

Update for the Great Ocean Road Community

This message is being provided from the Incident Control Centre in Colac. This is a general update, and community members are advised to refer to www.emergency.vic.gov.au for emergency updates, for Parks Victoria information on camp sites and track closures refer to <http://parkweb.vic.gov.au/about-us/news/parks-affected-by-flooding> and for the latest on road closure information visit: <http://traffic.vicroads.vic.gov.au>

Wye River and Separation Creek, along with Kennett River Cumberland River Grey River other towns along the Great Ocean Road, have experienced significant flooding and impacts from soil saturation and severe roadway substructure damage.

The Colac Incident Control Centre is currently working on a plan to provide community information for Kennett River, Wye River and Cumberland River about the ongoing situation regarding the road substructure damage and the potential long term impacts on local Businesses and individuals.

A warning is currently in place (see www.emergency.vic.gov.au) for landslide risk in Wye River, Separation Creek and along the Great Ocean Road and will be updated Saturday morning.

While the Great Ocean Road between Lorne and Skenes Creek and between Eastern View and Lorne remains closed for public safety until further notice, special agreements with Victorian Police and VicRoads to assist businesses to receive essential supplies has been successful up to date and will continue when it is safe to do so and police escorts are available

Public safety is the number one priority. Anyone currently in the Wye River and Separation Creek townships facing life-threatening emergencies should call **Triple Zero (000)** immediately. Any residents or visitors within the impacted areas along the Great Ocean Road who are unable to leave should make contact with the local authorities to make known any special requirements, if they have not already done so.

VicRoads remind people to never drive through floodwater – it only takes about 15 centimetres of water to lose control of your vehicle. If you are within the townships it is important that you look after your health and safety as the number one priority

VicRoads contractors are continuing to clear the last remaining landslides between Lorne and Skenes Creek, however the most significant risk identified by the Geotechnical experts is many parts of the Great Ocean Road has been undermined by flood waters washing away the roadway substructure causing cracking in the road surface that will break away under load, making driving an extreme hazard until cleared for public use.

Geotechnical experts advise that landslides and debris will continue to occur onto the Great Ocean Road.

Of most importance for locals at Wye River and Separation Creek is the impact by flooding on Paddys Path, with a 35 metre tension crack appearing across the face and posing a very significant landslide risk. VicRoads engineers are monitoring the Paddys Path area and will make

recommendations to VicRoads on potential engineering solutions, which many take some time to complete. VicRoads geotechnical engineers will continue to monitor this area regularly.

Traffic management points are in place on both sides of Paddy's Path on the Great Ocean Road and will be manned 24 hours a day put in place for the protection of locals and it is strongly advised to keep clear from the area including the adjoining beach fronting Paddy's Path.

Lorne, Apollo Bay and the 12 Apostles are being promoted as "open for business" via Emergency Victoria situation updates.