



**Pyrenees**  
Shire Council

# FLOOD RECOVERY PLAN 2022



This Plan was adopted by Council on Tuesday 21 February 2023

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This plan was produced with the assistance of



The front cover photo is of the flooding through Avoca taken 14 October 2022 by Rhys Walkley



Pyrenees Shire Council acknowledge the people past and present of the Wadawurrung, Dja Dja Wurrung, Eastern Maar and Wotjobaluk tribes whose land forms the Pyrenees Shire. We pay our respects to the customs, traditions and stewardship of the land by the Elders and people of these tribes.

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## 1. FLOOD INCIDENT OVERVIEW

Pyrenees Shire was impacted by a series of rain events leading to flooding in October 2022. Further rain events occurred in November 2022 adding to already soaked waterways and catchments, and causing further flooding. The communities of Avoca, Lexton, Natte Yallock, Beaufort and Amphitheatre were the most significantly impacted with many homes, local roads, bridges and community facilities damaged.

During the evening of 7 October, residents from the Natte Yallock community were isolated by floodwaters with a number of homes inundated and emergency services unable to gain access to the township. The communities of Avoca, Lexton and Beaufort also experienced significant flooding.

On the 13 October 2022, further flash flooding impacted the communities of Avoca, Beaufort, Natte Yallock, Lake Goldsmith, Trawalla, Amphitheatre and Lexton. The event resulted in the opening of a temporary Relief Centre at the Beaufort Community Resource Centre, where residents requiring temporary accommodation attended. Others self-evacuated and went to friends or relatives for the night. Roads were flooded stopping residents from being able to get home.

Heavy rainfall fell overnight on 13 November 2022 and caused significant flash flooding in Beaufort. The Beaufort Lake spilled and contributed to the flooding. The Relief Centre was again established at the Beaufort Community Resource Centre. According to the SES, deep flooding of up to 0.5m occurred to most properties along Leichardt Street. There were requests for assistance to help residents in Leichardt Street to get out of their houses as they became isolated by floodwater.

Flooding along the Mt Emu Creek impacted areas between Beaufort and Skipton over approximately five days.

The Pyrenees Shire has a long history of riverine flood events that have caused substantial damages to the local infrastructure (eg. roads and bridges) and agriculture (e.g. fencing and crops). Towns impacted by riverine flooding include Beaufort, Landsborough, Barkly, Avoca, Natte Yallock Amphitheatre, Lexton, Raglan, Glenpatrick, Glenlofty, Crowlands, Nowhere Creek and Waubra. While there is a high number of buildings at risk of flooding in Natte Yallock and Beaufort, other towns only have a few buildings at risk of flooding. Due to the steep terrain flooding can develop quickly with little warning time available.

The road/bridge networks within Pyrenees municipality are frequently and, at times, significantly impacted by flooding. Road access is often cut as a result of heavy rainfall events, leaving a large number of people isolated.

A full summary of the flood impact assessment is outlined in Section 5 of this plan.

## 2. CHALLENGES AND FUTURE OUTLOOK (POST-FLOOD)

Pyrenees Shire has a small population of 7,613 across a vast geographic area of 3,435 kilometre with 35.9% of the population over 60 years of age. This presents Council with a significant challenge to adequately fund services and maintain and renew community assets.

The early indication that the financial impact of this event is estimated at approximately \$15M. With an annual operating budget of \$25M, the recovery requirements will be a significant organisational challenge for Council and cannot be achieved within existing capacity.

Council's ability to conduct secondary impact assessments and move into recovery mode has been hindered by the initial lack of initial Rapid Impact Assessments (RIA) carried out by emergency services. Impact assessments are really important as they provide decision makers with relevant information regarding the nature and extent of the hazard, and any potential consequences during and after an emergency to ensure efficient, timely and appropriate support for communities. The official transition to recovery has not occurred primarily due to the lack of RIA data. This has slowed the recovery efforts somewhat and Council has had to seek additional resources to conduct secondary impact assessments.

One of the key focuses for Council is how best to support the community through the flooding situation and into recovery. Assistance and funding from other levels of government, as well as external funding bodies, will be an essential component of flood recovery and the implementation of this plan.

## 3. KEY CONSIDERATIONS MOVING FORWARD

- ⇒ Future flooding events and adaptation to climate change.
- ⇒ Returning agriculture to production.
- ⇒ Business viability.
- ⇒ Increased risk of family breakdown due to pressures involved in the restoration process.
- ⇒ Income support for primary producers and business owners, or other assistance to assist while businesses recover.
- ⇒ Support for community groups and organisations, particularly those whose facilities are prone to inundation.
- ⇒ Development of more complex mental health issues as time goes on and reality hits.
- ⇒ Uncertainty created by government policy and the feeling of lack of control over determining one's own future.
- ⇒ Loss of population if people move away from the area and the resulting flow on affects to the viability of the shire, particularly small rural communities, should this occur.
- ⇒ Creation of economic opportunities, jobs and agricultural diversity.
- ⇒ Attracting tourism dollars to the area.
- ⇒ Maintaining the viability and sustainability of towns and small communities into the future.
- ⇒ Monitoring resource requirements over time and advocating for additional resources if needed, or if the recovery process is likely to extend past December 2023.
- ⇒ Resident's limited understanding or complacency regarding the flood risk in the Pyrenees.

- ⇒ Supporting residents whose dwellings have been deemed uninhabitable.
- ⇒ Developing community and business resilience to future events to mitigate the impacts of climate change and increasing intensity of natural disasters.
- ⇒ Enhancing the resilience of council assets damaged by floods.

#### 4. ADVOCACY

One of Council's role in recovery is to advocate for funding. Being a small rural Council with a low-rate base, it is vital that funding be made available to Council and the community for recovery. As the closest level of government to the community, Council is best placed to work with our community to identify their needs and to raise these with decision makers at all levels. Council is capable of doing so much more when partnering with the right stakeholders to get the best outcomes for our current and future community.

It is important for Council and partner agencies to have a clear understanding of the situation in the municipality, to be able to identify and, where possible, head off problems; and be in a well-informed position to advocate effectively for the community with other levels of government.

#### 5. FLOOD / STORM IMPACT ASSESSMENT

The following provides an overview of the social, economic, environmental impacts of the flood, highlighting the extent to which the Pyrenees community has been affected.

Data collected from the assessments is displayed below. At the time this plan was written, most assessments have been completed however further impacts will likely emerge as time goes when people reach out for assistance and when farmers are able to access their land.

A summary of the flood impacts (known to date) are as follows:

##### 5.1 Private Property Damage

The impact on private property has been reasonably widespread. The table below gives a snapshot of the types of properties confirmed as inundated. Inundation can be a small amount of flood water causing no damage to a large amount of flood water causing more significant damage.

