
Nothern Grampians Shire Flood Recovery Plan



2022 October Floods

November 2023






Northern Grampians Shire Council
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CONTACT US

-  ngshire@ngshire.vic.gov.au
-  www.ngshire.vic.gov.au
-  (03) 5358 8700
-  PO Box 580 Stawell VIC 3380

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Introduction

The Emergency Management Victoria (EMV) State Emergency Management Plan (SEMP) outlines recovery as 'the assisting of persons and communities affected by emergencies to achieve a proper and effective level of functioning'. With this in mind, the Northern Grampians Shire Council Flood Recovery Plan will outline how Northern Grampians Shire Council will lead the recovery process in Northern Grampians Shire with support from state, regional, and local agencies, non-government organisations and local community groups. To ensure that we have an effective plan, it has been agreed that the plan will:

- Be fluid and agile
- Reflect what is known at the time.
- Outline clear roles and responsibilities
- Offer a broad description of the strategies to be undertaken
- Recognise National Recovery Principles
- Accept the *Lines of Recovery* which address specific community needs

Recovery Policy Context

Northern Grampians Shire 2022 October Floods Recovery provisions will take place in accordance with the agreed arrangements outlined in the Municipal Emergency Management Plan (MEMP), as guided by the directives contained within the [Victorian State Emergency Management Plan](#) (SEMP).

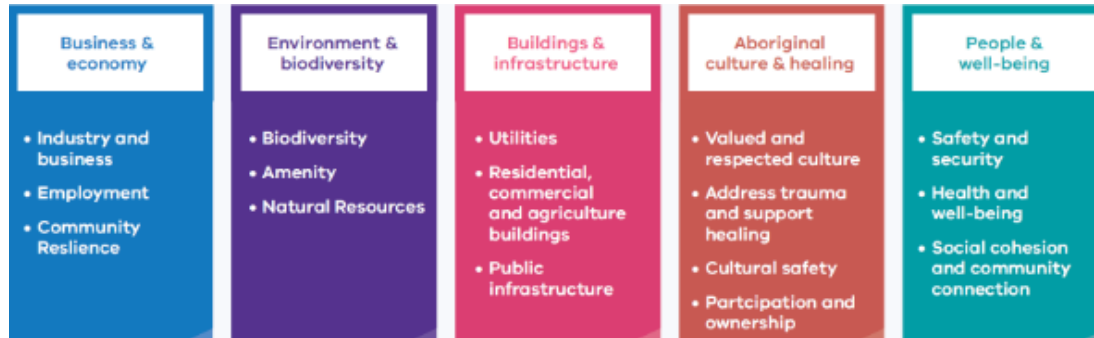
The MEMP details the arrangements for the management of municipal resources and coordinating community support during the response and recovery phases. By virtue of having the MEMP, recovery service provision will be devolved, as much as possible, at the local level with state and regional recovery plans, strategies, services, and resources used to supplement and complement the municipality's initiatives, rather than replace local endeavors.

The State Government have designed five overarching priorities that provide a lens to ensure recovery planning is holistic and coordinated across different areas of government.

The NGSC recovery plan utilises [Lines of Recovery](#) to classify how communities have been affected and to provide focus areas for recovery actions and programs.

- *The People and Wellbeing Line of Recovery* works to ensure that any community members impacted by flood remain healthy, safe, and connected within their community.
- *The Business and Economy Line of Recovery* works to support business and industry sectors impacted, assisting each to recover and strengthen while ensuring employment opportunities are accessible and resilience is increased. This includes the delivery of initiatives that help to relieve the immediate recovery needs of affected businesses, primary producers, and industries, and to set them on the path to recovery
- *The Environment and Biodiversity Line of Recovery* supports recovery with a focus on biodiversity, water and catchments, and sustainability.
- *The Buildings and Infrastructure Line of Recovery* works to restore essential community infrastructure safely and quickly. This line includes support to rebuild or repair residential, commercial, and agricultural properties and community facilities.

