



Be alert, stay safe, know what to do

Council thanks the community and key agencies for their co-operation during this week's flooding.

Council is working with key agencies to monitor the flood situation and respond accordingly. Our role is to provide relief and recovery, and post-impact assessment on private and council land.

The SES is the lead agency for this emergency.

Immediate work will focus on removal of flood debris from the river and surrounds, repairing damaged property and walking tracks and ensuring that flooded roads are open and safe for vehicle use so that people are not isolated longer than necessary.

Assessment of road impacts has already started. Our focus will be strengthening our roads and making them resilient against future events.

Road closures

About 30 roads, in Horsham and rural areas, have been closed. For an updated list of road closures and re-openings visit: hrcc.vic.gov.au/flood.

Roads are progressively being closed and opened as required

Isolation due to flooded roads

Be conscious of potential road closures in your area. Check the 2% - 50-year flood map and the Wimmera CMA website and consider the roads you use to get your provisions. The flood level may remain high for as much as 2-3 days. If there is a risk of isolation please consider whether you need any essential supplies for this period.

Safe disposal of sandbags

If you used sandbags over the last few days, it is important that you dispose of them correctly and safely.



PREPARATIONS: HRCC's Scott Brown (left), Marc Smith and Damon Fischer deliver sandbags to residents in the 1-in-50-year flood zone on Saturday.

Sandbags may be contaminated after use. The best way to dispose of sandbags is to empty the sand and place the hessian bags in the general waste bin.

- Wear sturdy gloves when handling wet sandbags as they can contain chemicals, waste and diseases
- Sandbags that have been in contact with floodwater **MUST** be thrown away.

Contact Council to find out more about disposing of your sandbags safely.

Waste services

Waste collections will continue but may take longer than usual. If bins are not emptied on the scheduled day, please leave them out.

Rural residents on closed roads should take bins to the nearest highway (to

where they usually bring recycling). If in doubt, take bins to the closest sealed intersection.

Risk of further flooding

With rainfall predicted in the coming days, there is a continued risk of further flooding should heavy falls occur in the Wimmera River catchment.

Council is working with key agencies to monitor the flood situation and respond accordingly.

Drainage, weir management

HRCC staff are managing critical stormwater drains to mitigate backflow from the river and blockages from predicted rainfall in the coming days.

Horsham weir is being monitored regularly to ensure it remains free from obstructions such as debris.

Mosquitoes

There are already high numbers of mosquitoes in the Wimmera region. Following the floods there will be more small bodies of water, which will increase mosquito numbers.

The best protection against mosquitoes and the diseases they carry is to avoid mosquito bites.

- Use repellent on all exposed skin
- When applying repellent to kids, read the label. Some repellent will need to be applied to their clothes as it can damage soft skin
- Mosquitos can bite through tight clothing, loose clothing is best
- Where possible – remove stagnant water where mosquitos can breed
- Use mosquito netting or screens.

Plea to drivers: Do the right thing

Mayor Robyn Gulline has echoed a plea by the State Emergency Service for people not to unnecessarily drive on damaged roads or through floodwaters.

"Locally we've seen examples of people choosing to ignore signage and direct warnings and continue to drive through floodwaters," Cr Gulline said.

Just 15 centimetres of slow-flowing floodwater is powerful enough to move a small car.

"The risk is also below the surface and the damage that has been done to the road – you don't know what you're driving across," she said.

"The SES needs to spend time and resources helping those most at risk, not people driving into floodwater.

"It's not worth the risk. Just please turn around."

As at 3pm Tuesday, there were about 30 road closures and hundreds of



cases with water over the road.

Cr Gulline said rain over the coming days would add further damage to roads.

"With rain expected, there will likely be more closures. Our works teams are up early checking roads and they are working late. Not only are they out closing roads, but they are re-opening roads when it is possible to do so.

"And unfortunately there will be plenty of work ahead as road crews repair the damage over summer," she said.

TENDERS AND RFQ

#Q15/2023
CITY TO RIVER WAYFINDING SIGNAGE
Closes 12noon, Thursday 27 October

TENDER #23-009
GOLF COURSE ROAD RECONSTRUCTION
Closes 12noon, Monday 31 October
#Q19/2023

PROPOSED ENTERPRISE ESTATE INDUSTRIAL AREA SUBDIVISION
Closes 12noon, Wednesday 26 October

#Q16/2023
DOEN LANDFILL OFFICE AND TOILET BUILDING
Closes 12noon, Thursday 10 November

#Q13/2023
ACCESSIBLE DESIGN SPECIFICATIONS FOR AMENITIES
Closes 5pm, Monday 21 November

All tender, EOI and RFQ details online at: www.eprocure.com.au/horsham-rural-city-council/



Seniors Festival concert to go ahead

The main event of the Horsham Seniors Festival, the Seniors Concert is still going ahead on Friday 21 at the Horsham Church of Christ.

Melissa Langton and Mark Jones are performing from 11am, with morning tea being provided from 9:30am.

The concert is one of many events this week. On Monday, the Art Gallery Morning Tea was well attended and enjoyed by all. There was also another Tai Chi Session on Monday at Haven.

Coming up this week is a Seniors Croquet Fun Day from 1.30pm on Wednesday 19 October at Kalimna Park Croquet Club.

"It has been great to see so many people attending Horsham Seniors Festival Events over the past few weeks. The events delivered by community groups and businesses this year have provided a great opportunity for Seniors in our community to have fun and socialise," Mayor Robyn Gulline said.