MAJOR FLOOD BULLETIN # 23

Darling River downstream of Bourke

Issued: Thursday 28 January 2022 at 2.00pm



What is happening?

MAJOR FLOODING OCCURRING AT TILPA

MODERATE FLOODING LIKELY AT WILCANNIA FROM FRIDAY.

MINOR FLOODING EXPECTED AT MENINDEE TOWN, POONCARIE AND BURTUNDY

Minor flooding is current along the Darling River at Bourke where river levels peaked on Friday 14 January with moderate flooding.

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.

Moderate flooding is expected at Wilcannia from Friday and a moderate flood peak is expected mid February.

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 10.74m metres and falling slowly, with minor flooding.
- The Darling River at Bourke is expected to fall below the minor flood level (9.50m) around the end of January.
- Floodwater is expected has closed the Bourke Weilmoringle Road (RLR 49) 16km North of Bourke.
- Dry Bogan Road (RLR42) is open with caution 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 11.75 metres and falling, with moderate flooding.
- The Darling River at Louth is expected to fall below the minor flood level (8.60m) around the second week in February.
- 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 12.25 metres and slowly rising.
- Tilpa Wilcannia Road (MR68A) is closed by floodwater.
- Tilpa Louth Road (SR2) is closed at the 1 Mile Creek and 5 Mile Creek.
- 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.
- Floodwater may flow over the Talyawalka Creek Bridge.
- Tongo Road (SR3) 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 14 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 remain near the minor flood level (8.50 metres) through to mid February.
- Floodwaters may inundate low-lying areas of Crick Park at the end of Wilcannina Street.
- Pooncarie Road (MR68C) is currently closed to traffic.
- Menindee Broken Hill Road (MR66) is currently open.

Pooncarie

• River levels at Pooncarie are likely to remain below the minor flood level (6.80 metres)

Burtundy

- Minor flooding is possible at Burtundy
- 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.

Latest River Heights for the Darling River:

Darling River at Warraweena	12.11m steady	1.00pm	Fri 28/01/22
Darling River at Bourke	10.74m steady	10.00am	Fri 28/01/22
Darling River at Louth	11.75m steady	9.00am	Fri 28/01/22
Darling River at Tilpa	12.24m steady	12.00pm	Fri 28/01/22
Darling River at Wilcannia	9.63m steady	12.00pm	Fri 28/01/22
Talywalka Creek at Barrier Highway	2.44m steady	12.00pm	Fri 28/01/22
Darling River at Menindee Town	8.45m steady	1.00pm	Fri 28/01/22
Darling River at Menindee Weir 32	6.04m steady	1.00pm	Fri 28/01/22
Darling River at Pooncarie	6.36m steady	1.00pm	Fri 28/01/22
Darling River at Burtundy	6.05m steady	1.00pm	Fri 28/01/22

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 Monday 31 January, 2022.