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Funding for flood mitigation work in Chiltern

Indigo Shire Council has committed \$235,000 to match a State and Federal Government grant of the same amount for flood mitigation work in Chiltern.

The community of Chiltern was badly hit by devastating flash floods last year, creating havoc for many people.

Indigo Shire Mayor Cr Ali Pockley said the intensity of rain over a short period meant street and drainage systems could not cope with the huge volume of water – it was close to a 1-in-100 year event.

“This financial year Council has put \$235,000 into the kitty to match the Government grant today of \$235,000, for flood mitigation work in Chiltern. The effect of all this is that almost half a million dollars (ie \$470,000) will be spent this financial year specifically on flood mitigation works through the town,” Cr Pockley said at the announcement of the grant in Chiltern today by the Victorian Minister for Water, Mr Peter Walsh.

“This is in addition to emergency and remedial work valued at \$100,000 that was done last financial year, and other flood-related works around the town such as fixing the Lake Anderson leakage and the completion of the flood mitigation work at Chiltern’s Suffolk Street flood detention basin.”

Cr Pockley said a Chiltern Flood Study of 2007 had identified the scope and benefit of providing levee banks near Kilgour and Gaunt Streets and around Dickson/Peake Court.

“We have listened to what residents have told us and want to expedite the recommendations of the flood study to protect the Chiltern community as best we can,” Cr Pockley said.

“Some larger channel culvert works have been done at Park Street, work has been done on the surrounds of Black Ball dam and plans have been prepared for levee banks, flood protection walls, culvert upgrades and associated clean up of channel sediment,” she said.

“I thank Council staff, particularly in the Major Projects and Programs area, for their hard work on this issue. They have met with residents, listened to their concerns and taken account of historical matters, all of which have brought us to this point today.”

Cr Pockley said the work would be completed this financial year.

Caption: Indigo Mayor Cr Ali Pockley, Indigo Council’s General Manager Major Projects and Programs Andre Kompler, Chiltern residents hit by last year’s floods Rex Fuge, Karen Peel and Terry Giddens, with the Minister for Water Peter Walsh. They discussed the path of flooding in Chiltern.

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