

# Storm Event Update

20 February at 5.00pm



**South Gippsland**  
Shire Council

## MIRBOO NORTH TOWN UPDATE

Council has established a relief point at the Mirboo North and District Community Foundation at 96 Ridgway, Mirboo North. Open between 9.00am and 4.00pm.

### Other Information:

#### Hot Showers

*Baromi Park (next to the Grainstore)*

Provided by the Mirboo North & District Community Foundation.

*Churchill Leisure Centre*

Corner Northways and MacDonald Way

Phone: 5120 3888

*South Gippsland SPLASH (Leongatha)*

50 Roughead Street

Phone: 5662 5911

Tue/Wed: 6.00am to 8.30pm.

#### Washing Machines

Available at the op shop. Free blankets and towels are also available.

#### Emotional Support

The Red Cross and Victorian Council of Churches Emergencies Ministry will be in Mirboo North this week.

#### Mirboo North Pool

Council will be undertaking an assessment of the pool to see if there is any possibility to get it open for the end of the season. Updates will be communicated as we have more information. In the interim, season pass holders are welcome to use other local pools.

#### SUPERBIKE TRAFFIC

VicPol are requesting that bike riders explore alternate routes on Thursday.

## NYORA/LOCH TOWN UPDATE

A relief point has been established at the Nyora Community Hall. Information sharing, device charging, internet and emergency food supplies available.

The Relief point will be open between 10.00am to 3.00pm on Wednesday.

### Other Information:

#### Hot Showers

*Nyora Public Hall*

3 Henley Street

*Poowong Pool*

Phone: 5662 5911

Tue/Wed: 3.00pm to 7.00pm

#### Water

South Gippsland Water trailer is now at the Nyora Public Hall for those requiring fresh water.

## PLEASE BE AWARE

While there are many people offering goods and services in good faith, please be cautious of scammers who may try to take advantage of the current situation.

## GIPPSLAND EMERGENCY RELIEF FUND (STORM APPEAL)

The Gippsland Emergency Relief Fund has launched an appeal for storm damage. People can find out more, and donate at: <https://gerf.org.au/>

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## FOOD SAFETY

For a few towns across South Gippsland, power outages have now exceeded six days. In these towns, it is likely that any unrefrigerated, perishable, food items will now be hazardous and need to be discarded.

Spoiled food can be discarded for free at local waste transfer stations or in skip bins (see waste update).

## Commercial Food Businesses

Council is offering a perishable food waste amnesty at our local transfer stations. Perishable foods which have been impacted by power outages can be disposed of for free at these locations.

Environmental Health Officers are available to offer any assistance to our food businesses. Should you have any questions about the operation of your food business, please contact Council's Environmental Health team on 5662 9200. They are available and very happy to provide assistance.

More food safety information can be found at:  
[www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au/health/servicesandsupport/emergencies-coping-without-gas-or-electricity](http://www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au/health/servicesandsupport/emergencies-coping-without-gas-or-electricity)

## RAIL TRAILS

Due to the storm event, the Grand Ridge Road Trail and most of the Great Southern Rail Trail are currently closed to keep our community and visitors to the region safe. A section of rail trail between Buffalo and Port Welshpool has now been reopened.

## FIREWOOD

Please refrain from collecting firewood from the road side as it can be dangerous, particularly while clean up efforts are still underway.

## RATES PAYMENTS

Due to the problems presented by the storms, Council is extending the payment period until 28 February.

## ROADS

Trees along the Strzelecki Highway have now been assessed and the highway has reopened with a reduced speed limit of 40km/h.

There are other roads in South Gippsland that remain impacted by vegetation and down power lines, however. Please be careful and adhere to road signage.

Please find a list of closed Council roads here:  
[www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/roadhazards](http://www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au/roadhazards)

Please find a list of other closed roads here:  
<https://traffic.vicroads.vic.gov.au/>

## PEDESTRIAN SAFETY

***Please adhere to road closure signs at all times.***

Emergency services and contractors in Mirboo North have reported frequent incidents of people ignoring road closure signage - if this occurs work has to be stopped to minimise risk. Please help our hard-working Emergency Services and other teams by following the displayed signage.

## PLEASE BE PATIENT

We understand that noise levels are higher than normal at present with chainsaws and machinery running frequently in some areas. However, the works that are being undertaken are essential. Please be patient. The quicker the work gets done, the sooner our towns will return to normal.

