

VICSES Community Information Session Community Update - Charlton

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A community information session was held at the Charlton Hall at 10am Friday 14 October by the Victorian State Emergency Service (VICSES), to discuss the flood impact following recent heavy rainfall in the catchment.

The North Central Catchment Management Authority anticipates the river level at James Patterson's Bridge, High Street Charlton to reach between 7.9-8.0m, which is being compared to between the September 2010 and January 2011 flood impact events.

Flooding will reach the major level tonight, and will peak on Saturday night.

This means 70% of the town of Charlton, encompassing 40-50 properties in the town will likely to be impacted by the flooding and have been advised to put their evacuation plans into action now.

Victoria Police are currently door knocking in Charlton to notify all residents likely to be affected and will identify those that require the bus service.

Now is also the time for Charlton residents to plan on leaving their property, the best place is always to make arrangements stay with family and friends away from the flood, where you will likely be more comfortable.

Buloke Shire Council has been working closely with VICSES over the past days and has staff in the Incident Control Centre as well as in the community helping residents fill and deliver and bags.

Sandbags can be collected from:

- **Charlton Shire Depot in Watson Street, Charlton**, where council staff are in place to assist.

Residents are encouraged to plan ahead and start to get things ready by:

- **Bagging it:** Get your sandbags ready and in place to prevent water from entering your property
- **Blocking it:** Block drains, toilets, and doorways
- **Lifting it:** Lift your valuables up high

Farmers are encouraged to move stock to higher ground.

The Incident Controller (VICSES) has requested Council to open an Emergency Relief Centre, which also welcomes pets. It is a safe place for the community and pets to gather during the emergency.

However, if you can stay with friends and family away from the flood please do. The centre will be managed by Council and they will make you as comfortable as they can by providing you with basic and essential items.

- The **Emergency Relief Centre is at the Wycheproof Stadium at the Wycheproof P-12 school in McKenzie Crescent, Wycheproof.** The location of this centre will be communicated via the Vic Emergency App and local radio.
- If you can't drive to the centre, buses are being arranged. Victoria Police are identifying those needing the bus will either pick up the person/s or council staff will collect them.
Bus Pick-ups start: 3pm

The evacuation/Relief Centre will have Red Cross, DFFH (PHAP payments) Victorian Council of Churches and Emergency Ministry and Council staff onsite. Residents were encouraged to go home and prepare a bag that contains all essentials including:

- Mobile phones, electronic devices and chargers
- Medications
- Identification/important documents
- Spare clothes for all members of your family (3-5 days)
- Blankets
- Baby items such as milk powder, bottles and nappies
- If you have children pack things that will entertain children such as games, books, balls and electronic devices.
- We also encourage you to plan for your pets. Decide which pets will leave with you and get cages/boxes and leads ready and pet beds. Remember to prepare for your pets needs as well including pet food and pet beds.
- If you are moving large animals including horses depending on the type of animal, a kit might include:
 - 2 to 3 days of feed
 - Water
 - Halters
 - Leads
 - Rugs
 - A first aid kit
 - Medications
 - Relevant documentation.

<https://agriculture.vic.gov.au/farm-management/emergency-management/emergency-animal-welfare/horses-and-livestock-in-emergencies>

- **Prior to leaving your property we ask that you turn off gas and electricity at your home or workplace.**
- **When travelling to a safe location we remind you to check for road closures and follow instructions from emergency services.**
- **Do not drive through road blocks and do not drive through flood water. Turn around and find an alternate route.**

MEDIA RELEASE



This is a very stressful time and Council is here to support you through this. The community is advised to immediately download the Vic Emergency app.

Remember if you need emergency assistance during this emergency, please call Triple 000.

End release

For further information contact Manager Customer Engagement, 1300 520 520 or buloke@buloke.vic.gov.au
Contact VIC SES northwest@ses.vic.gov.au 1300 842 737 for media details.