

Flood Situation

Council is continuing to monitor and respond to weather events affecting the Avoca and Richardson river catchments, and has also commenced the flood recovery process in the communities impacted by recent flooding.

Mitigation efforts from Council, agencies and community lessened the impact for a majority of residential and commercial properties and critical infrastructure assets, however, significant impacts were still felt by the community, particularly our farming community. As the flood water continues to move through our Shire, Council has and will continue where possible to engage with rural landholders in collaboration with relevant stakeholders in relation to emergency works that may be required to be undertaken.

Community Support

The Victorian Government has launched a webpage containing the latest information about where you can go for support, and the relief payments on offer for individuals, families, small business, primary producers and community groups, visit: www.vic.gov.au/october-2022-flood-recovery.

Information is also available on Council's website, including wastewater and contamination issues. Contact Buloke's Environmental Health Officer for advice by phoning 1300 520 520.

Farmers who have been impacted by floods and require assistance or have urgent animal welfare needs, please contact the **VicEmergency Hotline on 1800 226 226**.

Support packages are available for flood-affected farmers including: Clean-up assistance grants, concessional loans and transport subsidies.

For more information, visit: www.ruralfinance.com.au/industry-programs/victorian-primary-producer-flood-relief-program.

Levees

Earthen levees that have been constructed have been effective in reducing the flood impact to communities and critical infrastructure. Council is working closely with relevant emergency service agencies and catchment management authorities to determine the most appropriate time to deconstruct the levees.

Relief Centre

The Emergency Relief Centre established at the Wycheproof P12 College for those who were displaced by evacuations in Charlton and surrounding districts, has now closed. Council extends a huge thank-you to the Wycheproof P-12 community and the broader Wycheproof community for their support.

In the event that there is a need for residents to evacuate in the future, council under direction from the emergency services Incident Controller will open an emergency relief centre to support displaced communities including their pets at an appropriate and safe location.

Drainage Works

Please note the Marlbed-Curyo Road will be closed from Monday 24th October due to emergency drainage works. Council will endeavour to open the road when weather permits.



Road Closures

Road users are reminded not to remove the 'road-closed' signage from roads until their integrity has been assessed by engineers, so they can be safely reopened.

Restoration of Buloke's road network will require significant investment and support through Federal and State Government recovery funding. Current road closure information can be viewed on the Vicroads website, visit:

www.traffic.vicroads.vic.gov.au. Buloke's local road closures can also be found on Council's website, visit: www.buloke.vic.gov.au.

Assessing The Impact

To thoroughly assess the impact of the flooding and ensure the safety of the community in Buloke, appropriately trained Council Staff will be undertaking Municipal Secondary Impact Assessments (MSIA) in affected areas.

The MSIA process assess the impacts on affected council and privately owned properties and infrastructure, and enables Council staff to provide guidance and support to community safety and wellbeing, including where necessary environmental health and building assessments as well as referrals and advice on support services that are available.

Residents who have contacted Council regarding flood damage to their property will be contacted by Council's MSIA and Recovery Team.

If you have had flood impacts on your property or would like further information in regards to the MSIA process or Flood recovery please phone Council on 1300 520 520.

Fire Prevention Inspections

Council will commence the annual fire prevention inspection program at the start of the declared fire period, or when the grasses and vegetation start to cure.

Ordinarily, Council would have undertaken the fire prevention inspections of properties in the middle of October, however due to recent rain and flood events the inspection program has been delayed.

Council is mindful of the rapid growth of vegetation due to recent heavy rains and is encouraged to see landowners responsibly continually cutting grasses and vegetation. However, we understand that it is difficult to keep up with it and hopefully conditions dry out a little, so we can all be prepared ahead of the fire season.

Sandbag Round-up

Council commenced collecting sandbags from the townships of Charlton, Culgoa, Donald and Wycheproof, last week. If the sandbags on your property are flood affected, it is recommended that you dispose of them.

Remember to wear sturdy gloves when handling wet sandbags as they can contain chemicals, waste and diseases, and always wash your hands thoroughly after participating in any flood clean-up activities. Consider safe lifting approaches as sandbags may be heavy.

Sandbags will be collected from nature strips.

Anyone needing assistance moving sandbags can phone **Council on 1300 520 520**.

You can also return uncontaminated sandbags. Rest assured, in the event of another flood new sandbags will be available.

If you have a trailer or utility, sandbags can also be dropped off at these locations:

- **Charlton** - Next door to the Shire Depot, Watson St;
- **Culgoa** - Shire Depot, Lalbert Rd;
- **Donald** - Monty Burton Oval, Borung Hwy; and
- **Wycheproof** - Wycheproof Golf Course (carpark), Calder Hwy.



Wooroonook Lake

Wooroonook Lake is closed to the public due to flooding. Council will advise when it can safely be reopened.



Employment Opportunities

Council is an equal opportunity employer. Our roles are non-gender specific, and Council encourages all suitably qualified applicants to apply. Council is currently recruiting for:

School Crossing Supervisor

Casual - Covering Donald & Charlton

Love to be outdoors and enjoy working with children? We are seeking a friendly, reliable and responsible individual to assist children to travel safely to and from school and reduce their risk of being involved in accidents with vehicles.

→ Applications close 5.00pm Monday 21 November 2022.

Visit www.buloke.vic.gov.au/employment or call Human Resources on 1300 520 520 for full details on these exciting roles.



BULOKE
SHIRE COUNCIL



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