

Council Storm Recovery Number: 5366 1323

## Moorabool June 9-10 Storm Event 2021 – Community Newsletter No. 9

### Impacts of the October 28 Storm

If you have been impacted by the 28th October Weather Event please call Council's Storm Recovery Number on (03) 5366 1323.

Moorabool Shire was significantly affected by the wild weather that hit Victoria last Thursday night. Thank you to the entire Moorabool community for your ongoing resilience after this second major storm event for our Shire.

If you are in immediate danger from a fallen tree over a house or structure, or a tree is blocking the access to your property, call SES on: 132 500

More information can be found here: <https://www.ses.vic.gov.au/plan-and-stay-safe/emergencies/storm>

If a tree has fallen over a Council managed road, call our Parks & Gardens team on: (03) 5366 7100

If a tree has fallen on an arterial road, contact Regional Roads Victoria on: 133 778

If a powerline is down, call Powercor: 13 24 12

If a tree is down on a track managed by DELWP, call: 136 186 or call the Vic Emergency Hotline on: 1800 226 226

### Free mulch and firewood from storm debris

We received an incredible response when we opened bookings for residents to collect 2 cubic metres of free mulch processed from storm debris.



Further bookings to collect free mulch have opened. Book here: <https://bookeyo.com/bookmyseIf?type=3353CNKKY717B33A30FFE>

Moorabool Shire Council is processing a small amount of storm debris into firewood which will be available in the coming weeks.

For more information, visit: <https://www.moorabool.vic.gov.au/News/Free-Mulch-for-Moorabool-Shire-residents>



### Community BBQs

Council's Storm Recovery team will be hosting a roving community BBQ across two days in November, thanks to support from the Red Cross, the Salvation Army, and the Victorian Council of Churches.

Join us for a free snag and a chat with the Storm Team and your fellow residents.

#### Wednesday 17 November

- Blakeville, intersection of George and Lilburne Lane
- Dales Creek, water tanks on corner of Acacia and Dales Creek Ave
- Blackwood War Memorial

#### Thursday 25 November

- Korweinguboorra Reserve
- Moorabool Reservoir Picnic Ground
- Gordon Reserve

Further information coming soon: check out our Facebook page for confirmed times when the BBQ van will be at each location.

## Storm and Flood Financial Counselling Program

The Storm and Flood Financial Counselling Program is open to Victorians affected by the June 2021 storms and floods.

The program can connect you to a financial counsellor to help you to:

- Access relief for utility bills and other payments
- Understand your government income and other entitlements
- Negotiate with your bank on debt issues
- Identify if your insurance outcome is fair and appropriate
- Explore your options and advocate on your behalf.

Speaking to a financial counsellor early can help stabilise your finances, reduce stress and allow you to focus on other areas.

The Storm and Flood Financial Counselling Program is available on the Storm and Flood Recovery Hotline, a single state-wide number (1800 560 760).

## Online Community Info Sessions

Moorabool Shire Council and Bushfire Recovery Victoria held two Community Info Sessions in October; one each for the Blackwood community and the Korweinguboorra/Spargo Creek/Barkstead community. Thank you to all who participated in the sessions and were able to share their feedback. To view the Q&A sheets created to answer all questions that came up during the sessions, visit: <https://www.moorabool.vic.gov.au/Emergencies/Storm-emergency/Storm-Recovery-FAQs>

## Emergency Position Indicating Radio Beacons (EPIRB) and Personal Locator Beacons (PLBs)

Residents have been asking Council for information regarding EPIRBs and PLBs. An Emergency Position Indicating Radio Beacons (EPIRB) is primarily used for emergencies at sea. A Personal Locator Beacon, or PLB for short, is a personal electronic transmitting device that is designed to alert potential rescuers to a life-threatening situation in the air, on water or in remote areas.

Personal locator beacons are handheld devices that send out a signal on 406 MHz, the same frequency used for newer emergency locator transmitters. You can activate a PLB by simply by extending the antenna and pressing the ON button—and it transmits a powerful distress signal with a unique digital code.

PLBs will cost approximately \$300 - \$800, depending on the model and the manufacturer.

