

From Council:

Rochester Recovery Update

June - July 2023

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

A Special Night for Rochester Businesses

About 80 Rochester business owners, their staff and associates came together for a night of networking and entertainment in June. Local performers Evie Scoble, Glenda Bancell, Paul Colivan and Mat Anderson kicked off a wonderful musical showcase ahead of special guest performances by The Voice finalist, Matt Hetherington and award-winning singer, Nina Ferro.

Hosted by Campaspe Shire Council, in conjunction with the Rochester Business Network and Rochester Rotary Club, the event provided an opportunity for local businesses to step away from the busyness of their day-to-day operations and, as a community, network with colleagues in a relaxing atmosphere, while also acknowledging their hard work in addressing the many challenges of the past eight months in recovering from the floods.

A fun night was had by all, with lots of laughing, singing and dancing among the audience. Photos from the 'I Love Rochy' campaign decorated the room and the messages of gratitude from local schools were heartfelt.



Primary Producer Grants Closing Soon

Applications for primary producer and rural landholder financial supports related to the October 2022 to 13 January 2023 flood and storm event close at **4pm, 13 July 2023**.

- **Primary Producer Recovery Grants:** Up to \$75,000 grants to cover the cost of recovery and get businesses up and running again.
- **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 www.ruralfinance.com.au.

New Community Recovery Hub

Since the October floods, impacted people have been able to access support and resources from temporary community recovery hubs. With Victorian Government funding, Council has now set up a fit-for-purpose community recovery hub at 48 Mackay Street in Rochester. The hub will be staffed five days a week by dedicated community recovery officers and a range of Council, government and professional support services will be delivered from the venue, including a mobile outreach unit.

To contact the Rochester Recovery Hub please call 1300 666 535 or email shire@campaspe.vic.gov.au.



Lachlan Cozens, Council's Flood Recovery Team Leader, will be located at the Rochester Recovery Hub.



Australian Insurance Council Forum

Need help with your insurance claim? The Australian Insurance Council and insurers will be available for in-person consultations between **Monday, 24** and **Thursday, 27**

July, from 10.00am-6.00pm each day at the Rochester Shire Hall, 45 Mackay Street, Rochester. For more information and to make an appointment with your insurer, please visit www.insurancecouncil.com.au/bookings.



Flood Inquiry Submissions

Thank you to everyone who took the time to lodge a submission to the Inquiry into the 2022 Flood Event in Victoria. While the statistical data speaks volumes about the devastating asset losses, it's only through the stories of local residents, businesses, farmers, teachers, community groups and others impacted by the floods that the human toll can be truly understood. Your experiences and insights will now inform the committee's recommendations to better protect our communities from such disasters into the future. At the time of writing, of the more than 750 submissions received to date, about half are from Rochester alone. You can read many of submissions online at <https://new.parliament.vic.gov.au/get-involved/inquiries/floodinginquiry/submissions>.

Flood Inquiry Public Hearings

The Legislative Council Environment and Planning Committee is holding public hearings for the Inquiry into the 2022 Flood Event in Victoria in the Shire of Campaspe as follows:

- Rochester – Wed, 23 August 2023
- Echuca – Thurs, 24 August 2023

More information about the public hearings, including venues, times and a list of witnesses will be published at <https://new.parliament.vic.gov.au/get-involved/inquiries/floodinginquiry/hearings>.

Flood Advocacy

We are delighted that two of Council's funding applications to the state and federal governments have been successful. An amount of \$1.087 million has been awarded under Round One of the Disaster Ready Fund (DRF) for:

- review and updating of the Echuca Moama Torrumbarry Flood Study
- preparation of a Flood Risk Management Plan.
- purchase of demountable levee panels.

An amount of \$110,000 was also awarded under the Connecting Community to Builders Program. This will help flood-impacted residents to rebuild their homes by linking them to local trades in the area, and assist Council to process the increase in planning and building permit applications.



Campaspe Shire Council Mayor Cr Rob Amos and Murray River Council Mayor Cr Chris Bilkey. Campaspe Shire and Murray River councils are working together to deliver the Echuca Moama Torrumbarry Flood Study.

