

Our Recovery

Council is ready for the long journey ahead

Latrobe City Council is supporting the community through the long recovery effort resulting from the flood and storm event of June. Our staff continue to work hard to clear fallen trees, reinstate roads and assess public buildings impacted by floodwater. Council is also keeping the community updated by conveying information that will aid their recovery, ranging from mental health support to financial assistance programs announced by all levels of government. For the latest information, please read on. Council will post additional information as it comes to hand on Council's dedicated recovery webpage - www.latrobe.vic.gov.au/flood

Clean-up help is now available

Private property owners affected by the storm and flood event of June will receive government support to help them clean-up their properties.

The Storm and Flood Clean-Up program is funded by the Australian and Victorian Governments at no cost to eligible property owners, whether they were insured or not. Bushfire Recovery Victoria will deliver the program.

Destroyed and damaged structures will be removed for free, including residential homes, sheds and commercial buildings.

The aid includes assessment of trees on private land that are standing but are dangerous because of the storm and flood event. Only trees that pose a risk to structures and people will be eligible.

To find out more, go to: www.latrobe.vic.gov.au/Storm_and_Flood_Government_Support_FAQ

Business assistance

Business-people can contact Latrobe City Council's Business Development Team with enquiries related to the flood and storm event.

The team can help with referrals to State Government support that is available and other matters. Phone Council on **1300 367 700** and ask for a member of the team.

State Government programs available are:

- Support for businesses left without power: www.energy.vic.gov.au/safety-and-emergencies/power-outages
- Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements: www.agriculture.vic.gov.au/farm-management/emergency-management/floods/flood-advice-and-support
- Legal help: www.disasterlegalhelp.org.au/get-help

Gippsland Emergency Relief Fund offers aid

People can apply to the Gippsland Emergency Relief Fund for immediate financial assistance if they suffered loss or hardship as a result of the flood and storm event of 9 and 10 June.

The fund focuses on providing for personal losses such as people's immediate requirements for food, shelter, clothing, utensils, furniture, bedding and children's educational needs, as opposed to capital items covered by insurance or government grants.

Applicants should note that they will only receive a grant if they are eligible.

To apply, contact Latrobe City Council by phoning **1300 367 700** or emailing flood2021@latrobe.vic.gov.au

Advice for landlords and tenants

Consumer Affairs Victoria is now offering information for landlords and tenants impacted by the flood and storm event. The webpage below covers repairs, bond refunds, rent reductions and ending a rental agreement.

For more information, go to www.consumer.vic.gov.au/disasterhelp

Transfer stations

Moe, Haunted Hills Road
7 days per week, 12.30pm to 4.30pm

Morwell, Porter's Road (off Tramway Road)
Monday to Friday, 8am to 2pm
Saturday and Sunday, 9am to 2pm

Traralgon, Liddiard Road
Monday to Friday, 11am to 5pm
Saturday and Sunday, 12pm to 4.30pm

Yinnar, Whitelaw's Track
Saturday and Sunday, 9.30am to 4.30pm

Residents of flood-affected properties can take damaged property and waste to a transfer station for free by providing their name, address and driver's licence details or case number.

Virtual Information Centre

People affected by the recent storm and flood event can receive assistance from Council by phone or online.

Staff are able to help connect people with services and explain hardship payments that are available.

To access support you can reach out by phoning Council on **1300 367 700** or go to Latrobe City Council's dedicated website: www.latrobe.vic.gov.au/flood

Help for farmers

AgVic has rolled out a new webpage that provides links to useful flood recovery information for farmers. Go to: www.agriculture.vic.gov.au/farm-management/emergency-management/floods/farm-recovery-after-flood

Farmers wanting to report agricultural damage or losses, or request assistance can phone **1800 226 226**.

Financial and relief assistance available

Emergency Relief Payments

A one-off payment is available to help meet immediate needs. This payment is from the Department of Families, Fairness and Housing. A needs assessment is carried out to determine eligibility. Payments are up to \$560 per adult and \$280 per child. Email: EmergencyHardshipPayments@dffh.vic.gov.au

Include your name, address and the phone number you would like to be contacted on.

Emergency Re-establishment Assistance Payments

These payments from the Department of Families, Fairness and Housing are available to households of limited financial means, whose principal place of residence (their home) is uninhabitable (damaged or destroyed) due to the storm and flood.

The purpose of these payments is to assist people in the community who do not have the financial means to re-establish their lives after a disaster.

The payments are income and insurance tested. The total maximum emergency re-establishment payment is \$42,250 per household. Email: EmergencyHardshipPayments@dffh.vic.gov.au

Include your name, address and the phone number you would like to be contacted on.

Disaster Recovery Payment, Allowance

The Australian Government Disaster Recovery Payment (AGDRP) and the Disaster Recovery Allowance (DRA) support those most impacted by the storms and flooding in Victoria.

The AGDRP is a one-off payment of \$1000 for eligible adults and \$400 for children, who have suffered significant loss, including a severely damaged or destroyed home. The DRA provides up to 13 weeks of income support to people whose income has been affected.

To apply, call Services Australia on **180 22 66**.

Services Australia's Disaster Assistance phone line is open 8am to 5pm Monday to Friday, 9am to 4pm Saturday, and 9.30am to 1.30pm Sunday.

Fodder for stock

The charity Need for Feed Australia is offering fodder to farmers. People wishing to receive fodder must register on both Need for Feed Australia's website - www.needforfeed.org (click on 'Apply for assistance' tab) - and with Council by phoning **1300 367 700**.

Need for Feed can deliver fodder to properties or arrange a drop-off point. If there are problems with access to the property, there may be availability in Yinnar for farmers to collect feed directly from the distribution point.

Mental health support

Do you need professional help after the flood and storm? People should contact services if they or someone they know is feeling overwhelmed, showing physical stress symptoms or finding that relationships are suffering.

For help, contact: Kids Helpline **1800 55 1800**, Beyond Blue **1800 512 348**, Parentline **13 22 89**, your regular GP or health centre, family and friends or Better Health Channel www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au

If you are in an emergency, or at immediate risk of harm to yourself or others, phone emergency services on **000**.