

# MAJOR FLOOD BULLETIN # 22

## Darling River downstream of Bourke

Issued: Wednesday 26 January 2022 at 3.00pm



### What is happening?

MAJOR FLOODING OCCURRING AT TILPA

MODERATE FLOODING LIKELY AT WILCANNIA FROM FRIDAY.

MINOR FLOODING EXPECTED AT MENINDEE TOWN, POONCARIE AND BURTUNDY

Moderate flooding is current along the Darling River at Louth where river levels peaked on Sunday 23 January with moderate flooding.

The main flood peak along the Darling River is currently approaching Tilpa, where major flooding is occurring. River levels at Tilpa are expected to peak at the end of January.

Minor flooding is occurring along the Darling River at Wilcannia, where a moderate flood peak is expected in mid February.

Minor flooding is likely at Menindee Town from Wednesday 26 January, with minor flooding also likely at Pooncarie and Burtundy into March.

### 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 Friday 14 January and is currently at 11.19 metres and falling slowly, with minor 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).

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## **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 11.88 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 has closed the Louth - Tilpa Road (West Side). 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. It is currently 12.17 metres and slowly rising.
- Tilpa - Wilcannia Road (MR68A) is closed by floodwater.
- Tilpa - Louth Road is closed at the 1 Mile Creek and 5 Mile Creek.
- Tilpa - Louth Road North of Darling River is closed by floodwater near Tallywalka Crossing.
- The 52-Mile Road south to the Barrier Highway may be closed with 900mm of water currently across the roadway.
- Louth-Tilpa Road South of Darling River is closed at Stoney Creek crossing.
- 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**

- The Darling River at Wilcannia is likely to exceed the moderate flood level (9.70m) during Friday January 28, 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 (MR68A) is closed at Mara Creek, 85 km from Wilcannia.
- Wilcannia - Menindee East Road (SR10) is closed due to flooding.
- Wilcannia - Menindee West Road (MR68B) is currently open to traffic.

## Menindee

- River levels at Menindee Town are likely to exceed the minor flood level (8.50 metres) during Wednesday 26 January and may reach 8.60 metres during Friday 28 January. This is the result of WaterNSW increasing the releases from the Menindee Lake storage from 26 January 2022.
- The release plan by developed by WaterNSW follows consultation with the community and SES at Menindee and the Lower Darling.
- The release plan will be reviewed continually and increases in releases will cease as soon as impacts to properties are observed.
- At the predicted height, floodwaters may inundate low-lying areas of Crick Park at the end of Wilcannina Street.
- Pooncarie Road (MR68C) is currently open to traffic.
- Menindee – Broken Hill Road (MR66) is currently open.

## Pooncarie and Burtundy

- The Darling River at Pooncarie may reach the minor flood level (6.80 m) during the second week in February.
- The Darling River at Burtundy may reach the minor flood level (6.10 m) at the end of January.

## 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.**

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## Latest River Heights for the Darling River:

Darling River at Warraweena	12.80m steady	12.00pm	Wed 26/01/22
Darling River at Bourke	11.19m steady	10.00am	Wed 26/01/22
Darling River at Louth	11.80m steady	12.00pm	Wed 26/01/22
Darling River at Tilpa	12.17m steady	12.00pm	Wed 26/01/22
Darling River at Wilcannia	9.58m steady	12.00pm	Wed 26/01/22
Talywalka Creek at Barrier Highway	2.32m steady	12.00pm	Wed 26/01/22
Darling River at Menindee Town	8.46m steady	12.00pm	Wed 26/01/22
Darling River at Menindee Weir 32	6.01m steady	12.00pm	Wed 26/01/22
Darling River at Pooncarie	6.35m steady	12.00pm	Wed 26/01/22
Darling River at Burtundy	5.99m steady	12.00pm	Wed 26/01/22

## For more information:

- Visit [www.ses.nsw.gov.au](http://www.ses.nsw.gov.au) or follow us on [Facebook](#)
- Tune in to your local ABC Radio station
- For the latest Weather, Warnings, Rainfall, and River Heights visit [www.bom.gov.au](http://www.bom.gov.au) 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](http://www.lls.nsw.gov.au)
- For road closure information visit: [www.livetraffic.com.au](http://www.livetraffic.com.au), call 131 701 or contact your Local Council.

**The next flood bulletin will be issued by 2.00 pm on Friday 28 January, 2022.**