

Free Tests

Buloke residents can collect free rapid antigen tests (RATs) to help with early detection and treatment of COVID. Everyone can collect up to 2 packs of 5 RATs per person, and 2 packs per household member. You do not need a Medicare card. You can collect RATs as many times as you need. If you run out of RATs, you are welcome to collect more to make sure you are prepared. RATs can be collected during business hours from the Buloke Shire Council Offices, 367 Broadway, Wycheproof.

Have Your Say

– Transport Management

Council's transport assets (roads) contribute to the community by allowing people to move safely and conveniently around and through the municipality, enabling the transport of goods and services and connecting people to service centres and other key destinations.

The Transport Asset Management Implementation Plan outlines the management approach to achieving these outcomes, by identifying future demand, planning for optimising the life of these assets and maintaining financial sustainability when planning over a 10-year period.

The plan also addresses continual improvement in the management of the assets and performance monitoring.

This Asset Management Implementation Plan has been developed in accordance with Council's Asset Plan, Asset Management Policy and principles of the Asset Management Strategy (Objectives).

Have Your Say on our Transport Asset Management Implementation Plan by visiting Council's website: www.buloke.vic.gov.au/have-your-say, or by contacting Dan McLoughlan on 1300 520 520, or emailing buloke@buloke.vic.gov.au. Closing date for submissions is 5pm 15 March 2023.

Mozzie Protection

Murray Valley encephalitis (MVE) virus and West Nile (Kunjin) virus continue to be detected in mosquitoes in northern Victoria.

People spending time outdoors in northern Victoria are strongly recommended to take measures to prevent mosquito bites to reduce their risk of mosquito-borne disease.

The Public Health Entomology unit is advising community groups to undertake risk assessments for all public outdoor events in high-risk areas (including non-council land), with appropriate mitigation strategies implemented.

The MVE virus can cause a rare but potentially serious infection of the central nervous system and is spread to humans by infected mosquitoes.

Symptoms may include fever, headache, nausea, vomiting and muscle aches, although most infected people do not have symptoms.

Anyone with symptoms should seek medical care.

Council has undertaken long-residual mosquito management in high-risk areas throughout the shire prior to December, last year, to help mitigate these risks, however, encourage insect repellent be used and to be provided at outdoor events in the community.

For more information, visit:
<https://go.vic.gov.au/3Qz9m5s>.

Flood Support

A range of support measures are available for flood-affected primary producers.

Information about these measures can be found at agriculture.vic.gov.au/floods.

\$75,000 Flood Recovery Grant: eligible directly affected primary producers may apply for up to \$75,000 to help with the costs of clean-up and recovery. To apply, visit ruralfinance.com.au or call 1800 260 425. **Closes 30 April 2023.**

\$15,000 Flood Recovery Transport Support: eligible directly affected primary producers may apply for up to \$15,000 to support 50 per cent of costs for the transport of emergency fodder or stock drinking water, and the movement of livestock for agistment, sale, or slaughter.

To apply, visit ruralfinance.com.au or call 1800 260 425. **Closes 30 April 2023.**

Flood Recovery Concessional Loan: eligible directly affected primary producers may apply for concessional loans of up to \$250,000 to restore or replace damaged assets, and meet general expenses incurred while the clean-up is underway. To apply, visit ruralfinance.com.au or call 1800 260 425. **Closes 4pm 30 April 2023.**

\$25,000 Rural Landholder Grant: if you do not meet the eligibility requirements for the \$75,000 Flood Recovery Grant, but operate a smaller scale Primary Production Enterprise, you may be eligible for a Rural Landholder Grant. To apply, visit ruralfinance.com.au or call 1800 260 425. **Closes 30 April 2023.**

Flood Recovery Grants provide up to \$50,000 (excl. GST) to help cover eligible expenses incurred from direct damage due to flooding. Funding received under the Small Business Immediate Flood Relief Program, or the Community Sport Emergency Flood Assistance Program will be included in the total grant amount. Currently, applicants must first



Clean It Up 2023

Clean Up Australia Day is on March 5, 2023. Clean Up Australia Day is an annual event that aims to bring communities together to clean up litter and waste from public areas, parks, and waterways. Get involved: www.cleanup.org.au

Donald Levee Update

Council has been advised that the persistent monsoonal rain activity impacting our weather patterns continues to pose a risk of flooding, so the levee at Donald will not be removed at this time.

have been successful for the \$5000 one-off grant before applying for the \$50,000 grant. Please note, receiving a Small Business Immediate Flood Relief grant doesn't automatically guarantee eligibility for a Business and Community Sport Flood Recovery Grant. Businesses and organisations that receive a \$5000 grant will be provided with information about eligibility and how to apply. **Closes 1 May 2023.**

Rural Financial Counselling Service: the Rural Financial Counselling Service offers free and independent financial information, options, decision making support and referral services to farmers and small, related rural businesses who are in, or at risk of, financial hardship. A rural financial counsellor can assist farmers to understand, and apply for, government support. Call 1300 771 741.

The free **Business Relief Service** provides confidential one-on-one support from local Business Relief Advisers via phone and on the ground. Business Relief Advisers can help businesses with grant applications and connect them with relevant support services to help with their next steps towards recovery. Businesses can access this service by registering online or calling the Business Victoria hotline on 13 22 15. If the caller needs a translator, the operator can contact the Translating and Interpreting Service on their behalf.

Mental health and wellbeing support is available to sole traders, business owners and their employees can call the Partners in Wellbeing Helpline on 1300 375 330 for free and confidential advice, available seven days a week. Trained financial counsellors, business advisers and wellbeing coaches are available to provide confidential one-on-one support.

If people are feeling overwhelmed or concerned about their wellbeing, there are Mental Health and Wellbeing Hubs providing free support and can be accessed by calling the same number: 1300 375 330.



Phone: 1300 520 520
www.buloke.vic.gov.au