

From Council:

Rochester Recovery Update

24 February 2023

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

Rochester Caravan Park Amenities Now Available

Rochester residents in need can now use the fully accessible toilet and shower facilities at the Rochester Caravan Park on the corner of Morton and Pascoe streets, free of charge until further notice. Council has negotiated the arrangement with the caravan park operator, in place of the temporary portable amenities installed by the state government after the flood. For more information please call Michael Haisman of the Rochester Caravan Park on 0438 841 622.

Council Flood Recovery Follow-Up Sessions

Rochester residents are taking advantage of Council's Flood Recovery Follow Up sessions currently underway. All Rochester residents are eligible for a follow-up session, which includes a visit by a team of specialists comprising of an electrician, hygienist and structural engineer. The purpose of the follow-up sessions is to confirm the extent of household flood damage across properties in Rochester. They also provide an opportunity for residents to ask questions about their property and their health, such as about mould, mosquitoes and personal wellbeing.

All residents of Rochester, whether currently living in their home or temporarily elsewhere, can expect a telephone call to arrange a follow-up session. If you have already been contacted and need to follow up a message or change your appointment, please call 1300 167 239.



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 the end of April. Emergency repair works have recently been completed at the Pascoe Road floodway, just west of the Heathcote – Rochester Road. Works expected to be undertaken in the next few weeks include:

- Diggora Road - West of Restdown Road
- Macgregor Road - Gibson Road to Doherty Road
- Gibson Road - Webb Road to Macgregor Road
- Tasker Road - Zeglin Road to Moore Road

Community Facilities

It's great to see residents and visitors once again enjoying many of Rochester's parks, gardens, pathways and sports and recreation facilities, as community assets are gradually repaired by our work crews, contractors and community organisations.



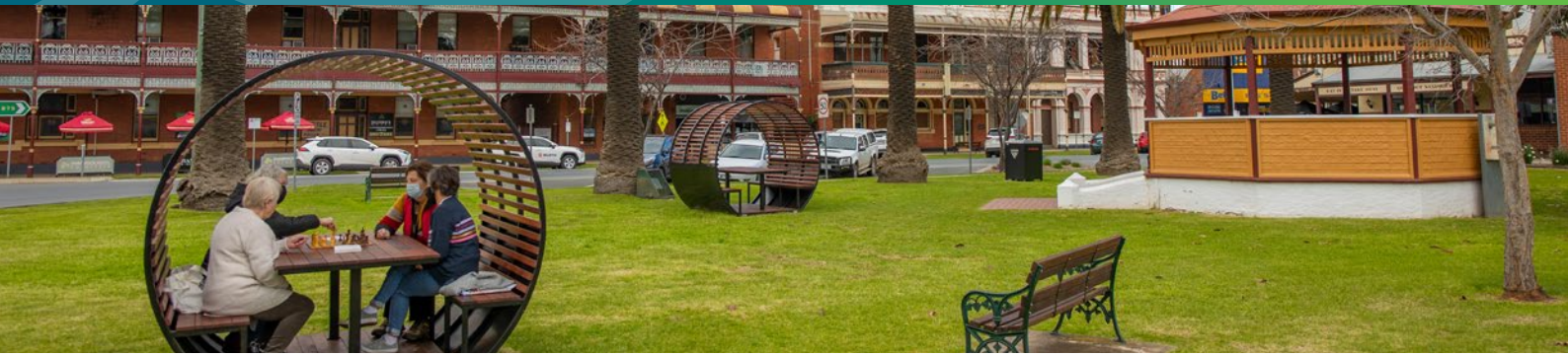
Tennis courts - a new synthetic surface has been installed and the courts are open for use.

Child care facility - internal works are continuing and landscaping is underway.

Rochester pool - quotes have been sourced; however, the pool is unlikely to open this summer season owing to the extent of damage.

Resource Recovery Centre - works are underway with expected completion within the next few weeks.

Rochester Shire Hall - internal works are continuing.



New Location for Council Services

From Tuesday, 21 February, Council's Service Centre and Library will operate from the former Commonwealth Bank building at Shop 6, 2 Gillies Street, Rochester. Opening times are Tuesday to Thursday, from 8.30am to 4.30pm (closed 12noon to 1pm). Please note there will be no library afterhours drop-off chute. There will be one free public Wi-Fi computer available for use.

Council's Maternal and Child Health service will also operate from this location on Mondays and Wednesdays, by appointment only. To make an appointment, call 1300 644 964. Although this is a temporary arrangement, we will do our best to make this space as comfortable and user friendly as possible.

Support for Business

Partners in Wellbeing

If you're in small business and wanting access to free mental health support for yourself or your staff and their families, assistance is available in Rochester through Partners in Wellbeing. The program provides one-on-one counselling, tailored wellbeing workshops, and access and referrals to financial counselling and business advisory services. Contact Bonnie Pappas on 0417 073 043 or email bonnie.pappas@each.com.au.

'Love Rochy' Campaign

The Rochester Business Network (RBN) will launch its 'Love Rochy' social media campaign on Monday, 13 March. The project aims to promote business members of the RBN over the next six months, with each business receiving a personalised social media post, including professional copywriting and photography. For information contact the RBN via email secretary@rochesterbusinessnetwork.com.au or phone 0438 846 201.

Building Information

Residents are reminded that a building permit is required for any project that involves rebuilding, restumping or changing the foundations of a house. Residents are also encouraged to make appropriate investigations and enquiries regarding the recommended finished floor level of their house and increase the height above natural ground level to minimise any future impacts. To find out about height information for your property, visit

the North Central Catchment Management Authority's website <https://www.nccma.vic.gov.au/flood-eye>. For information about building in flood-hazard areas, visit the Victorian Building Authority's website <https://www.vba.vic.gov.au> and for general enquiries, contact Council's Building Department on 1300 666 535.

Events

Girls Night

Friday, 3 March, 6 - 10pm at the 4Rs



For participants aged over 18 years, this FREE flood recovery event will have live music, entertainment, delicious food, photo booth, lawn games and more. Dress code: Joyful! For details, contact Rochester Community House via email projects@communityhouse.org.au.

Music Events Program

The state government is contributing \$1 million to enable live music events to be held across flood-affected regions to ignite tourism and reunite communities. Contact Music Victoria via email info@musicvictoria.com.au to put forward ideas and discuss being part of the program.



Support for Primary Producers

Agriculture Victoria

Information about support measures available for floods 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 (Monday – Friday between 8.30am and 5pm) 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 grants 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 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.



Summer Health Reminder

Survive 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>.

Waste Services

Household Flood-Affected Waste

The Rochester Transfer Station at 139 High Street (corner Sullivan Street) 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:

Tuesday: 1 - 4pm

Thursday: 9am - 12noon

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.

Free aerated caddies for Rochester residents who lost theirs in the flood

Council is offering one free aerated food scrap caddy and one roll of compostable bags to any Rochester resident who uses a green bin service and lost their caddy in the recent floods.

To register, please scan the QR code or call Customer Service on 1300 666 535. Council will be in contact shortly with more information.



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.

General Support

Department of Families, Fairness and Housing Victoria (DFFHV)

Representatives from DFFHV are available every Monday from the 4Rs to assist the community with emergency grants and other services.

Rochester Community House

The community house operates from the 4Rs with Foodshare, open on Tuesdays and Thursdays, 11am - 1pm.

Disaster Legal Help Victoria (DLHV)

For legal help call DLHV on 1800 113 432 or visit <https://www.disasterlegalhelp.org.au>.

Mental Health and Wellbeing

There are many resources and services that can assist you 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.