

# FLOOD RECOVERY NEWSLETTER



Edition 14: 28 April 2023

## AGRICULTURE VICTORIA CLIMATE OUTLOOK SESSION

Agriculture Victoria seasonal risk agronomist and climate specialist Dale Grey will present on this year's climate outlook and delve into climate drivers' historic effects on the Goulburn and Campaspe catchments.

Rochester: Tuesday 9 May at the Rochester Hotel

Numurkah: Thursday 11 May at the Shamrock Hotel

Time: 6:30 – 8:00 pm This is a free event. Dinner will be provided at each of the sessions.

Please RSVP for catering purposes at:

<https://forms.office.com/r/CXh8LixZPq>

For more information, contact: Agriculture Recovery Officer Tanya Dobrijevic at [tanya.dobrijevic@agriculture.vic.gov.au](mailto:tanya.dobrijevic@agriculture.vic.gov.au)

## CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS TO THE 2022 FLOOD EVENT

The Victorian Parliamentary Environment and Planning Committee is currently overseeing the Inquiry into the 2022 Flood Event in Victoria.

Submissions close on Monday 5 June 2023, and can be made by individuals or organisations, and be as short or long as you like. Further details, including the Terms of Reference, are available on the Parliament of Victoria website at:

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

The Committee is scheduled to hold public hearings in the following flood affected areas, and you can register your interest in appearing when making your submission.

23 August Rochester

24 August Echuca

13 September Shepparton

14 September Seymour

11-12 October, Melbourne

Recommendations from this inquiry will help shape Victoria's response to floods in the future.

For more information contact the Committee Secretariat on 8682 2869.

## 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**

## PRIMARY PRODUCER 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.

This support is also available to primary producers impacted by the hailstorms late in 2022.

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



## Family violence impacts infants, children and young people who are victim survivors in their own right

If you're worried your child, or a child you know is experiencing or witnessing family violence in the home or community, please reach out. We're here to help.

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](http://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**



Family violence can escalate and increase as an impact of environmental disasters, including floods

## 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 barbeque 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/buildingfarmspirit](http://www.farmerhealth.org.au/buildingfarmspirit) and register your interest.

### 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](mailto: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>

**April 2023**

## Victorian flood and storm support for farmer

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 available at [www.ruralfinance.com.au](http://www.ruralfinance.com.au). 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](mailto:recovery@agriculture.vic.gov.au)

Farmers and service providers are encouraged to subscribe to the Flood Recovery digital newsletter (<https://bit.ly/3Lm9Fxz>) to access latest events and information.

### National Centre for Farmer Health: flood response support

The National Centre for Farmer Health is committed to supporting primary producers whose properties, livestock or crops were damaged or lost in the floods and storms through the delivery of initiatives to boost farmer mental health and wellbeing, including:

- A supportive online community through the #BuildingFarmSpirit social media campaign
- Free access to online psychology support delivered by farmer health trained psychologists
- Support for community events providing social connection and mental health promotion opportunities for farmers, farming families and farming communities
- Distribution of mental health resources and support information.

More information is available on the National Centre for Farmer Health website (<https://farmerhealth.org.au/>)

## DFFH Flood Re-establishment Assistance still available

You can get financial help to return home if you cannot live in your home because it is damaged or destroyed; or you cannot access your home for more than seven days because of flooding. This is called 'Re-establishment Assistance'. It is only available for your principal place of residence.

Re-establishment Assistance can help to pay for:

- clean-up
- emergency accommodation
- repairs
- rebuilding your home
- replacing some damaged contents.

This help is means tested. You can only get it if you: do not have building (home) insurance or contents insurance AND are experiencing financial hardship.

Call the Emergency Recovery Hotline on 1800 560 760 to register your details for Re-establishment Assistance.

## 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](http://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](http://lifeline.org.au)
- Beyond Blue: Information and support for anxiety and/or depression: 1300 224 636 or [beyondblue.com.au](http://beyondblue.com.au)
- Kids Help Line: 24hr phone and online counselling service for people aged 5-25: 1800 551 800 or [kidshelpline.com.au](http://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](http://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](http://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.

## 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/run-for-resilience-bridgewater-7-may-2023>

Keep in touch with Active Farmers Bridgewater <https://www.facebook.com/LoddonFITT>

## 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 Centre**  
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](http://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/](http://www.facebook.com/LoddonShire/)