- *The Aboriginal Culture and Healing Line of Recovery* stands alongside traditional lines of recovery to ensure that the voice of those Aboriginal Victorians affected by a disaster are.
- represented within the decision-making process. This line of recovery is designed to ensure overall recovery efforts consider and safeguard a culturally appropriate and safe recovery for Aboriginal Victorians.



(Adapted from the Vic Gov website Lines of Recovery).

Roles and Responsibilities for Recovery

- Emergency Recovery Victoria (ERV)
As the state and regional agency for recovery coordination ERV will guide and fund specific recovery activities.
- Department of Family Fairness and Housing (DFFH)
Will act as the lead department for the People and Wellbeing Line of Recovery, responsible for housing and accommodation, individual and household financial assistance, and psychosocial support.
- Department of Jobs, Skills, Industry and Regions (DJSIR)
Will act as the lead agency for both the Business and Economy Line of Recovery and Buildings and Infrastructure Line of Recovery, responsible for the delivery of initiatives that help relieve immediate recovery needs of affected businesses, primary producers and industries, to set them on the path to recovery.
- Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA)
Will act as the lead agency for both the Environment and Biodiversity Line of Recovery and Buildings and Infrastructure Line of Recovery, focusing on public buildings and assets, natural environment, public land, and waterways.
- Department of Transport and Planning (DTP)
Will act as one of three lead agencies for the Building and Infrastructure Line of Recovery.
- The Municipal Recovery Manager (MRM) is advised by the MEMO about the potential need for recovery services and is tasked with the responsibility to coordinate council and community resources to support recovery activities. This will involve a requirement to:
 - Engage with the Incident Controller in the transition from response to recovery
 - Assist to collate and evaluate information gathered in the post-impact assessment
 - Establish priorities for restoring community services

- Liaise with the Municipal Emergency Management Officer about the best use of municipal resources.
- Liaise, consult, and negotiate with recovery agencies and the council on behalf of the affected area and community recovery committees.
- Liaise with relevant Victorian Government agencies and request support with recovery needs and coordination, as required.
- The Municipal Emergency Management Officer (MEMO) is to liaise with agencies in relation to emergency management activities for the municipal district and assist in the coordination of emergency management activities for council.
- The Recovery Coordinator will lead the recovery process and will report to the Municipal Recovery Manager.
- Municipal Incident Recovery Committee, formed on 21 October 2022, will:
 - Assess the impact of the emergency in line with the five aforementioned lines of recovery environments and identify any recovery services required.
 - Undertake recovery activities as determined by the circumstances and the Municipal Incident RC.
 - Monitor the overall progress of the recovery process in the affected community.
 - Make recommendations to appropriate recovery agencies, municipal councils, and state government departments.
 - Liaise, consult, and negotiate, on behalf of the affected communities, with recovery agencies, government departments and municipal councils.
 - Liaise with DHHS Regional Recovery Coordinator.
 - Provide leadership and support to staff specifically employed for the recovery effort (e.g., Community Recovery Officer).

Commitment to Recovery Principals

Victoria's recovery arrangements align with the following [National Principles for Disaster Recovery](#). These principles will guide recovery planning and activities to promote successful recovery:

- Understand the context
- Recognise complexity
- Use a community-led and centred, approach
- Coordinate all approaches
- Communicate effectively
- Recognise and build capacity

Key aspects of the National Recovery Principles which are at the forefront of NGS recovery planning include:

- Agreeing to planned, coordinated, and adaptive approach based on continuing assessment of impacts and needs.
- An understanding that emergencies are complex and dynamic in nature.
- A commitment to a community-led approach that is responsive, flexible, and will engage each individual community and empower them to move forward.
- Timely, relevant, consistent, and meaningful two-way communication with affected communities.

- Recognising, supporting, and building on community, individual and organisational capacity to enable effected communities to lead their recovery.
- Enabling individuals, families, and the community to actively participate in their own recovery
- Recognising that individuals and each community may need different levels of support at various times.
- Acknowledging that recovery will be guided by the priorities of a community.
- Channeling effort through pre-identified and existing community assets, including local knowledge, existing community strengths and resilience leads to improved long-term outcomes.
- Supporting collaborative partnerships between the community and those involved in the recovery process.
- Recognising that new community leaders often emerge during and after a disaster, who may not hold formal positions of authority.
- Allocating sufficient time and resources to complete the recovery process.
- Ensuring recovery services are readily accessible to affected individuals, families, and communities and responsive to their needs and expectations.

