

Community newsletter – flood recovery update

Issue 4 | 27 February 2026

Erskine River Caravan Park clean-up



The Great Ocean Road Coast and Parks Authority (GORCAPA) is working to reopen sections of the closed Erskine River Caravan Park – one section of the Lorne Foreshore Caravan Park – as soon as possible.

Clean-up works include silt and debris removal and repairs to campsites, so they are ready to welcome guests.

Some cabins and the western end of the park along the river near the bridge will remain closed for longer as more complex assessments and clean up continues.

GORCAPA will let the community know when the park is back open for bookings.

Assessment of remaining cars in ocean

GORCAPA is working through the feasibility of identifying and removing remaining vehicles from the ocean at Wye River and Cumberland River, while also completing an assessment of the risk to the environment and public safety of leaving them in place if removal is not feasible.

There are complex access challenges at Cumberland River for heavy machinery.

This work is ongoing and there is signage installed to alert beach users of the potential risks.

GORCAPA has been consulting with EPA Victoria. Any fuel or oil has likely already washed away during or soon after the flood incident and, being within a large water body, the ongoing contamination risk is low.

Visitor sites near Lorne



Engineers are working with GORCAPA and Parks Victoria to assess and repair trails and infrastructure (such as foot bridges, trails and platforms) that were washed away or damaged during the flash flood event.

There is significant damage to several sites that will take some time to fully repair and reopen safely.

Pictured is the Phantom Falls Walk from Allenvale, which is closed for public safety.

GORCAPA is working to reopen some sites prior to Easter, including the Sheoak Falls Walk and Erskine Falls viewing platform.

Wye River boardwalk and fishing platforms

GORCAPA has obtained a structural engineer's report for the Wye River boardwalk and fishing platforms that confirm the assets are structurally sound but do need clearing of silt and replacement of screws, timber decking and other non-structural timber elements before they can be reopened safely.

GORCAPA is now seeking costings for the recommended works and will present a proposal for community feedback shortly that will include suggested path re-alignment away from eroded sections of the creek bank.

The team is also investigating if any sections can be opened earlier, following a staged approach.

Surf Coast Shire works update



Surf Coast Shire Council staff and contractors have been in Lorne clearing underground drainage that was impacted by the flash flood.

The unsealed section of Erskine Falls Road will be re-sheeted in the coming weeks.

A geotechnical engineer has provided a report on the

landslip on Erskine Falls Road, and Council staff are working through the recommendations for rehabilitation of the site.

Colac Otway Shire update



Colac Otway Shire Council has been working with businesses in the area to collect data and define the economic impact of the floods so we can lobby for support and promotion of the region to ensure a strong recovery.

This data will complement data collected by Surf Coast Shire from Lorne to complete the economic impact picture.

It is pleasing to see the Big 4 Wye River Holiday Park open for business and welcoming visitors to the area to enjoy the final days of summer and enjoy that inevitable run of amazing Autumn weather to come.

Council staff and contractors are continuing the road

and drain repairs in the area with a current focus on Wye River. This should be completed in the coming days.

A joint-agency response to erosion damage on the banks of Separation Creek is being investigated. Meetings have been held onsite led by the Corangamite Catchment Management Authority.

Secondary Impact Assessments have been completed on impacted properties and Council continues to connect with businesses and individuals to advise and support them with their onsite wastewater treatment compliance.

Contact Us



If you wish to discuss any aspect of the flood recovery, please contact your local council (or GORCAPA for matters related to foreshore reserves).

We will seek to assist or put you in contact with the correct authority.

Colac Otway Shire: Ph 5232 9400

Surf Coast Shire: Ph 5261 0600

GORCAPA: Ph 1300 736 533

For further information and updates, visit
surfcoast.vic.gov.au/lorneflood
colacotway.vic.gov.au/emergency-event
colacotway.vic.gov.au/flood-FAQs