Property Type	Number
Commercial	8
Farming	81
Residential	66
Residential & Commercial	2
Residential & Farming	42
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>199</b>



Flooding impacted private property in the following locations:

Location	Number	Location	Number	Location	Number
Amphitheatre	16	Glenlogie	2	Nowhere Creek	1
Avoca	26	Glenpatrick	1	Percydale	1
Barkly	7	Homebush	3	Raglan	1
Beaufort	29	Lake Goldsmith	3	Rathscar	2
Burnbank	1	Landsborough	3	Rathscar West	3
Burrumbeet	1	Langi Kal Kal	1	Redbank	2
Carngham	2	Lexton	16	Snake Valley	2
Chute	1	Lillicur	1	Tanwood	4
Crowlands	5	Mena Park	1	Trawalla	2
Elmhurst	4	Moonambel	5	Warrenmang	3
Ercildoune	2	Mount Emu	2	Waterloo	6
Frenchmans	4	Natte Yallock	9	Waubra	1
Glenlofty	8	Navarre	3	Unconfirmed	15
				<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>199</b>

165 inundated private properties were residential/farming properties and have experienced damaged to varying degrees. Damage to homes, sheds, driveways, fencing and equipment or a combination, has been confirmed. Six homes (primary residences) have been damaged to an extent that people cannot remain living in their homes.

Individuals and families displaced by the floods had to find alternative accommodation arrangements, both within and outside of the municipality, until such time as longer-term plans can be finalised and arranged.

## 5.2 Public Property / Community Assets Damage

Flood damage to community assets such as recreation reserves, playgrounds and community buildings, has been identified. Golf, cricket, tennis and petanque have had to be either cancelled or played at other locations as their normal grounds have been too wet to access.

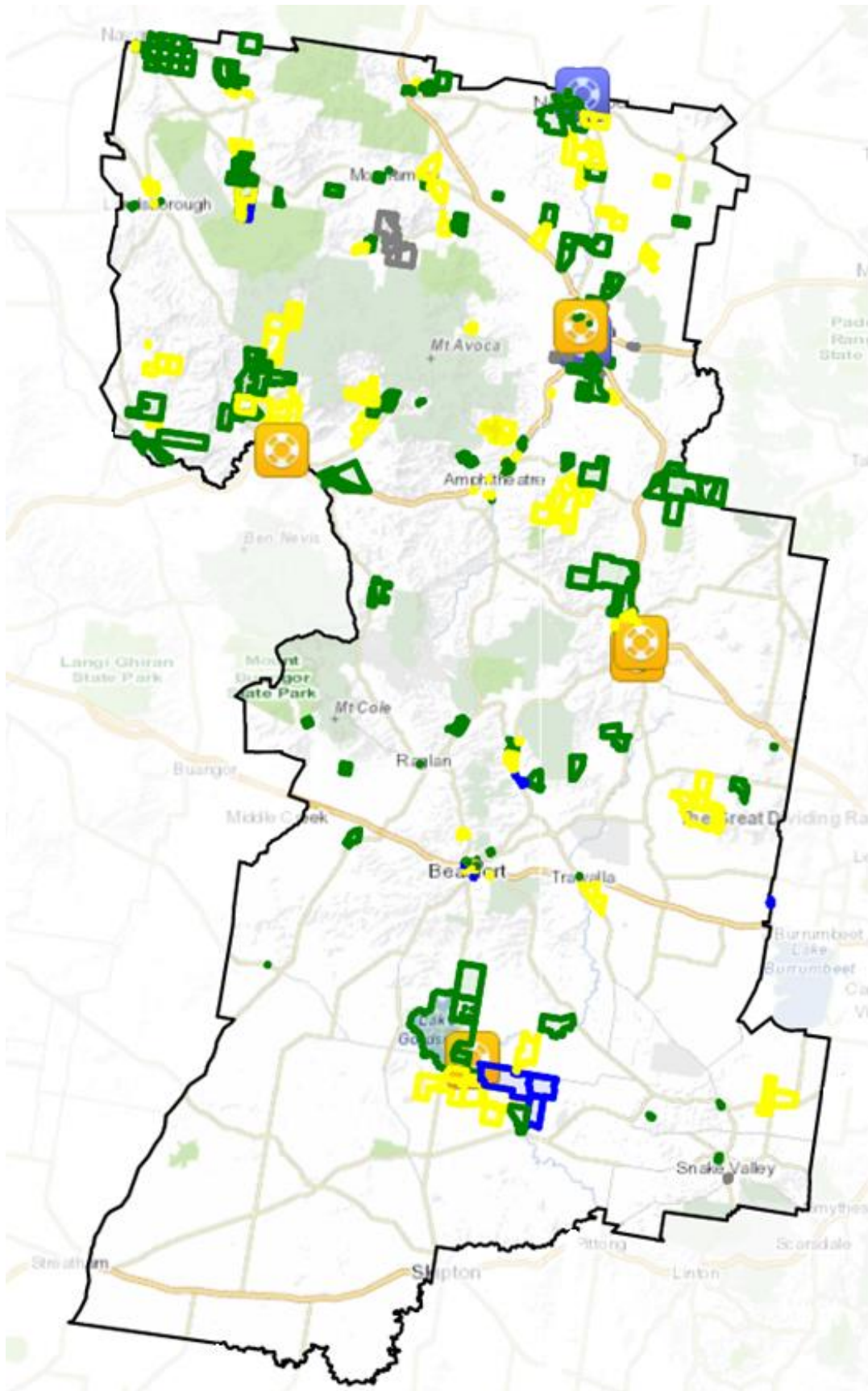
Community groups such as Men's Sheds have had to put activities on hold until facilities can be accessed again. The flooding has had significant impact on the financial viability of some clubs and community groups as they rely on income generated from fundraising and game days.

The following is a summary of recreation reserves, playgrounds and community assets that have been affected:

Town	Location	Impact Assessment
<b>Avoca</b>	Men's Shed	Water inundated main shed and storage sheds.
	Recreation Reserve	Flood water inundated petanque piste, oval, pitch, netball and tennis courts and shed, access road, playground (soft fall), fencing, drainage, main complex, and surrounding sheds.
	Lions Park	Damage to playground (soft fall), BBQ area and bollards. Facilities unable to be used for months.
	Golf Course	Damage to sand scrapes and access bridge between fairways. Fallen trees and debris evident. Unable to play on the lower fairways for a number of months.
	Skate Park	Wash away evident elements of skatepark.
<b>Natte Yallock</b>	Recreation Reserve	Flood water inundated oval, cricket nets, playground (soft fall) and access road.
<b>Lexton</b>	Toll Bar Park	Dislodged boundary logs and playground damage (soft fall).
<b>Beaufort</b>	Beaufort Lake	Damage to walking track and playground (soft fall). The Beaufort Lake Parkrun was cancelled on two occasions due to the track being inundated.
	Begg Street Playground	Water inundated playground affecting the soft fall. Closed for several weeks.
	Guide/Scout Hall	Flood water inundated the hall affecting floors and air-conditioners.
	Men's Shed	Flood water damaged floors, air conditioners and storage shed.
<b>Waterloo</b>	Community Centre	Flood water inundated the community centre
<b>Lake Goldsmith</b>	Steam Rally site	Flood water inundated the site with many sheds, the internal road and septic system all impacted.



