

Flood Recovery in Murrindindi Shire

Edition #3

In this edition

As flood recovery efforts continue, we are pleased to provide you with some updates. We know there are many people who are still dealing with impacts from the October 2022 floods, and there is information in this newsletter to support you in your recovery.

In this edition we have updates on grants available to business and primary producers. Most notable of which are some Agriculture Victoria grants being extended until July 2023.

The Murrindindi Flood Recovery Committee has been working hard to finalise the Murrindindi Flood Recovery Plan which will be shared with you shortly.

Continue reading for information from Murrindindi Shire Council and partner agencies and organisations involved in the recovery efforts across Murrindindi Shire.

Topics

- Flood Inquiry Open for Submissions
- Online Flood Hub
- Available support
- Local updates
- Other updates

Flood Recovery Hotline

You can call the Flood Recovery Hotline on 1800 560 760. Operators can help you with clean-up services, finding a place to stay, financial support and mental health and wellbeing support.

The Hotline is open 7 days a week between 8.00 am - 6.00 pm Monday to Friday, and between 10.00 am - 6.00 pm on Saturday and Sunday.



Events

Community Meeting - Breakaway Bridge

Date: Tuesday 30 May

Time: From 6.00 pm

Location: Alexandra Shire Hall, 55 Grant Street, Alexandra.

Register at: murrindindi.vic.gov.au/breakaway

Flood Inquiry open for submissions

The Victorian Parliamentary Environment and Planning Committee is calling for submissions from all flood-affected communities for the Inquiry into the 2022 Flood Event in Victoria.

To make a submission, visit the Flood Inquiry webpage on the Parliament of Victoria website: new.parliament.vic.gov.au/floodinquiry

Submissions have been extended until Monday 5 June 2023.

The Legislative Council Environment and Planning Committee will hold a public hearing for this inquiry in Seymour on Thursday 14 September 2023.

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Online Flood Hub

Council has a dedicated Flood Hub on our website, where we share updates about the Victorian Floods along with links to important information and resources to help you and your loved ones. Visit the Flood Hub at:

murrindindi.vic.gov.au/floods2022

Available Support

Health and wellbeing support

Goulburn Flood Recovery Service

If you have been affected by the October 2022 Floods, you are eligible to receive support from a Flood Recovery Support Worker, through the Goulburn Flood Recovery Service.

Find out more at our Flood Hub, or contact the Flood Recovery Hotline on 1800 560 760.



**goulburn
flood
recovery
service**

**Were you
affected by
the floods in
October
2022?**

**Referrals for
our service
are via
Emergency
Response
Victoria**

**Flood
Recovery
Hotline
1800560760**

**This contact
number is
the pathway
to being
allocated to
our service**

You are eligible for a Flood Recovery Worker.
Some of the ways our Flood Recovery Workers can help are:

- Providing information and advice
- Providing assistance with paperwork and accessing grants.
- Referral to areas of support (ie. financial counselling or mental health support)
- Support for business and farmers affected by the floods

Mental health and wellbeing support

Disasters can have a devastating impact on people. You don't have to go through it alone.

If you or a loved one needs extra support, speak with your local doctor, a mental health professional, counsellor or psychologist. It can also be helpful to start a conversation with someone who is independent but still understanding.

Visit the Flood Hub for a list of services to support you and your family.

Flood Response Support for Victorian primary producers

The National Centre for Farmer Health offers initiatives for primary producers impacted by the floods. This organisation delivers initiatives to support farmer mental health and wellbeing:

- Farmer Online Assist Program: Provides Victoria's flood-affected farmers with up to three free sessions with a farmer health trained and registered psychologist.
- #BuildingFarmSpirit social media campaign: Provides a welcoming space for farmers to share stories of how they navigate challenging times and is open to all forms of creativity.

Find out more on their website:
farmerhealth.org.au/buildingfarmspirit

Family violence support

Cases of family violence may increase after an emergency. Several organisations are working within Murrindindi Shire to provide information and support for family violence and child protection issues.

