

FLOOD RECOVERY NEWSLETTER



Edition 13: 14 April 2023

FLOOD RECOVERY GRANTS FOR VOLUNTARY COMMITTEES OF MANAGEMENT

The Victorian floods which started 6 October 2022 caused varying degrees of damage to community infrastructure and assets including recreation reserves, public halls, multi-use facilities and caravan parks managed by voluntary committees of management on Crown land.

The DEECA voluntary committee of management Flood Recovery Grants provide financial assistance to support clean up and restoration of these valuable community resources and consider resilience to future emergency events.

Funding can be provided either:

- as a grant prior to works occurring; or
- as a reimbursement for eligible works already undertaken

Assistance is also available to contribute to the cost of insurance excess payments, where insurance has been claimed for emergency works on the reserve as a result of the 2022 floods. **Applications close 1 May 2023.**

Crown Land Reserves held under a local Committee of Management within Loddon Shire include:

- Dingee Recreation Reserve
- Rheola Pioneers Memorial Park
- Dingee Public Hall
- Kingower Cricket and Recreation Reserve
- Bridgewater Rec Res
- Eddington Racecourse and Rec Res
- Logan Recreation Reserve
- Laanecoore - Loddon River Recreation Reserve
- Durham Ox Memorial Institute
- Mitiamo Public Hall
- Inglewood Golf Course
- Newbridge Recreation Reserve
- Yarrawalla Community Centre Recreation Reserve
- Fentons Creek Recreation Reserve
- Tarnagulla Recreation Reserve
- Ballendella Public Hall
- Yarrawalla Public Hall

For more information visit:

<https://www.deeca.vic.gov.au/grants/voluntary-committees-of-management-flood-recovery>

Community Recovery Contacts

Loddon Shire Council's Flood Recovery team would love to hear from you and assist you through your flood recovery. Please get in touch if you would like to chat about flood recovery for you and your community.

Call Mal: 0499 978 145 or Josie: 0474 911 783

Farmer Grants Extended

Primary producers, small businesses and not-for-profit organisations across Victoria affected by the floods and storms commencing October 2022 can apply for a package of support to help in their recovery effort.

The closing date for primary producer grants has been extended to 13 July 2023.

The **Victorian Primary Producer Flood Recovery Grant** of up to \$75,000 is available to support clean-up, relief and recovery. **Closing 4pm, 13 July 2023.**

The **Victorian Rural Landholder Grant** of up to \$25,000 is available to help rural landholders who have an eligible smaller-scale primary production enterprise with clean-up, relief and recovery. **Closing 4pm, 13 July 2023.**

The **Victorian Primary Producer Flood Recovery Transport Support Program** is available to help pay for the transport of emergency fodder or stock drinking water, and moving stock to agistment, sale or slaughter. This program provides a subsidy of up to \$15,000 paid at 50 per cent of the total costs. **Closing 4pm, 13 July 2023.**

Primary producers, small businesses and not-for-profit organisations whose properties have been directly impacted are eligible to apply for a **Victorian Primary Producer Flood Recovery Concessional Loan** of up to \$250,000 to restore or replace damaged assets, and meet general expenses incurred while the clean-up is underway. **Closing 4pm, 13 July 2023.**

Victorian small businesses and not-for-profit organisations who have been directly impacted by the October 2022 floods are eligible to 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. **Closing 25 May 2023.**

For more information visit the Rural Finance website: <https://www.ruralfinance.com.au/industry-programs/victorian-primary-producer-flood-recovery-package>

FOR RELIEF & PERSONAL HARDSHIP ASSISTANCE CALL 1800 226 226

There is never any excuse for Family Violence



Risk and Incidence of Family Violence Increases during times of Environmental Disaster.



Your Safety is Our Priority

Are you worried about your safety, or the safety of your children?

Centre for Non-Violence works with victim survivors of family and domestic violence.

We will work with you if you wish to stay in the family home, or leave the relationship.

Our flood recovery team is ready and here to help.

Centre for Non-Violence covers the Loddon region – includes City of Greater Bendigo, Central Goldfields, Mt Alexander, Macedon Ranges, Loddon, and Campaspe shires.