All beacons can be registered at <https://beacons.amsa.gov.au/registration/>

For government information regarding purchasing beacons, visit: <https://beacons.amsa.gov.au/purchasing/suppliers.asp>

## Fire preparedness

The most current and accurate information regarding fire preparedness is provided on Council, DELWP and the CFA websites.

- View Council info here: <https://www.moorabool.vic.gov.au/Services-and-support/Fire-and-emergency/Fire-prevention>
- View DELWP/FFM Vic info here: <https://www.ffmpeg.vic.gov.au/bushfire-management-facts>
- For more info on how FFMVic manage prescribed burns and local biodiversity visit: <https://www.ffmpeg.vic.gov.au/bushfire-fuel-and-risk-management/plants-and-animals>
- View CFA Website here on how to prepare your property: <https://www.cfa.vic.gov.au/plan-prepare/how-to-prepare-your-property>
- More information on Council Fire Access Tracks: <https://www.moorabool.vic.gov.au/Services-and-support/Fire-and-emergency/Fire-Access-Track>

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## Fire Tracks

All Council fire tracks are now cleared for emergency vehicles. DEWLP have cleared 535km of their roads and tracks. DELWP and Parks Victoria crews have now assessed all of the strategic fire access roads. About 70% of these roads have now been cleared and treated. Crews continue to focus on clearing and treating the remainder of the strategic road network, while preparations are underway to commence clearing and treating the boundary track network.

On the Parks Victoria estate, approximately 90% of storm impacted roads have been cleared for access and hazardous trees have been treated.



Due to seasonal road closures and inclement weather, crews have not been able to assess and clear some areas within the forest.

However, we want to reassure the community that crews are working hard to have the large majority of publicly accessed roads open by the end of the year. Some temporary road closures may occur while timber harvesting and recovery works are undertaken.

**Please note the Wombat State Forest is currently closed due to the recent wild weather. DELWP are undertaking tree hazard assessments and will reopen the forest as soon as it is safe to do so.**

## STAND funding: NBN for future emergencies

Moorabool Shire were successful in obtaining funding to improve telecommunications under the Federal Government's Strengthening Telecommunications Against Natural Disasters (STAND) Program.

Funding will be used to provide wifi internet via NBN to the following:

- Coimadai CFA Shed
- Dunnstown Recreation Reserve
- Elaine Mechanics Hall
- Gordon Public Hall
- Korweinguboorra Recreation Reserve
- Mount Egerton Hall
- Mt Wallace Public Hall
- Navigators Hall

There is an application that has been submitted by Telstra for the Blackwood area that is still to be determined. We will let you know of the outcome.

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## How to access Mental Health Support

### Storm and Flood Recovery Support Hotline

Call 1800 560 760 and a Recovery Support Worker can assist you in accessing mental health support through Central Highlands Rural Health.

### Partners in Wellbeing Helpline

Free and confidential wellbeing coaching for businesses and individuals. This service is available 7 days a week via email, chat or phone call. Find more info at: <https://www.partnersinwellbeing.org.au/>

### Australian Red Cross

Support and resources to look after yourself and your family when disasters happen. Visit <https://www.redcross.org.au/get-help/emergencies/looking-after-yourself>

### Beyond Blue

Provides information and support to help everyone in Australia achieve their best possible mental health, whatever their age and wherever they live. Call 1300 22 4636 or visit <https://www.beyondblue.org.au/>

### Lifeline

24/7 crisis support and suicide prevention. Call 13 11 14 or visit <https://www.lifeline.org.au/>