# Device Charging, Internet & Showers

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Shire Council

## DEVICE CHARGING / INTERNET

Please BYO charger.

*Leongatha – South Gippsland Shire Council*

Free WiFi in front of main office (select 'SGSC Public').

Reception will be also open on Friday between 9.00am and 5.00pm to support the community.

*Foster and Toora Swimming Pools*

Open for device charging and showers.

See times in 'Hot Showers' section.

*Nyora Public Hall*

Henley Street, Nyora

Device charging and internet available.

## HOT SHOWERS

Please BYO soap and towels. Some services may be experiencing large demand, so please be patient.

*Baromi Park (next to the Grainstore)*

Provided by the Mirboo North & District Community Foundation

*Churchill Leisure Centre*

(corner Northways and MacDonald Way)

Phone: 5120 3888

*South Gippsland SPLASH (Leongatha)*

50 Roughead Street

Phone: 5662 5911

Opening Hours:

Tue/Wed: 6.00am to 8.30pm

*Korumburra Pool*

William Street

Opening Hours:

Tue/Wed: 3.00pm to 7.00pm

*Nyora Public Hall*

3 Henley Street, Nyora

*Toora Pool*

14 Cunningham Street

Phone: 5686 2296

Opening Hours:

Tuesday: 3.00pm to 7.00pm

*Poowong Pool*

Loch-Poowong Road

Phone: 5659 2228

Opening Hours:

Tue/Wed: 3.00pm to 7.00pm

# Waste & Water Update

20 February at 5.00pm



**South Gippsland**  
Shire Council

## **GREEN WASTE, FOOD WASTE & DISASTER RELATED GENERAL WASTE**

Council, with support from the Victorian Government, has initiated a green waste amnesty until 30 April 2024. Green waste can be disposed of for free at all South Gippsland transfer stations. Food waste can also be dropped off without cost.

Most transfer stations are open according to regular operating hours which can be found online. The Mirboo North Transfer Station is currently open daily, including weekends, from 9.00am to 4.00pm.

There is no limitation on branch size, but weed restrictions still apply. Commercial contractors can also drop off green waste for free.

Skip bins are also in place to help with the discarding of food waste only, in the following locations:

- Mirboo North located opposite the Hall (toilet car park).
- Meeniyan (rear of shops).
- Venus Bay

Waste disposal fees for disaster related general waste will be waived at the Mirboo North Transfer Station (in addition to the waived fees for spoiled food and green waste). Cut-off date to be advised.

## **SOUTH GIPPSLAND WATER**

If you're experiencing slow drainage, gurgling or unusual noises from your pressure sewer or even a sewer overflow, please contact South Gippsland Water immediately on 1300 851 636.

You can lower the chance of your pressure sewer overflowing by reducing the wastewater you send down the drain. This means, where possible, minimising activities such as taking a shower or bath, flushing the toilet or doing the dishes.

For more information on Pressure Sewerage Systems, visit: [www.sgwater.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2014/04/Your-Pressure-Sewer-System\\_A-Homeowners-Guide.pdf](http://www.sgwater.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2014/04/Your-Pressure-Sewer-System_A-Homeowners-Guide.pdf)

## **GIPPSLAND WATER**

Gippsland Water has issued a conserve water notice for Mirboo North due to damaged infrastructure. The potable water supply at Mirboo North is safe to drink. Gippsland Water updates can be found here:

[www.gippswater.com.au/outages-works-and-projects/incidents-and-emergencies](http://www.gippswater.com.au/outages-works-and-projects/incidents-and-emergencies)

# Financial Support

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**South Gippsland**  
Shire Council

## EMERGENCY RELIEF PAYMENTS

Emergency relief payments are available for eligible community members whose homes have been damaged by the storms in Victoria.

*If you have, or are, experiencing a power outage but your home has not been damaged by the storm – you will not be eligible for this payment.*

### Payment Amount:

Emergency relief payments are based on a fixed amount for each member of your household. The payment is not calculated based on how much money you earn. Payments are \$640 per adult and \$320 per child, up to a maximum of \$2,240 per eligible family.

You are eligible for a relief payment if:

- Your principal place of residence is in an evacuation warning area, or the fires or storms have damaged your home; and
- You have unmet immediate relief needs.

### How to Apply

If you think you may be eligible for a relief payment, please call the Emergency Recovery Hotline on 1800 560 760. Press 9 for an interpreter.

