

Supporting our communities' recovery

To the residents and business-people of Latrobe City

What a tumultuous and challenging time is an understatement. The storm and flood event that impacted the City overnight on 9-10 June was significant.

The flooding of the Traralgon Creek was the largest on that waterway since June 1978 and the storm damage in the Yinnar South and Budgerie area was the largest since 2009.

To those who are temporarily without homes as a result of the storm and floods, we feel for you. For those whose businesses have closed for now - on the back of a year of COVID lockdowns and restrictions - we acknowledge the financial and emotional hardship you are experiencing.

We write to let you – and others in our community – know that Latrobe City Council is doing what we can to support you.

Our City is sadly not immune to the challenges that natural events bring and in recent times we have shown resilience by enduring a pandemic. Each time disasters and challenges have come they have also passed. This time, too, will pass and with it will come a return to life as we knew it.

Until then, Council is supporting the community in many ways as we assess and work with the community and business on what will be a long clean-up and recovery phase: from hard rubbish collection to facilitating access to financial assistance and clearing roads.

This incident has had a significant impact across our City. Our crews are working hard to provide support now to all of the impacted areas in the City, from the flooding in Traralgon and the flood and storm damage in Yinnar South, Jeeralang and Budgerie areas, to Boolarra South, to name a few. We will also continue our work to address the clean-up. It will take time.

We understand that many in the community are frustrated but we can assure you that our teams are working hard to reinstate access for individuals to their properties, and are busy clearing fallen trees, clearing drains and sweeping down streets, while our Emergency Management response team is supporting residents with accommodation, food hampers and emotional support.

We understand the impacts will be felt for some time. It will be a long journey, one that is better travelled together with the support and assistance of one another.

We have opened our leisure centres to those without electricity and running water to enjoy a hot shower,

and have received spoilt food, household goods and green waste at transfer stations at no charge to our community.

Our libraries are there for you to keep warm and to charge your mobile phones and other devices so that you can make contact with family and friends, and access the services you need.

Through the adversity of this period we have seen inspirational acts. We are seeing and have seen neighbours stand by each other's sides and strangers lend a hand to people in need. We want to thank all of these people, along with the staff and the volunteers of our emergency services who rolled up their sleeves and got on with the job at hand in appalling weather.

We know this generous spirit will continue. We have received many calls and offers of support. For those of you who would like to help, if you can, please donate to the Gippsland Emergency Relief Fund (GERF) or offer goods to those in need via the charity, GIVIT.

If you need help from Council at this time, we are just a phone call or an email away: 1300 367 700 or flood2021@latrobe.vic.gov.au

By reaching out, you can register for access to information, and possibly financial assistance and grants. You can also alert Council to issues we are not aware of.

The community can also keep up-to-date by checking our dedicated storm and flood website page – www.latrobe.vic.gov.au/flood – and our social media channels.

Council welcomes the State Government announcement of funding to assist our eligible community members at their time of need.

This is a difficult time for everyone. Please be kind to each other – and to yourselves. Reach out to support services that are available and check in on your friends, family and neighbours.

Together, we will get through this for we are One Latrobe.



Cr Sharon Gibson
Mayor
Latrobe City Council

Helpline

1300 367 700

flood2021@latrobe.vic.gov.au

Donate

gerf.org.au

givit.org.au

Volunteer

1300 367 700

flood2021@latrobe.vic.gov.au

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