## Roadside clean-up and arborist checking trees

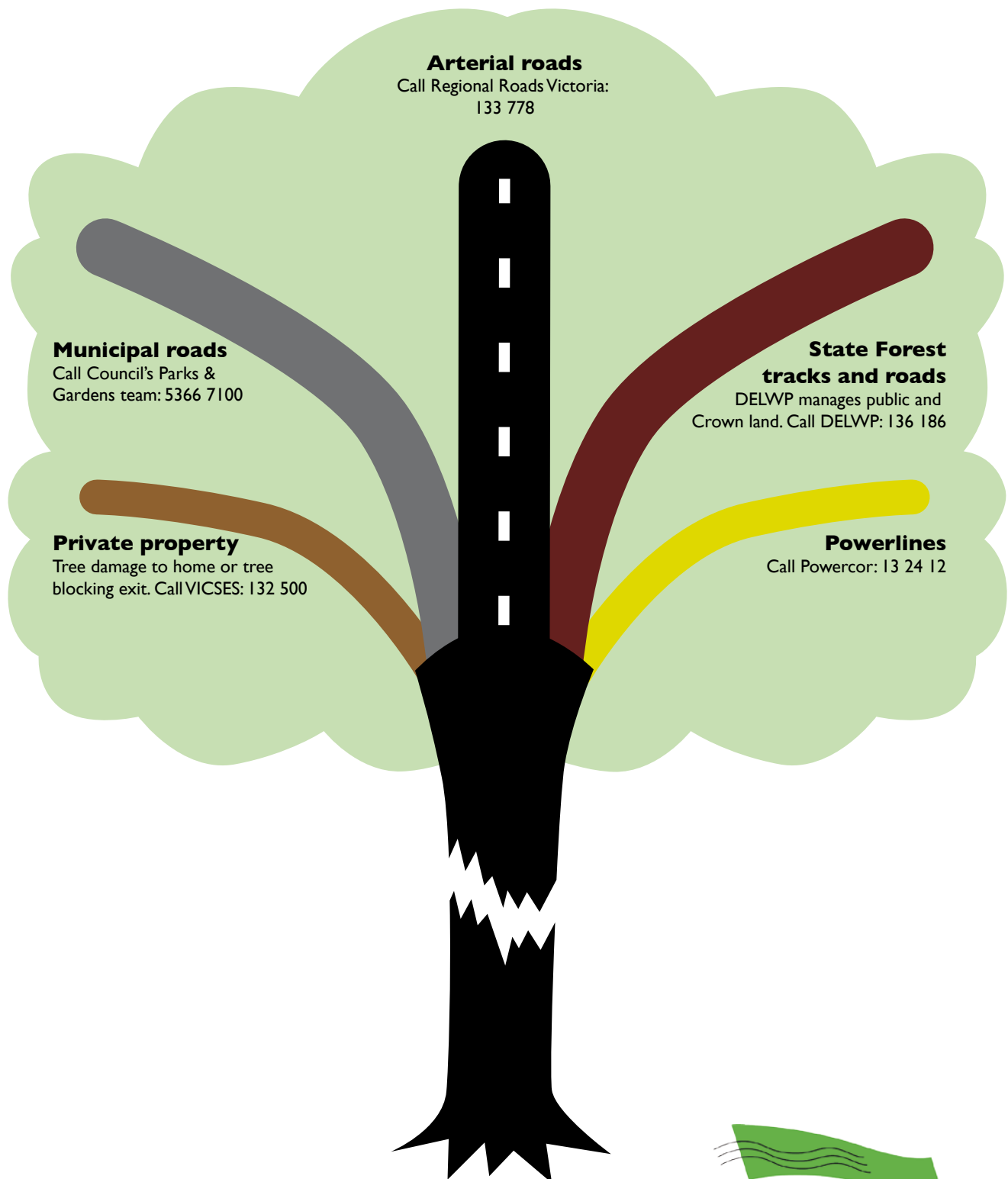
The clean-up of Municipal roadside debris is close to completion. Our crew are also grading the roads where clean-up occurred, and this should be complete within the next few weeks. A second round of tree inspections has commenced to re-visit roads impacted by the storm and identify trees that may not have fallen in the initial storm – but that are now at risk of failure or impacting on the essential road asset. Arborist Reports are being prepared and necessary works are being undertaken to remove the roadside risk.

