

From Council:

Campaspe West Recovery Update

27 February 2023

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

Welcome

Welcome to the first edition of Campaspe West Recovery Update. This regular bulletin will keep the Gunbower and Torrumbarry communities updated on the recovery process and progress of activities. It will include information from Council as well as news and information from the community, and government authorities and agencies supporting recovery.

Thank You!

Council would like to acknowledge and thank all those in the community who have helped to protect the communities of Gunbower and Torrumbarry, both during the crisis and since the waters have receded. Many people have gone above and beyond to assist their fellow community members while at the same time grappling with their own challenges. Like those living in other flood-impacted communities across Campaspe, you have demonstrated an incredible community spirit and for that, we say thank you.

Campaspe West Community Recovery Committee

While Council is the lead agency for the recovery phase, community-led recovery is at the heart of the process. The Campaspe West Community Recovery Committee (CWCRC) has been established to drive the local recovery process. The committee will be developing an action plan that identifies local needs and priorities to be addressed across five broad areas, including human/social, economic, environment, built and cultural (incorporating issues relating to our indigenous community, linguistically-diverse groups and access and inclusion matters). The committee will also provide a platform to share information and resources, and coordinate services/activities to facilitate the recovery process.

The committee members are:

- Hamish Toll
- Sue McGillivray
- Brendan Elliott
- Travis Cartwright School
- Fred Kirkpatrick
- Jeanette Cowan
- Tim Kingma
- Letitia Edwards
- Clint Wolff
- Helen Williams

Echuca Moama Torrumbarry Flood Study

The draft Echuca Moama Torrumbarry Flood Study will be updated with new data from the October 2022 flood event. Community consultation on the draft study was about to take place when the flood occurred. Updating the study will enable potential future flood mitigation measures, warning systems and triggers to be developed based on the latest information. It is anticipated that the revised draft study will be completed and placed on public exhibition in late 2023.



Campaspe Shire Council Mayor Cr Rob Amos and
Murray River Council Mayor Cr Chris Bilkey

Urgent Road Works

Council has established a panel of contractors to accelerate urgent repairs to flood-damaged roads. These emergency works, funded by the state and federal governments, are required to be completed by 30 April 2023. Emergency repair works have recently been completed at Davis Road Torrumbarry, to allow better access across the flood way. Works expected to be undertaken within the next few weeks include:

- Weir Road
- Headworks Road
- Brereton Road
- Gunbower Pyramid Hill Road

Support for Young People

Council has secured Victorian Government funding via the Youth Affairs Council of Victoria to help young people impacted by the floods. If you would like to suggest any ideas or highlight any issues, please contact Council's Community Development Officer Youth, Ben Hearn at b.hearn@campaspe.vic.gov.au.



Southern 80 – Parks Victoria Update

Parks Victoria crews have completed extensive flood recovery work to support visitors to this year's Southern 80; however, many areas along the Murray River will remain closed to visitors while this work continues. Parks Victoria is currently finalising a map that will show which areas along the river will be open and which areas will remain closed. For more information, visit <https://www.parks.vic.gov.au/places-to-see/parks/river-murray-reserve>. Parks Victoria rangers, authorised officers and Victoria Police patrolling the river during the Southern 80 will be able to provide advice and assistance to visitors.

Help for Farmers

Agriculture Victoria

Information about support measures available for flood and storm-affected farmers can be found at <https://www.agriculture.vic.gov.au/floods>. Farmers are encouraged to contact the Agriculture Recovery team on 0427 694 185 (Mon-Fri between 8.30 am and 5 pm) or email recovery@agriculture.vic.gov.au.

Rural Aid

Rural Aid provides farmers with a range of support, including confidential counselling, fodder, domestic water, financial assistance and access to volunteers through 'The Farm Army'. To access support, please register online at www.ruralaid.org.au or call 1300 327 624.



Rural Finance

The following grant applications are open until 4pm on Sunday, 30 April:

- **Primary Producer Recovery Grants:** Up to \$75,000 to cover the cost of recovery and get businesses up and running again. Note: This replaces the \$10,000 Primary Producer Flood Clean-Up, Relief Grants announced on 19 October. Producers that have received a Primary Producer Flood Clean-Up Relief Grant of \$10,000 can now apply for up to a further \$65,000 under the Primary Producer Recovery Grant, bringing the total to \$75,000.
- **Rural Landholder Grants:** Up to \$25,000 to cover the costs of disaster impacts for small-scale producers.
- **Primary Producer Concessional Loans:** Up to \$250,000 to restore or replace damaged equipment and infrastructure, or to cover the short-term business expenses.
- **Primary Producer Transport Subsidies:** Up to \$15,000 to support the transport of emergency fodder or stock drinking water, and the movement of livestock.