If you or someone you know is dealing with a family violence or child protection issues, The Orange Door is a first point of contact on 1800 560 760. For information on other services please visit our Flood Hub.

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Financial and practical support

Financial support

Whether you're a resident, business owner, or farmer, financial support is available to you. See our Flood Hub for more information.

Rural Financial Counselling Service

The Rural Financial Counselling Service is available to assist primary producers to understand and apply for flood and storm support. Primary Producers can contact their local RFCS on 1300 771 741.

More information is available at Rural Finance by calling 1800 260 425 or visiting the website at ruralfinance.com.au

Flood waste disposal

Council is assisting impacted residents and businesses with disposal of flood-damaged waste, including damaged farm fencing.

Visit murrindindi.vic.gov.au/floods2022 for information on available support.

Emergency Recovery Victoria's structural assessments

Homeowners, small business owners and not-for-profit property owners can register for an all-hazard structural assessment if eligible properties with structures have been damaged or destroyed by floods.

Register at: vic.gov.au/register-structural-assessment-october-2022-floods



Business support

Support for farmers

Farmers and service providers are encouraged to subscribe to Agriculture Victoria's Flood Recovery digital newsletter to access the latest events and information via the Agriculture Victoria website: agriculture.vic.gov.au

Murrindindi Business e-Newsletter

If you operate a business in Murrindindi Shire and have not done so yet, you can register for the Murrindindi Business e-Newsletter on our website.

murrindindi.vic.gov.au/Your-Business



AgVic grants extended

Applications for a range of Agriculture Victoria grants have been extended until 13 July 2023. This gives farmers and primary producers more time to get the relief and support they need.

The extension applies to:

- Primary Producer Flood Recovery Grant
- Rural Landholder Grant
- Flood Recovery Transport Support Program
- Primary Producer Flood Recovery Concessional Loan.

For assistance in understanding what's available to you and the application process, call Agriculture Victoria on 136 186 Monday to Friday between 8.00 am and 6.00 pm.

For more details on available grants, visit the Agriculture Victoria website: agriculture.vic.gov.au/floods

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Local updates

Breakaway Bridge, Acheron

Council is hosting a meeting for the Acheron community, to speak with you about the condition of Breakaway Bridge, the protective rock works on the northern bank and the process and next steps from here.

See Page 1 for details.

Thornton

The installation of stormwater backflow prevention gates will begin shortly in Thornton.

Council is installing backflow prevention gates, also known as reflux valves or flap gates, on the two stormwater outflow pipes that empty into the waterway on Taggerty-Thornton Road, Thornton. These flood gates will prevent stormwater from flowing back into the stormwater system when the water level in the creek rises above the level of the drains, while allowing the drains to function normally once the water recedes.

Fabrication of the flood gates has been completed, and contractors will begin to install them in the near future.



FLOOD RECOVERY HOTLINE
1800 560 760

Press 9 for an interpreter

Open 8:00am–6:00pm Monday to Friday
and 10:00am–6:00pm on weekends

VICTORIA
State Government

The graphic features a blue background with a white and purple illustration of a person wearing a headset and working on a laptop. The text is in white and yellow. The Victoria State Government logo is in the bottom right corner.

Other updates

Stay up to date

If you know of anyone else who may benefit from this information, please share this with them and encourage them to subscribe to receive our Flood Recovery News direct to your inbox. Printed copies will be made available at Council's Libraries and Customer Service Centres. Subscribe online at: murrindindi.vic.gov.au/recoverynewsletter

What do you want to see in future editions?

We would love to hear from you. If you have any suggestions about what you'd like to see in future editions of the newsletter, please let us know by emailing communications@murrindindi.vic.gov.au

We also encourage you to share your story with us. We'd like to know how you are coping in recovering from the floods and if you have any ideas that might be helpful for other people in our communities.