

Residents update

McCrae landslide recovery



7 March 2025

Geotechnical update

This week, intrusive investigations finished on site, with the completion of borehole drilling and core penetration testing. The geotechnical team is now focussed on reporting and classification testing of recovered soil samples.

Dye trace testing and ground water monitoring is ongoing, with the installation of 10 sensors that measure ground water levels at regular increments.

We finished the third round of prism monitoring, which tracks the movement of an area with a high degree of accuracy.

Over the past four weeks, an extensive monitoring system has been put in place:

- ☐ GPS sensors, tilt sensors and survey prisms were installed
- ☐ Baseline survey for survey prisms completed
- ☐ Tilt sensors commenced monitoring
- ☐ GPS sensors commenced monitoring
- ☐ Radar commenced monitoring
- ☐ Baseline survey completed for survey prisms

Monitoring close to the head scarp of the landslide indicate that ground movement is occurring.

We are conducting mod-shock testing on multiple piles at 6 View Point Road today to determine their exact depth. Mod-shock is a simplified forced vibration test. This information will give us a further understanding of the stability of that area and will help inform next steps.

There is a lot of data coming in that needs to be thoroughly analysed.

Unfortunately, it is taking longer than anticipated to develop individual plans for properties within the exclusion zone, however we have made appointments to meet with affected residents next week. Each property within the exclusion zone has its own unique risks associated with it, which need to be carefully managed.

Advocacy to state government

On 21 January 2025 we formally wrote to the Minister for Emergency Services and Natural Disaster Recovery, Ms Vicki Ward MP, requesting urgent technical and financial support. We sent a follow up letter on 19 February 2025, restating our request. Please find copies of both letters attached. We have yet to receive a reply to these letters.

The major source of disaster funding from the state government is the [Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements](#) (DRFA). It's a cost sharing arrangement between the federal and state governments to support certain relief and recovery activities following an eligible disaster. The State Government Assessor advised us the McCrae landslide is ineligible, and the Shire has been unable to apply for assistance through this fund.

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[Emergency Recovery Victoria](#) *"connects individuals, families, communities, businesses and regions to rebuild and recover after a disaster."* The website states this relief applies to storms, bushfires and floods.

As it stands, the Shire has no mechanism for support from the state government. Minor changes to the eligibility criteria would allow an event such as this to be declared an eligible event under the DRFA, and allow Councils to assist and provide support to their communities in an overwhelming time of distress.

We would encourage affected residents to amplify our advocacy to the Victorian Government for changes to the DRFA eligibility criteria by contacting their local member or other relevant ministers. We have attached a list of representatives and their contact details for your information.

We have also identified an opportunity to request state government land tax relief, if your property is under emergency orders and it is NOT your primary residence. If you would like us to advocate on your behalf for land tax relief, please contact us at mccraerecovery@mornpen.vic.gov.au

Financial support information

Please find attached information from Southern Peninsula Community Support regarding financial counselling for Disaster Recovery. This includes a service that can assist with dealing with temporary accommodation and creditors.

South East Water update

Derek Rotter has had productive phone conversations with Tim Lloyd, GM – Service Delivery and Karen Lau, GM – Strategy and Stakeholder, a meeting has been scheduled for Wednesday next week.

Resourcing

We understand residents are concerned about the level of resourcing for the McCrae landslide recovery. We have assembled a dedicated incident response team for this event, including Derek Rotter, Director – McCrae Landslide Incident and David Kotsiakos – Municipal Building Surveyor; plus emergency management, project management, engineering, building, communications and administration officers.

Regarding the allocation of an additional Municipal Building Surveyors (MBS), there is unfortunately a critical shortage of suitably qualified personnel in this sector in Australia. We have made urgent enquiries through the Municipal Association of Victoria, several industry bodies, and our own contacts, with no success.

We are appointing a Deputy MBS internally so that David Kotsiakos can maintain his sole focus on the McCrae landslide.