Contact us:

Centre for Non-Violence 1800 884 292 | www.cnv.org.au/we-are-here-to-help

The Orange Door (Loddon Area) 1800 512 359 – for intake and referrals | The 24-hour statewide Safe Steps family violence crisis response line is 1800 015 188 | Men's Referral Service 1300 766 491 | In an emergency, call 000

COMMUNITY GRANTS AVAILABLE

Building Farm Spirit



Are you planning a community event to help the health and wellbeing of farmers and farm families impacted by the floods and flood recovery?

The National Centre for Farmer Health (NCFH) #BuildingFarmSpirit program is partnering with Victoria's community groups, local agriculture industry, not-for-profit organisations, sporting clubs and individuals with grants of \$500 to \$1,500 for activities that provide social connection and mental health promotion for farmers and farming communities.

Social connection is an important part of supporting farmer mental health. You may like to host a barbecue lunch or dinner and get a local speaker who has lived experience to share their story, follow your AGM or regular meeting with a guest speaker, start a walking group, book-club or podcast community or tie an activity to a local festival.

If you have an idea for a community event or program that promotes social connection and wellbeing for farmers and farm families, go to www.farmerhealth.org.au/

Flood Recovery Grants



Community Bank Inglewood & Districts

Community Bank Inglewood & Districts is proud to be backing local communities in their flood-recovery efforts by offering special one-off grants of \$500 for events in communities affected by the October floods.

If you're part of a local club or organisation planning an event for a flood-affected community, drop the bank a line. The application process is simple, and they can help talk you through the requirements. Bring some joy to your community!

For more information, email Company Secretary Robyn on companysecretary@idcel.com.au

Victorian Landcare Grants

Loddon Shire is home to 18 Landcare groups that make up the Loddon Plains Landcare Network Inc.

The Victorian Government funds the Victorian Landcare Grants to support Landcare and environmental volunteering groups and networks.

Project Grants of up to \$20,000 are available for on-ground works, capacity building activities, community education and engagement that protects or improves our natural environment such as native vegetation, native fauna, waterways, wetlands, and soils.

Applications close 16 May 2023.

For information, or to apply, visit:

<https://www.nccma.vic.gov.au/landcare#node-2696>

Victorian flood and storm support for farmers

Farmers and growers impacted by floods and storms between 6 October 2022 and 13 January 2023 are eligible to apply for financial support via the current flood recovery grants. For any urgent animal welfare needs, please contact 136 186.

Technical Information and decision-making support Agriculture Victoria is working with Victorian farmers and industry to prepare for, respond to and recover from natural disasters (including floods and storms) through delivery of technical information and decision-making support services to help farm business recovery including:

- Grazing, cropping and pasture management
- Irrigation and horticulture system rehabilitation
- Soil erosion management
- Land management
- Animal health and nutrition
- Farm mapping and planning
- Water quality
- Weed management

Farmers are encouraged to contact the Agriculture Recovery team on Phone: 0427 694 185 (Mon-Fri between 8.30am and 5pm) or email recovery@agriculture.vic.gov.au

Farmers and service providers are encouraged to subscribe to Agriculture Victoria's Flood Recovery digital newsletter to access latest events and information. Go to:

<https://agriculture.vic.gov.au/support-and-resources/newsletters/ag-recovery-newsletter>

Free mental health support for Victoria's farmers



The National Centre for Farmer Health has partnered with a leading telehealth mental health service provider, LYSN, to improve access to mental health support for Victoria's flood affected farmers.

The Farmer Online Assist Program provides free, short-term, confidential psychology support to help Victorian farmers deal with immediate, or compounding, issues related to mental health.

The confidential, high-quality mental health support is provided by LYSN psychologists with specific farmer health training, either online or by phone. Up to three sessions are provided free of charge, with no need to leave the farm and no GP referral or mental health plan required.

The Farmer Online Assist Program is open to Victorian farmers, farm family members over 16 years of age and farmer workers who are living or working on a farm in a local government area affected by floods or extreme weather conditions.

Register online at:

www.farmerhealth.org.au/buildingfarmspirit



Wedderburn FLOOD ASSISTANCE DAY

Assistance with the Flood Recovery Grant

A free 45 minute session, Friday 21 April 2023, in the Wedderburn Community House 24 Wilson St
Call 1300 735 578 to book a session.



Australian Government



Run4Resilience in Bridgewater

Active Farmers Bridgewater

Come and join the Run4Resilience in Bridgewater on **Sunday 7 May 2023.**

Run or walk Fitty's 5km, 10km or 21km trails along the Loddon River and the beautiful surrounds of Bridgewater.

