SHIRE OF CAMPASPE
MEDIA RELEASE

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NEW FLOOD LEVEE FOR ROCHESTER

Campaspe Shire Council will construct a new levee bank on the property at 5774 Northern Highway, 4.5km south of Rochester. The project will involve the decommissioning of a channel on private property and construction of a levee, approximately 1km in length, to provide flood protection to the south side of Rochester.

Campaspe Mayor, Cr Ian Maddison said the project is a win-win for the private property owner and community of Rochester.

"Construction of the levee will provide flood protection to people and property within Rochester while at the same time allowing the landowner to improve the productive agricultural use of the land through removal of the channel," Cr Maddison said.

The opportunity to establish the levee has resulted from the outcomes of two projects: the Goulburn Murray Water’s (GMW) Connection Project; and the Rochester Flood Study.

The aim of the GMW project is to modernise and improve the efficiency of northern Victoria’s irrigation network. As part of the project, GMW entered into agreements with private landholders to decommission irrigation channels where they were no longer required. One of these agreements was for the decommissioning of a 1.2km long section of irrigation channel on the property at 5774 Northern Highway.

The Rochester Flood Study, undertaken following the 2010 and 2011 flood events, identified the banks of the same section of irrigation channel as providing a level of flood protection to Rochester. It achieved this by impeding the flow of flood water from the Campaspe River adjacent to the property.

GMW and the North Central Catchment Management Authority agree that the irrigation channel does afford some flood protection to the Rochester township; however, the channel was not constructed as a levee and cannot currently be relied upon for flood protection.

Council has been successful in gaining funding from the Natural Disaster Resilience Grant Scheme (NDRGS) towards construction of the levee on a dollar for dollar basis. The total grant funding provided to design the levee bank is $196,000 during 2014/15. Council will contribute $24,000 in 2014/15 and a proposed further $74,000 in 2015/16.
To facilitate the project, Council will seek approval from the Department of Justice to vary the funding agreement under the NDRGS to allow Council to purchase an easement and construct the levee bank. Subject to this approval, Council will assume control and management responsibility of the levee. The ongoing management responsibility will entail twice yearly inspection and periodic maintenance.

**Further information**

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