

Oreti 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

Oreti 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	1988	1999	2001	2010	2013			
Oreti River at:															
Three Kings	Y	(03) 211 5031	131				1.43	1.48	1.75	0.86	1.77	1.69			
Lumsden Cableway	Y	(03) 211 5032	132	3.60	3.32	3.52	3.20	2.80	3.55	2.64	3.60	3.68			
Centre Bush	Y	(03) 211 5033	133						2.80	1.21	2.54	2.30			
Wallacetown	Y	(03) 211 5043	134	3.53	3.65	3.55	3.52	2.27	4.21	2.25	4.01	3.42			
Irthing Stream at:															
Ellis Road	Y	(03) 211 5036	136	2.47	2.44	2.69	2.68	2.23	2.45	2.12	2.43	2.49			
Otapiri Stream at:															
Otapiri Gorge	Y	(03) 211 5051	151	3.14	2.61	3.50	2.31	2.21	2.84	2.80	2.33	2.86			
Makarewa River at:															
Tussock Creek		(03) 211 5052	152						5.23	3.96	4.99	5.16			
Counsell Road		(03) 211 5053	153			6.31	4.95	3.93	5.22	4.32	4.98	5.02			
Winton Stream at:															
Winton Dam	Y	(03) 211 5037	137						6.18	4.61	3.91	3.93			
Waikiwi Stream at:															
Ferry Road	Y	(03) 211 5035	135						3.63	1.84	2.87	2.46			

Oreti River flood peak travel times (hours)

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

	Three Kings	Lumsden	Dipton	Benmore	Centre Bush	Winton	Wallacetown
Three Kings		4	9	12	15	18	25
Lumsden	4		5	8	11	14	21
Dipton	9	5		3	6	9	16
Benmore	12	8	3		3	6	13
Centre Bush	15	11	6	3		3	10
Winton	18	14	9	6	3		7
Wallacetown	25	21	16	13	10	7	

Otapiri River/Makarewa River flood peak travel times (hours)

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

	Otapiri	Tussock Creek	Counsell Road
Otapiri		9	15
Tussock Creek	9		6
Counsell Road	15	6	

Oreti Catchment rain gauges EDI contact details

Rain Gauge	EDI Phone No.	EDI Menu No.
McKellars Flat at Gorge Burn	(03) 211 5081	211
Oreti River at Three Kings	(03) 211 5084	214
Five Rivers at Five Rivers Station	(03) 211 5086	222
Oreti River at Lumsden Cableway	(03) 211 5087	223
Hokonui Hills at Lora Station	(03) 211 5094	241
Winton Stream at Winton Dam	(03) 211 5095	242
Middle Creek at Otahuti	(03) 211 5099	251



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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