It is a day for everyone whether you're a competitive runner or keen on a fun day out with family and friends. Lots of great food and entertainment by local musician Cam Last.

Register at <https://activefarmers.com.au/>

Keep in touch with Active Farmers Bridgewater

<https://www.facebook.com/LoddonFITT>

Health and wellbeing support

- Royal Flying Doctor Service - Flying Doctor Wellbeing Available to those aged 18+. Call (03) 8412 0480.
- Rural Financial Counselling Service - free and confidential financial support - Call 1300 735 578
- Mind Australia-Bendigo: Call 1300 286 463 or visit mindaustralia.org.au
- Orange Door - You have a right to be safe - Call 1800 512 359
- Australian Community Support Organisation (ACSO) - An intake organisation for Alcohol and other Drugs, Mental health, Youth and other clinical services for the Loddon area.
- 1800respect - Confidential information, counselling and support service. Call 1800 737 732
- Nurse on Call: 24 hour caring and professional health advice 1300 60 60 24.
- Lifeline: 24hr crisis support and suicide prevention services: 13 11 14 or lifeline.org.au
- Beyond Blue: Information and support for anxiety and/or depression: 1300 224 636 or beyondblue.com.au
- Kids Help Line: 24hr phone and online counselling service for people aged 5-25: 1800 551 800 or kidshelpline.com.au
- Seniors Rights Victoria - Elder abuse, prevention and support - 1300 368 821
- Emerging Minds: Provides resources for parents, carers, and families about infant and child mental health: emergingminds.com.au
- Translation and Interpreter Services: Provides access to phone and on-site interpreting services. Requests must be submitted at least 48 hours in advance. www.tisnational.gov.au
- National Relay Service: Assistance making a phone call if you are deaf or have a hearing or speech impediment. Speak and listen number: 1300 555 727.

Residents urged to make a submission to flood inquiry

Victoria's response to major floods in October 2022 is the focus of a wide-ranging parliamentary inquiry. The inquiry will look at what caused or contributed to the flooding and the adequacy and effectiveness of early warning systems.

If you were affected by the October 2022 floods please make a submission by the 8 May 2023 deadline.

The Committee will be investigating how prepared Victoria was, and how it handled the flood event.

The Committee plans to hold public hearings in flood-affected areas and will deliver its findings and recommendations by 30 June 2024.

For more information visit:

<https://new.parliament.vic.gov.au/floodinquiry>

Supporting people impacted by natural disasters – by Dr Rob Gordon. Recording now available



Dr Rob Gordon is a psychologist who is an expert in supporting people who have been impacted by floods, bushfires and other natural disasters or traumatic events. In this video (filmed in Boort in March) he discusses how different rural communities and individual farmers respond to the immediate and ongoing stress and high workload caused by widespread flooding. You can access the video at <https://farmerhealth.org.au/buildingfarmspirit>

Local support services

Community Health / Hospitals

Boort District Health
3 Kiniry St, Boort
P: (03) 5451 5200

Inglewood and District Health Services
3 Hospital St, Inglewood
P: (03) 5431 7000

Northern District Community Health
P: (03) 5451 0200

Boort Medical Centre
2 Coutts St, Boort
P:(03) 5451 5200

Dingee Bush Nursing Centre
21 King St, Dingee
P:(03) 5436 8309

Marong Medical Practice
8 Hospital St, Inglewood
P:(03) 5438 3308

Boort and Pyramid Hill Community Health
P:(03) 5451 0200

Wedderburn Health Clinic
25 Wilson St, Wedderburn
P: (03) 5494 3511

Legal Services

Loddon Campaspe Community Legal Service
P: 1800 450 909

Neighbourhood Houses

Boort Resource and Information Centre (BRIC)
119-121 Godfrey St, Boort
P: (03) 5455 2716

Inglewood Community Neighbourhood House
Cnr Verdon & Market St, Inglewood
P: (03)5455 2716

Pyramid Hill Neighbourhood House
43 Kelly St, Pyramid Hill
P: (03) 5455 7129

Wedderburn Community House
24 Wilson St, Wedderburn
P: (03) 5494 3489

Loddon Shire services

For up-to-date information regarding flood recovery and council services:

- Visit our website at www.loddon.vic.gov.au
- Call our office between 8.15am-4.45pm, Monday-Friday on (03) 5494 1200; or
- Go to our Facebook page: www.facebook.com/LoddonShire/