

From Council:

Rochester Recovery Update

11 April 2023

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

Rochester Early Learning Centre

It's great news for local families with the reopening of Rochester Early Learning (REL, formerly Rochester & District Childcare Centre) in its new location at 8-10 Fraser Street. The centre has been completely refurbished and kitted out with all new equipment for the children to enjoy.

Thank you to all the families and children of this service for your patience and support while Council staff have worked hard behind the scenes to bring this wonderful new facility to fruition so quickly for the benefit of the Rochester community.

The centre will undergo further refurbishment over the next few months to complete the project which will allow additional enrolment spaces for the local community. In the meantime, staff of the new centre are delighted to welcome back all of the existing children and families and look forward to welcoming new families into the future.

The REL provides services to children aged 0-6 years of age. For more information, please call 5484 1979 or 0417 651 787.



Mayor Cr Rob Amos and Cr Paul Jarman toured the new space and checked out the delightful new facilities.

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 strengthen our shire's flood preparedness, mitigation measures and response capability.

While no commitments were given on the day, we hope these discussions 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!

Free Sandbag Removal for Residential and Commercial Properties

With the Victorian Government's free sandbag removal program now ended, Council is offering a free 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 or scan 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.



Flood Recovery Hub Has Moved

The hub of services for flood-impacted people has moved from the 4Rs to Council's Service Centre at 43-45 Mackay Street until further notice. The 4Rs will now close for repairs. Please note that Council's Customer Service team and library service will continue to operate from the former Commonwealth Bank building, corner of Moore and Gillies streets.

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.

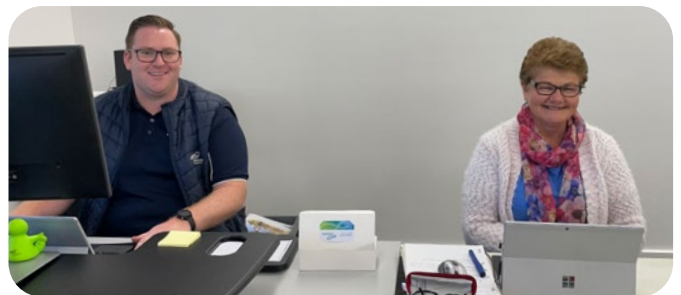
This package is the most equitable economic way Council can help ratepayers and is a key part of a broad range of resources and supports Council has put in place to help those impacted by the floods.

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.

For more information please visit www.campaspe.vic.gov.au/flood.

Rates Relief Pop-Up Sessions

Council staff will be available to answer your questions about the 2022-2023 Rates Relief Package on **Tuesday, 18** and **Wednesday, 19 April** between 11.00am and 8.30pm at the Rochester Shire Hall.



Grader Team Flying Squad

Residents may see three graders from Council's Works team grading gravel shoulders along some of Rochester's roads after Easter.

The team is doing a great job across the shire to help bring our road network back up to standard after the floods.

Dr Rob Gordon Presentation

Clinical psychologist Dr Rob Gordon OAM will return to Rochester to give two free presentations at the Shire Hall on Wednesday evening, **26 April** and Thursday morning, **27 April**. Stay tuned for further information.



Urgent Road Works

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

- Clarkes Bridge Road
- Taskers Road
- Powers Road
- Three Chain Road
- McManus Road
- Mackay Road

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

- Echuca-Nanneella Road, Webb to Zegglin
- Freeman Road, Hanrahan Road, Bull Road and Bonn Road in the Bonn Area
- Lockington Road (multiple sections)
- Watson Road – Mustey to Bonn School Road
- Bonn School Road – Watson to Ryan Road
- Marktree Road – Speers to Mustey Road
- Strathallan Road (multiple sections)
- Levee bank (Shire managed) repair works on Campaspe River, south of Rochester
- Debris removal at Quinns and Strathallan bridges
- Stormwater pit and lid repairs around residential streets.

Focus on Mental Health and Wellbeing

A multi-agency forum, comprising of Council, community leaders and groups, and key government departments, is working together to ensure Rochester residents have access to a responsive and streamlined suite of mental health and wellbeing services.

Established in March, the forum meets fortnightly with a key focus on improving mental health and wellbeing outcomes for the Rochester community by:

- ensuring services are coordinated and providing a no-wrong-door approach
- raising community awareness about services available and how to access them
- supporting existing services by highlighting the range of referral options available to them
- identifying any gaps in service delivery and advocating for funding to address any shortfalls.

Grants for Farmers Closing Soon

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 grants 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>.

AgBiz Assist

AgBiz Assist supports rural and regional businesses, farmers and communities to make informed decisions about their future. Through the Rural Financial Counselling Service (RFCS) Victoria North East, the service provides no-cost, intensive, individualised, confidential and independent support to primary producers, fishing enterprises, forestry growers and small businesses experiencing or at risk of financial hardship. The RFCS service can assist in identifying opportunities for improvement, adjustment or change through financial counselling, planning and support services.

Support for flood recovery is easy to access. For more information call 1300 834 775, email info@agbizassist.org.au, visit www.agbizassist.org.au or drop into a local Recovery Hub.

Insurance Forum

The Insurance Council of Australia will be conducting a forum on **Tuesday, 18** and **Wednesday, 19 April** at the Rochester Shire Hall. Key insurance companies will be available to meet with residents to discuss the claims process. For more information, contact Mark Styles on 0474 050 555 or via email mstyles@insurancecouncil.com.au.



Waste

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 three cubic metres waste to 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 three cubic metres and any truck size is accepted. Victorian Landfills (Patho and Cosgrove) will accept eligible flood waste until 2 May 2023.

Free Aerated Caddies for Rochester Residents

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.



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.