

## Natural Disaster Update - Griggs Road, Hallston

Following the August storm event – which has officially been declared a natural disaster – Council engineers have been working to get all the landslip-affected roads across the Shire re-opened, particularly Griggs Road in Hallston. For most of those impacted by the landslips there is a local detour. For those around the Griggs Road slip, unfortunately the detour adds an hour or more to their travels. Given this we are prioritising our efforts on undertaking the required works to have this road re-opened as soon as practicable.

Acting South Gippsland Shire Council CEO, Bryan Sword is hopeful that the works on Griggs Road can be completed before the rainy season next autumn.

“Council’s engineers have been monitoring the slip and evaluating possible temporary alternative routes through private property, geotechnical experts have been consulted, tenders have been received for the investigation and design work, and Regional Roads Victoria assessors have inspected the slips to confirm that they are in fact the result of a natural disaster.

“On 5 October we received written confirmation from State Department of Treasury and Finance that the slip repairs will be covered by the Commonwealth’s Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements.

“The next step is to work with the appointed design engineers to investigate options to get one lane of the road re-opened.

“We have written to all affected residents and offered the opportunity to meet if they wanted to discuss the slip and road closure. Our Emergency Management and Engineering staff have been speaking to those who have followed up on that offer. We are writing again this week and are hopeful of meeting people at their homes to discuss their individual needs and concerns.

“At this stage I am optimistic that we can get Griggs Road repaired and completely re-opened in the next six-to-eight months. I understand that the closure is a significant inconvenience and that up to eight months is still a long time, but it is better than our original estimate of 12 months.

“Following reports that the NO ENTRY – DANGER signs were being pushed over, we installed fixed barriers in order to ensure that no one drives across the affected section of the road. I understand that the damage caused and the resultant detour is a significant inconvenience to the local residents, however the preservation of life is our highest priority. I cannot overstate how dangerous this landslip is: it is still moving and it is bringing a large section of the hill above the road with it. I was dismayed to hear that the fixed signs that were installed on Wednesday were pushed over.

“When I say that making the road impassable is a matter of life or death, I mean it literally. For those concerned about emergency services, they have all been informed about the road closure and will make appropriate arrangements should they need to attend to anyone in the vicinity of the slip.

“We are doing our utmost to provide support to the people of Hallston and getting Griggs Road open is our highest priority at the moment. My view is that this is a matter best dealt with face-to-face with the affected residents at a time and place where they are comfortable.

“I urge people to be wary of those claiming that Griggs Road can be re-opened quickly and easily. We have experts giving us advice on this slip. This is a large, dangerous slip and it will be very difficult to repair. There is not an easy fix, nor is there an easy work around. People will simply have to be patient. In the meantime, we will do our best to support those community members affected by the road closure,” said Mr Sword.

**PR2464 10/10/19**

For media enquiries, please contact the Communications team on 5662 9200  
South Gippsland Shire Council, 9 Smith St. (Private Bag 4), Leongatha 3953  
[communications@southgippsland.vic.gov.au](mailto:communications@southgippsland.vic.gov.au)  
[www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au](http://www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au)