Municipal profile

The Northern Grampians Shire is in the geographical centre of Western Victoria. The country varies from flat to undulating agricultural and pastoral plains in the north, west, and central areas; and to mountains Centre between the Pyrenees Ranges in the east, the foothills of the Great Dividing Range in the south, and the Grampians/ Gariwerd in the southwest.

The Northern Grampians Shire has a population of 11,885 (Australian Bureau of Statistics [ABS 2021]) with majority of this population situated in Stawell and St Arnaud.

Several smaller communities are scattered throughout the shire and the remaining population reside on farming properties and lifestyle blocks. The communities within the municipality support a wide range of industries, activities, and interests including agriculture, I and catchment management, tourism, wine production, and gold mining. The commercial centres of Stawell and St Arnaud, along with the tourism hub of Halls Gap, are of vital importance to the region. The Grampians National Park/Gariwerd is a major domestic and international tourist destination. The shire has a diverse and growing economic base. Agricultural activities include cropping, sheep, cattle, pigs, and poultry growing as well as extensive viticulture.

The area forms part of the Wimmera, Avon/Richardson, and Avoca Catchments with the main watercourse being the Wimmera River. The municipality contains a number of water storages including Lake Fyans, Lake Bellfield and Lake Lonsdale. The popular Teddington Reservoir is situated in the Pyrenees Ranges, and Lake Batyo Catyo and Walkers Lake are part of the Avon/Richardson River system.

The Northern Grampians Shire has an area of 5,918 square kilometers and is bounded by Yarriambiack Shire and Buloke Shire to the north, Loddon Shire, Central Goldfields Shire, and Pyrenees Shire to the east; Ararat Rural City and Southern Grampians Shire to the south; and the Horsham Rural City to the west. The Western Highway acts as the major road link between Melbourne and Adelaide and is a route that experiences large volumes of hazardous and general goods transportation alongside considerable passenger traffic. St Arnaud is the second major urban centre in the shire and is situated on the Sunraysia Highway, 132 kilometers from Ballarat. The Wimmera Highway, linking Bendigo and Horsham, also passes through St Arnaud. Vehicle access is available to most parts of the

shire through a satisfactory secondary road network consisting of sealed, paved, and unpaved roads.

Event description

A significant rain band passed through the Grampians Region overnight on 13 October 2022, bringing heavy rainfall that continued into 14 October 2022. This event resulted in flash flooding across a number of areas, including the Grampians and southern tributaries such as Mackenzie River, Burnt Creek and Norton Creek. Significant flooding impacted several towns across the Grampians Region, as outlined in the VICSES Municipal Emergency management Planning Report which documents the event occurrence.

- Halls Gap: Heavy rainfall overnight on 13 October caused flash flooding in areas surrounding Halls Gap and near roads adjacent to Lake Bellfield.
- St Arnaud: Significant flooding occurred within the town, impacting several properties and surrounding roads. No buildings were reported to have been flooded above floor, however flooding was so deep that access was cut to St Arnaud for more than 24 hours, except for roads to the east of the town. Flood photos provided indicate that the flood event was a 50-year ARI flood event, approximately.
- Great Western: Flooding from Concongella Creek partially cut access to the Western Highway, up to 0.2m. Police and Vic Roads staff were present at the site overnight to slow traffic and allow cars to pass through the floodwater with caution.
- Navarre: The flood peak for Navarre was 4.67m on 13 October 2022. This sits between a 50- and 100-year Average Recurrence Interval (ARI) flood event. More than twelve properties were impacted by flooding. No houses above floor. Flooding cut access to High Street, Escort Street, Barkly-Navarre Road, Stawell-Avoca Road and the Tulkara Road.
- Marnoo: High-level large water flows were experienced, travelling from surrounding paddocks to impact the Recreations Reserve and several houses on the east side of Marnoo. The town was cut off from major road access for over 24 hours.
- Glenorchy: Flooding in the Wimmera River reached a peak at the Glenorchy gauge with a 5.01m reading, resulting in a 1 in 100-year Annual Exceedance Probability (AEP) flood event. Seventeen properties were impacted by flooding and five buildings were flooded above floor. Flooding cut access to many houses access to many houses for several days