The map below shows the extend of affected properties throughout the municipality. It is made up of both private property and public property/community assets.



### 5.3 Assets & Infrastructure

The flooding caused major disruption to the road network with many roads and bridges across the municipality closed due to being damaged or having debris present. Services such as waste collection had to be suspended. Emergency repairs were undertaken and roads were re-opened when it was safe to do so.

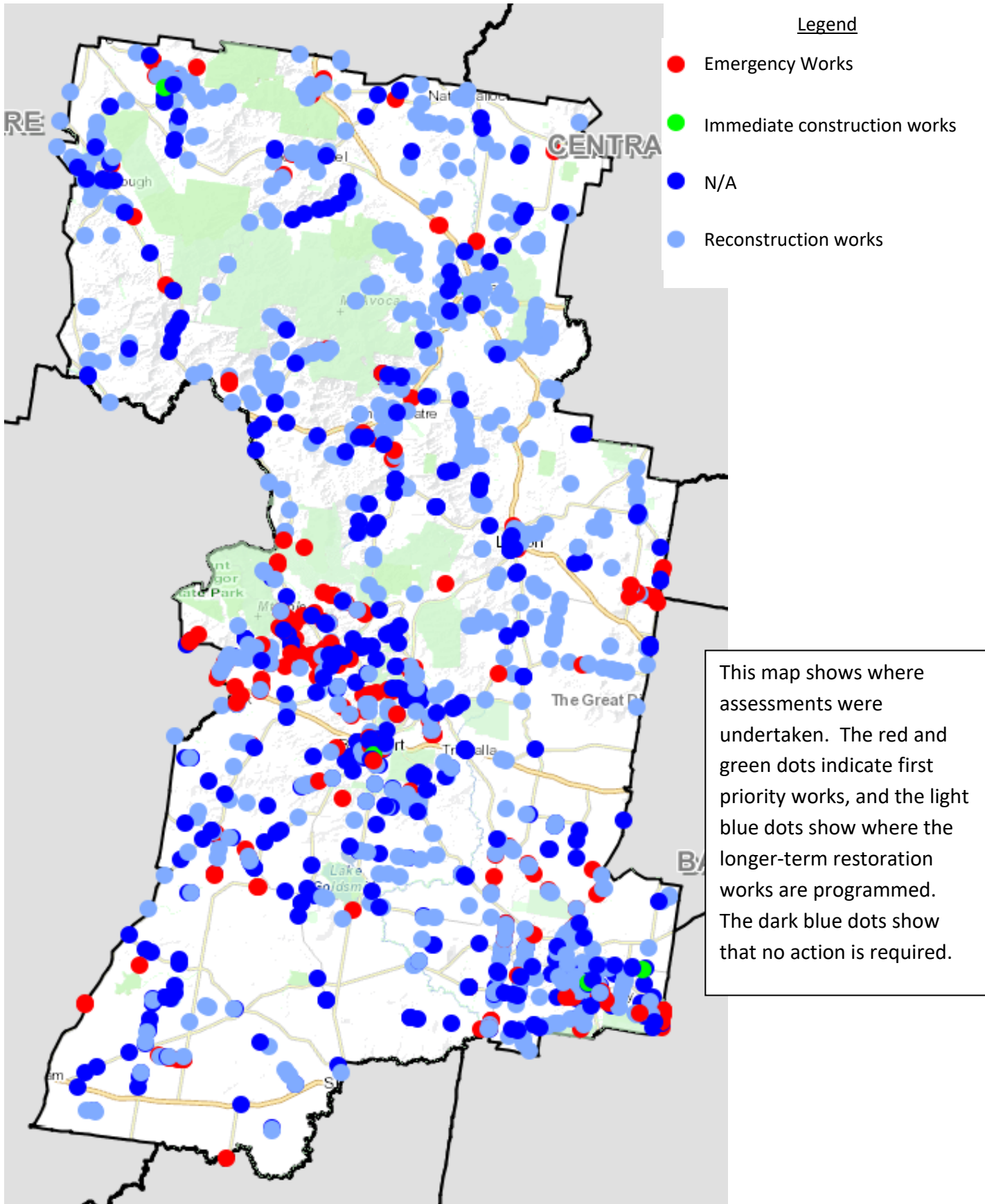
Twenty seven roads/bridges were closed including some of the following major roads/bridges:

- Lexton Ararat Road between Beaufort Lexton Road and Amphitheatre Road
- Beaufort-Carngham Road – Beaufort side of the twin bridges significantly impacted
- Landsborough-Elmhurst Road – approaches to the twin bridges across the Wimmera River
- Mortchup-Mt Emu Road, between Chepstowe-Pittong Road and Carngham-Streatham Road
- Carngham-Streatham Road, between Skipton Rd and Beaufort-Carngham Road closed for bridge works
- Vite Vite Road, between Glenelg Hwy and Mt Emu Creek
- Stony Crossing Road, between Sunraysia Hwy and Moyreisk-Redbank Road at Redbank
- Back Waterloo Road, between Beaufort-Lexton Road and Cemetery Road at Waterloo
- Beaufort-Waubra Road between Blackbottom Road and Sunraysia Highway
- Bridge 22 on Carngham-Streatham Road

A thorough damage assessment of roads, bridges, major culverts and floodways has now been completed. Widespread damage has been identified and there is significant works to be undertaken to ensure the infrastructure is restored.

Here is a snapshot of the assessment results:

Asset Type	Total No of Inspections	Action Required	No Action Required
Bridge	161	62	99
Culvert	214	113	101
Drainage	1	1	0
Floodway	114	82	32
Landslip	1	1	0
Road	872	687	185
Tree	10	7	3
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1373</b>	<b>953</b>	<b>420</b>



## 5.4 Agricultural

Primary producers have experienced stock and crop losses estimated to be in the hundreds of millions of dollars and a total loss of approximately 300 km of fencing identified by the post impact assessment. This initial assessment did not reach the outer communities of the municipality nor the vast areas between Beaufort and Skipton. More damage is coming to light as further assessments and contact with the community are undertaken.

