

## FROM THE COAST

### After the Floods

We have seen the community band together after Esperance was hit with huge amounts of rain. Not only did the flooding cause damage to roads, homes and properties, but tragically two lives were lost. On behalf of the Shire and the community I would like to express our deepest condolences to family and friends of Mr Boyes and Mr Reid.

The deluge caused widespread damage to our roads and the Shire's road maintenance crew have been busily working away to assess damage and begin to restore our roads. The damage that has occurred may not always be visible to the untrained eye so it is important to drive to the conditions and to your own driving experience. Please take care and obey all road signage, your safety is important.

The Shire of Esperance has 4,593km of road for our staff to maintain so it will take some time to get everything back up to the way it was. We have 3,745km of unsealed roads and some have been more damaged than others.

The event was declared an eligible disaster which means there may be funding available. This will be extremely helpful and will mean we may not have to foot the total bill to repair the damage.

The process for fixing the roads is not as simple as throwing down some more bitumen or gravel. Once roads are inspected work is prioritised based on access, safety and usage. We then have to wait for floodways and roads to dry out before the Shire can engage contractors to commence repairs. From there most damage will require holes to be filled, culverts to be installed and gravel to be put down then some roads will be sealed with bitumen. Unfortunately there is no quick fix.

I would like to thank the dedicated people including SES, DFES, local police, Main Roads, Department of Transport, Department of Parks and Wildlife, Shire of Esperance Staff and many other agencies who have been out working to repair the damage and assisting those who needed help. We appreciate everyone who has passed information on to us about roads and thank those who have shared information we have sent out. I would especially like to thank the Esperance community for their patience and understanding during this time and over the next few weeks as we work to clean up and restore damages. For more information on Shire roads visit our website, or contact the Shire office.