

Council pays tribute to storm and flood volunteers

Latrobe City Council is grateful to the volunteers who have worked tirelessly to assist the community as the City starts the long journey of recovery from the storm and flood event that devastated our municipality and greater Gippsland in June. From the emergency services who cleared roads to volunteers who are now assisting with restoring fencing and those individuals who helped when needed, Council says "thank you". Council continues to assist the community with assessments of damaged properties and the clearing and reinstatement of roads as we begin to transition to the early stages of recovery efforts. The following is information to help the community through this time.

Scam alert

People affected by the flood and storm event in Latrobe City recently are being urged to watch for scammers. Council has heard reports of scammers contacting people affected by the floods and asking for personal information.

The scammers claimed to be from the former Department of Health and Human Services.

People can report suspected scammers to the Australian Government's Scamwatch website: www.scamwatch.gov.au

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. Need for Feed Australia is a project of Lions Clubs of Australia.

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**.

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

Contact Council

Phone Council's Call Centre **1300 367 700**.

Email Council via this dedicated email account: flood2021@latrobe.vic.gov.au

For up-to-date information, go to: www.latrobe.vic.gov.au/flood

Transfer stations

Transfer stations remain open to the community and are at:

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.

Firewood collection

Community members are reminded you are not permitted to collect storm damaged timber from roadsides. Not only does this pose a risk to your personal safety, but it also causes a traffic hazard and impacts the safety of workers. The removal of roadside timber is not permitted at this stage. Authorities will advise of potential wood collection sites when areas have been declared safe.

How you can help

Make a donation to the Gippsland Emergency Relief Fund to provide flood-affected Gippslanders with immediate support. For further information, go to: www.gerf.org.au

Donate goods to flood-affected people. GIVIT, in partnership with the Victorian Government, is urging people to give goods by visiting www.givit.org.au

Mental health first aid

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, finding that relationships are suffering, using more alcohol or drugs, being physically or verbally violent, or experiencing other significant changes in their behaviour.

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**.

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

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

Households - Prolonged Power Outage Payments

A Prolonged Power Outage Payment of \$1680 per week – for up to three weeks – will be extended to all eligible households (residential customers) without power as at Thursday 17 June.

The aim is to support residential customers dealing with prolonged power loss.

To apply, call Ausnet on **13 17 99** or go to www.ausnetservices.com.au/Outages/Claims-And-Complaints/Prolonged-Power-Outage-Payment

Businesses - Prolonged Power Outage Payments

Disaster assistance is available for businesses that continue to be affected by prolonged power outages from the storm and flood of June.

Businesses with an annual payroll of less than \$10 million can apply for payments of \$2500 per week – for up to three weeks – if they were without power as of 12.01am Thursday 17 June 2021.

If eligible, they will then receive the payment each week, capped at three weeks.

To apply, call Ausnet on **13 17 99** or go to: www.ausnetservices.com.au/About/News-Room/News-Room-2021/Disaster-Power-Outage-Payments-for-Businesses

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.