A snapshot of the losses, at the time of writing is report, is listed below.

Fencing lost internal	226 km
Fencing lost External	89.8 km
Fencing lost crown land	45 km
Total farm area surveyed all properties	39,440 ha
Area flood affected	14,324 ha
Field crops lost	1269.6 ha
Field crops left	3,943 ha
Stubble lost	200 ha
Stubble left	20 ha
Stored grain lost	20 tonnes
Stored grain left	290 tonnes
Hay/silage lost	976.4 ha
Hay/silage left	422.5 ha
Grazing pasture lost	2,300.8 ha
Grazing pasture left	25,688 ha
Livestock loss	230

## 5.5 Economy

At the time this plan was written, an economic analysis was being undertaken to provide financial impacts on the business, farming and tourism economies. The analysis will give a better picture of where to direct longer-term flood recovery support.

What we do know is that there were ten businesses directly impacted by flood water across the municipality, as per the table below. These figures do not include primary producers. Flow on effects such as downturn in tourism have impacted on other businesses such as retail. Businesses such as the building trade and earthworks will most likely see an increase in income for flood repairs.

Location	Number
<b>Beaufort</b>	7
<b>Lexton</b>	1
<b>Moonambel</b>	1
<b>Waterloo</b>	1

## 5.6 Tourism / Events

A number of significant events were cancelled/postponed due to the flooding events. There were financial losses to organisers, suppliers and local businesses which would have normally accommodated day and overnight visitors. Tourism also saw a downturn with events cancelled, businesses not able to open and roads closed.

Below is a list of known events that were cancelled or postponed:

- Lake Goldsmith Steam Rally event in November 2022 was cancelled.
- The Avoca Races – October Gold Cup was cancelled
- Beaufort Agricultural Show scheduled for November 2022 has been postponed until 19 March 2023.

## 5.7 Social

Floods can traumatise people and communities for long periods of time. Displacement from one's home, loss of property, loss of income and disruption to business, recreation and social affairs can cause continuing stress. Social impact is less visible and longer lasting. It can emerge at varying times and is not felt equally by all.

There are quite a number of homes, properties, and community assets in the Pyrenees that need repair work. Businesses need rebuilding and sport/recreation recommenced. This will take time and resources which can add to stress levels for residents and volunteers. There has been a total of 279 cases of affected residents and properties across the three events and that number is likely to rise with more people being contacted or reaching out for assistance.

We are starting to see some of the longer-term social impacts and community health, and wellbeing is a major priority of this Flood Recovery Plan.

Council will work with other agencies and regional organisations to deliver programs that support greater resilience of local communities confronted by natural disasters including floods, drought and bushfires.

## 6. STRENGTHS OF THE PYRENEES COMMUNITY

During times of adversity, rural communities have enormous capacity to increase in strength and work closely together to protect one another and the community, as a whole, from outside influences and impacts. Research indicates that there is a strong link between the strength of the community (social capital) and its ability to manage and respond to natural disasters.

The Pyrenees communities are becoming more and more resilient, and history has shown that our communities are very innovative at overcoming adversity with high levels of community spirit. There is a lot of local knowledge in the municipality when it comes to natural disasters.



Pyrenees has a strong history of volunteering which adds to important social capital. Service organisation and volunteer activity commenced at the start of the flood event with activities centred on sandbagging, food preparation and delivery of goods to those isolated by the floodwaters.

Community members have greatly assisted in the response and recovery to date, and will be engaged with as recovery activities ramp up.

## 7. FLOOD RECOVERY PLANNING AND COORDINATION

The objectives for relief and recovery are to support communities to successfully deal with the impacts of an emergency in the social, built, economic and natural environments. By doing so, they help to build cohesion and resilience for future emergencies. Agriculture is a major industry in the Pyrenees and is also included as a recovery environment.

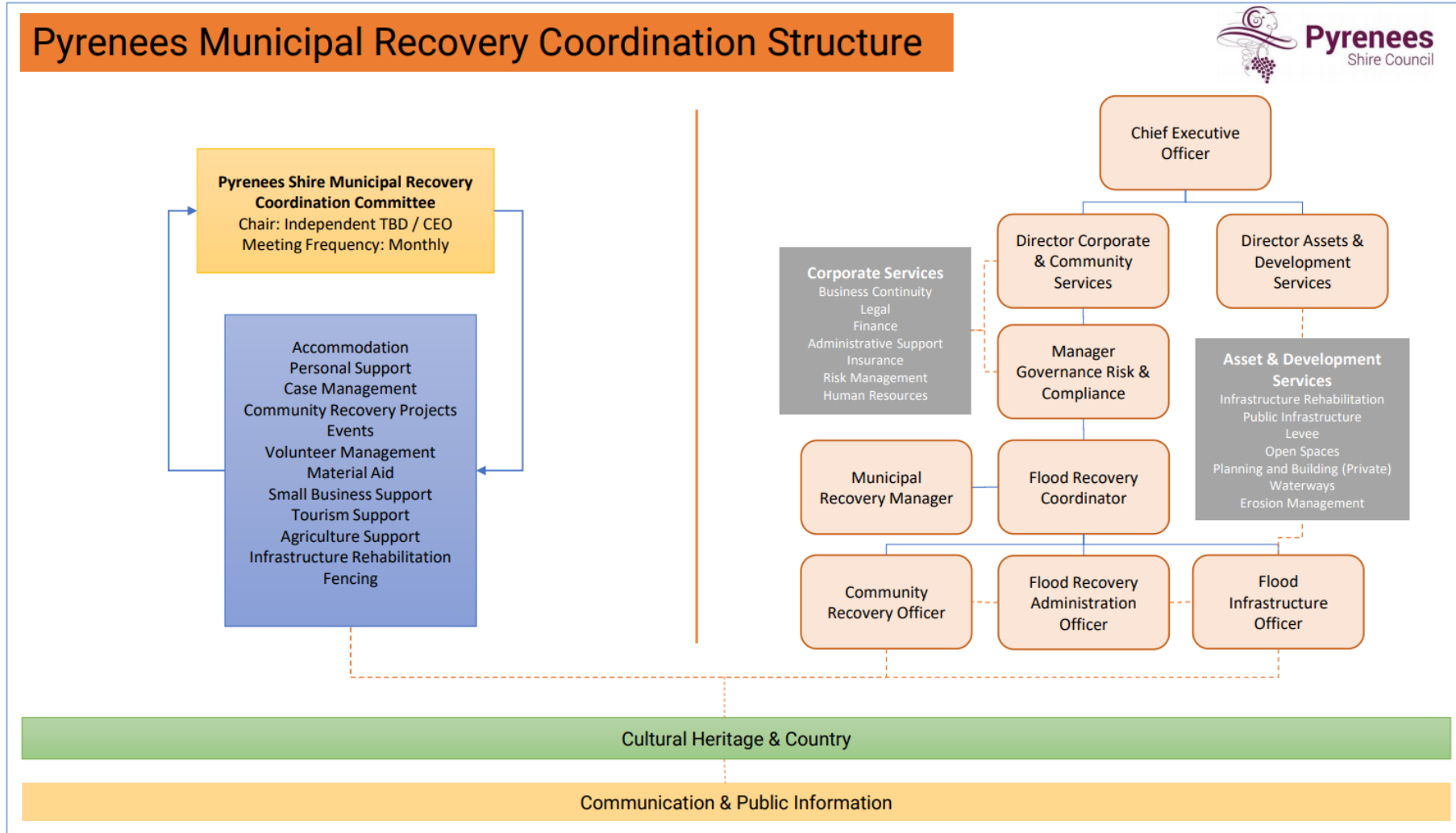
Part 9 of Council’s Municipal Emergency Management Plan details the environments of relief and recovery. There is considerable overlap between each of these functional areas so collaboration and communication between each area is needed to ensure maximum service coordination. The table below describes the environment and types of relief/recovery activities likely to be undertaken:

Recovery Environment	Description	Types of relief and recovery activities likely to be undertaken	
Social	Family and personal support, community development, financial assistance and material aid	Relief centres Recovery centres Accommodation Personal support Case management Financial assistance Material aid	Community development Information coordination Health services Disability / Aged care Volunteer coordination Donations coordination Animal welfare
Built	Infrastructure and buildings, essential services, public assets and utilities	Post impact assessment Clean-up Transport Roads, bridges and culverts	Community infrastructure Fencing Waste management
Natural	Air and water, public land, flora and fauna and ecosystems	Environmental health Public health Water catchments	Air quality Natural environment Cultural heritage
Economic	Retain and industry, employment, small business and tourism	Economic development Tourism promotion Financial assistance	Small business sector Building & planning
Agricultural	Primary producer support, animal welfare, stock feed, agistment and fencing	Primary producers Animal welfare Stock feed	Agistment Fencing

A strong focus for Council is to support community recovery which needs to be community focused and incorporate the needs and desires of the broad and diverse communities that make up the municipality of Pyrenees. Community-led approach involves engaging deeply and respectfully with communities so that they can help build back stronger and more resilient. It must be about listening, working together, and ensuring that rebuilding and recovery are both locally driven and delivered.

## 7.1 Municipal Recovery Coordination Structure

Pyrenees Shire Council has developed a municipal recovery coordination structure to effectively manage normal business services with recovery functions. The structure provides reporting arrangements and links between the Municipal Recovery Coordination Committee (MRCC) and Council's Flood Recovery Team.





## 7.2 Council Flood Recovery Teams

During the flooding events, Council's Emergency Relief and Recovery Committee gathered to coordinate immediate relief and early recovery services, as directed in Council's Municipal Emergency Management Plan (MEMP). The Committee, led by the Municipal Recovery Manager (MRM) initially met twice weekly, then moved to weekly and now meet fortnightly as the responsibility of recovery activities transitions to the newly formed Flood Recovery Team.

The new Flood Recovery Team is now in place to support Council, the Municipal Recovery Coordination Committee (MRCC) and the community in recovery activities such as immediate help for flood affected residents, community-led initiatives and restoration of public assets. Having the team will minimise the otherwise substantial impact on Council's Business as Usual (BAU) activity by allowing staff to move back to their normal roles and emergency management staff to plan for future events. Funding has been provided for the following positions:

- Flood Recovery Coordinator
- Community Recovery Officer
- Flood Infrastructure Officer
- Administration Officer

## 7.3 Municipal Recovery Coordination Committee (MRCC)

As part of the structure, the Municipal Recovery Coordination Committee will be formed to oversee the recovery activities in each of the recovery environments detailed on page 15. This committee will be formed with partner organisations from a range of government agencies, community groups and non-government organisations to ensure a multi-agency, integrated approach to recovery is undertaken.

Most importantly, community representatives from across the municipality will be invited to be members of the Committee to ensure that the community's views and needs are actively integrated across all recovery activities. The purpose will be two-fold by tapping into the knowledge of local residents about their local area and in turn support the work of recovery agencies.

The primary responsibilities of the MRCC involves, but not limited to:

- Establish and maintain relief and recovery service arrangements in preparation for an emergency, including business continuity strategies.
- Identify and recruit agencies to assist in the relief and recovery process.
- Identify local and external resources available for relief and recovery.
- Involve the community in planning and implementation of the relief and recovery process.
- Develop a Recovery Plan including Action Plan to identify all actions necessary to ensure recovery is undertaken in a systematic, effective and timely manner appropriate to the community's capacity.
- Liaise and communicate with other sub-committees that might be established.

- Maintain an effective working relationship between municipal and regional service providers.
- Inform the community of the progress on municipal recovery, major initiatives and achievements.

Taskforces (or recovery workgroups) aligned with the five recovery environments may be formed, should the need arise.

#### 7.4 Agencies Assisting in Recovery

Pyrenees Shire Council has the legislative responsibility to lead recovery activities at a municipal level. Long term requirements may need regional support. Recovery activities at a local level, are in partnership with agencies, non-government organisations, local service providers and community groups and individuals including, but not limited to:

Organisation	Role/Function
Department of Families, Fairness and Housing (DFFH)	Housing and accommodation, psychosocial support, individual and household financial assistance
Department of Health (DOH)	Health and medical assistance, public health
Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions (DJPR)	Victoria’s lead agency for economic recovery and business and industry engagement: Local economies, business, agriculture, public telecommunications, tourism, employment
Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA)	Energy services, reticulated water and wastewater services, natural environment, public land and waterways, threatened ecosystems and species
Department of Transport (DOT) / Regional Roads Victoria (RRV)	Transport - rehabilitation of DOT managed public buildings, roads, bridges and rail, enhance critical infrastructure resilience
Emergency Recovery Victoria (ERV)	Community information, community recovery coordination, state and commonwealth funding, coordination of spontaneous volunteers, management of donated goods, coordinate state-led clean-up of residential properties, support to local government
Emergency Management Victoria (EMV)	Administer Natural Disaster Financial Assistance (NDFA), funding for primary producers, voluntary non-profit groups, small business, local government
Australian Red Cross (ARC)	Support local government and other agencies to provide support to affected persons, advocate for community needs, organise public appeals, provide advice on wellbeing in recovery, coordinate spontaneous volunteers and staff recovery, staff recovery centres.
Salvation Army	Support ERV and EMV in the management of donated goods, assist affected persons in personal support, emergency accommodation and transport
Catchment Management Authorities (CMAs)	Provide advice services to local government and other agencies, develop flood recovery programs for CMA assets/waterways, rehabilitate waterways managed by CMAs, support agencies in

