

McCrae landslide

Operational and repatriation plan



14 February 2025

Objective

To provide a framework for the repatriation of residents displaced as a result of the Penny Lane McCrae Landslide on 14 January 2025. This template will inform and guide the Mornington Peninsula Shire, affected residents, and other support agencies as the affected residents transition back to their homes.

Please note, this is a live document and information may change at any time. We will continue to provide up-to-date information via the community email and in person meetings.

Event overview

On Tuesday 14 January 2025, a landslide occurred above 3 Penny Lane McCrae, resulting in the house on that block sliding down the hill and into 607-609 Point Nepean Rd, McCrae.

The slide was categorised as S2 in size by SES (refer **Appendix 1**) and as a result, surrounding houses above, to the side, and below the landslide area were evacuated.

During this process electrical power was either isolated or severed from properties, gas mains isolated and water mains turned off to reduce further hazards.

The Mornington Peninsula Shire Municipal Building Surveyor (MBS) arranged for Emergency Orders to be issued under the *Building Act 1993* and served at the properties and on owners. The initial tranche of orders applied to 14 properties, with a further 5 added following preliminary examination of the affected escarpment.

The 19 Properties are listed in the Exclusion Zone map (refer **Appendix 2**)

Transition to Recovery

The official Transition to Recovery document was signed by SES, Council and the Municipal Emergency Response Coordinator (MERC), with an effective transition date of 24 January. This formality has not affected any Council actions or decisions with regards to the safety of the residents and continued enforcement of the Emergency Orders.

Governance structure

Council has appointed a McCrae Landslide Incident Director – Derek Rotter - to oversee the investigation of the landslide and safe return of residents.

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Current arrangements

Temporary fencing has been erected around the perimeter of the 19 properties to exclude people from entering.

To complement the fencing and provide extra security, CCTV cameras have been installed at strategic locations.

As of Monday 10 February 2025, a permanent on-site private security presence was implemented. This replaced 4 x nightly patrols by Victoria Police, who continue to conduct drive-by patrols the area.

The site investigations are continuing, with geotechnical engineers installing sensitive ground monitoring equipment and taking samples of soil and water for further analysis. Daily inspections are being conducted and inform the risk assessment for each property.

Affected properties - zones

The escarpment has been divided into three (3) Areas of Operations (AOO) according to geographic location relevant to the landslide and associated risk.

1. Outer Zone (lower risk)
2. Intermediate Zone (medium to high risk)
3. Inner Zone (extreme risk)

A map of the updated exclusion zone is attached (refer **Appendix 2**)

All properties had utility services shut off or disconnected. Commencing Friday 14 February, electricity, gas, and water services are being reconnected to the properties in the Outer (lower risk) zone. Other zones will be assessed for reconnection suitability over the coming weeks. Property owners will be advised of exact dates closer to the activation of those services.

Re-entry requirements

Returning residents to their properties is a complex and delicate process. Geotechnical engineers have been conducting onsite investigations using sophisticated measuring equipment to determine the stability of the impacted area. The geotechnical engineers provide advice to the MBS who assesses all available information. This has led to a determination of risk and consequence framework to facilitate repatriation.

A phased return of residents is proposed as investigations continue. Premises deemed to be lower risk have been identified for the **first phase**, and a plan devised for the safe return of occupants. The **second phase** and **third phase** of the return are properties that carry significantly more risk.



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Phase 1

This phase of the return will commence shortly with the lifting of Emergency Orders. Residents in Outer Zone (lower risk) properties will be repatriated to their homes. This is expected to begin by **Friday 14 February**.

Phase 2

This phase will see residents in the Intermediate Zone (medium - high risk) afforded the opportunity to collect essential items. The anticipated date to commence this phase will not occur before **Monday 17 February**.

Phase 3

This phase of the return will involve significant investigative work. Houses currently deemed to be within the Intermediate (medium – high risk), and Inner Zone (extreme risk) are not likely to have a return date before **Monday 31 March**.

Caveat

These dates are indicative only and are subject to change pending advice from geotechnical experts.

As residents return to their properties, Council will discuss further works that may need to be undertaken as preventative/mitigation measures against future landslides. Building Notices may be issued if deemed appropriate.

When returning to properties

The risk assessment includes potential hazards that may be found within the properties. Refrigerators that have had no power for over a month have perishable food items that may pose a health risk to returning occupants. Actions to be considered are:

- Sealing and removal of the refrigerator as a whole unit without examining contents
- Council arranging disposal of the refrigerator in a safe manner*
- Providing the resident with a voucher to contribute to the replacement of each refrigerator removed
- Consideration may also be given to Council hiring specialised cleaners for cleaning pantries and other areas where perishable food items may have decomposed.

Ongoing requirements

These arrangements will be in place while the affected residents are repatriated. Council and geotechnical resources will remain in place until the risk of further landslide, resulting in a threat to life is mitigated to an acceptable level of risk.