# Flood and storm recovery
## Community update
### August 2024

## Flood mitigation works

### Works completed to date

The City has completed $2.8M of priority emergency and immediate reconstruction works across Greater Bendigo following flood and storm events during summer.

### Federal Funding received

This week the City received notification of two successful funding applications from the Federal Government. This includes funding to complete a Goornong Flood Study and develop Waterway Flood Mitigation Plans for the Epsom, Huntly, Junortoun and Heathcote areas, with a focus on Bendigo Creek, Back Creek, Racecourse Creek, Splitters Creek and McIvor Creek. We look forward to getting this work underway and engaging with affected communities to seek their input.

An application to create a detention basin at Goldleaf Reserve in Huntly and deliver a range of flood resilience upgrades was unsuccessful, however the City will continue to explore other grant opportunities to fund these important works.

### Planned maintenance works

On-site inspections undertaken by City staff since January have uncovered widespread damage to City infrastructure, with $27M worth of projects identified, including $6M of drainage maintenance works and $21M of road maintenance works, comprising 8000 defects in total. Completion of these works are subject to the outcome of a Federal Grant application expected to be known in the coming months. The City extends its sincere thanks to residents for participating in community consultations and submitting requests that have helped to identify priority works and inform funding applications.

### Planned upgrade works

While some works will commence from late 2024, it is anticipated that major flood mitigation projects and upgrades will take several years to finalise due to the scale and complexity.

A list of identified priority projects across the municipality can be found on the City's website. This list is subject to funding and not exhaustive, and several other minor works have also been identified. For information on any unlisted works please email engineering@bendigo.vic.gov.au.

### Staffing

A dedicated Flood Recovery Works Coordinator has been appointed and an additional two technical officers will be recruited to take the lead on maintenance works and complement existing crews.

## Community recovery and resilience

### Recovery program

The City is committed to supporting the recovery of community members impacted by flood and storm events across the municipality. A dedicated Recovery Officer has been working with local community groups and Neighbourhood Houses since February to support activities and initiatives designed to build community capacity to respond to and recover from emergencies. Events and activities aimed at meeting current and emerging needs of communities will continue to be rolled out for the remainder of the year and into 2025. Keep up-to-date with the latest information and events on our website.

**Community resilience project**

A Community Resilience Project Officer has been recruited to lead a two-year project to work in partnership with specific high-risk communities in developing local climate risk profiles and adaptation plans.

The City is also working with high-risk communities to support higher levels of emergency preparedness, including strategies if communities are cut off in an emergency or affected by extended power outages.

Please contact the City on resilience@bendigo.vic.gov.au if you would like to get involved in supporting your community's recovery from the floods and strengthening its resilience to future disasters.

## Support services

It is normal to feel concerned and experience a mix of strong emotions following an emergency, and it can be difficult to know what to do next.

A range of recovery services are available to people and communities affected by storms and floods. Support services can help with things like mental health and wellbeing, financial support, insurance claims and legal matters, and tenancy advice and advocacy. Please refer to our website for more information.