is closed 3km North of Tilpa at Boat Hole Creek crossing.
- Tilpa may become isolated by road.
- Tourists and visitors are advised to reconsider travel plans as roads may close at short notice and will isolate travellers and tourists in this area.

Wilcannia

- Minor flooding is occurring along the Darling River at Wilcannia where moderate flooding is likely in February.
- The Darling River at Wilcannia is likely to exceed the moderate flood level (9.70m) during Friday and may reach around 10.00 metres around 13 February, with moderate flooding.
- Victory Caravan Park is likely to become inundated.
- Wilcannia Tilpa Road (SR1) is closed by floodwater.
- Wilcannia-Tilpa Road (SH29) is expected to close at Mara Creek, 85 km from Wilcannia.

Wilcannia - Menindee East Road (SR10) is closed due to flooding.

Menindee

- Near minor flooding is occurring along the Darling River at Menindee.
- The Darling River at Menindee Town is likely to remain near the minor flood level (8.50m) until late February.
- Floodwaters may inundate low-lying areas of Crick Park at the end of Wilcannina Street.

What you need to do:

- ACT NOW, before it's too late.
- Prepare now to minimise damage to your property and possessions.
- Consider evacuation as an option if severe flooding is predicted. Deciding to remain on your property when it is inundated or surrounded by floodwater can be dangerous.
- Ensure you have a plan to leave the area safely if flooding worsens.
- Stay up to date with information. Listen to flood warnings and follow advice on how to protect yourself, family, and property.
- Tourists and visitors are advised to reconsider travel plans as roads may close at short notice and isolate travellers and tourists in these areas.
- People working or camping along the Darling River should relocate to higher ground.
- Farmers and landholders are advised to relocate livestock, pumps, chemicals and equipment to higher ground. Do not wait until the flood peak approaches.
- Be aware of vermin, snakes and spiders seeking refuge from floodwaters.
- If you become trapped by rising floodwater, seek refuge in the highest part of a sturdy building. Stay there and call triple zero (000) if you need rescue.
- Never drive, walk or play in floodwaters. Floodwater may be deep, fast-flowing and may contain hidden snags and debris.

For emergency help in floods and storms, call the NSW State Emergency Service on 132 500.

In life-threatening situations, call triple zero (000) immediately.

Latest River Heights for the Darling River:

Barwon River at Brewarrina	4.37m steady	1.00pm	Mon 24/01/22
Darling River at Bourke	11.53m steady	1.00pm	Mon 24/01/22
Darling River at Louth	11.94m steady	1.00pm	Mon 24/01/22
Darling River at Tilpa	12.05m steady	1.00pm	Mon 24/01/22
Darling River at Wilcannia	9.53m steady	1.00pm	Mon 24/01/22
Talywalka Creek at Barrier Highway	2.16m steady	1.00pm	Mon 24/01/22
Darling River at Menindee Town	8.40m steady	1.00pm	Mon 24/01/22
Darling River at Menindee Weir 32	5.98m steady	2.00pm	Mon 24/01/22
Darling River at Pooncarie	6.34m steady	1.00pm	Mon 24/01/22
Darling River at Burtundy	5.97m steady	2.00pm	Mon 24/01/22

For more information:

- Visit <u>www.ses.nsw.gov.au</u> or follow us on <u>Facebook</u>
- Tune in to your local ABC Radio station
- For the latest Weather, Warnings, Rainfall, and River Heights visit <u>www.bom.gov.au</u> or phone 1300 945 108
- For rural animal and livestock assistance, contact your Local Land Services Office on **1300 795 299** or visit www.lls.nsw.gov.au
- For road closure information visit: www.livetraffic.com.au, call 131 701 or contact your Local Council.

The next flood bulletin will be issued by 2.00 pm on Wednesday 26 January, 2022.