Extent of Impact

To assess the level of impact Northern Grampians Shire Council has utilised data and information from:

- NGSC Secondary Impact Assessments
- NGSC road network and asset inspections
- Anecdotal information from key community members in affected areas
- Self-reports from residents utilising the NGSC Recovery Hotline
- A flood recovery information collection survey
- Community meetings
- ICC Initial impact assessments
- Agriculture Victoria's Flood Agricultural State-wide agency situational report and Secondary Impact Assessment raw data



Glenorchy Saturday 15 October 2022. From: VIC SES-MEMPC Agency Report Western Councils Dec 2022 9V2)

- VICSES Municipal Emergency Management Planning Report
- Victorian Farmers Federation
- Health service reports
- Community groups and organisations reports

Impacts, known at the time of writing this report, have been categorised using the Victorian Government Lines of Recovery to enable alignment when planning recovery activities and programs.

People and Wellbeing

The State Emergency Service (SES) indicate that residents appear to have been well prepared for the floods, suggesting they have learnt from the flooding in 2011.

No calls for displacement were lodged during this event and a relief center was not required.

As several towns were cut off for 24 to 48 hours, residents were unable to leave their towns. Most locations had a minimal number of households negatively impacted by water inundation, resulting in residents offering support amongst themselves rather than having a central location initiated by council.

Initial impact assessments conducted by council resulted in the following data:

- Impact assessment carried out on 38 properties,
- A total of 13 properties were documented as having had water to above ground level
- Three dwellings with potential internal water damage
- No primary residences were lost.

As part of the relief and recovery phase, the National Emergency Management Authority and Department of Fairness and Family and Housing provided several emergency payments within the shire:

- 32 applications for the Services Australia Disaster Recovery Allowance (DRA) were submitted, with less than 20 being approved. Total funding provided was \$29,169.
- 781 applications were submitted for the Services Australia Australian Government Disaster Recovery Payment (AGDRP), with 415 approved. The total amount of funding provided was 468,200
- 57 individual payments were made by the DFFH Emergency Relief Fund. Seven in Glenorchy, 12 in Slaty Creek, and 25 in St Arnaud.

Buildings and Infrastructure

Northern Grampians Shire Council is the responsible authority for an extensive network of 3,370km of the local road network, consisting of 820km of sealed roads, 2,140km of unsealed roads, and 410km of formed/track roads. Within the road network are 143 bridges and 275 major culverts. In addition, council also maintains 114km of footpath network, a drainage network of 158km of kerb and channel, 69km of drainage pipes, 2,477 drainage pits and 51,324m² of car parks.

The extent of the damage to this road network has been recorded through

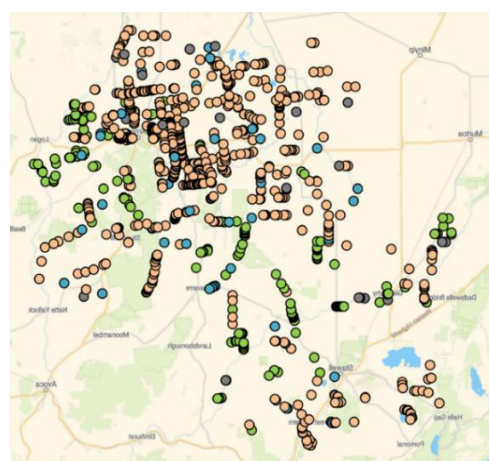
- Residents contacting the NGSC Flood Recovery Hotline or customer service.
- Residents completing the NGSC Flood Recovery Information Collection Survey.
- Road damage inspections and assessments.

The road network across the shire has a combination of minor and major defects occurring. Many of the defects rectified following the 2021 event have again been damaged during the 2022 event, causing a greater impact

Many defects, including minor washouts and potholes, have not been recorded. These were dealt with promptly to get the network operational across key local routes and roads needed for harvest.



