

## HELP SHAPE BULOKE SHIRE'S FUTURE FLOOD PREPAREDNESS

Mallee Catchment Management Authority is undertaking a Flood Study to update flood modelling and mapping for the Tyrrell and Lalbert Creek systems, as well as areas north of Birchip.

This work will help improve understanding of flood behaviour across Buloke Shire, supporting future flood preparedness, emergency planning and community resilience.

Local knowledge matters. Residents are encouraged to attend an upcoming

community information session to share their experiences and insights about flood events in the area, including photographs, videos and personal observations relating to flooding, drainage issues or flood impacts in their area.

Community Drop-in Sessions:

**Birchip:** Thursday 15th October 12.50pm – 1.50pm, Birchip Senior Citizen Centre

**Culgoa:** Thursday 15th October, 2.45pm – 3.45pm, Culgoa Hall

**Sea Lake:** Friday 16th October, 9.15am – 10.15am, Sea Lake Community Complex

**Berriwillock:** Friday 16th October, 11.00am – 12.00pm, Berriwillock Community Centre

**Nullawil:** Friday 16 October, 1.00pm – 2.00pm, Nullawil Community Complex

## PROTECTING OUR TOWNSHIPS STARTS NOW

After a wet couple of months, now is the time to start preparing properties and reducing fire risk ahead of the warmer months.

Council's Municipal Fire Prevention inspections will commence this week. Residents are encouraged to mow or slash long grass, tidy overgrown areas and remove rubbish or debris that could increase fire risk around their properties.

Keeping properties well maintained helps reduce fuel loads and supports safer towns and communities during fire season.

Where a property is found to be overgrown or presents a fire hazard, Council may issue a Fire Prevention Notice, requiring works to be completed within a specified timeframe.

Mowing of our strategic firebreaks identified across the municipality is now underway.

To support residents preparing their properties, free green waste disposal is available at Council landfill and transfer stations throughout October during regular opening hours.

Residents are encouraged to plan ahead, check their property and take action now to help keep Buloke fire ready.

For more information, contact Council's Municipal Fire Prevention Officer on 1300 520 520.

## GAZANIA WEED ALERT

Landowners are encouraged to keep an eye out for Gazania, a vibrant flowering plant native to Southern Africa that is now classified as an Environmental Weed in Buloke Shire.

While Gazania is not listed under the CaLP Act 1994, it poses a serious threat to farmland and environmental land and should be controlled by landowners.

Gazanias can spread rapidly through wind-blown seed, water, rhizomes and dumped garden waste. One flower can produce more than 60 seeds, which may travel up to one kilometre.

**Do not slash Gazania once seed has set**, as this can spread the weed further.

Winter and spring are ideal times for control, particularly after rain. Physical removal, including the roots, is most effective, with removed plants to be bagged and disposed of appropriately. Chemical control is most effective between August and December while plants are actively growing, with care required around native vegetation.

Early action can make a big difference in helping protect Buloke's farmland and natural landscapes.



**ARE YOU FIRE READY?**

## GET READY FOR FIRE SEASON WITH THE CFA

With the warmer months approaching, now is a good time for residents and landholders to make sure they and their properties are prepared for the upcoming fire season.

The CFA will be holding Get Fire Ready information sessions at three locations across Buloke Shire during October. The sessions are an opportunity to speak with CFA members about local fire risks, preparing your property and where to find reliable emergency information and warnings.

**Watchem:** Wednesday, 14 October

**Charlton:** Saturday, 17 October

For session times, locations and further event details, visit: [www.cfa.vic.gov.au/getfireready](http://www.cfa.vic.gov.au/getfireready)

Residents are encouraged to attend their local session, ask questions and take the opportunity to prepare ahead of the fire season.



### BULOKE SHIRE COUNCIL

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