



Media release

Legislative Council Environment and Planning Committee

Final report into October 2022 flood event

The parliamentary inquiry into the October 2022 flood event in Victoria has tabled its final report.

The Legislative Council Environment and Planning Committee makes 90 findings and 73 recommendations.

The report concludes there needs to be a more integrated, community centred and accessible approach to emergency management in Victoria, from planning through to recovery.

It makes recommendations to improve flood governance arrangements and boost resources and the response of the State Emergency Service.

Other issues include emergency warnings, flood risk and flood mitigation infrastructure.

The Committee also addresses the Flemington Racecourse flood wall, temporary levee in Echuca and management of water catchments including Lakes Eppalock and Eildon.

“The report gives a detailed account of the evidence received on each of the instances where decision making contributed to flooding,” Committee Chair Ryan Batchelor said.

“From the evidence we received, notably from Tony Pagone AM KC and his independent review panel, it is clear that mistakes were made.

“Now, with the benefit of better data and new technologies, we have an increased understanding of likely effects to inform future decision making.”

The Committee’s conclusions are drawn from 880 submissions and 13 days of public hearings, involving hundreds of witnesses in Rochester, Echuca, Seymour, Mooroopna and Melbourne.

Members of the Committee also carried out site visits at Avondale Heights, Maribyrnong, Flemington and Echuca.

“This inquiry was an important way to give a voice to those who had lost so much because of these floods, and to help recommend ways that communities and government could better prepare for, respond to, and recover from, future flood disasters,” Mr Batchelor said.

“Nothing can bring back the homes and businesses destroyed, nor the lives tragically lost in this flood event, but honest learning and a determination to enact change is a fitting and lasting tribute.”

The Committee tabled an interim report at the Legislative Council’s regional sitting in Echuca. It delivered findings in relation to northern Victoria.

There are further detailed findings plus recommendations for the entire state in the final report.

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