

Aparima Catchment

Flood Warning Information

Environment Southland has a monitoring network of rain gauges and water level recorders, some of which also record water flow. We monitor river levels so there is readily available information for Southlanders on how changes in water levels could affect their property or their livestock.

How do I access river level information?

Call our Environmental Data Information (EDI) line for river information or visit our website – www.es.govt.nz:

- ▶ EDI – 03 211 5010
- ▶ Having trouble? Contact technical support or our flood duty officer – 03 211 5244
- ▶ Environment Southland after hours – 03 211 5225

How does Environment Southland receive data?

We use a telemetry system for our river level information, which is the automatic measurement and transmission of data from our monitoring sites. Information is transmitted through VHF radio at some sites and cellphone at others. Important sites have both, as cellphone networks can be overloaded in flood events.

How up-to-date is the information?

On the website, river level sites are updated hourly, and headwaters every 15 minutes. During a flood event, all sites are updated every 15 minutes. This

information is displayed in an interactive map and can also be viewed as a data table on our website, www.es.govt.nz.

The EDI telephone is directly connected to the telemetry system, so provides our most up-to-date information.

How do I interpret the information?

River levels are reported as metres above normal, where normal water level is zero metres. Values become negative when below zero. Downstream property owners may want to take note of levels from recorders upstream, for floods that could affect you.

As a guide, significant totals are:

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

The rainfall in the last hour gives a good indication of whether it's still raining, so take careful note of the time it was updated. Very intense hourly rainfall (over 10mm/hr) can cause sharp flood peaks. If you need help interpreting the data, call the flood duty officer.

How can I prepare for a flood ?

Find out if your property floods from previous owners, neighbours or Environment Southland, or you can contact our Senior Policy Planner on 0800 76 88 45 for property specific information. Alternatively district plans from Southland or Gore District Councils or Invercargill City Council will contain maps that identify flood prone areas.

Take note of any flood alleviation work that has been done, as this will also affect the behaviour of rivers near you. This will help you plan for future events, 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. State Highway road closures are reported on the NZ Transport Agency website: www.nzta.govt.nz

For other road closures head to www.civildefencesouthland.govt.nz, or get in touch with the Invercargill City Council, Southland District Council, or Gore District Council.

River level information

Aparima Catchment water level recorders – flood peaks and EDI contact details

	Rainfall Info Available	EDI Phone No.	EDI Menu No.	Past Flood Levels (metres above normal)										My Levels		
				1978	1980	1984	1987	1999	2001	2007	2010	2013	2015			
APARIMA RIVER AT:																
Dunrobin	Y	(03) 211 5041	141	4.10	2.07	4.92	1.67	1.99	2.23	2.05	1.60	1.64				
Etalvale		(03) 211 5042	142					1.87	1.90	1.76	1.92	1.75				
Wreys Bush		(03) 211 5049	149							1.03	1.79	1.18	1.20			
Otautau	Y	(03) 211 5043	143	3.10	3.09	3.65		2.45	1.94	1.83	2.26	1.75				
Thornbury		(03) 211 5044	144				2.90	3.09	2.77	2.36	2.78	2.46				
HAMILTON BURN AT:																
Waterloo Road	Y	(03) 211 5045	145			1.92	2.00	2.47	2.69	2.29	2.94	2.72				
OTAUTAU STREAM AT:																
Otautau	Y	(03) 211 5046	146					2.82	1.78	1.75	1.94	1.59				
POURAKINO RIVER AT:																
Pourakino Valley	Y	(03) 211 5047	147							2.17		1.69	2.08			
Below Ermedale Road	Y	(03) 211 5048	148							3.26		3.19	3.21			

Aparima Catchment rain gauges EDI contact details

Rain Gauge	EDI Phone No.	EDI Menu No.
Hamilton Burn at Mt Hamilton Road	(03) 211 5082	212
Ohai at Wether Hill Station	(03) 211 5096	243
Wairio at Scotts Gap	(03) 211 5098	245
Middle Creek at Otahuti	(03) 211 5099	251
Pourakino Valley at Cascade Road	(03) 211 5027	254

Aparima River flood peak travel times (hours)

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

	Dunrobin	Etalvale	Wreys Bush	Otautau	Fairfax	Thornbury
Dunrobin		4	8	11	15	18
Etalvale	4		4	7	11	14
Wreys Bush	8	4		3	7	10
Otautau	11	7	3		4	7
Fairfax	15	11	7	4		3
Thornbury	18	14	10	7	3	



Environment Southland uses reasonable endeavours but does not warrant that this information is current complete or accurate. Professional or specialist advice should be obtained before taking or refraining from taking action on the basis of this information. To the extent permitted by law Environment Southland will not be liable for any loss, liability or costs suffered or incurred as a result of any reliance placed on this information.

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