



Robyn Preston MP

Member for Hawkesbury

MEDIA RELEASE

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NSW GOVERNMENT ESTABLISHES FLOOD TASK GROUP

Member for Hawkesbury, Robyn Preston MP, has been talking to primary producers, residents and businesses in Hawkesbury about the impact of the recent floods.

“As I move around Hawkesbury’s flood affected community and talk to farmers about issues that have surfaced, the damage to riverbanks and the poor condition of the drainage system are two critical problems that must be addressed,” Ms Preston said.

Resilience NSW is working with Hawkesbury and The Hills Councils to deliver a range of flood recovery strategies to communities and businesses.

As part of the immediate clean-up, work is underway with caravan park owners, turf farmers, produce growers, businesses and residents along the river banks to identify immediate clean-up requirements.

“The need to scope and quantify the damage to the river banks has been identified as a high priority and this work has commenced with SES and Public Works Advisory,” Ms Preston said.

The assessment phase of this work will continue as the last of the flood waters recede.

A Task Group is being established as part of the recovery strategy to identify the immediate and long term issues related to the river bank damage after the floods. Membership will include councils, NSW government agencies and industry representatives. It will be chaired by Resilience NSW.

“I have been working closely with local turf farmers in Hawkesbury and today I can confirm that minor remedial work to reinstate previously approved pumps is considered an exempt activity under the Water Management Act 2000 and further approvals are not required.

“The impacts of the floods in Hawkesbury have exposed a number of ongoing issues which need to be dealt with, not tucked away until the next flood and establishing this task group will cut red tape and help farmers recover as quickly as possible,” said Ms Preston.

Any businesses or residents who require further assistance with clean-up, should contact Hawkesbury City Council at <https://www.yourhawkesbury-yoursay.com.au/fih2021> and The Hills Shire Council at <https://www.thehills.nsw.gov.au/Services/Our-Community/Community-Health-Safety/Emergency-Management>.

Recovery Centres are also available for those seeking one on one help at South Windsor Family Centre (6 Greenhills Way, South Windsor), North Richmond Panthers (33 Beaumont Avenue, North Richmond) and Wisemans Ferry, The Retreat (5564 Old Northern Road, Wisemans Ferry).

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