

Thursday 28 March 2024

Storm Recovery Update



South Gippsland
Shire Council

Drop into Council's Recovery Centre located at the Mirboo North and District Community Foundation for help:

- registering for the Emergency Recovery Victoria Clean Up Support Program (for damaged houses)
- connections to mental health, wellbeing, financial and business advice services.

Open: Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 10.00am and 3.00pm.

Mirboo North & District Community Recovery Working Group

A Recovery Working Group - comprising local community leaders and organisations - has been established to support and build on community led recovery efforts. The Group will be meeting for the first time next week and will be considering recovery actions and activities, and providing recommendations to the recovery process.

To ensure the Group has broad range of information and views to help with making recommendations, we are seeking feedback from Mirboo North and District residents. Initial feedback can be provided in-person at the Recovery Centre or via email to:

recovery@southgippsland.vic.gov.au

Recovery Support - Emergency Recovery Hotline on 1800 560 760

If you were severely impacted by the storm, you may be eligible for a recovery support worker. They can work with you over time to find and access the support you need. To find out more, call the Emergency Recovery Hotline on **1800 560 760** or visit **www.vic.gov.au/recovery-support**

Removal of Dangerous Trees

You can register for hazardous tree removal if:

- you live in the home, or you had tenants living there with a formal a rental agreement in place
- you are uninsured or **under-insured** for damage caused by the February 2024 Victorian storms
- hazardous trees on your property are the direct result of the February 2024 Victorian storms, and
- **those trees could fall, or have a branch fall, within 30 meters of your home or the main access to your home.**

Fill out the form at [clean-up support for storm damaged homes](http://www.vic.gov.au/clean-up-support-for-storm-damaged-homes) (www.vic.gov.au) or call the Emergency Recovery Hotline on 1800 560 760 to register.

Storm Related Green Waste

The end date for the storm related Green Waste Amnesty is now 2 April for all towns aside from Mirboo North, which will continue until 30 April.

Most Transfer Stations are open according to regular operating hours which can be found on Council's website.

Mirboo North's transfer station will return to normal weekday operating hours after Easter and will also be open from 9.00am to 4.00pm on Saturday and Sunday.

Waste disposal fees will be reintroduced for general waste at all transfer stations from 2 April.

Business Support

The Small Business Bus is coming to Mirboo North on Thursday 11 April (10.00am to 4.00pm) to help you develop your business ideas and capabilities. Business advisors from Monarch Institute can help you with 1:1 tailored advice. These 45 minute sessions are confidential and free! Bookings are essential.

<https://business.vic.gov.au/learning-and-advice/workshops-and-small-business-bus/view?id=E25003>

Free one-on-one business advice with an experienced mentor is also available on Thursday 4 April. Book at:

https://www.sbms.org.au/events/view/2407/South_Gippsland_Shire_Small_Business_Clinic_Mirboo_North

Demolition of Storm Damaged Homes

If your home was damaged beyond repair by the by the February 2024 Victorian storms and it is not covered by insurance, we can demolish it for free. This means that you can focus your efforts and resources on rebuilding. To register fill out the form at [clean-up support for storm damaged homes](http://www.vic.gov.au/clean-up-support-for-storm-damaged-homes) (www.vic.gov.au) or call the Emergency Recovery Hotline on 1800 560 760 to register.

Free outreach legal service

From Friday 5 April, there will be a free outreach legal service operating at the Community Hub/Co-space (96 Ridgway) every Friday between 10.00am and 4.00pm. If you, or someone you know has been affected by February's storm event or you wish to learn about how to be legally prepared, you can drop in to the outreach legal service on any Friday from 5 April between 10.00am and 4.00pm or request an appointment via the GCLS website at www.gcls.org.au or call GCLS on 1800 004 402 (free call).

Need Help with Perimeter Fencing

BlazeAid volunteers will be working locally to rebuild fencing impacted by the February 13 Storm event. Registration is easy, and you'll be glad you did it. Please contact the Camp Coordinator, Peter Jones, to register for assistance by calling 0414 075 980 or email Yinnar@blazeaid.com.au – there's no red tape, and can be done in as little as 10 minutes. Want to volunteer for BlazeAid? You do not need any fencing experience, just a willingness to give it a go and learn on the job. You can volunteer for a day or two, or a week or more. Simply contact the Camp Coordinator before you are ready to come to the basecamp to discuss your travel plans.

Energy Resilience Community Fund

Applications for the Energy Resilience Community Fund are now open. financial hardship grants are now available for AusNet's customers impacted by recent storm-related power outages. This payment is for people who were not eligible for the Prolonged Power Outage Payment and without power for more than 72 hours due to the severe weather events between Tuesday 13 February and Thursday 22 February 2024. Visit Energy Resilience Community Fund (ausnetservices.com.au) for more information.

Mental Health Walk-In Support

Mental Health and Wellbeing Local in Latrobe is offering free walk-in mental health support from the Mirboo North Medical Centre.

The walk-in service is available Monday and Friday from 10.00am to 4.00pm.

For more information visit www.neaminational.org.au/services or call 1800 571 142.

Neighbourhood Trees and Fences

Overhanging branches, dropped foliage and damage from tree roots can cause issue between neighbours. More information can be found at [Trees in Victoria](http://www.disputes.vic.gov.au/trees-in-victoria) (www.disputes.vic.gov.au).

Issues around repairing or replacing a shared fence, damage to fences and boundary issues can all contribute to disputes between neighbours. More information can be found at Fencing in Victoria (www.disputes.vic.gov.au).