## PROLONGED POWER OUTAGE PAYMENTS

The Victorian and Australian Governments will make available a Prolonged Power Outage Payment to households and small businesses without power for 7 days as a result of last Tuesday's storms.

A payment of \$1,920 per week will be extended to all eligible households (residential customers) that remain without power as of 12:01am Tuesday 20 February 2024. For small businesses (those with a Victorian pay-roll less than \$10 million a year) who are affected, payments of \$2,927 per week will be made. AusNet will administer the rollout of these payments and will contact all customers who may be eligible for this relief payment via two text messages.

More information at:

[www.energy.vic.gov.au/safety/power-outages](http://www.energy.vic.gov.au/safety/power-outages)

## MAJOR EVENT DAY PAYMENT

Under the Electricity Distribution Code of Practice, a distributor must make a payment to a customer of \$90 if the customer experiences an unplanned sustained interruption of more than 12 hours on a major event day, such as extreme weather or a storm. This payment is made via electricity retailers within 2 retail billing cycles of the event day and appears as a credit on power bills..

## GIPPSLAND EMERGENCY RELIEF FUND (GERF)

If your principal place of residence (house) has had direct damage from the storms, you may be eligible for GERF funding.

Please contact Council on 5662 9200 during business hours 8.30am to 5.00pm to complete an assessment and Council will lodge an application.

# Other Supports

20 February at 5.00pm



*South Gippsland*  
Shire Council

## **CRISIS ACCOMMODATION VIA THE DEPARTMENT OF FAMILIES, FAIRNESS AND HOUSING**

Victorians that are unable to live in their homes and are at risk of becoming homeless due to an emergency can contact the Department of Families, Fairness and Housing for crisis and emergency accommodation, which includes a range of specialist services.

A 24-hour statewide toll free number, 1800 825 955, is available to speak with a housing and support worker.

## **RECOVERY SUPPORT PROGRAM**

Emergency Recovery Victoria's Recovery Support Program is available for people affected by the February 2024 Victorian storms and February 2024 Western Victorian bushfires.

The program can help with tailored support, including access to mental health and wellbeing services, legal support, business advice and other services to support your recovery.

You can access the program by visiting: [www.vic.gov.au/recovery-support](http://www.vic.gov.au/recovery-support) and filling out the online form.

# Asbestos Hazards after a Storm Event 2024



South Gippsland  
Shire Council

Following the 2024 storm event affecting South Gippsland Shire, asbestos may be a concern for some residents, particularly where buildings have been damaged.

During a storm event, asbestos materials may be dislodged from homes and other buildings including sheds and outbuildings.

Asbestos containing materials may include –

- Location Materials and objects
- Roof surface
- Downpipes (drainpipes)
- Eaves
- Guttering
- Lining under eaves
- Loose roof insulation
- Rainwater heads
- Ridge tiles
- Roof sheeting

Asbestos can be found in some fibre cement sheeting and pipes, vinyl floor tiles, electrical parts, insulation and roof materials. It is not always possible to tell if a material contains asbestos simply by looking at it.

Asbestos cement was commonly used in the construction of residential buildings from the 1940s – houses built before 1990 are likely to have some asbestos cement products.

If you are disposing of storm-related waste and you are in any doubt whether it might contain asbestos (or any other harmful material):

- Do not disturb the material
- Take reasonable steps to prevent others from disturbing the material.

**Always follow the golden rule:**

***If you think it might be asbestos, treat it like it is***

## **What is the safest way to clear asbestos-containing material from my property?**

Council recommends you use a licensed asbestos removalist to perform any clean-up work. They know how to remove and dispose of asbestos safely, and without risk to you and your neighbours.

If you are using a contractor to remove asbestos, they must be licensed by WorkSafe Victoria. Worksafe has a list of licenced removalists on their website at: [www.worksafe.vic.gov.au/asbestos](http://www.worksafe.vic.gov.au/asbestos)

## **What should I do if I suspect asbestos has contaminated my storm-related waste?**

If you have concerns you may have asbestos contaminated storm-related waste on your property, Council can arrange for a sample of the material to be analysed at a NATA accredited laboratory.

