

# Mataura 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](http://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](http://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](http://www.nzta.govt.nz)

For other road closures head to [www.civildefencesouthland.govt.nz](http://www.civildefencesouthland.govt.nz), or get in touch with the Invercargill City Council, Southland District Council, or Gore District Council.

## ► River level information

### Mataura 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	2004	2012	2013	2017		
<b>Mataura River at:</b>														
Fairlight	Y	(03) 211 5011	111					2.64	1.62	1.31	2.33			
Parawa		(03) 211 5012	112	4.05	2.16	2.67	3.67	4.43	1.37	1.50	2.55			
Cattle Flat		(03) 211 5013	113					3.41	1.59	1.79	3.14			
Pyramid	Y	(03) 211 5015	115	2.97	2.86	2.35	3.10	3.14	2.42	2.71	2.60			
Gore		(03) 211 5014	114	4.69	4.22	2.88	4.45	4.39	2.64	2.87	3.21			
Tuturau	Y	(03) 211 5016	116			3.93	7.45	7.37	3.34	3.45	4.07			
Wyndham		(03) 211 5017	117					3.79	2.37	2.39	2.74			
Seaward Downs		(03) 211 5018	118		3.14	3.62	4.77	4.75	2.77	2.93	3.43			
<b>Waikaia River at:</b>														
Piano Flat	Y	(03) 211 5021	121		3.22	2.40	2.94	3.31	1.77	2.90	2.66	3.22		
Waikaia		(03) 211 5022	122					2.60	2.22	2.32	2.21	2.40		
Mahers Beach		(03) 211 5023	123	1.15	3.00	2.61	3.63	3.48	2.52	3.21	2.82	3.33		
<b>Waimea Stream at:</b>														
Mandeville	Y	(03) 211 5024	124	3.64	3.48	3.50	2.82	3.61	2.32	1.41	1.81			
<b>Waikaka Stream at:</b>														
Willowbank	Y	(03) 211 5025	125			3.23	2.88	2.34	2.88	2.89	2.51			
<b>Mokoreta River at:</b>														
McKays Road	Y	(03) 211 5026	126			3.64	1.99	2.14	2.05		2.57			

### Mataura River flood peak travel times (hours)

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

	Fairlight	Parawa	Cattle Flat	Pyramid	Gore	Tuturau	Wyndham	Seaward Downs
Fairlight		7	14	21	28	31	34	37
Parawa	7		7	14	21	24	28	31
Cattle Flat	14	7		7	14	17	21	24
Pyramid	21	14	7		7	10	14	17
Gore	28	21	14	7		3	7	10
Tuturau	31	24	17	10	3		4	7
Wyndham	34	28	21	14	7	4		3
Seaward Downs	37	31	24	17	10	7	3	

## Waikaia River flood peak travel times (hours)

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

	Piano Flat	Waikaia	Mahers Beach	Pyramid
Piano Flat		6.75	8.25	15.25
Waikaia	6.75		1.5	9
Mahers Beach	8.25	1.5		7
Pyramid	15.25	9	7	

## Mataura Catchment rain gauges EDI contact details

Rain Gauge	EDI Phone No.	EDI Menu No.
Eyre Creek at Shepherd Creek Hut	(03) 211 5085	221
Fairlight at Cainard Station	(03) 211 5088	224
Waikaia River at Piano Flat	(03) 211 5089	231
Wendon Valley at Waikaka	(03) 211 5090	232
Waimea Stream at Mandeville	(03) 211 5091	233
Upper Waikaia at Hyde Rock	(03) 211 5092	234
Glenlapa at Round Hill	(03) 211 5093	235
Mataura River at Tukurau	(03) 211 5097	244
Mokoreta at Mt Alexander	(03) 211 5028	255



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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