

# Flood and storm recovery

## Community update

April 2025

### Flood recovery works

The City completed **\$2.8M** of emergency and immediate reconstruction works across **350 locations** last year. The City continues to undertake an extensive flood recovery works program:

- **8000+** reconstruction works identified across the municipality\*
- **2170** works completed
- **700+** works in progress\*

These works stretch across **65 suburbs and towns** in Greater Bendigo and largely focus on:

- Excavation or removal of debris
- Road and shoulder grading
- Gravel re-sheeting
- Drainage structure reconstruction
- Pothole and road repairs
- Replacing signage and guidance posts

A dedicated Flood Recovery Works team will continue to coordinate works throughout 2025. For information on specific works please contact [engineering@bendigo.vic.gov.au](mailto:engineering@bendigo.vic.gov.au).

*\*Completion timelines and progress of works are dependent on contractor and equipment availability, with some works subject to Federal funding.*

### Priority projects

The City is investing **\$2.25M** on drainage and culvert improvement across Greater Bendigo over the next three years. The focus is on fixing infrastructure that otherwise sees

streets or suburbs cut off for a period when we have flood events. Work has commenced on several priority projects across the City:

#### Completed

- Railway Place / Midland Highway, Goornong – drain reshaping and widening and vegetation management
- Strickland Street / Sullivan Street, Epsom – pipe realignment
- McIvor Forest Estate, Junortoun (upgraded wetlands pit)

#### In progress\*

- Pasley Street, Huntly – drain reshaping/widening and driveway culvert upgrades
- Gungurru Road, Huntly – pit installation

#### Future projects\*

- Domain Village, McIvor Highway, Junortoun – install new box culverts
- Willis Road, Huntly – install new box culverts (part of Huntly Drainage Improvement Plan)

Pit inspections and drain clearing:

- Dead Horse Gully/Shakespeare Street to Patterson Street, Heathcote (subject to Federal funding)
- Cameron Court / Aspiring Drive, Huntly (part of Huntly Drainage Improvement Plan)
- Peake Court / Strickland Street, Epsom
- Heathcote Redesdale Road / Moylans Road, Redesdale

*\*Completion timelines and progress of works are dependent on contractor and equipment availability, with some works subject to Federal funding.*

## Federal grant applications

The City continues to seek funding to undertake priority projects and currently has pending funding applications for:

- **\$10M** project for the construction of a Racecourse Creek levy (design already completed)
- **\$3M** project for the construction of a Deadhorse Gully Trunk drain along Shakespeare Court, Heathcote

The City is also preparing several applications for projects for the next round of the Federal Disaster Ready Fund, including a municipality-wide **Minor Culvert Upgrade Program**.

## Flood mitigation planning

### Huntly Drainage Improvement Plan

Work on a Huntly Drainage Improvement Plan has commenced, with a feasibility study and recommendation report nearing completion. The Plan includes the previously identified Huntly priority projects and the Gold Leaf Wetland Study. Next steps will be shared with the community in the coming months.

### Flood Mitigation Action Plans

Work will soon commence on Flood Mitigation Action Plans for the Epsom, Huntly, Junortoun and Heathcote areas, with a focus on Bendigo Creek, Back Creek, Racecourse Creek, Splitters Creek and Mclvor Creek. The goals of the action plans are to:

- Identify management actions aimed at mitigating flood risk while protecting and enhancing natural values (outcome different to SES Flood Guides)
- Clarify management responsibilities between relevant public agencies (Council, DEECA, Parks Victoria, NCCMA)

- Raise awareness for the community about the type of works that reduce flood risk and actions they can take.

### Goornong Flood Study

Work will also commence shortly on the Goornong Flood Study, which aims to:

- Identify areas of Goornong and surrounds prone to flooding to help inform land use and development outcomes in the draft Goornong Structure Plan.
- Identify planning scheme overlays for areas at risk of flooding and consider local mitigation measures.

### Staffing

Recruitment is underway for a Flood Planning and Waterways Projects Officer to lead the Goornong Flood Study and Flood Mitigation Action Plans. Community and stakeholder engagement will start in mid-2025 and we look forward engaging with community members to seek their input.

## Private Property Flood Advisory Service

Submit a Flood Mitigation Works Enquiry [here](#) to find out what you can and can't do to mitigate flood risk to your property. Please note this service is due to **close on 31 May 2025**.

## 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.

## Community recovery and resilience

City staff are working with 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 on our [website](#), contact [recovery@bendigo.vic.gov.au](mailto:recovery@bendigo.vic.gov.au), or your local Neighbourhood House or Community Action Group to get involved.

### Marong

The City supported the Marong Community Action Group (MCAG) who hosted a community resilience workshop at the Marong Community Hall in March. The session brought together 40 community members to explore the first steps in developing a community resilience action plan. More workshops will be scheduled throughout the year. To get involved contact MCAG at [marongcag@gmail.com](mailto:marongcag@gmail.com).

The City continues to work with the Marong Neighbourhood House in supporting community connection and emergency preparedness events. For information on upcoming events, contact [marongnhh@gmail.com](mailto:marongnhh@gmail.com).

### Junortoun

The City hosted a Flood Recovery 'round up' meeting with the Junortoun Community Action Group (JCAG) in February, reporting on the progress of flood recovery works, projects and activities to date, and discussing future priorities. Another workshop has been scheduled to discuss community emergency and resilience planning priorities. For more information contact JCAG at [admin@junortoun.vic.au](mailto:admin@junortoun.vic.au).

### Goornong

In February, the City hosted a Flood Recovery 'round up' meeting with the Goornong and District Emergency Planning Group (GDEPG), reporting back on the progress of flood recovery works, projects and activities to date,

and discussing future priorities. Another workshop has been scheduled to discuss community emergency and resilience planning priorities. For more information contact GDEPG [goornongdistrictepg@outlook.com](mailto:goornongdistrictepg@outlook.com).

### Maiden Gully

City staff are working with the Maiden Gully Progress Association (MGPA) to bring a nature-based resilience program to Maiden Gully, with a key focus on identifying emergency and resilience planning priorities for the community. For more information contact MGPA at [admin@maidengully.com.au](mailto:admin@maidengully.com.au).

### Heathcote

The City continues to work with the Heathcote Community House and Heathcote Safer Town Working Group in supporting community connection and emergency preparedness events. For information on upcoming events, contact Heathcote Community House at [heathcotecommunityhouse3@gmail.com](mailto:heathcotecommunityhouse3@gmail.com).

## Community engagement and emergency preparedness

City staff have been attending community events to talk with residents about the importance of understanding the risks in their area and having an emergency plan.

We have new resources on our website to help you get ready for emergencies like fires, floods, service disruptions, and heatwaves.

If you would like to help your community or organisation to be better prepared for emergencies, get in contact with us at [resilience@bendigo.vic.gov.au](mailto:resilience@bendigo.vic.gov.au) or visit [go.bendigo.vic.gov.au/emergency-planning](http://go.bendigo.vic.gov.au/emergency-planning).