For more information or to apply for support, visit <https://www.ruralfinance.com.au>.

Rural Financial Counselling Service

The Rural Financial Counselling Service offers free and independent financial information, options, decision-making support and referral services to farmers and small, related rural businesses who are in, or at risk of, financial hardship. A rural financial counsellor can assist farmers to understand, and apply for, government support. Call 1300 771 741.

Murray Dairy Taking Stock Program

Flood-impacted farm businesses can receive one-on-one support from local, well-known consultants and industry professionals on the topics of budgeting, feed and farm business planning. For more information, contact Murray Dairy on 4811 6008.

National Centre for Farmer Health Grants

The National Centre for Farmer Health #BuildingFarmSpirit program is partnering with Victoria's community groups, local agriculture industry, not-for-profit organisations, sporting clubs and individuals with grants of \$500 to \$1,500 for activities that provide social connection and mental health promotion for farmers and farming communities. Register your interest at www.farmerhealth.org.au/buildingfarmspirit.



Taking Care of Yourself

Mental Health and Wellbeing

There are many resources and services that can assist if you are 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.



Surviving the Heat

Stay hydrated by drinking small amounts of water frequently, stay out of the sun, spend time in cool places, plan ahead and monitor the Bureau of Meteorology forecasts, and check on others, especially those particularly vulnerable in a heatwave. Never leave children or pets in vehicles.

Don't Wing it with Mosquitoes

Mosquitoes bite and can spread many diseases so cover up by wearing long, loose-fitting, light-coloured clothing and frequently apply mosquito repellent that contains picaridin or DEET.

For more information visit the Victorian Government Department of Health website <https://www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au>.

GIVIT - How to Help Others

Emergency Management Victoria has partnered with GIVIT, a national online not-for-profit organisation that connects donors and charities to make sure people and communities get what they need. GIVIT supports more than 4,000 charities as well as hundreds of local neighbourhood community centres, schools and community groups. If you would like to consider GIVIT to support Campaspe's flood-impacted communities, please visit <https://www.givit.org.au>.

Music Events Program

The Victorian Government will contribute \$1 million to enable live music events to be held across flood-affected regions to ignite tourism and reunite communities. People in flood-affected communities, including residents, venues, event presenters and artists, are encouraged to contact Music Victoria at info@musicvictoria.com.au to put forward ideas and discuss being part of the program.





Waste Services

Household Flood-Affected Waste

The Gunbower Transfer Station at 4134 Murray Valley Highway, Gunbower is still accepting household flood waste (under three cubic metres) free of charge. This is at the discretion of the operator.

The opening hours are:
Monday – 1.00-4.00pm
Sunday – 9am-12noon

Building Waste

Residential quantities of building waste (less than three cubic metres) may be taken by residents to any of Council's resource recovery centres. For more information please visit Council's website.

Commercial Flood Waste

The Commercial Flood Waste Facility located at Mt Scobie is no longer accepting commercial waste from builders engaged privately or by insurance companies.

Council recommends that commercial operators (with over 3m³ waste in large trucks and tippers) contact a local landfill (eg., Moama Landfill [Murray River Council], Shepparton [Cosgrove] Landfill or Patho Landfill) for disposal options. Please note: Patho Landfill only accepts trucks that are equal to or larger than a light rigid while Moama and Shepparton (Cosgrove) Landfills accept flood waste over 3m³ and any truck size is accepted.

Sandbag disposal at transfer stations

Sandbags can now be taken to any of Campaspe's eight transfer stations free of charge. Council will then transport the sandbags to the Commercial Flood Waste Facility operated by Sycle (located behind Council's Mt Scobie transfer station) to be recycled.



Recovery Hotline

For information on clean up services, temporary accommodation, and mental health and wellbeing support call 1800 560 760.

Council Information

For the latest new news and information on flood recovery, including previous community recovery newsletters, visit www.campaspe.vic.gov.au/flood.