

# Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

## **Who is responsible for Floodplain Management and Stormwater Drainage in the City of Greater Bendigo?**

*North Central CMA is responsible for determining the potential inundation from rivers and creeks within the North Central region.*

*The City of Greater Bendigo is responsible for the provision and maintenance of drainage and the management of any stormwater overflows from its drainage system.*

## **Why does flooding occur in Bendigo?**

*Flooding is a natural process intrinsic to all waterways. Flooding occurs periodically as a result of heavy rainfall within a catchment and is generally defined by the runoff from the storm event exceeding the capacity of the bed and banks of a waterway or local drainage system. The effects of flooding in Bendigo are magnified by the proximity of urban development to natural or modified creeks and channels resulting in damage to roads, residential, commercial and industrial properties.*

## **What is a flood study?**

*The first stage in managing floodplain risk for a particular catchment involves a flood study, which is a comprehensive technical investigation of flood behaviour for that catchment. These flood studies show the distribution, extent, levels and velocity of floodwaters across sections of the floodplain for a range of different flood events.*

## **Why is the study required?**

*Previous investigations have predicted that a large number of properties inside the study area may be affected by flooding or overland flow in a 1% AEP flood event.*

*This study involves a detailed assessment of different options to reduce the risk of flooding to facilitate decisions for future infrastructure investments.*

## **What is flash flooding?**

*Flash flooding occurs following intense rainfall with resulting flood levels rising to their peak within a very short time, typically between 30 minutes and 2 hours. This tends to occur in steep urbanised catchments such as Bendigo and gives residents very little warning time to prepare.*

## **What is a 1 in 100 year flood?**

*A 1 in 100 year ARI\* flood is a level of flooding that has a 1% chance of occurring in any year. It is considered a very large flood and is used as the minimum design standard for new development in Victoria. If an area experiences a 1 in 100 year flood in a certain year, it does **not** mean that another 1 in 100 year flood will **not** occur for another 99 years, it is an average only. The 1 in 100 year flood is technically referred to as the 1% AEP\* flood.*

*\*Average Recurrence Interval – is the likelihood of occurrence, expressed in terms of the long-term average number of years, between flood events as large or larger than the design flood event. For example, floods with a discharge as large as or larger than the 100 year ARI flood event will occur on average once every 100 years.*

Hearing or speech impaired?  
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[www.relay.service.com.au](http://www.relay.service.com.au)  
and ask for 03 5434 6000

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*\*Annual Exceedance Probability – is the likelihood of occurrence of a flood of given size or larger occurring in any one year. AEP is expressed as a percentage (%) risk and may be expressed as a reciprocal of ARI\* (Average Recurrence Interval)*

**What are the benefits of the study?**

*The study will identify a suitable flood mitigation measure for Kangaroo Flat and Golden Square to reduce flood risk in the area and will guide decisions on future infrastructure.*

**What works are proposed as a result of the study?**

*The study will provide a selected mitigation measure. Once the study is completed a design will be undertaken and finally a construction of the selected infrastructure. Given this project is jointly funded by the City of Greater Bendigo and the Victorian government the next stages will proceed as funding becomes available.*

**Will the outcomes of the study affect my property value?**

*The new information will provide a more accurate analysis of a property's susceptibility to flooding from a range of flood events compared to previous findings. It is unlikely that any effects on land value as a result of new flood mapping would be able to be determined without a thorough analysis of an individual property's flood risk in conjunction with other competing market forces by appropriately qualified individuals.*

**What can I do to be flood prepared?**

*The Victorian State Emergency Service's website provides an array of information on preparing for, responding to and recovering from a flood event. Please visit [www.ses.vic.gov.au](http://www.ses.vic.gov.au) for more information.*

**Where can I find more information regarding the study?**

*For further information on the study see below:*

*City of Greater Bendigo                      [www.bendigo.vic.gov.au](http://www.bendigo.vic.gov.au)*

*If you have any further queries please contact the City of Greater Bendigo on (03) 5434 6000 and your query will be directed to an appropriate staff member.*

**Are any flood mitigation options being developed to reduce flooding?**

*The City regularly considers potential flood/drainage mitigation options. The City has been spending approximately \$4 million per annum on drainage projects to improve stormwater flows and reduce flooding. The City is also working with the Epsom Ascot Huntly Floodplain Management Advisory Group investigating flood mitigation options including management of the creek levee.*

**The creeks are choked and a mess why are the creeks not cleaned out?**

*The reeds within the Bendigo Creek are typically either Phragmites or Cumbungi, both of which are native species that play an important role in the functioning of a healthy waterway. They act as a filter to remove sediments and pollutants from water and helps to stabilise streams by protecting beds and banks from erosion.*

*Contrary to common perceptions, research has shown that vegetation along waterways has a negligible influence on flooding. Reeds are often a cause for community concern, they appear to be blocking the channel and hence pose a flood risk. However, this is simply not true.*

*During low flows, reeds do slow water velocities, but once flows reach roughly a quarter of the height of the reeds, their resistance is significantly reduced as they are bent by the flow. During high flows, reeds actually provide lower resistance in the channel compared to woody vegetation, as they are swept over by the flow and lie down flat on the bed.*

*If residents are concerned about other weeds such as blackberries, elms, willow, gorse or litter or fallen trees, the Council/CMA can investigate, they allocate money each year and work in a Joint Partnership Initiative to control weeds/litter, etc. It is recommended that residents contact Council to lodge a complaint/enquiry so that the matter can be investigated.*

### **Do I have to pay for the mitigation infrastructure?**

*This project is 1/3 funded by the Federal government, 1/3 by State government and 1/3 by Local government.*

*Once the mitigation option is identified and the expected cost assessed, the City will be looking for funding to undertake the works. It is likely that the cost will be shared however, the rates are capped so the works would be part of the City's capital works budget.*

### **What happens next?**

*The project will enable sound business cases to be developed and funding applications to be prepared for detailed design and implementation of mitigation options that are recommended*

