



**SENATOR THE HON MURRAY WATT  
MINISTER FOR EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT**



**THE HON JACLYN SYMES MLC  
ATTORNEY-GENERAL  
MINISTER FOR EMERGENCY SERVICES**

**JOINT MEDIA RELEASE**

Friday, 8 March 2024

**EMPOWERING VICTORIANS TO REDUCE DISASTER RISK**

Local communities and councils will receive more than \$9 million in funding to reduce the risk and impact of disasters caused by natural hazards and build community resilience, thanks to support from the Albanese and Allan Governments.

Victorian Minister for Emergency Services Jaclyn Symes today visited the North Central Catchment Management Authority (CMA) in Newbridge, in north-west Victoria, to announce the third round of grants under the National Partnership Agreement on Disaster Risk Reduction (NPA).

The Risk and Resilience and the State and Regional Priority Projects grant programs will provide expert agencies with the resources to better prepare and respond to severe weather events.

Almost 50 projects across Victoria will be supported through the NPA between the Commonwealth, State and Territory Governments to minimise the risk and impact of natural disasters on local communities in line with the National Disaster Risk Reduction Framework.

Among the successful applicants receiving funding for their initiatives are:

- **North Central CMA** which will receive more than \$448,000 in Risk and Resilience funding to support three projects that help monitor floods, review

flood warnings systems, and better respond to floods with guidance from Traditional Owners.

- **North Central CMA** also received \$294,000 in funding through previous rounds of funding to educate the local community on flood risks across the North Central region, develop flood plans to mitigate risks and reduce reliance on emergency services. Newbridge is located along the Campaspe River and has experienced flooding in recent years, and was captured in the plans developed by North Central CMA.
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- **Greater Shepparton City Council** which will receive \$125,000 to install a makeshift levee system to improve protection from floodwaters.
- **The Puffing Billy Railway Board** which will receive more than \$56,000 to support their project creating a Heat Refuge for volunteers working in extreme heat conditions.
- **The City of Greater Bendigo** which will receive \$235,000 to work with Indigenous and multicultural communities to build understanding about natural disasters and emergency risk.
- **Macedon Ranges City Council** which will receive \$65,000 to purchase a generator to provide power for essential services in surrounding towns during extreme weather events.

For more information or to view the full list of recipients, visit [emv.vic.gov.au/index.php/how-we-help/grants-and-awards/risk-and-resilience-grants-program](https://emv.vic.gov.au/index.php/how-we-help/grants-and-awards/risk-and-resilience-grants-program)

#### **Quotes attributable to Federal Minister for Emergency Management, Murray Watt:**

“The Albanese Government is committed to working with the Allan Government to make sure Victorians are more prepared for natural disasters, so communities can respond and recover quicker.

“A significant focus of the NPA is to help locally-led organisations address the risks that they have identified, with solutions that will help them better prepare and respond to increasingly frequent and intense severe weather events.

“The projects that we’re supporting through these grant programs aim to achieve exactly that, and I commend these organisations for their initiative.”

#### **Quotes attributable to Victorian Minister for Emergency Services Jaclyn Symes**

“The Risk and Resilience Grants Program highlights the incredible work local Victorian organisations are leading to reduce the risk of natural disasters and build resilience within our local communities.”

“We’ll never be able to eradicate natural disasters, however we can ensure local communities are better prepared for when they occur. I look forward to following the success of these crucial projects.”

“The recipients of these grants are working incredibly hard to reduce risks and prepare Victorians for severe weather events.”

**Media contacts:**

Minister Symes’ office: Casey Lodge 0410 964 928

Minister Watt’s office: Tali Eley 0499 770 772