



MEDIA RELEASE

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Patience urged ahead of flooding clean-up

The Huon Valley Council urges residents to be patient and understanding during the clean-up following the devastating floods last week.

Huon Valley Commissioner Adriana Taylor says workers have cleared a lot of areas around the Valley, but there is obviously more to be done and works on the clean-up will continue for some weeks.

“Our Emergency Management Team and outside workers coordinated the clean-up of around 70 incidents including fallen trees and limbs, blocked culverts, wash outs, debris, property flooding and dislodged and blocked pipes. Our teams worked through last Thursday night at the height of the storm and continued to resolve issues during the day on Friday. Thanks to the prior reports that we received from the Bureau of Meteorology our work crews were able to proactively prepare sandbags, clear drains of known problem areas and strategically locate resources for quick responses before the rains arrived. They worked diligently through the night and day.

“We are working through a prioritised list which includes clearing roads and culverts with priority being given to high traffic roads and bus routes. The sheer volume of incidents means we’re getting through them as fast as we can.

“We had to close the cemetery on Friday because the torrential rain resulted in large number of subsided graves and the road was covered in a thick layer of silt.

“Given that all of our crews and machinery was being used on the roads we unfortunately had no means of addressing the sunken graves before the weekend. We are currently working hard today to get the cemetery back in order.

“It was pleasing to see that the ongoing storm water project where Stage 1 works in Shield Street has commenced (which we recently received Federal Grant funding for) has had a

positive impact by reducing the overland flows that usually would result in floods in the township of Huonville during heavy rain events.

“Obviously, a lot of SES effort has gone into supporting Hobart and Kingborough Councils, because of the major damage they received throughout their municipalities.

“I’d like to thank our Outdoor Workers, the Emergency Management Team and Customer Service staff who all worked hard on collecting information and coordinating required responses.

Their prior planning and proactive preparation certainly reduced the impact on our community the severe weather could have had and ensured our infrastructure was duly protected.

Unfortunately there is some major damage that will take some time to repair so we ask for your patience whilst these damages are repaired,” Commissioner Taylor said.

For more information
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