

Waiau 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

Waiau 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	
				1980	1983	1984	1988	1999	2010	2013	2016		
Waiau River at:													
Mararoa Weir		N/A	N/A						3.46	3.86	2.99		
Sunnyside		(03) 211 5061	161	3.60	3.93	5.07	4.31	4.16	4.44	3.44	3.51		
Clifden	Y	(03) 211 5062	162					3.88	4.50	3.22	2.88		
Tuatapere		N/A	N/A	3.62	3.76	5.65	3.17	4.08	3.66	2.89	2.62		
Te Waewae Lagoon		(03) 211 5063	163					3.61	1.81	2.36	3.97		

Data from the Mararoa Weir and Tuatapere kindly supplied by Meridian Energy and NIWA.

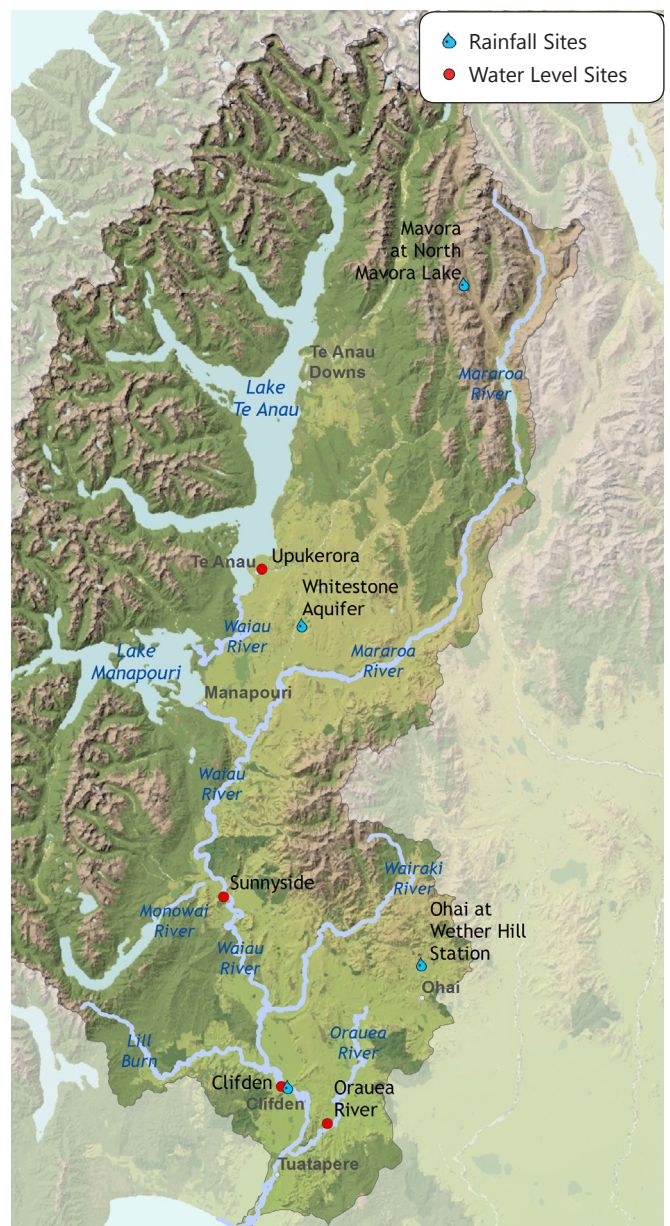
Waiau Catchment rain gauges EDI contact details

Rain Gauge	EDI Phone No.	EDI Menu No.
Whitestone Aquifer at Te Anau-Mossburn	(03) 211 5083	213
Ohai at Wether Hill Station	(03) 211 5096	243
Waiau River at Clifden	(03) 211 5029	256
Mavora at North Mavora Lake	N/A	N/A

Waiau River flood peak travel times (hours)

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

	Mararoa Weir	Sunnyside	Clifden	Tuatapere
Mararoa Weir		2	6	7.5
Sunnyside	2		4	5.5
Clifden	6	4		1.5
Tuatapere	7.5	6	1.5	



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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