



# Media release

## Legislative Council Environment and Planning Committee

### Flood inquiry public hearings start in state's north

Public hearings for the parliamentary inquiry into the 2022 flood event in Victoria start next week.

The Legislative Council Environment and Planning Committee will hear from witnesses at Rochester on Wednesday 23 August and Echuca on Thursday 24 August.

“We know the [effects of the October 2022 flood event](#) were felt far and wide, so it’s crucial we hear firsthand from people in key areas,” Committee Chair Sonja Terpstra said.

“These public hearings are an important opportunity for groups and individuals to share their lived experience and inform the Committee about the ongoing issues in their communities.

“It’s also a chance for Committee members to ask questions of witnesses on their views about what they think contributed to the floods and how things might be done differently in the future.”

Commencing at 9 am Wednesday in Rochester, MPs will hear from the Community Recovery Committee, including Chair Leigh Wilson, St Joseph’s School Principal Elizabeth Trewich, and Tracie Kyne who is also part of the Lake Eppalock Working Group and Rochester Business Network.

At 10:30 am Lake Eppalock Working Group representative Sharon Williams and Christie Dairy Farm owner David Christie will present on behalf of the Flood Mitigation Sub Committee and Community Recovery Committee.

Rochester Community House Manager Amanda Logie is scheduled for 11:15 am and after lunch Rochester and Elmore District Health Service CEO Karen Laing and Board Chair Christopher White will speak from 12:30 pm.

At 1:15 pm Cameron David Lovering will testify on behalf of The Salvation Army Rochester and the local RSL. Restdown Retirement Village Inc. Committee of Management Secretary Ross Turner will also appear from 2 pm.

A 90-minute open mic session will follow the hearing’s conclusion at 3 pm. Residents wanting to speak must [register online to participate](#) by Monday 21 August.

On Thursday, the Committee moves to Echuca, where a panel of Mayors and CEOs from the Campaspe, Gannawarra and Loddon Shire Councils will be joined by representatives of the Northern Victorian Emergency Management Cluster and the Murray River Group of Councils from 10 am.

At 1 pm Darrell Phillips will share the experience of Echuca Village and from 1:45 pm Think Agri Managing Director Kate Burke and dairy farmer Tom Acocks will give evidence.

Yorta Yorta Nation Aboriginal Corporation is scheduled for 2:45 pm and Community Living and Respite Services CEO Leah Tafe will be the final witness at 3:30 pm.

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