

From Council:

# Echuca Recovery Update

## April 2023



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

### Advancing Flood Recovery Advocacy

Council is working hard to advance Campaspe's flood recovery advocacy efforts with the Victorian Government. In late March, Mayor Cr Rob Amos, Chief Executive Officer Pauline Gordon and Director Emergency Management Shannon Maynard met with the Minister for Emergency Services The Hon. Jaclyn Symes and Emergency Recovery Victoria's Executive Director Regional Coordination and Operations Sue Jamieson in Rochester.

A range of issues were covered, including the need for continued funding for community wellbeing and repair of community infrastructure as well as support and resources to improve our shire's flood preparedness, mitigation measures and response capability.

While no commitments were given by the minister on the day, we hope these discussions and our ongoing advocacy lead to more positive announcements in the future.



(l-r) Campaspe Shire Council Director Emergency Management Shannon Maynard, Mayor Cr Rob Amos, Minister for Emergency Management The Hon. Jaclyn Symes, Campaspe Shire Council Chief Executive Officer Pauline Gordon and Emergency Recovery Victoria's Executive Director, Regional Coordination and Operations Sue Jamieson.

### Keep Reporting Flood Issues!

While Council has a good picture of the devastating impacts of the floods across the shire, we still need the help of our community to report issues to Council as soon as possible. If you see damaged Council infrastructure, such as roads and paths or stockpiles of sandbags and dirt for example, that you think may not yet be reported, please contact us on 1300 666 535.

Council is doing a significant amount of work to repair the damage caused by this unprecedented event, and reports from the community helps us to allocate resources and prioritise jobs. Reporting issues to Council also helps us to seek appropriate external funding so we can respond swiftly to things that need attention. Thank you to everyone who has already reported issues to us – we are working through the list daily!

### 2022-2023 Rates Relief Package

Great news for ratepayers! Council has now approved a rates relief package in 2022-2023 for properties impacted by the October 2022 flood event.

This package is the most equitable economic way Council can help ratepayers and is a key part of a broad range of resources and supports Council has put in place to help those impacted by the floods.

All ratepayers identified as flood-impacted will receive a letter and information sheet in the next few weeks explaining the rate relief package.

If you believe your property was flood-impacted and don't receive a letter from Council by the end of April, please contact Council on 1300 666 535 or via email [shire@campaspe.vic.gov.au](mailto:shire@campaspe.vic.gov.au).

For more information please visit <https://www.campaspe.vic.gov.au/flood>.

### Free Sandbag Removal

Council is offering a free sandbag removal service for residential and commercial properties. To take advantage of this service, please register by 24 April through Council's website at [www.campaspe.vic.gov.au/flood](http://www.campaspe.vic.gov.au/flood) or click on the QR code.



Before registering for the service, please place sandbags on your nature strip or nearest public property, away from fences, walls and other assets that may be damaged during sandbag removal. Please note that Council representatives are unable to come onto private property to remove the sandbags.

Sandbags will then be removed in a coordinated approach across the shire.



## Urgent Road Works

Emergency repair works have recently been completed at the following locations:

- Anderson Road – localised grade / re-sheet
- Muller Road – localised grade / re-sheet
- Spiers Road – localised grade / re-sheet
- Lady Augusta Road – localised grade / re-sheet
- Spencer Road – localised grade / re-sheet
- Bangerang Road - seal patching

Works are expected to be undertaken in the next few weeks at the following locations:

- Muller Road – localised grade / re-sheet
- Echuca West School Road – localised grade / re-sheet
- Benson Road – localised grade / re-sheet
- Kelsh Road – localised grade / re-sheet and culvert repairs
- Rowe Road – localised grade / re-sheet
- Lady Augusta Road – culvert repairs
- Bangerang/Goulburn Road – localised shoulder grades

## Waste Services

### Household Flood-Affected Waste

The Echuca Transfer Station at 510 McKenzie Road, Echuca 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 – Saturday: 8.00am – 4.45pm  
Sunday: 10.00am – 3.45pm

### 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 three cubic metres of waste in large trucks and tippers) contact a local landfill (e.g., 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 three cubic metres and any truck size is accepted. Victorian Landfills (Patho and Cosgrove) will accept eligible flood waste until 2 May 2023

## Support for Business

Business Victoria provides online assistance to business owners with a range of tools and templates to help operate and grow their business.

### Disaster resilience for business toolkit

A toolkit to help your business survive disasters is available at <https://business.vic.gov.au/tools-and-templates/disaster-resilience-for-business-toolkit>

### Tools and templates

Use the Type and Topic filters at <https://business.vic.gov.au/tools-and-templates> to find practical tools, templates and calculators to help you start and run your business.

The Australian Small Business Advisory Services (ASBAS) **Digital Solutions Program** has re-opened and is a great source of information, guidance and coaching for business owners who want to leverage digital services to grow their business. The program offers up to four hours of one-on-one tailored support as well as unlimited attendance at group workshops or webinars. For more information visit <https://courses.melbourneinnovation.com.au/>

## Disaster Legal Help Victoria

Disaster Legal Help Victoria (DLHV) is a partnership between the Federation of Community Legal Centres, Justice Connect, Law Institute of Victoria, Victoria Legal Aid, Victorian Aboriginal Legal Service and the Victorian Bar Association. Its role is to coordinate legal information advice and referrals for those seeking legal help. To access disaster-related legal information or an appropriate legal referral please visit the DLHV website at [www.disasterlegalhelp.org.au/](http://www.disasterlegalhelp.org.au/). Alternatively, you can email [disasterlegalhelp@vla.vic.gov.au](mailto:disasterlegalhelp@vla.vic.gov.au) or call Sharon Keith Program Manager on 0434 999 715.

## 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.



### 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](http://www.campaspe.vic.gov.au/flood).