



Storms & Floods

Recovery Update – July 2021

On the ground – What's happened so far

Since the June storm and flood event, there have been continuous assessment, recovery and support activities taking place in and around the Neerim, Noojee and Mt Baw Baw Tourist Road areas.

Baw Baw Shire Council, Bushfire Recovery Victoria (BRV), Regional Roads Victoria (RRV), DELWP, Parks Victoria (PV), and the West Gippsland Catchment Management Authority (WGCMA) have maintained regular on-the-ground contact with residents and business owners in the weeks since.

The summary below provides a snapshot of the various activities to date as well as clarifying the relevant agencies responsibility.

Bushfire Recovery Victoria

BRV is the lead authority coordinating and supporting the clean-up and recovery work for all communities impacted by the Victorian June 9-10 storm and floods.

Storm and Flood Clean-up Program

BRV has established the Storm and Flood Clean-Up program, which is fully funded by the Commonwealth and State Government and is free to eligible property owners, whether they were insured or not.

Registrations for BRV's Storm and Flood Clean-Up Program for structures on private property are now open. The program is fully funded by the Commonwealth and Victorian State Government and is free to eligible property owners, whether they were insured or not.

BRV is also accepting registrations of trees on private property that were made hazardous because of the June 2021 storms and are within falling distance of a structure. Eligible trees can be professionally assessed and recommendations made for their treatment.

Affected residents are urged to visit brv.vic.gov.au/cleanup or to call 1800 560 760 to check their eligibility and register for support.

Every property is different and will be managed on a case-by-case basis. BRV is contacting registered property owners and working with them to explain the process, and see that works are done as safely and efficiently as possible.

Storm and Flood Recovery Hotline

The Storm and Flood Recovery Hotline is a single state-wide number that Victorians impacted by the June 2021 storms and floods can call for help or assistance.

Operators can assist you with registering for Clean-Up of structures on private property or accessing your own Recovery Support Worker, mental health and wellbeing support, financial counselling and information on available payments.

The Recovery Hotline is open from 8am to 7pm Monday to Friday (excluding public holidays) and 9am to 1pm on weekends.

Regional coordination of collaborative efforts

BRV has appointed a Regional Recovery Director to coordinate the efforts of all the various authorities and agencies involved in the recovery efforts.

Multiple in-person and online meetings have taken place each week since the storm event, involving representatives from Council, RRV, DELWP, Parks Victoria, the West Gippsland Catchment Management Authority and other impacted and associated agencies.



Baw Baw Shire Council

Infrastructure Maintenance

The Council Infrastructure Maintenance team inspected the township the day after the event to assess damage to Council assets.

Impact Assessments

Council met with Bushfire Recovery Victoria on site in town to inspect damage and advocate for State and Federal funding support.

Road Network Team

Council's Road Maintenance Team has and continues to carry out inspections of Council owned road infrastructure. Council has undertaken Secondary Impact Assessment of the roads in the region.

Executive outreach and advocacy

On 21 June Mayor of Baw Baw Shire Cr Danny Goss met with Minister for Roads and Road Safety the Hon. Ben Carroll MP onsite at Mt Baw Baw Tourist Road to advocate for needed State funding support.

Baw Baw Shire Council CEO Mark Dupe and Municipal Recovery Manager Christian Thomas visited the region with BRV CEO Carmel Flynn on June 29.

Mark Dupe met with Victorian Emergency Commissioner Andrew Crisp on Wednesday 30 June to advocate on behalf of impacted community members.

Regional Roads Victoria – Mt Baw Baw Tourist Rd Update

Significant landslips occurred at 13 locations along Mount Baw Baw Tourist Road during the June extreme weather event. The road remains closed from Willow Grove Road to the South Face Road intersection. Only residents and essential services have access.

RRV crews and contractors are working hard to repair the road to reconnect communities and make the road safe for visitors.

In some sections, high altitude and narrow road surfaces have added to the challenge. Substantial preparatory work has been required to allow crews safe access to begin repairs.

Geotechnical investigations are still ongoing at many of the slip sites to determine the best course of action to repair the road.

When will the road reopen?

The extensive damage to Mount Baw Baw Road is expected to take at least six months to repair, with completion anticipated in December 2021.

We understand how important roads are to our community. RRV crews and contractors will continue to work for however long it takes to clear hazards and rebuild our roads in order to keep the community connected. It's a big job and we ask you to be patient while the roads are made safe for use again.



What happens next?

With efforts now moving into recovery, clean-up and repair, a community meeting (either in person or online) will be planned to engage the local community and seek their input into next steps.