Organisation	Role/Function
	rehabilitation of other public land, waterway and assets, protection activities to support ecosystem recovery, implement flood damage restoration programs for flood affected waterways
Rural Financial Counselling Service (RFCS)	Free financial counselling to farmers, fishing enterprises, forestry growers and harvesters, and small related businesses experiencing, or at risk of, financial hardship.
Agriculture Victoria (AgVic)	Deliver information and support events to manage the recovery process on topics such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Grazing, cropping and pasture management</li> <li>• Irrigation and horticulture system rehabilitation</li> <li>• Soil erosion management</li> <li>• Land management</li> <li>• Animal health and nutrition</li> <li>• Whole farm planning</li> <li>• Water quality</li> <li>• Weed management</li> </ul>
Water Corporations	Recovery and rehabilitation of essential reticulated water supply, wastewater management systems and sanitation systems for domestic use, restore, clear and rehabilitate public buildings and assets managed within Water Corporations’ portfolio.
Insurance Council of Victoria (ICA)	Link insurance advice to relevant recovery authorities, coordinate insurance damage assessments and expedite claims processing for insured residents and businesses to access financial and accommodation benefits.
Victorian Council of Churches (VCC)	Provide psychosocial support including psychological first aid, emotional and spiritual care and personal support.
Environment Protection Authority (EPA)	Provide advice and information services to recovery agencies, provide waste pollution management strategies, undertake assessment/rehabilitation of public buildings and assets, coordinate approved state-led clean-up of residential property.
Victorian Building Authority (VBA)	Participate in recovery building and plumbing activities with other responsible agencies
Regional Development Victoria (RDV)	Supporting rural and regional communities and businesses through natural disasters, emergencies and unplanned events - providing advice, facilitating solutions, convening recovery committees and driving longer term, sustainable recovery.
Disaster Legal Help	Free information and advice on legal issues because of the floods, including help with tenancy, insurance or property damage.
Victorian Farmers Federation	Support the agriculture sector following natural disasters.
Australian Energy Market Operator	Electricity services assets reinstatement and return to reliable supply by managing electricity system security emergencies.

## 7.5 Flood Recovery Plan

This plan has been developed to coordinate the flood recovery operation and provide an implementation framework and reporting mechanism for the Municipal Recovery Coordination Committee (MRCC). It has been designed to evolve over time and has the community at its core.

Implementation of the plan will be the responsibility of the MRCC and Council, working in close partnership other recovery agencies.

This plan is broken up into two parts; 1. summary of the flood event including impact data and 2. the action plan.

The action plan does not identify specific programs, activities or events at individual agency/community levels. It does identify strategies to assist in addressing ongoing recovery issues in a coordinated and planned way to avoid duplication of effort and resources. Identifying gaps in local services, advocating on behalf of affected communities, and promoting longer term sustainable community support strategies are important outcomes.

## 7.6 Evaluation of the Flood Recovery Plan

Pyrenees Shire Council will conduct an evaluation of recovery operations following activation of the recovery arrangements detailed in this plan. The evaluation may be an informal or formal debrief and will identify the strengths and weaknesses of the local operational response to the needs of the community.

Understanding and documenting the role the Pyrenees Recovery Coordination Committee played in the overall recovery process for the 2022 flood events is a key factor in learning from, and improving, the municipality's capacity to respond and recover from an event.

It provides Pyrenees Shire Council with not only a strategic tool to review and assess the committee's performance in planning, responding to and recovering from these incidents, but provides a critical resource bank of information, such as key learnings, and challenges.

## 8. PYRENEES SHIRE COUNCIL FLOOD RECOVERY ACTION PLAN

### 8.1. Key Recovery Area 1: Recovery Coordination and Business Continuity

**Goal: To ensure recovery is a multi-agency, integrated approach to return the municipality to a normal level of functioning. To ensure Council can transition to business as usual.**

No.	Objective	Action	Tasks	Responsibility	Timeframe	Status Update
1	Understanding of the structure for normal and recovery function to assist in maintaining focus, business continuity and service provision	Implement organisational structure for 'Normal' and 'Recovery' function	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Divide the Council structure into 'Normal Business' and 'Recovery Team'</li> </ul>	(L) Pyrenees SC	January 2023	
2	Affected residents have access to resources to assist with recovery process.	Activate and support the Pyrenees Flood Recovery Team	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establish the Flood Recovery Team</li> <li>Identify location for the Team</li> <li>Promote and support services available through the Team</li> <li>Monitor ongoing needs</li> </ul>	(L) Pyrenees SC	January 2023	
3	Resources are available to meet the needs of the community.	Resource a recovery team from existing and new staff, agencies and consultants and back fill 'normal business' structures as required.  Seek government support for additional resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Employ a Flood Recovery Coordinator to lead the recovery</li> <li>Employ a Community Recovery Officer</li> <li>Employ a Flood Recovery Admin Support Officer</li> <li>Contract a consultant to coordinate the reinstatement of infrastructure</li> </ul>	(L) Pyrenees SC  (P) ERV	December 2022	
4	Agencies are well connected to make decisions and provide a coordinated, timely and informed approach to recovery.	Activate and support the Municipal Recovery Coordination Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review Municipal Emergency Management Plan for committee structure.</li> <li>Invite potential members to meetings including community members.</li> <li>Review Terms of Reference.</li> <li>Identify and discuss resource and recovery issues.</li> </ul>	(L) Pyrenees SC  (P) Relevant agencies	February 2023	

