

# Community Recovery Newsletter

December 2025

## Recovery program transition

The flood recovery program, jointly funded by the Victorian and Australian governments, is drawing to a close. The program has been extended until March 2026 to enable finalisation of activities, and this will mark a transition in the type of recovery support available.

### What will change?

The Community Recovery Committee (CRC) will conclude in its current format. Community participants will still participate quarterly meetings next year to finalise key priority activities and maintain oversight over issues that matter to the community, including prevention. This marks the conclusion of the committee as a formal advisory committee.

Despite funding changes, Council understand that recovery does not have a clear timeframe and recovery needs are ongoing. There is also a need for more community preparedness activities tailored to the local community context.

Community Recovery Newsletters will be issued quarterly next year, as opposed to monthly.

### Staff changes

Recovery staff will also change – there will no longer be a dedicated Flood Recovery Manager and Community Flood Recovery Officer from March 2026.

To acknowledge this, a dedicated position has been created to support the recovery transition and long-term resilience programs.

This role will also work closely with the Maribyrnong Neighbourhood Flood Network to support a community leadership model of sharing risk and preparedness information.

Social connection activities will continue, led by the Maribyrnong Neighbourhood Flood Network.

### Thank you

We would like to offer a heartfelt thank you to the Community Recovery Committee, both current and former members, for shaping this program.

Your leadership has been fundamental to delivering recovery activities, including Maribyrnong Aquatic Centre (MAC) memberships, children's story building program and development of an advocacy plan. Your dedication to supporting your community has been inspiring.

For flood related enquiries, email [floodrecovery@maribyrnong.vic.gov.au](mailto:floodrecovery@maribyrnong.vic.gov.au)

This email address is monitored between 9am-5pm weekdays.

We would also like to thank the broader community for the participation and support. We wish you all a safe and happy festive season.



## Reflections on program

Over the duration of the recovery program, Council has heard input from the community through a variety of channels, from the CRC, surveys, feedback post cards, submissions to the Parliamentary Inquiry into the 2022 flood, and speaking to local residents.

Your input has led to:

- A review of internal Emergency Management procedures and developing a new Operational Emergency Management plan with Resilient Co
- Supporting the community to develop a community-owned flood plan to enable community voices to inform emergency management planning
- Working with local community leaders through the Neighbourhood Network to develop resources and tools that are useful for the community
- Co-designing tools to better enable community participation in catchment management and emergency management with Monash University and Melbourne Water as part of the Flood to Flourish program
- Evaluating our recovery programs to identify areas of improvement and successes to inform future recovery planning
- Making a series of recommendations to the Municipal

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Emergency Management Planning Committee – the local services that work in emergency management – to capture community voices in emergency planning.

## MAC membership discount

Based on the positive feedback received, we are offering a 50% discount to MAC recovery members who would like to continue their membership. This discount will be offered for 12 months and includes active teen memberships.

Please attend on site at the MAC to process your discounted membership.

We look forward to continuing to welcome you at the MAC.

## Maribyrnong Neighbourhood Flood Network

The Neighbourhood Network is a group of locals who share clear, practical information about flood risk and preparedness with their neighbours.

The group are planning neighbourhood connection activities in early 2026 and will be seeking feedback on the Draft Maribyrnong Community Flood Plan.

Stay tuned for more information from your local network leaders.



If you are interested in participating on the network, email [emergencymanagement@maribyrnong.vic.gov.au](mailto:emergencymanagement@maribyrnong.vic.gov.au) or submit an expression of interest here: [maribyrnong.vic.gov.au/Online-Forms/EOI-Maribyrnong-Flood-Network](http://maribyrnong.vic.gov.au/Online-Forms/EOI-Maribyrnong-Flood-Network).

## Melbourne Water Mitigation study update

Phase 2 of consultation for the Maribyrnong River catchment flood mitigation study has now closed.

During this phase, Melbourne Water asked for feedback from the community and stakeholders on:

- The long-list of flood mitigation options (around 50 screened options from an initial list of ~200)
- The evaluation criteria that will guide how options are assessed and prioritised.

This feedback will help Melbourne Water to narrow the long-list into a shortlist and ensure the criteria reflect community values.

### What's next?

Melbourne Water are now reviewing all feedback collected during Phase 2. This information, along with feedback from the Community Partnership Panels, will be summarised into two reports and shared on Let's Talk in the New Year.

Based on the values and priorities that were developed from the first stage of the study, the next stage of this study is the identification of the long list of mitigation options, developing a cost benefit analysis framework, short listed options, including modelling to ascertain the efficacy of mitigation options, followed by identification of a preferred flood mitigation scheme and the pathway to implementation of the preferred scheme.

For more information, visit <https://letstalk.melbournewater.com.au/maribyrnong-river-flood-model/flood-mitigation-study>.

## Stay connected

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Join the CRC Facebook group: [facebook.com/groups/maribyrnongrecovery](https://facebook.com/groups/maribyrnongrecovery)