

Flood and storm recovery

Community update

November 2024

Flood recovery works

Works completed to date

The City has undertaken an extensive program of cleanup, recovery and additional proactive inspection and maintenance works following flood and storm events last summer. This includes \$2.8M worth of emergency and immediate reconstruction works.

Priority works

Six key areas have been prioritised to receive upgrade and improvement works after they experienced significant flood and storm damage earlier this year, including:

- Railway Place / Midland Highway, Goornong – drain reshaping and widening and vegetation management, subject to V-Line authorisation
- Domain Village, Mclvor Highway, Junortoun – install new box culverts
- Willis Road, Huntly – install new box culverts
- Pasley Street, Huntly – drain reshaping/widening and driveway culvert upgrades
- Gungurru Road, Huntly – pit installation
- Strickland Street / Sullivan Street, Epsom – pipe realignment

These works will take up to six months to complete, subject to contractor and material availability.

Priority pit inspection and drain clearing will also take place in the next three months in the following precincts:

- Mclvor Forest Estate, Junortoun
- Dead Horse Gully/Shakespeare Street to Patterson Street, Heathcote
- Gungurru Road, Huntly

- Cameron Court / Aspiring Drive, Huntly
- Peake Court / Strickland Street, Epsom
- Heathcote Redesdale Road / Moylans Road, Redesdale
- Shakespeare Street floodway, Heathcote

Identified works

A list of identified priority projects across the municipality can be found on the City's [website](#). This list is subject to funding and not exhaustive, and several other minor works have also been identified. For information on any unlisted works please email engineering@bendigo.vic.gov.au.

Staffing

The City has appointed a dedicated Flood Recovery Works Coordinator and two Technical Officers to take the lead on flood recovery works.

Drainage and culvert improvement

Unfortunately, Federal applications for a drainage and culvert improvement program was not supported this time around. Despite being unsuccessful, the City will still release its share of the funds for these projects to progress works and continue to seek other funding opportunities. The City will invest \$2.25M over the next three years, with a particular focus on improving drainage and culvert infrastructure in Huntly, Junortoun and Heathcote. Our focus will be on fixing infrastructure that otherwise sees streets or suburbs cut off for a period of time when we get flood events.

Private Property Flood Advisory Service

The City has worked closely with North Central Catchment Management Authority (NCCMA) to collate relevant information in one place and to establish an integrated advice service to help

answer your questions relating to what you can and can't do to mitigate flood risk to your property. Submit a Flood Mitigation Works Enquiry [here](#).

Flood mitigation planning

Work will commence in early 2025 on a Goornong Flood Study and Flood Mitigation Plans for the Epsom, Huntly, Junortoun and Heathcote areas, with a focus on Bendigo Creek, Back Creek, Racecourse Creek, Splitters Creek and Mclvor Creek. We look forward engaging with affected communities to seek their input.

Community recovery and resilience

Recovery program

The City is working with several local community groups and Neighbourhood Houses to support community members impacted by flood and storm events across the municipality. Keep up-to-date with the latest information and events on our [website](#) or contact your local Neighbourhood House or Community Action Group to get involved.

Emergency preparedness

The City is currently working with emergency services and community organisations on a range of emergency initiatives, including:

- Confirming locations for sandbagging before a rain event
- Ensuring clear processes and protocols are in place to activate emergency relief centres when required
- Facilitating conversations amongst agencies and community organisations about other emergency planning initiatives needed at a local level

Our website has a range of information about how to prepare your property for floods and fires, and the importance of having a plan in the event of an emergency.

For more information and opportunities to be involved in supporting community resilience, email resilience@bendigo.vic.gov.au or visit go.bendigo.vic.gov.au/emergency-planning

Community resilience project

Over 40 representatives from community, council, and partner agencies attended a workshop to provide local and specialised insights into community focussed disaster risk assessments in high-risk, high-growth areas. The session, which included flood-affected community members, identified key actions such as enhancing community leadership, improving engagement, and fostering relationships between residents and response agencies. The outcomes will guide community risk assessments and resilience planning for 2025. If you would like more information on this project please contact Kelly Lee Hickey at resilience@bendigo.vic.gov.au

Support services

It is normal to feel concerned and experience a mix of strong emotions following an emergency, and it can be difficult to know what to do next.

A range of recovery services are available to people and communities affected by storms and floods. Support services can help with things like mental health and wellbeing, financial support, insurance claims and legal matters, and tenancy advice and advocacy. Please refer to our [website](#) for more information.