

Media Release

Jaclyn Symes MLC

Leader of the Government in the Legislative Council

Attorney-General

Minister for Emergency Services



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COMMUNITY CARAVAN PARK RESTORATION WORKS COMPLETE

Residents at Aspen Lodge Caravan Park in Mooroopna have celebrated the completion of major restoration works backed by the Allan Labor Government to repair cabins, caravan sites and communal spaces damaged by the October 2022 Victorian floods.

Aspen Lodge plays an important role in the Mooroopna community, providing accommodation for long-term residents and vulnerable community members. The caravan park provides housing security and a safe environment for retirees, seasonal workers and people who may need an extra supportive environment.

During the floods, the majority of cabins on-site were destroyed and the caravan park was closed.

Residents were supported to find alternative accommodation close to home, including through Emergency Recovery Victoria's temporary accommodation program.

The Shepparton/Mooroopna Housing Taskforce, established in response to the floods, identified the re-establishment of accommodation at the caravan park as a community priority.

An \$800,000 grant was also awarded to help re-establish accommodation at Aspen Lodge.

Emergency Recovery Victoria's Clean-up Program conducted all-hazard structural assessments at the site, followed by works, demolition, and waste removal. The park owners also received personalised recovery and business support through the Flood Recovery Support Program.

A new park plan was developed to mitigate flood and fire, some cabins refurbished and new cabins installed. This has improved amenity and safety elements of the park.

While minor works continue, 78 residents have moved into Aspen Lodge across 42 cabins and 7 powered caravan sites. This includes returning residents – some of whom have called Aspen Lodge home for more than 35 years.

Quotes attributable to Minister for Emergency Services Jaclyn Symes

"It's so important to the recovery process to be in the community – I'm thrilled that Aspen Lodge is once again a safe place to call home for people."

"We are listening to communities about their recovery needs – and making sure that they not only get the support they need, but that it's led by locals."

Quote attributable to Emergency Recovery Victoria CEO Mariela Diaz

"ERV still has a presence in communities affected by the October 2022 floods and we will continue to provide support to these communities throughout their recovery journey."