

Media Release

The Hon Harriet Shing MP

Minister for Water

Minister for Regional Development

Minister for Commonwealth Games Legacy

Minister for Equality



Tuesday, 30 May 2023

NEW FUNDING TO FAST-TRACK COUNCIL FLOOD PLANNING

The Andrews Labor Government is helping more local governments complete up-to-date flood data and mapping and incorporate completed flood studies into their planning schemes.

Minister for Water Harriet Shing and Minister for Planning Sonya Kilkenny today announced an investment of \$22.2 million to fast-track more flood studies so that communities are best prepared Victorians for future floods.

This funding will help accelerate flood mapping data studies which will be used to update planning council schemes so they can identify suitable locations for new development and avoid high flood-risk areas.

Local councils are responsible for updating flood mapping and controls in their planning schemes to ensure they identify areas subject to potential flooding. Councils are best placed to make these decisions, in consultation with the relevant water authority or catchment management authority.

Funding will also ensure communities and industry are at the heart of flood planning discussions at the local level.

The package includes:

- \$10 million over the next five years to complete an estimated 32 flood studies in regional Victoria
- \$5 million over three years to fast-track scoping of future flood mitigation activities
- \$3.9 million over the next two years to help councils implement 40 flood studies into Victorian planning schemes
- \$2 million over the next two years to establish a program to engage landholders, local builders, and industry.

Since 2016, the Labor Government has funded 63 flood studies requested by local government to ensure communities have a better understanding of flood risk across Victoria.

The flood planning package is in addition to the \$26.7 million invested in the Victorian Floodplain Management Strategy, which is critical funding to better prepare communities and mitigate against future flood events.

Quotes attributable to Minister for Water Harriet Shing

"We're helping any remaining local council to fast-track updates to their flood maps and other data to ensure we have the best information on the risk of flooding."

"These flood studies will support emergency management activities, planning decisions and individual landowners living on the floodplains."

Quote attributable to Minister for Planning Sonya Kilkenny

"We're making sure the latest flood data is being reflected in Victorian planning schemes, to help create safer and more resilient towns across flood prone parts our state."

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