



## Media Release

### **Draft Castlemaine, Campbells Creek and Chewton Flood Plan**

The North Central Catchment Management Authority (CMA) has released the Castlemaine, Campbells Creek and Chewton Draft Flood Management Plan for community feedback.

The Draft Plan recommends building three new levees, upgrading three existing levees, developing a flood warning system for the area, and minor waterway improvement works.

It also recommends updating the Mount Alexander Planning Scheme and developing an ongoing management plan for urban waterways.

The North Central CMA is leading the Plan, with support from the Mount Alexander Shire, technical contributions from various statutory agencies and input from community representatives.

North Central CMA Project Officer Shaun Morgan said recent flood events in the three towns highlighted the need to investigate flood behaviour and technical solutions.

“Castlemaine, Campbells Creek and Chewton were affected by floodwaters in September and November 2010, January 2011 and February 2012,” he said.

“The January 2011 flood event is believed to be the highest, or close to the highest, flood on record.

“Flooding caused damage to businesses, residences and sporting facilities and caused significant distress and hardship to members of the community.”

Mr Morgan said the Draft Plan was aimed at identifying and reducing the risk of future flooding.

“We spoke to local residents to seek their recent and historic flood information, as well as their flood mitigation ideas,” he said.

“We know from long experience the more we hear from the community, the stronger our flood planning is.

“We put all that in the mix and worked with flood specialist consultants GHD and their data to create a computer-based model showing where the water would go during certain-sized flood events. We then investigated and recommended mitigation measures aimed at limiting the damage.”

The Draft Plan recommends the construction of three new levees in Castlemaine – one at the north end of Gingell Street, one at the south end of Gingell St and one at the Central Cabin and Van Park.

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It also recommends the upgrade and extension of levees at Castlemaine's Elizabeth St, as well as the Campbells Creek Township levee and at National School Lane.

"There are two options for a levee at the south end of Gingell St. One is for a new one-metre-high levee to protect against medium size floods, and the other is to build a 2.1-metre-high levee which would be required to protect against events similar to January 2011," Mr Morgan said.

"These options aim to prevent Barkers Creek flood waters reaching at least floor-height in up to eight private properties, including the Railway Hotel and football and social clubrooms as well as protecting a number of other properties from sub-floor flooding and limiting the Gingell St hazard.

"The proposed Gingell St North levee would average between one and two metres high and aims to protect six dwellings on the west bank of Barkers Creek in the event of the same-size flood.

"The proposed Cabin and Van Park levee averages one metre high and aims to protect 26 cabins, three dwellings and three commercial buildings in nearby Bruce St."

All of the levee proposals are subject to detailed design and consultation with affected property owners.

The Draft Plan also suggests a flood warning system be developed for the three towns.

Local residents and stakeholders are invited to have one-on-one meetings with North Central CMA staff to review and discuss the Draft Plan and its recommendations.

The first consultation session will be held on Tuesday 3 March at the Castlemaine Football Netball Club social rooms at the Camp Reserve between 1pm and 8.30pm.

The second meeting will be held at the Campbells Creek Community Centre on Wednesday 4 March from 1pm to 8.30pm.

"It is important locals call ahead to make an appointment and secure their opportunity to speak to a staff member one-on-one," Mr Morgan said.

To make an appointment, contact the North Central Catchment Management Authority on 5448 7124. A detailed Draft Plan brochure, with feedback form, is available at the Mount Alexander Shire Council offices on the corner of Lyttleton and Lloyd streets, Castlemaine and the Chewton and Campbells Creek post offices.

Feedback on the Castlemaine, Campbells Creek and Chewton Draft Flood Management Plan is requested by March 13.

The project is funded by the Mount Alexander Shire Council and the Victorian and Commonwealth governments.

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**For further information please contact**

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