Funding for Moon Oval Lighting Approved

Council has committed up to \$306,000 in funding towards Rochester Recreation Reserve's Moon Oval lighting project. Chair of the Rochester Recreation Reserve Brendan Martin spoke at the June Council meeting and explained how important the Moon Oval lighting project was to the Rochester community to help them move forward from last year's floods. The reserve's Committee of Management did a great job in successfully applying for a Flood Recovery Grant through the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action but there was a shortfall in funding to complete the project. Council's funding commitment will enable Moon Oval to be fitted with 300 lux lighting, enabling football games to be played at night. The project has been budgeted for in Council's 2023-24 capital works program.



New Economic Development & Tourism Strategy

Help shape Campaspe Shire's economic direction by contributing to a new five-year Economic Development & Tourism Strategy for our shire. Whether you run a local café, are the head of a global enterprise or are interested in the prosperity of local towns, everyone's voice is important. Here are some ways you can get involved:



Half-Day Summit - Friday, 21 July

Come along to this great networking opportunity and share your insights, ideas and priorities for Campaspe's economic future. With the economic landscape changing dramatically in the past few years, particularly on the back of the pandemic, fires and floods, there's never been a more important time for businesses, organisations and other interested individuals to come together to help shape Campaspe's economic direction and drive greater tourism growth into the future. Guest speaker, renowned demographer Simon Kuestenmacher, will reveal the latest demographic and global trends shaping Australia and the implications of these forces for our shire and region, now and into the future. To register for the summit, visit www.campaspe.vic.gov.au/edts



Renowned demographer Simon Kuestenmacher is guest speaker at the summit

Survey

Share your experiences and insights by taking the survey today at www.surveymonkey.com/r/CSEDTS2023. Survey closes Friday, 14 July.

Industry Forums

A variety of industry forums will also be held.

For more information, visit www.campaspe.vic.gov.au/edts.

Road Works

The road maintenance blitz on residential streets in Rochester is continuing. Council's roadworks team is making repairs to gravel roads and shoulders, and patching sealed roads in addition to the emergency repair works to flood-damaged roads.

Emergency repair works are expected to be undertaken in the next few weeks at the following locations:

- Restdown Road
- Strathallan Road



Echuca Regional Health Flood Recovery Program

ERH's Flood Recovery Program can be accessed through the Victorian Government hotline on 1800 560 760, by referral from other service providers, through local recovery centres, or by self-referral. The ERH Flood Recovery Support office operates Monday to Friday, from 8.30am-4.30pm.

For information, call 5485 5421.

Mental Health Support

For local mental health support Monday to Friday, from 9.00am-5.00pm, please call Echuca Regional Health (ERH) on 5485 5800. You can also contact your local GP or Headspace Echuca for those aged 12-25 years. Other support lines include Beyond Blue on 1300 224 636 or Lifeline on 131 114. For more information, scan the QR code.





Waste Services

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 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.



Household Flood-Affected Waste

All resource recovery centres (RRCs) located in Echuca, Kyabram (Mt Scobie), Rochester, Rushworth, Gunbower, Lockington, Colbinabbin, and Toolleen will continue to accept household flood waste (under three cubic metres), free of charge until 1 October 2023. This is at the discretion of the operator. Contact details of householders will need to be provided to the RRC at the time of drop off to use this free service.

For opening hours of each RRC, please visit: www.campaspe.vic.gov.au/rrc or scan the QR code.



Commercial Volumes of Flood Waste

Residents and commercial operators with over three cubic metres of flood waste can contact a local landfill for disposal options. The closest landfills are Moama Landfill (Murray River Council), Shepparton (Cosgrove) and Patho Landfill. 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.

Greater Shepparton City Council currently requires that all flood waste to Cosgrove Landfill (Shepparton) is pre-registered with Campaspe Shire Council and then a disposal time pre-booked directly with Greater Shepparton City Council. To pre-register, scan the QR code, visit Council's website www.campaspe.vic.gov.au, or call Council on 1300 666 535.



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, visit Council's website www.campaspe.vic.gov.au.



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.