

## Frequently Asked Questions

### What councils can seek assistance due to the October 2022 flooding event?

A total of 48 of Victoria's 79 local councils and their communities have been impacted by the 2022 October flooding event. Of these, 11 are located within metropolitan Melbourne and the remaining 35 are in regional Victoria as follows:

#### Regional councils

Heavily impacted councils:

- Alpine Shire Council
- Benalla Rural City Council
- Buloke Shire Council
- Campaspe Shire Council
- Central Goldfields Shire Council
- Corangamite Shire Council
- Gannawarra Shire Council
- Greater Bendigo City Council
- Greater Shepparton City Council
- Hepburn Shire Council
- Horsham Rural City Council
- Loddon Shire Council
- Macedon Ranges Shire Council
- Mansfield Shire Council
- Mitchell Shire Council
- Moira Shire Council
- Mount Alexander Shire Council
- Murrindindi Shire Council
- Northern Grampians Shire Council



# Regional Planning Hub program

## Assistance for flood-affected councils

- Pyrenees Shire Council
- Strathbogie Shire Council
- Wangaratta Rural City Council

Other councils:

- Ararat Rural City Council
- City of Ballarat
- City of Greater Geelong
- Colac Otway Shire Council
- East Gippsland Shire Council
- Glenelg Shire
- Golden Plains Shire Council
- Indigo Shire Council
- Mildura Rural City Council
- Moorabool Shire Council
- Moyne Shire
- Swan Hill Rural City Council
- Warrnambool City Council
- Wodonga Council
- Yarriambiack Shire Council.

### **Metropolitan councils**

Heavily impacted councils:

- Maribyrnong City Council
- Moonee Valley City Council

Other councils:

- Banyule City Council
- Boroondara Council
- Brimbank City Council
- Hume City Council
- Manningham City Council
- Melbourne City Council
- Whittlesea Council

- Wyndham City Council
- Yarra Ranges Council

### What assistance is available to flood-affected councils?

Additional support for flood-affected councils is available for:

- statutory planning assistance
- reimbursement of statutory planning fees (for initial planning permit applications as a direct result of the October 2022 flooding event)

The statutory planning support provided may be in the form of engagement of contractors or consultants managed by DELWP or direct funding to councils to appoint their own contractors or consultants. The support available includes initial assessments, report preparation and provision of expert/technical advice to support consideration of a planning permit application.

For the reimbursement of statutory planning fees, requests will need to include evidence (as outlined in the portal) for waived fees up to a maximum of \$45,000 per council.

### How long will the assistance to flood-affected councils be available and how much funding is available?

Assistance for flood-affected councils will be available until June 2023. The total assistance available is \$1 million for statutory planning support and \$45,000 per council for reimbursement of statutory planning fees.

### How do flood-affected councils apply for Regional Planning Hub assistance?

Flood-affected councils can request assistance through the Regional Planning Hub portal [here](#).

Councils can also contact the Regional Planning Partnerships team by email to [regional.planning.hub@delwp.vic.gov.au](mailto:regional.planning.hub@delwp.vic.gov.au) to discuss their planning needs, before submitting a request.

### What do flood-affected councils need to demonstrate to be eligible for statutory planning support? Can you provide an example?

Flood-affected councils are eligible for assistance with statutory planning if the request meets the following **Eligibility criteria: Statutory planning support for flood-affected councils:**

- **Need for assistance** – The request demonstrates a need for assistance with statutory planning as a result of the October 2022 flooding event. This may be due to, for example, a need to backfill planners who are supporting flood recovery, an increase in planning permit applications or personal impacts on council officers from the flooding event.
- **Economic impacts and flood recovery** – The request demonstrates that the assistance will support economic development and recovery from the October 2022 flooding event. For example, it will support a council's assessment of a planning permit application for a priority development or it will provide input for decision makers to encourage flood recovery.

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## Assistance for flood-affected councils

### How long will it take before I know if my request is successful?

The timeframes will vary for each request. However, the Regional Planning Partnerships team will assess your request against the **Eligibility criteria: Statutory planning support for flood-affected councils** once all required information has been provided.

### Our request was supported. What happens next?

The Regional Planning Partnership team will contact you to discuss the support or resources that will be provided to meet the council's request.

### How long do I have to request assistance from the Regional Planning Hub program?

Flood-affected councils can put in a request for assistance, via the portal, at any time before June 2023.

### Can I make multiple requests for assistance?

Yes. There is no limit to the number of requests that a flood-affected council can make through the Regional Planning Hub portal. Each application will be assessed against the **Eligibility criteria: Statutory planning support for flood-affected councils** and prioritised accordingly.

### Who can I contact for more information?

You can contact the Regional Planning Partnership team via email to [regional.planning.hub@delwp.vic.gov.au](mailto:regional.planning.hub@delwp.vic.gov.au) if you would like more information about the Regional Planning Hub program.

### What is the Regional Planning Hub program?

Regional Planning Hub is a new ongoing program to support councils in rural and regional Victoria. The program is being delivered by the Regional Planning Partnerships team in the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP).

The program provides rural and regional councils with statutory and strategic planning support and resources to:

- assist with peak workloads and priority developments
- build land use planning capacity and capability
- improve planning schemes to streamline and simplify processes and approvals
- facilitate significant regional planning projects.

On 30 October 2022, the program expanded to provided assistance to both regional and metropolitan councils impacted by the October 2022 flooding event.