

June 9-10 Storm Event 2021 – Community Newsletter No. 18

October rain event

Along with much of the state, Moorabool Shire has been hit with heavy rainfall this month, peaking on Thursday 13 October. A total of 90-100mm of rain is estimated to have fallen during the event. Flash flooding occurred in townships right across the Shire and multiple roads were closed.

In order to assist residents to prepare for the deluge, Council opened free sand bagging stations at the Ballan Council office and Bacchus Marsh Council depot.

We thank the entire Moorabool community for their resilience and community mindedness during the floods, especially as many continue to recover from the lasting impacts of the June 2021 major storm event.

We would also like to thank Council staff, emergency services personnel and volunteers (including VICSES and CFA crews) and Victoria Police for their tireless work throughout the severe weather event.

The Bureau of Meteorology has advised that the coming weeks may continue to be wet, with unpredictable weather. Please practice caution and look after one another. Some roads across the Shire are still closed, so drive with caution and avoid areas with known closures. You can check the status of the roads via the VicTraffic website: traffic.vicroads.vic.gov.au/

Stay up-to-date during emergencies via the Vic Emergency app or website: emergency.vic.gov.au/

You can also follow Council's Facebook page where we share relevant weather warnings: facebook.com/mooraboolshirecouncil

In the event of more heavy rain, the Council website will have information regarding sand bagging stations and relief assistance: moorabool.vic.gov.au/floods



Central Highlands Storm Recovery and Heavy Rain Event Update from DELWP

Due to recent heavy rainfall events, roadside storm debris works are currently on hold in the Wombat and Cobaw State Forests. DELWP and VicForests are working to commence operations as soon as conditions allow but are currently anticipating delays of up to several weeks.

Although the following sites are not ready to re-open, DELWP has contractors working on the following:

- Whipstick Walk
- Lerderderg River Heritage Walk
- Great Dividing Trail

DELWP crews will be starting work on both Nolans Creek Picnic Area and the Lyonville Springs Picnic Area shortly. This work includes replacing bollards with rocks, repairing BBQs, replacing tables where required, reforming paths and placing grass seed.

Following recent large rainfall events DELWP is reminding residents and visitors to be careful when driving in State Forests. These recent events have caused significant damage to tracks and roads creating an increased risk to drivers.

Many of the roads in our State Forests have been severely damaged and will remain closed until works can be completed. This goes for campgrounds as well, as they are not a safe place to rest at the moment.

DELWP strongly advises people not to visit campgrounds until the surrounding tracks have dried out.

For information on track and state forest closures, go to: <https://www.ffm.vic.gov.au/permits-and-regulations/closures-of-parks-and-forests>

DFFH's new recovery web page

Last month, the Department of Families, Fairness and Housing launched a **disaster and emergency recovery page**.

This web page can direct you to psychosocial support following natural disasters and emergencies such as fires, floods and storms.

Published on the page are filmed interviews of residents who were impacted by the June 2021 storm event, and talks by clinical psychologists Rob Gordon (**who visited Moorabool Shire in December 2021**) and David Younger.

You can also read the State Emergency Management Plan via this page.

Visit it here: <https://www.dffh.vic.gov.au/recovery>

Flood Recovery Hotline

VicEmergency have set up a Flood Recovery Hotline to provide flood impacted residents with information regarding clean-up, temporary accommodation, navigating available supports, and mental health and wellbeing support.

Call 1800 560 760 between 7.30am-7.30pm, 7 days a week.

To access this information in other languages, call the Translating and Interpreting Service on 131 450 and ask them to call the Flood Recovery Hotline.

Council Storm Recovery Number: 5366 1323

Agriculture Victoria – flood support

Agriculture Victoria are urging flood-affected farmers to report their losses and damages by calling 1800 226 226.

For practical tips after a flood go to agriculture.vic.gov.au/floods

Remember, if you have urgent animal welfare needs call the VicEmergency Hotline (operating 24/7) on 1800 226 226.

Primary Producer Clean-up and Relief Grants are now available for farmers impacted by the floods.

This \$10,000 grant will help farmers pay for the cost of the clean-up and get their businesses up and running again.

Grants can be used to cover a range of expenses including removing and disposing of rubbish, replacing or repairing damaged equipment and fencing as well as purchasing fodder and water.

For more information or to apply visit ruralfinance.com.au/

VICSES Community Flood Info Sessions – POSTPONED

VICSES Ballarat Unit were planning to hold two community sessions this month on Friday 21 October in Ballan and Friday 28 October in Bacchus Marsh. To allow all VICSES crews to respond to the current flooding, these sessions will be postponed until further notice. We will notify you when a new date is set.

Farewell to Kristi, our Community Recovery Officer

Many of you will have spoken to Kristi Sullivan, Moorabool's Community Recovery Officer, during your storm recovery journey. Kristi is sadly leaving the team for an exciting new opportunity in Emergency Management. Moorabool's Storm Recovery Team will now be led by Amanda Western, who comes to us from the storm recovery team at Hepburn Shire Council.

Should you wish to discuss anything with the team, give us a call on (03) 5366 1323 during business hours.



Free green waste drop-off for fire season preparation

Moorabool Shire residents can drop off green waste for free at any of the Shire's transfer stations for the month of November to prepare their property for the 2022/23 fire season.

The service is being introduced in response to community feedback from over 700 community contributions to Moorabool's Waste and Resource Recovery Strategy 2030.

There is no restriction on the volume of green waste dropped off. Residents will be required to show proof of residency such as a driver's licence or utility bill.

To be fire-season ready, clear the following green waste from your property:

- Undergrowth and fallen branches
- Leaves from gutters
- Grass

Please note: tree stumps and branches over 200mm in diameter will not be accepted within this service. Residents must ensure green waste is not mixed with household garbage, building materials, recyclables, or any other contaminant.

In addition to the green waste service, Moorabool residents are reminded that free recycling for e-waste, whitegoods, batteries, scrap metal and recyclables accepted in the yellow lid kerbside bin is available at the transfer stations throughout the year.

View transfer station locations and operating hours on our website: moorabool.vic.gov.au/Transfer-stations

Council Storm Recovery Number: 5366 1323

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. This hotline can also link you in with a financial counselling service.

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

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/>



Prepare for potential flooding

- Find your local flood info
ses.vic.gov.au
- Make a plan
redcross.org.au/getprepared
- Ensure you can access warnings
emergency.vic.gov.au

 For more information visit:
ses.vic.gov.au/get-ready

132 500 FLOOD STORM
EMERGENCY

Council Storm Recovery Number: 5366 1323