*To arrange sampling, please contact Council's Environmental Health Team on 5662 9200 or [environmentalhealthadmin@southgippsland.vic.gov.au](mailto:environmentalhealthadmin@southgippsland.vic.gov.au) with your name, address and details of your concerns. Photos of the potential asbestos containing waste will also be useful but not mandatory.*

Ensure any suspected asbestos-containing waste is undisturbed while analysis is completed. Council will provide the homeowner/occupier with a certificate of analysis once available.

## **Further information and assistance**

Contact Council's Environmental Health Team on: 5662 9200 or [environmentalhealthadmin@southgippsland.vic.gov.au](mailto:environmentalhealthadmin@southgippsland.vic.gov.au)

Asbestos Victoria: [www.asbestos.vic.gov.au](http://www.asbestos.vic.gov.au)

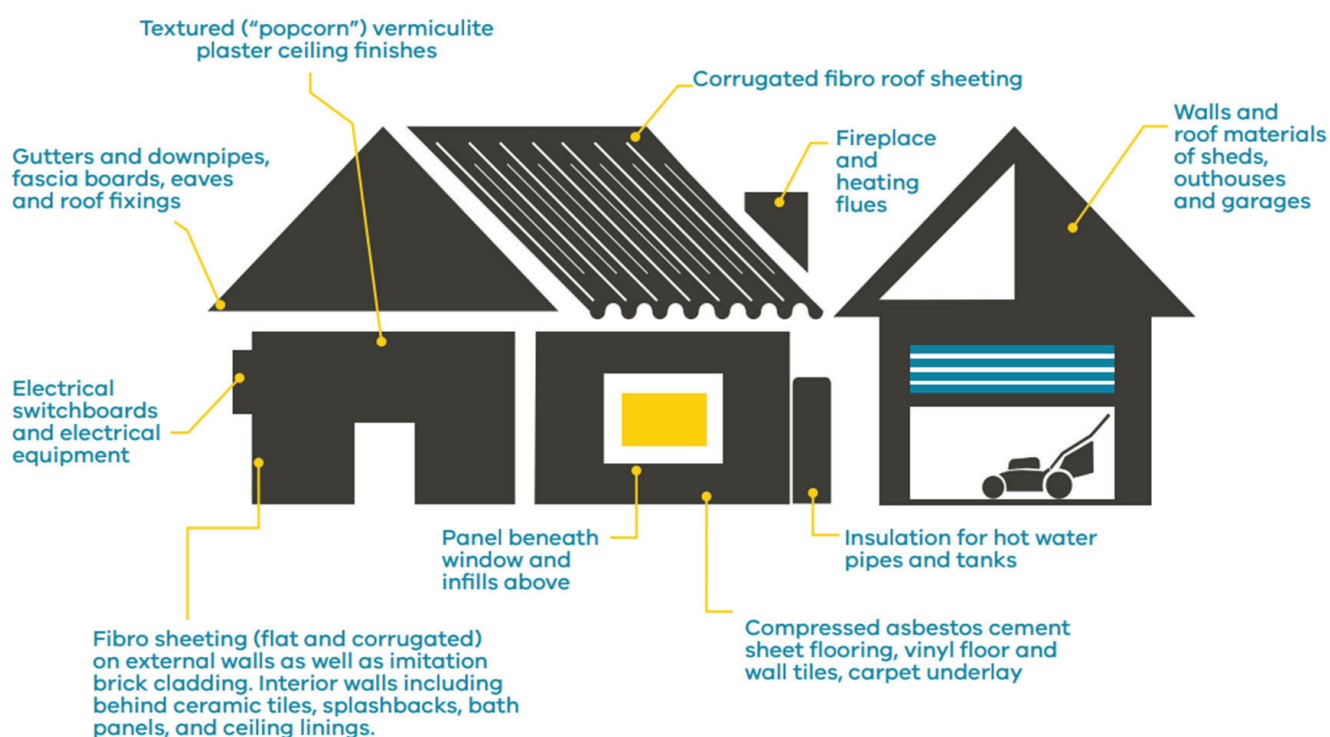
Environmental Protection Authority: [www.epa.vic.gov.au](http://www.epa.vic.gov.au)

Worksafe Victoria: [www.worksafe.vic.gov.au/asbestos](http://www.worksafe.vic.gov.au/asbestos)

# Asbestos Hazards after a Storm Event 2024



South Gippsland  
Shire Council



Source: *Asbestos factsheet for homeowners and tenants*, Victoria State Government ISBN-LVAT-fact-sheet-homeowners-tenants.pdf ([gards.org](http://gards.org))