Pyrenees Shire Council 2022 Flood Recovery Plan

No.	Objective	Action	Tasks	Responsibility	Timeframe	Status Update
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide feedback to Council, the community and Government agencies.</li> </ul>			
5	Documented recovery activities to meet the needs of the community.	Develop a Pyrenees Flood Recovery Plan focusing on the areas of coordination, social, built, economy, agriculture and natural environments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Document incident background and recovery activities to date.</li> <li>• Provide status reports every two months to inform the community and Council.</li> <li>• Incorporate feedback from sub-committees into the action plan, if required.</li> </ul>	(L) Pyrenees SC (P) MRCC	February 2023	
6	Accurate data is collected and collated.	Identify and prioritise areas in Pyrenees Shire requiring assistance through obtaining and collating data.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use Council’s GIS system to map impacted areas.</li> <li>• Use Crisisworks to collate the needs of the community for recovery coordination.</li> <li>• Seek data from service providers to assist in identifying recovery needs of the community.</li> </ul>	(L) Pyrenees SC (P) Relevant agencies	November 2022 and ongoing	
7	The community has access to timely, accurate information regarding flood assistance programs and referral processes.	Provide empathetic and relevant recovery information to the Pyrenees community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop and implement a communications strategy.</li> <li>• Collate contact information for accessing services.</li> <li>• Develop a Pyrenees Flood Recovery Newsletter and circulate widely on an as needs basis.</li> <li>• Develop a Flood Recovery page on Council’s website.</li> <li>• Attend community meetings to provide updates.</li> <li>• Report to Council</li> </ul>	(L) Pyrenees SC	November 2022 and ongoing	
8	Financial sustainability to undertake recovery activities.	Establish funding sources for various stages for flood/storm recovery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Seek funding arrangements available for community and Council.</li> <li>• Seek interim payments for asset repair covered under Council’s insurance policy.</li> </ul>	(L) Pyrenees SC	Ongoing	

Pyrenees Shire Council 2022 Flood Recovery Plan

No.	Objective	Action	Tasks	Responsibility	Timeframe	Status Update
9	Financial structures are in place.	Develop financial structure based on recovery / response and funding sources	Create new program for the events, with a list of cost centres for specific projects and funding sources	(L) Pyrenees SC	November 2022	
10	Council staff are well supported during the recovery process.	Implement physiological support service for staff involved and/or affected by the emergency.	Implement support services for teams and individuals.	(L) Pyrenees SC	November 2022 and ongoing	
11	Staff are given the opportunity to participate in debrief sessions to identify lessons learnt and improve management of future events.	Carry out debriefs allowing staff to reflect, celebrate and inform future events.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Investigate engaging a consultant to facilitate the debrief process.</li> <li>Invite all staff to provide input into the debrief, should they choose to.</li> <li>Ensure all staff have access to debrief documents.</li> </ul>	(L) Pyrenees SC	June 2023	
12	Staff have access to timely, accurate information regarding flood recovery.	Implement an internal communication process with staff (needs to be regular and detailed to address staff morale, customer service and consistent message.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Circulating the flood/storm recovery newsletter</li> <li>Report to Council on a quarterly basis.</li> </ul>	(L) Pyrenees SC	October 2022 and ongoing	



## 8.2. Key Recovery Area 2: People / Social / Community Wellbeing

**Goal: To empower and support the communities to restore and rebuild community functioning and resilience. To support affected individuals to manage the personal, psychosocial, and financial impacts of the flood events and enhance their wellbeing while recovering.**

No.	Objective	Action	Tasks	Responsibility	Timeframe	Status Update
13	<p>Maximise the opportunity for individuals and communities to recover well and to empower them to move forward.</p> <p>Support reaches those in greatest need.</p>	Ensure community flood recovery is community-led with support from Council and agencies.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Engage with affected communities to identify their medium and long term needs.</li> <li>Identify and engage with existing community groups.</li> <li>Improve communication by ensuring timely, accurate and localised information sharing</li> <li>Identify emerging social issues for incorporating into medium and long term recovery plans</li> <li>Establish a process for reporting on insights from community activities, meetings or events</li> <li>Continually review and assess planned recovery activities and adjust as required.</li> </ul>	<p>(L) Pyrenees SC</p> <p>(P) Community Health</p>	Life of the recovery plan and ongoing	
14	Residents material needs are catered for.	Material Needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensure residents have access to material needs such as food, clothing, furniture</li> </ul>	<p>(L) Salvation Army/St Vincent de Paul/ Opportunity Shops</p> <p>(P) DFFH, Pyrenees SC</p>	Life of the recovery plan and ongoing	
15	Provision of social and mental health support is in place, well resourced, planned and coordinated.	Mental Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop innovative approaches to supporting mental health across the municipality.</li> </ul>	<p>(L) Community Health</p> <p>(P) Pyrenees SC,</p>	Life of the recovery plan and ongoing	

No.	Objective	Action	Tasks	Responsibility	Timeframe	Status Update
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide counselling services to residents as required.</li> <li>• Provide a case support service to households/individuals.</li> </ul>	DFFH, agencies, service clubs and community groups		
16	Clean-up services are provided for flood affected residents and communities.	Clean-up Assistance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Actively promote clean-up services available to flood affected residents</li> <li>• Coordinate groups wishing to assist with local clean-up.</li> </ul>	(L) Pyrenees SC (P) Local service clubs, community groups, individual volunteers	Life of the recovery plan and ongoing	
17	Donators matched with people in need.	Donations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community Recovery Officer to match donators with specific people in need in consultation with agencies and service organisations.</li> <li>• Consider organisations such as GIVIT to coordinate donations.</li> </ul>	(L) Pyrenees SC (P) DFFH, Rural Financial Counselling Service, Community Health, service organisations	Life of the recovery plan and ongoing	
18	Residents are supported in their homes or in their communities.  Overcome barriers to seeking help.	Outreach/Social Welfare	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop an outreach program to meet the needs of residents.</li> <li>• Create an environment where people feel comfortable asking for help.</li> <li>• Encourage kitchen table visits by counsellors and case support workers.</li> </ul>	(L) DFFH (P) Pyrenees SC, Rural Financial Counselling, Community Health, welfare agencies	Life of the recovery plan and ongoing	
19	Those impacted are referred to personal support, wellbeing and counselling services in a timely manner.	Referrals for Assistance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify agencies / organisations who provide support and compile contact details in a fact sheet.</li> <li>• Engage with those impacted to determine the need and offer referral to services.</li> </ul>	(L) Pyrenees SC (P) Community Health	Life of the recovery plan and ongoing	

No.	Objective	Action	Tasks	Responsibility	Timeframe	Status Update
20	Families returned to homes where and when safe to do so.	Housing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monitor housing needs.</li> <li>• Refer for building inspections</li> </ul>	(L) DFFH (L) Pyrenees SC	Life of the recovery plan and ongoing	
21	Communities are connected to increase morale and resilience.	Facilitate community-led activities and events. Encourage and fund social events.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Engage with affected communities to identify their medium and long term issues</li> <li>• Put in place a program of community events and programs.</li> <li>• Seek funding opportunities for medium to longer term activities and events</li> </ul>	(L) Pyrenees SC (P) Community Health, welfare agencies, community groups	Life of the recovery plan and ongoing	
22	Communities are cohesive and have a sense of pride.	Support community-led projects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Engage with affected communities to identify their medium and long term issues</li> <li>• Identify community-based projects</li> <li>• Seek funding opportunities for medium to longer term community projects</li> </ul>	(L) Pyrenees SC (P) DFFH, RDV, DJSIR	Life of the recovery plan and ongoing	