NGSC Infrastructure damage report



- Gravel Road
- Seal repair
- Drainage repair
- To be assessed

As of 16 December 2022:

- 1,628 hours have been spent on emergency and immediate restoration of road defects such as road defects, potholes/ maintenance grading to repair wash outs.
- 95 major infrastructure defects have been captured, whilst only ten percent of the road network and assets have been inspected. The full extent of defects will not be realised for several months.
- The damage estimate is around four million dollars.

Business and Economy

Agriculture impacts

On 13 October 2022, the Department of Agriculture deployed their Intelligence Emergency Team to identify and respond to agricultural relief needs across the state.

The Department of Agriculture Intelligence Unit collated data from the SCC, Emergency Management Liaison Officers (EMLO), Industry Liaison Officers (ILOs), Regional Agency Commanders (RACs) and other field staff. The operational focus was on referring and actioning urgent enquiries received from landholders and other agencies, intelligence gathering, establishing workflows to manage case information, making phone calls to priority and complex cases, and monitoring phone calls to landholders in flood affected areas for damage assessments. The summary of the assessments is Table 1.

Primary Production within the Northern Grampians Shire has been impacted heavily, with crop losses and fence damage notable. The total farm area in the shire covers 38471.58 hectares with approximately 8184.02 hectares having been affected by the heavy rains and flooding. Infrastructure damage is mostly fencing with no haysheds, machinery sheds or machinery reported as having been destroyed or badly damaged as a result of the floods. Reported fence damage is estimated to be just under 200 kilometers, which includes 98.95 kilometers of internal fencing, 64.50 of external fencing, and 35.30 of Crown Land boundary fencing. Primary Producers indicated that due to flood warning, they were able to move their livestock to higher ground. In all, the total number of animals reported to have been affected was 225.

Table 1: Agricultural impacts	
Item	Number
Livestock	
Total farm area	385,282
Total animals missing	149
Total animal deaths	76
Infrastructure	
Total fencing impacted	202
Internal fencing	98.95
External Fencing	64.50
Crown boundary fencing lost	35.30
Waterway fencing	3
Machinery sheds lost	0
Wool shed	1
Irrigation pumps lost	0
Crops/Pastures/Grain/Fodder	
Total field crop standing lost	2952
Total field crop (stubble) lost	150
Total grain stored lost	2
Total hay silage lost	1204
Total grazing pasture lost	1649
Private bush lost	60

From: Agriculture Victoria Agency Situation report – Agriculture relief: Flood –Statewide –2022

In total, 149 animals were reported missing with the largest in number being 36 sheep and 40 laying hens. Up to 40 lambs died, with the suggested cause listed as pulpy kidney. No animals have been euthanized by Agriculture Victoria. No horticulture losses have been reported.

Conversations with primary producers and residents from outlying areas share several common themes:

- Flood events and crop losses come with the territory and are expected.
- Crop losses will remain unknown until early 2023 and that this is due to paddocks being too wet to assess when harvest would normally be taking place.
- The initial flood event caused inconvenience and anxiety for rural families due to sudden road closures and townships such as Navarre, Marnoo and Stuart Mill being cut off
- Rural residents are concerned that most of the roads in outlying townships were impacted, making it difficult to move about on a daily basis while also affecting truck usage during harvest.

Local Businesses

Most Local businesses were not directly impacted by the initial rain event.

Road closures and continued heavy rains impacted trade for the St Arnaud Napier Street shops in the initial days of the weather event.

The Navarre Store was affected by the town being cut off for 24 hours and lost power for over eight hours. The outage was overnight, so most items were able to be saved, except for a milk delivery which was left out of the fridge. The shed at the back of the property was flooded, with minor damage, no damage to stock.

Tourism-reliant businesses have reported the following impacts:

- Cancellations to both accommodation and tourist attractions (people unsure if they can get home, unsure if accommodation, attractions, or locations were flooded, not wanting to camp/visit in the wet)
- Impact on internal roads that require repair
- Impact on buildings due to water damage

Environment and Biodiversity

Information shared by Parks Victoria on 10 February 2023 indicated the the initial flood damage report was been complete. The assessments showed:

- Some areas had significant damage i.e. road network and some walking tracks
- Some closures are still in place however work has begun to get them open.