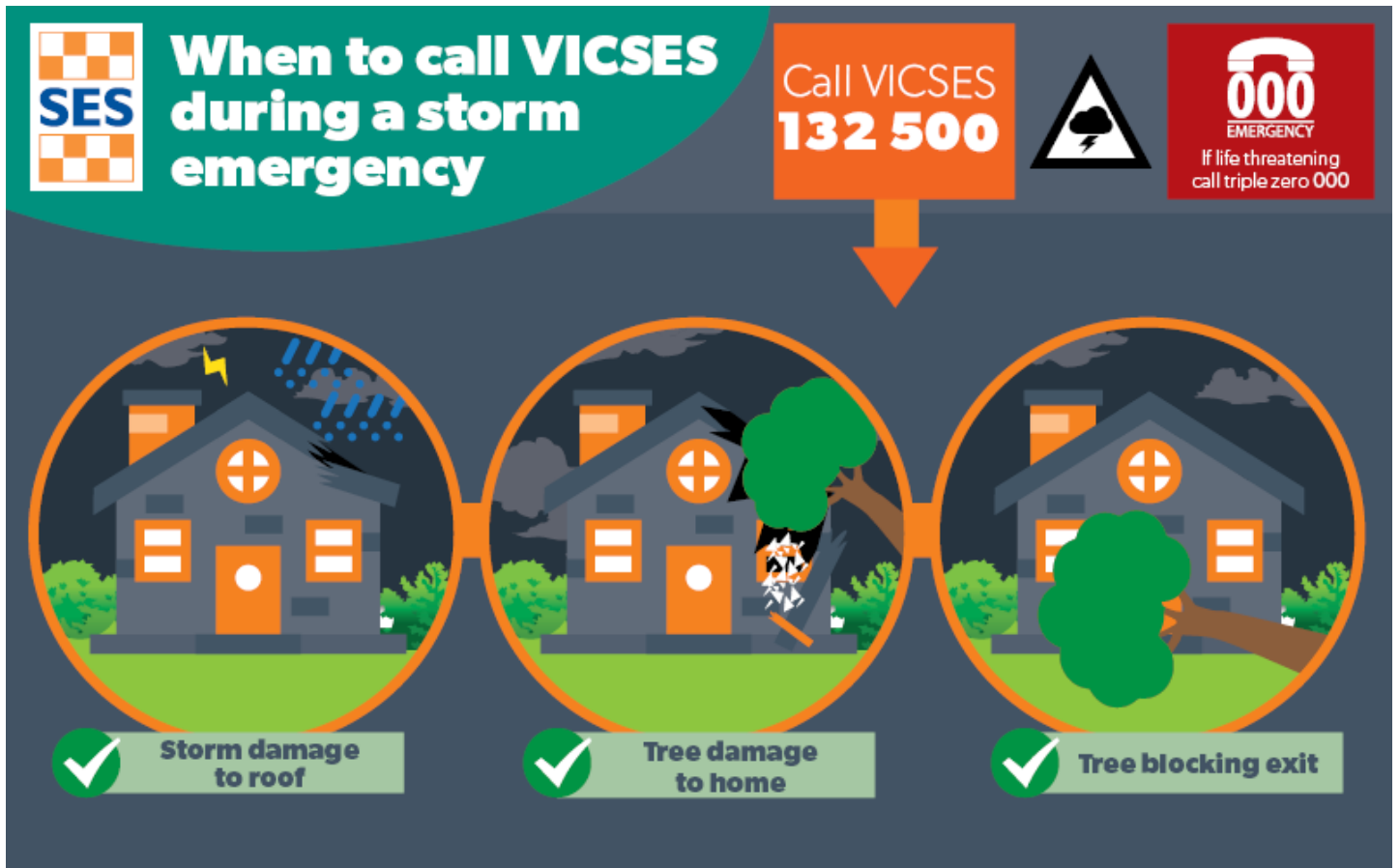
If you would like to report a tree that has since come down on Council roads, call 5366 7100.



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## Who to contact if a tree has fallen on:





**When to call VICSES during a storm emergency**

Call VICSES **132 500**

**000**  
EMERGENCY  
If life threatening  
call triple zero 000

✓ Storm damage to roof

✓ Tree damage to home

✓ Tree blocking exit



**Did you miss our previous Storm Community Newsletters?**

Read them all on our website: <https://www.moorabool.vic.gov.au/Emergencies/Storm-emergency/Storm-event-newsletters>

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