



MEDIA RELEASE

Shire of Esperance

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COMMUNITY SAFETY IS PARAMOUNT

Widespread flooding has occurred across the south west of our state and has impacted many residents in the Shire of Esperance. While it is understood that there may be a need to head to Perth travellers are advised to drive with extreme caution and where possible to stay away from affected roads. Nonessential travel on local roads should be avoided in the short term. If you are heading to the city it is recommended you head to Kalgoorlie and across to avoid high risk areas.

Flood affected roads are being assessed starting this morning by Shire Staff on local roads and Main Roads Staff on the highways. The damage that has occurred may not always be visible to the untrained eye. We are assessing these issues to determine which roads are safe for travel and what ones will need to be repaired prior to being reopened. Locals in the farming community have been fantastic in assisting the Shire by providing information about roads in their area and potential risk factors. Please heed all warning signs and help us keep our roads as safe as possible.

There are also concerns with water safety at Bandy Creek. The integrity of the Bandy Creek Weir is compromised and the public are to stay away from this area until remediation work can be completed. In addition people are asked to stay out of the water, this includes kayaks, in Bandy Creek from the Bridge to the Weir. This is due to concerns with water flow and an intermittent whirl pool that is dragging items from the Creek underneath the weir and into the Harbour.

Shire President Victoria Brown said "On behalf of the Shire and the community I would like to express our deepest condolences to family and friends of Mr Boyes and our thoughts and prayers are with the family and friends of the missing man from Jerdacuttup. There are still many sections of roads under water and our recommendation is if you do not need to travel along those roads then please wait. Your patience and your understanding during the last few days and the next week will assist those who are working hard to have our roads and water ways safe again."

Please allow responsible agencies the time and space to repair damaged infrastructure.

Ends

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A video of a whirlpool and damage at the Bandy Creek Weir has been attached.