Work is now underway to work with the loss adjuster and the team to begin assessing recovery works. Recovery works to begin late February / March.

Wimmera CMA initially identified five properties in the NGS which received flood related damage to waterways within properties in the Northern Grampians Shire.

The Avon, Avoca, Richardson _Flood_20211122_W-C Report described treats and treatments for both the natural Environment and Built assets including:

- Semiarid Woodland communitiies
- Threatened Fauna Habitat
- Treated Acquatic Fauna

- Threatened flora and vegetation communities
- Public safety due to damage to critical access, roads and tracks on public land.
- Community safety as a result of levee failure
- Community recreational facilities
- Visitor safety in forest and parks areas
- Waterway health
- Public safety – future flooding / dam incidents
- Biodiversity and infrastructure impacted by increased salinity.

The Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action in conjunction with relevant agencies will continue to lead recovery work under the Environment and Biodiversity banner.

Aboriginal Culture and Healing

There have not yet been any local reports of cultural heritage damage or direct impacts on First Nations residents. The situation will continue to be monitored as recovery work continues.

The Avon, Avoca, Richardson _Flood_20211122_W-C Report describes threats and treatments for:

- Aboriginal Ancestral Remains
- Aboriginal cultural heritage place loss.
- Stakeholder relationships, Traditional owners, agencies and local community.

DEECA will continue to monitor and take action if needed.

Community engagement:

Community engagement is concerned with involving individuals, families, businesses, interest groups and other stakeholders directly in decisions that affect them. This will include decisions across the social, built, economic, agricultural, and natural environments and include Aboriginal cultural considerations.

Community Engagement undertaken with affected communities will be cognisant that community engagement needs to differ following a disaster. Considerations should take into account the ability of community members to participate based on the loss and trauma faced, level of property damaged, and any clean-up required, the financial strain and immediate or long-term need to access financial assistance, isolation and changing priorities.

Engagement varies from a simple one-way provision of information through to the ability to fully empower and support people to plan for, manage, and address their own needs. With the latter being the desired outcome for community recovery.

Levels of engagement are explained using the IAP2 Public Participation Spectrum Model which has been designed to assist with the selection of the level of participation that defines the public's role. The spectrum highlights that differing levels of participation are needed, depending on the goals, time frames, resources, and levels of concern in the decision to be made.

Initial engagement utilised levels of participation that aim to keep the community informed and enable two-way communication.

Inform: Information on where to access services and support was provided through social media, local newspapers, community channels, and business newsletters as well as with a dedicated Northern Grampians Shire Council website flood recovery page.



Glenorchy October Floods Community meeting October 27 2022.

Consult: A dedicated flood recovery phone line was provided for community members to contact. Those who contacted the phone line were able to receive the most up-to-date recovery information as well as report concerns, observations, ideas. A recovery survey was also developed and offered online for residents to report concerns, observations, ideas and needs. Key representatives from community plan working groups in Navarre, Marnoo and Stuart Mill were contacted and encouraged to share information and current community needs.

Involve: For residents who were heavily impacted, community meetings were the preferred option to engage. These meetings were as follows

- A community meeting was held in Glenorchy in October to connect with residents and to gain an understanding of the flood event and its impacts. The event also allowed council to ascertain the community's needs and aspirations and to consider how these could be achieved.
- A second community meeting in Glenorchy was held to assist residents understand and assess the options available to limit the impact of flooding in Glenorchy.

Future engagement will centre around collaboration and empowerment to ensure that communities can develop a vision for the future and make decisions about the longer-term recovery activities that will help them get there.

Recovery Goals

People and Wellbeing

Disasters can impact upon many aspects of well-being including but not limited to wealth, employment, health, social issues, social belonging, recreation and leisure. Such impacts can degrade a person's quality of life and undermine the social cohesion of a community.