### 8.3. Key Recovery Area 3: Infrastructure / Built Environment

**Goal: To repair and restore infrastructure and other assets that are critical to the delivery of services and/or the functioning of communities, taking into account the protection and preservation of heritage or cultural sites. This is to reduce risks to safety, and to build the resilience of our infrastructure.**

No.	Objective	Action	Tasks	Responsibility	Timeframe	Status Update
23	Restoration of infrastructure is undertaken in a coordinated approach.	Determine the tasks required to reinstate the infrastructure assets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establish an internal Council infrastructure working group to repair Council owned infrastructure.</li> <li>Invite members of the community or other agencies on an as needs basis.</li> <li>The working group to coordinate works in conjunction with Council's capital works program.</li> <li>Provide feedback to the Municipal Flood Coordination Committee.</li> <li>Provide up to date information to the community.</li> </ul>	(L) Pyrenees SC	February 2023	
24	The Pyrenees road and bridge network is restored to meet the needs of the community.	Restore roads and bridges	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Conduct road/bridge/culvert inspections and develop a priority matrix.</li> <li>Undertake emergency repairs.</li> <li>Establish an action plan for road and bridge rehabilitation.</li> <li>Advocate for funding to rehabilitate road network and reconstruct damaged bridges.</li> </ul>	(L) Pyrenees SC  (P) Rural Roads Victoria	November 2022	
25	Community and recreation facilities are restored to return to community functioning and connectedness.	Restore community infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assess damage to community infrastructure such as public halls, toilets, playgrounds and reserves and recommend works required.</li> <li>Identify responsible authority for repairs and provide support to re-establish the facilities.</li> </ul>	(L) Pyrenees SC  (P) DEECA, Community Groups	October 2022	

No.	Objective	Action	Tasks	Responsibility	Timeframe	Status Update
26	The rural community is supported through the rehabilitation of fencing infrastructure.	Restore fencing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Quantify fencing losses and identify opportunities for help to restore fences.</li> </ul>	(L) Pyrenees SC  (P) Agriculture Victoria, BlaizeAid, Landmate	November 2022	

## 8.4. Key Recovery Area 4: Economic / Business Environment

**Goal: To support local businesses to re-establish themselves and to reduce immediate and ongoing economic impacts to the community of restoration and rebuilding. To attract tourists back to local communities.**

No.	Objective	Actions	Tasks	Responsibility	Timeframe	Status Update
27	Small businesses are financially supported to recovery.	Provide small business support.	Visit local businesses to ensure support is provided.	(L) Pyrenees SC (P) RDV, Rural Financial Counselling	Life of the recovery plan and ongoing	
28	Business and tourism industry is regenerated and grows.	Attract visitors to the municipality to stimulate the local economy.	Undertake a marketing campaign to bring visitors to the municipality.	(L) Pyrenees SC (P) RDV, Tourism Victoria	Life of the recovery plan and ongoing	
29	Business owners have access to training opportunities.	Implement appropriate education/skill training programs which assist business owners to make critical decisions and develop ongoing sustainability plans	Pursue programs which provide assistance to businesses.	(L) Pyrenees SC (P) RDV, community groups, Rural Financial Counselling	Life of the recovery plan and ongoing	
30	Improved social and economic outcomes	Ensure that major events continue to be held in the Pyrenees municipality and are well supported.	Support community groups to get events back up and running.	(L) Pyrenees SC (P) Community event organisers, community groups	Life of the recovery plan and ongoing	

## 8.5. Key Recovery Area 5: Agricultural Environment

**Goal: To revitalise the economy of rural communities through the re-establishment of agricultural enterprises and to support the wellbeing of rural communities.**

No.	Objective	Actions	Tasks	Responsibility	Timeframe	Status
31	Primary producers are supported to recover from the floods leading to a sustainable agricultural economy.	Financial and mental health support is provided for primary producers to recover from the floods.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Referrals are made to health services.</li> <li>Coordinate financial counselling services for primary producers.</li> </ul>	(L) Pyrenees SC  (P) Rural Financial Counselling Service, DJSIR, Ag Vic, Rural Finance, VFF	Life of the recovery plan and ongoing	
32	Primary producers have access to training opportunities.	Implement appropriate education/skill training programs which assist farmers to make critical decisions and develop ongoing sustainability plans	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Seek opportunities under the Resilient Farmer Project.</li> <li>Pursue programs which provide assistance to farming individuals, couples or families</li> </ul>	(L) Agriculture Victoria  (P) Pyrenees SC, Grampians Health	Life of the recovery plan and ongoing	
33	Improved animal welfare outcomes	Delivery of appropriate fodder for flood affected farmers.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Monitor fodder needs.</li> <li>A process is put into place for the coordination of fodder donations and delivery, if required.</li> </ul>	(L) Pyrenees SC  (P) DJSIR, VFF, Ag Vic, service groups	Life of the recovery plan and ongoing	



## 8.6. Key Recovery Area 6: Natural Environment

**Goal: To facilitate the re-establishment and rehabilitation of the natural environment and assist with overcoming water and soil contamination to minimise public risk.**

No.	Objective	Actions	Tasks	Responsibility	Timeframe	Status Update
34	Improved environmental outcomes and long-term land rehabilitation.	Enable rehabilitation of land	Investigate options for programs and funding to meet land rehabilitation needs in the future such as re-vegetation projects and rehabilitation of waterways.	(L) Catchment Management Authorities  (P) Pyrenees SC, DEECA, Landcare	Life of the recovery plan and ongoing	
35	Reduced risk of disease transmission and improved public health outcomes.	Minimise risk of mosquito borne diseases	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduce environments conducive to mosquito breeding</li> <li>• Implement control strategies where appropriate.</li> </ul>	(L) Pyrenees SC  (P) DOH	Ongoing	
36	Reduced environmental impacts by appropriate disposal of waste and improved public health outcomes.	Ensure residents have access to free disposal of flood affected waste.	Coordinate a flood waste disposal service which meets the needs of the community.	(L) Pyrenees SC  (P) DEECA	October 2022 and ongoing	
37	Reduced risk of disease and environmental impacts.	Reduce environmental and public health risks associated with flood affected septic tank systems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide advice to residents to minimise risks and to reinstate septic tanks.</li> <li>• Inspect septic tanks at flood affected community facilities and make recommendations for reinstatement.</li> <li>• Inspect flood affected domestic septic tank units, where required.</li> </ul>	(L) Pyrenees SC	October 2022 and ongoing	