

## Flood Warning Information

Environment Southland has a monitoring network of 26 rain gauges and 46 water level recorders, 22 of which also record flow. This information is freely available to the public 24 hours a day, 365 days of the year.

### How does the data get to Environment Southland?

Data comes in through VHF radio at some sites and cellphone at others. Important sites have both types of communications because during flood events, cellphone networks have been known to get overloaded.

### How up-to-date is the data?

Environment Southland updates river level sites at least hourly, and every 15 minutes in the headwaters. During a flood event all sites are updated every 15 minutes. The EDI (Environmental Data Information) telephone system is directly connected to the telemetry system and is more up-to-date than the website, which is updated at half hourly intervals.

### How do I access data?

There are two automated ways the public can get floodwarning information:

1. Through the telephone system EDI (*Environmental Data Information*);
2. Through the website [www.es.govt.nz](http://www.es.govt.nz).

### What do I do if either system is not working?

Contact technical support on (03) 211 5244. If the telephone system is not operational, try a local radio station. Significant events will be broadcast.

### How do I interpret the data?

- River levels are reported on the EDI system and website as metres above normal, so a normal water level is zero. Values become negative when below normal. Tables overleaf show the levels of various large floods from the past and some recent floods to give a frame of reference for new property owners. It is prudent to note down the levels of upstream water level recorders for floods that affect your property. Add these to the table.
- Rainfall is reported on the EDI system as totals since midnight, and totals in the last 24 hours, 12 hours, 6 hours, and last hour. As a guide, significant totals would be:

24 hours – 50 mm on a wetted catchment or 70 on a dry catchment  
12 hours – 25 mm on a wetted catchment or 45 on a dry catchment  
6 hours – 15 mm on a wetted catchment or 35 on a dry catchment

The rainfall in the last hour indicates if it is still raining, so take careful note of the time it was updated. Very intense hourly rainfall (over 10mm/hr) can cause very sharp flood peaks. If you need help interpreting the data, call the flood duty officer at (03) 2115244.

### How can I prepare for a flood?

Find out if your property floods from previous owners, neighbours or Environment Southland. District Plans contain maps identifying land that floods or may flood, or you can contact our Senior Planner (Hazard Mitigation) during office hours at (03) 2115115 for property specific information.

Use our website or contact us to find out how far above normal the river was during past floods. Similar magnitude events generally flood similar areas but be sure to note any flood alleviation work that has been done since, as this will affect the behaviour of the river. This information will help you plan for future floods, especially knowing when to move stock.

### How do I find out if roads are closed?

During a flood, access to your property is more likely to be affected than your property itself. Road closure information is generally broadcast on local radio stations but some information may be available on the internet.

State Highway road closures are reported on the NZ Transport Agency website: [www.nzta.govt.nz](http://www.nzta.govt.nz).

For secondary road closures you should refer to the local authority responsible such as the Southland District Council, Invercargill City Council or Gore District Council.

### Disclaimer

*Environment Southland makes every effort to keep the data given out on the Website and by the EDI telephone system accurate. As the data is derived from unchecked telemetry files, failures and malfunctions can occur at any time for which Environment Southland accepts no responsibility.*

## Mataura Catchment

### Flood Warning Information



Office Hours Phone	03 211 5115
Environmental Data Information (EDI)	03 211 5010
After Hours Emergency Contacts	03 211 5225
Southland Free Phone	0800 76 88 45
Technical Support	03 211 5244
Web	<a href="http://www.es.govt.nz">www.es.govt.nz</a>

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# River Level Information

## Mataura Water Level Recorders - Flood Peaks and EDI Contact Details

	Rainfall?	EDI Direct Dial	EDI Menu No	Past Flood Levels in Metres Above Normal							My Levels		
				1978	1980	1984	1987	1999	2004	2005	2009		
<b>Mataura River at</b>													
Fairlight	Y	(03)2115011	111					2.64	1.62	0.80	1.81		
Parawa		(03)2115012	112	4.05	2.16	2.67	3.67	4.43	1.37	0.76	1.88		
Cattle Flat		(03)2115013	113					3.41	1.59	1.46	2.12		
Pyramid	Y	(03)2115015	115	2.97	2.86	2.35	3.10	3.14	2.42	2.73	1.71		
Gore		(03)2115014	114	4.69	4.22	2.88	4.45	4.39	2.64	2.80	2.05		
Tuturau	Y	(03)2115016	116			3.93	7.45	7.37	3.34	3.42	2.74		
Wyndham		(03)2115017	117					3.79	2.37	2.49	2.24		
Seaward Downs		(03)2115018	118		3.14	3.62	4.77	4.75	2.77	3.10	3.12		
<b>Waikaia River at</b>													
Piano Flat	Y	(03)2115021	121		3.22	2.40	2.94	3.31	1.77	2.18	1.89		
Waikaia		(03)2115022	122					2.60	2.22	2.32	2.07		
Mahers Beach		(03)2115023	123	1.15	3.00	2.61	3.63	3.48	2.52	3.03	2.16		
<b>Waimea Stream at</b>													
Mandeville	Y	(03)2115024	124	3.64	3.48	3.50	2.82	3.61	2.32	2.32	1.54		
<b>Waikaka Stream at</b>													
Willowbank	Y	(03)2115025	125			3.23	2.88	2.34	2.88	2.68	1.80		
<b>Mokoreta River at</b>													
McKays Road	Y	(03)2115026	126			3.64	1.99	2.14	2.05	2.22	2.51		

## Mataura Catchment Rain Gauges - EDI Contact Details

Raingauge	EDI Direct Dial	EDI Menu No
Eyre Creek at Shepherd Creek Hut	(03)2115085	221
Fairlight at Cainard Station	(03)2115088	224
Waikaia River at Piano Flat	(03)2115089	231
Wendon Valley at Waikaka	(03)2115090	232
Waimea Stream at Mandeville	(03)2115091	233
Upper Waikaia at Hyde Rock	(03)2115092	234
Glenlapa at Round Hill	(03)2115093	235
Mataura River at Tuturau	(03)2115097	244
Mokoreta at Mt Alexander	(03)2115028	255

## Mataura River Peak Times

Flood Peak Travel Times (hours)	Fairlight	Parawa	Cattle Flat	Pyramid	Gore	Tuturau	Wyndham	Seaward Downs
<b>Fairlight</b>		7	14	21	28	31	34	37
<b>Parawa</b>	7		7	14	21	24	28	31
<b>Cattle Flat</b>	14	7		7	14	17	21	24
<b>Pyramid</b>	21	14	7		7	10	14	17
<b>Gore</b>	28	21	14	7		3	7	10
<b>Tuturau</b>	31	24	17	10	3		4	7
<b>Wyndham</b>	34	28	21	14	7	4		3
<b>Seaward Downs</b>	37	31	24	17	10	7	3	

Travel times have been averaged over a large number of floods and may vary for individual flood events.

## Waikaia River Peak Times

Flood Peak Travel Times (hours)	Piano Flat	Waikaia	Mahers Beach	Pyramid
<b>Piano Flat</b>		6.75	8.25	15.25
<b>Waikaia</b>	6.75		1.5	9
<b>Mahers Beach</b>	8.25	1.5		7
<b>Pyramid</b>	15.25	9	7	