Based on the initial assessment information, priority and short-term actions will be centered around safety, water, food, psychological first aid, emergency accommodation, personal needs, material and financial requirements, transport, health/medical, communication, information, and connectivity, as well as needs that are culturally specific.

Vision: Establish community safety, wellbeing and resilience.

Goals:

- To assist those affected by the disaster with access and referral to personal support and counselling services
- To assist those affected by the disaster with access to safe accommodation suitable to their needs, including access to their own properties as soon as is practicable
- To assist those affected by the disaster with opportunities to reconnect with their communities
- To provide access to timely information about post-disaster circumstances and recovery activities
- To assist with the coordination and distribution of material relief to those affected by the disaster
- To reduce risks to public health following the disaster
- To identify emerging social issues for incorporation into medium and long-term recovery plans

Buildings and Infrastructure

The major impact on the built environment was the extensive damage caused to the road network which, of course, had a flow on effect, impacting commuter and agricultural traffic. Both the general movement of the local community as well as traffic linked to agricultural purposes such as harvesting were highlighted.

In this instance, no homes were destroyed, however, it needs to be noted that there are homes that need extensive repairs due to flooding.

Initial work will focus on the restoration of the road network and ensuring that households have access to clean-up services.

Vision: Repair and re-establish infrastructure

Goals: To reinstate or replace infrastructure that is critical to the delivery of recovery services and/ or the functioning of communities, considering the protection and preservation of heritage or cultural sites.

- To facilitate the clean-up of homes
- To consider the future disaster resilience of infrastructure as part of reinstatement plans.
- To identify emerging built issues for incorporation into medium and long-term recovery plans

Business and Economy

The effects of the flooding have been both direct (tangible - have a dollar value attached) and indirect (intangible – difficult to attach a dollar value). Businesses were directly impacted

by the flooding, mostly due to roads being cut off, with information suggesting that customer numbers were limited and employees or self-employed persons were not able to travel to workplaces.

Furthermore, there were indirect impacts in tourist-heavy areas, including Halls Gap, where many operators indicated that cancellations had occurred due to visitors being unsure of weather conditions and the likelihood of flooding.

Vision: Local businesses and primary production can continue to be viable.

Goals:

- To support local businesses to re-establish themselves after the disaster, especially those critical to community re-establishment.
- To attract customers back to local communities.
- To identify emerging economic environment issues for incorporation into medium- and long-term recovery plans

Primary producers have reported crop damage and loss, silage loss, fence damage, impacts on paddock access to harvest and machinery breakdowns due to having been bogged. Flood damage and resulting waterlogged conditions delayed sowing and planting of some summer crops.

Due to the nature of losses, recovery goals for primary producers will be to:

- Support the wellbeing of rural communities.
- Identify emerging agricultural environment issues for incorporation into medium and long-term recovery plans.

Agriculture Victoria is working alongside other agencies and local governments through the Grampians Regional Recovery Committee to support the recovery of farmers.

Environment and Biodiversity

The effects of the flooding on the natural environment, that impact on the community, may be as a direct result of the floods or due to a flow on effect from the recovery process. Aspects such as water quality, land degradation, revegetation, wildlife and waterways will need to be considered by the local Catchment Authorities and Department of Energy and Climate Action Environment.

However, through further engagement with communities actions with an environmental focus may be identified and included in community recovery plans.

Vision: Restore and Protect the natural environment.

Goals:

- To identify emerging natural environment issues for incorporation into medium and long-term recovery plans

Aboriginal and Cultural Healing

Initial response actions are designed to ensure that recovery efforts both consider and safeguard a culturally appropriate and safe recovery for Aboriginal Australians, enabling and embedding self-determination.

As community recovery work continues the following Goals will be integrated into all aspects of the process.

Vision: Respect and consider First Nations peoples and heritage

Goals:

- To support Aboriginal peoples' unique experience of trauma and healing
- To engage Aboriginal communities to lead recovery and build resilience within their communities.

Measures and Reporting

When it is time to review the Recovery Plan, questions to consider should include:

- What are the key achievements?
- What has worked well?
- What needs additional effort or improvement?
- What additional recovery needs and issues have been identified?
- What additional support or resources are needed?