

## - 2026 ELECTION PRIORITY -

# Protecting Lakes Entrance and preparing for growth

**Improving drainage infrastructure will protect family homes, businesses, community assets, increase resilience in flood and rainfall events, and prepare for population growth in a changing environment.**

## Why Lakes Entrance needs drainage investment

Lakes Entrance is vulnerable to flooding due to its low-lying coastal environment, exposure to storm surges and increasing intensity of rainfall events. These place significant pressure on drainage infrastructure that is no longer fit-for-purpose.

Localised flooding, particularly around areas such as Eastern Beach Road and Cunninghame Street, continues to impact homes, businesses and critical access routes.

With a permanent population of around 7,000 that can increase significantly during peak tourism periods, the consequences of inadequate drainage are serious.

Community feedback has highlighted ongoing concern about the system's ability to manage current and future stormwater demand.

## Our community is asking for

\$3 million in Victorian Government funding to deliver drainage upgrades in Lakes Entrance, improving flood resilience and protecting key community assets.

- Construction of targeted drainage upgrades in priority flood-affected areas, including Eastern Beach Road and surrounding catchments.
- Implementation of improved stormwater infrastructure to increase capacity and reduce localised flooding, informed by completed drainage investigations.
- Development of resilient infrastructure designed to minimise future flood damage and support climate adaptation.

## Background

Lakes Entrance is one of the Victorian communities most impacted by climate change, with interim planning controls placed on the town over 15 years ago, well ahead of most communities.

These planning controls led to significant and detailed planning about the future of Lakes Entrance, that concluded that for Lakes Entrance to have a future, there must be land unlocked to foster sustainable growth and allow for the eventual retreat to higher ground.



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This led to the Lakes Entrance Northern Growth Area and the rezoning of approximately 1,500 lots on the high ground above Lakes Entrance.

To release this land, Council needs to undertake stormwater improvements that will both progress development and ensure water entering the Gippsland Lakes is appropriately managed to minimise nutrients and pollutants entering this Ramsar-listed wetland.

This project will facilitate the development of 1,500 property lots in Lakes Entrance, which will contribute to population growth in the town and provide a boost to the local economy, as well as stimulate building activity in the region when dwellings are constructed. It will also assist with the lifting of planning controls that have been placed on the township.

East Gippsland has a housing target set by the State (Plan for Victoria) of 11,000 new dwellings by 2051. Many of those dwellings should be in Lakes Entrance where there is identified, zoned land. This drainage work can support the growth area planned in the catchment area above the lower-lying areas.

Community feedback has highlighted ongoing concern about the system's ability to meet current and future stormwater demand.

### More information

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