

From Council:

Rochester Recovery Update

13 December 2022

For all enquiries and requests, contact Council on 1300 666 535.

Welcome

Welcome to the first edition of **Rochester Recovery Update**. Since the October floods, Council has issued shire-wide **Situation Update** bulletins; we're now moving to more localised communication updates, recognising that different parts of the Shire of Campaspe are in different phases of the emergency management process.

This regular bulletin will keep the Rochester community updated on the recovery process, Council services and facilities, and works being undertaken to remediate damaged roads, buildings and other community facilities. It will also include information on key community agencies as well as events and other community news.

Printed copies of the bulletin will be distributed widely throughout the community and supported by other communication methods to ensure we reach all parts of the Rochester community.

Customer Service Centre / Library

Customer service has been operating out of the 4Rs and will continue to do so until the end of January. Council is currently in the process of establishing a Customer Service Centre at the former Commonwealth Bank building. This is not expected to be operational until February. In the meantime, you can make all your payments, lodge requests and receive click and collect library services at the 4Rs. Customer service is available at the 4Rs Tuesday to Thursday, 8.30am – 4.30pm (closed for lunch between 12noon – 1pm). The centre will close for the holidays as of 3pm, Thursday, 23 December, reopening 3 January.

Swimming Pool

Council has received an engineering report about the damage and works required to make the pool safe again before it can reopen to the public. We are currently seeking quotations for remedial works for the pool, buildings and operational infrastructure, such as pumps. Please note that at this stage, the pool can't be emptied of water due to the damaged shell.

Child Care and Kindergarten

Rochester and District Child Care is currently operating out of Country Kidz Tongala and will continue to do so into the new year. Rochester and District Child Care will then relocate to the former kindergarten on the corner of Fraser and Mackay Streets. The Shine Bright Rochester Kindergarten will continue to operate from the Elmore Kindergarten location for term one 2023, however will relocate to the Rochester Secondary School site as soon as possible once the Rochester Kindergarten is completed.

Immunisations

The Immunisation team recently visited the Year 7s of Rochester Secondary College to 'catch up' on their second dose of HPV that was scheduled in October. This second dose has now been completed.

The next general immunisation session available to all residents will be held on Thursday, 5 January at the Rochester Recreation Reserve clubrooms. Bookings are required and can be made by calling 1300 666 535. The Japanese Encephalitis Vaccine will also be offered at this session and again, bookings are required.

Rotary Park

The flooded mulch has been removed and new mulch has gone in. All timber is being sanded and resealed/oiled, plus any logs that washed away are also being replaced. Plants, turf, top dressing and sand will also be replaced. It is hoped this will be opened shortly.



Mosquito treatment

Environmental Health Officers have been completing larval treatments in stagnant water and have also treated for adult mosquitoes through residual sprays in communal areas.

RRRRs Tennis Courts

Council is currently reviewing quotes to start replacing the synthetic turf surface on the two hard courts as soon as possible.

Roads

There are currently no roads closed in the Rochester township. Initial impact assessments have been completed across the entire Rochester road network. Roadworks will be undertaken in two stages. The first stage involves roads that have been marked as 'urgent' or 'requiring immediate repair'. These emergency works will start early January and are expected to take three months to complete. The second stage involves long term road network recovery. This damage is extensive and in some instances requires a rebuild of sections of a road. This second stage is a long term project and is expected to take two years to complete.

Maternal & Child Health

Bookings are being taken for Maternal & Child Health services and families are encouraged to contact the MCH booking line on 1300 644 964 to discuss their individual circumstances.

Residential waste

Kerbside bin collections are operating as normal. There will be no changes to red, yellow or green bin collections throughout the holiday period. All flood affected household waste must be taken to the Rochester Transfer Station, 139 High Street. The transfer station is operating as normal:

- Tuesdays from 1pm – 4pm
- Thursdays from 9am – 12noon
- Sundays from 9am – 12noon

Residents are encouraged to transport their waste to the transfer station sooner rather than later. This flood waste is still being accepted free of charge until the end of the year. 'Mount Rochester' (the temporary dump site) has officially been cleared and environmental testing has been completed this week to ensure there is no long term damage.



Commercial waste

Commercial quantities of flood affected building waste (more than three cubic metres) must be taken to the 'Commercial Flood Waste Facility' at the rear of Mount Scobie Transfer Station, 479 Everard Road, Kyabram. Commercial operators need to register and wait for a response before arriving at the facility. To register, email Senior Project Engineer William Stansen at william.stansen@symal.com.au and include the area you are carting the waste from, truck registrations and truck tare weight.

Financial assistance

Several financial support grants from Federal and State Government departments have been collated on Council's website. Grants for individuals, businesses, primary producers and other groups are listed.

For the full list, go to www.campaspe.vic.gov.au/relief or scan the QR code.



Keeping mentally well

There are many resources and services that can assist you if you're feeling anxious, overwhelmed, worried or stressed. You can contact your GP or another local service such as Echuca Regional Health Wellbeing and Primary Mental Health. For those aged 12 – 25, there are organisations such as Headspace Echuca. Many workplaces and schools will have employee or student assistance programs. Support lines can also be contacted, such as Beyond Blue on 1300 224 636 or Lifeline on 131 114. For more information, scan the QR code.



Rochester Recovery Committee

The Rochester Recovery Committee meets regularly to tackle the actions with the Recovery Action Plan. Actions related to matters such as aged care, mental health, business, community infrastructure, schools and many other key issues. Committee members include: Chairperson Leigh Wilson, Cate Ward, Jane Reid, Amanda Logie (Community House), Darrel Schwab (Ward Bros), Judith Gledhill and Hayley Ettershank (emergency services), Karen Laing (REDHS), Liz Trewick (St Joseph's), Glenda Nichol (Rochester Business Network), Keith Oberin and Lachie Cozens (Campaspe Shire Council) and Rachel Lee (Emergency Recovery Victoria).