

RURAL ROADS UPDATE FOR RESIDENTS



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Dear Resident,

Following on from our update in May, Council has now completed the assessment process for submission of claims under the NSW Government Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements 2018 (DRFA) in response to heavy rainfall and flooding events in the first half of 2020.

The DRFA assessment process entailed quantifying damage and estimating costs for restoration works across Gilgandra Shire's 1250kms of rural road network. Council is continuing to lodge claims and it is expected that the NSW Government will approve works on a progressive basis.

While it is positive news that this process is moving ahead, the recent rainfall will impact Council's ability to commence these restoration works. With significant rainfall again falling across the Gilgandra Shire in recent weeks, rural roads are incurring additional damage, and are simply too damp at this point to carry out effective restoration works.

In the interim, Council is planning to deliver a **Shire wide maintenance grading program** to the unsealed rural road network, where conditions permit. Maintenance grading will be undertaken during the next few months to ensure roads are safely passable whilst smoothing out some of the potholes and corrugations especially coming in to what we hope to be a busy harvest season. Maintenance grading is scheduled to commence in the south eastern quadrant of the Shire.

It is expected full restoration works on rural roads to commence following this maintenance grading, as weather permits. Restoration works will comprise formation and reconstruction grading, desilting of table drains and culverts, reinstating lost gravel and repairs to floodways.

I understand the challenges faced by residents traversing on these rural roads and appreciate there continues to be a period of rough roads and frustration for road users, however Council needs to complete the disaster declaration process to optimise the funding potential and longer term benefit for our ratepayers.

Residents are asked to avoid any unnecessary travel on the unsealed rural roads during periods of wet weather, particularly by heavy vehicles, plant and machinery.

Council will continue emergency works where roads present an immediate risk and will instigate temporary rectification measures. Further updates will also be provided regarding the disaster declaration process and works schedule once details become available.

Regards,

David Neeves
General Manager

Please continue to report road concerns to Council at www.gilgandra.nsw.gov.au

NATURAL DISASTER FUNDING PROCESS

NATURAL DISASTER OCCURS

EMERGENCY WORKS COMMENCE

APPLICATION TO OFFICE OF EMERGENCY
MANAGEMENT FOR A DECLARATION

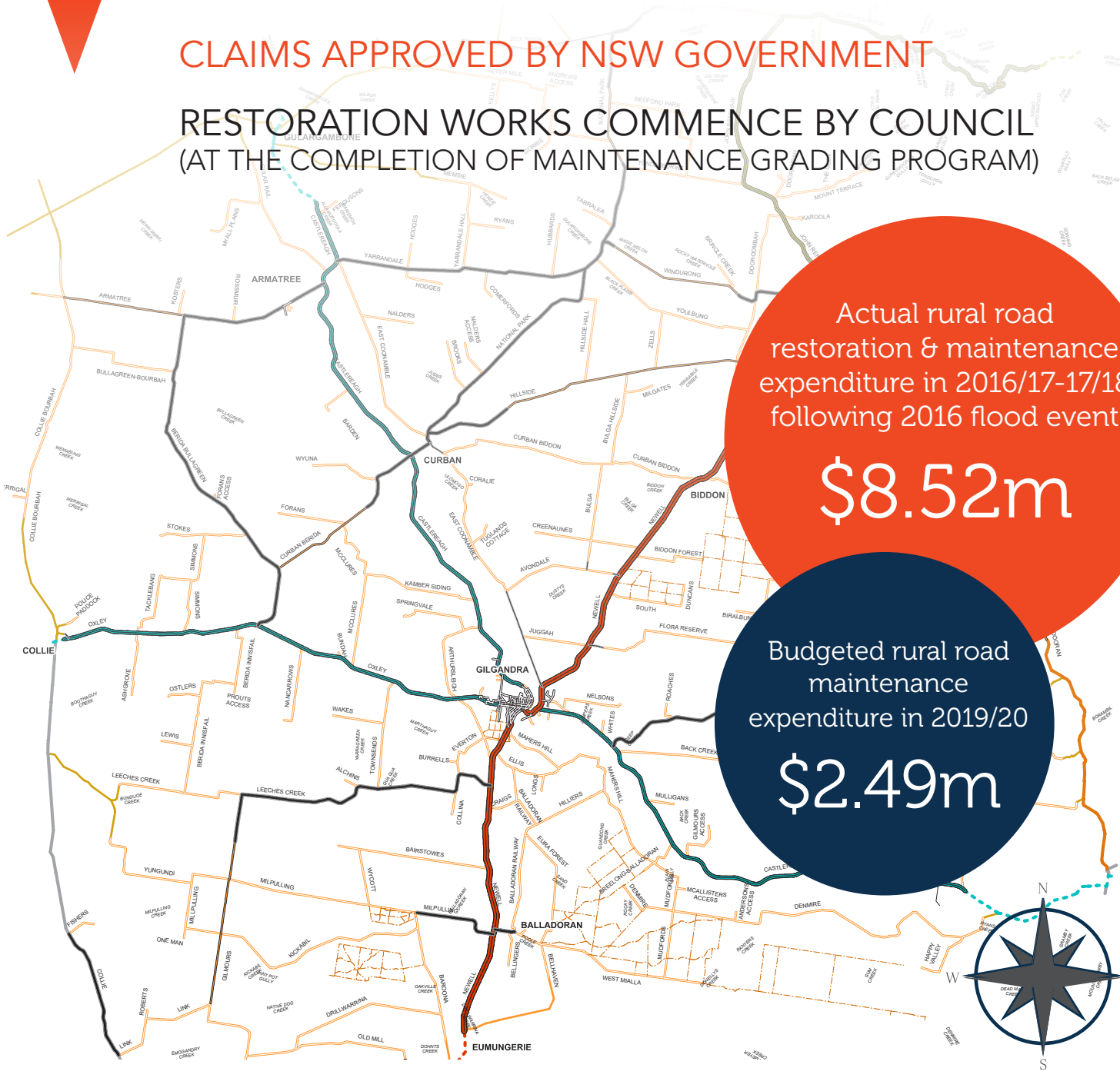
DECLARATION DETERMINED BY OFFICE

DETAILED ASSESSMENT OF DAMAGE BY ASSESSOR

CLAIMS LODGED TO NSW GOVERNMENT

CLAIMS APPROVED BY NSW GOVERNMENT

RESTORATION WORKS COMMENCE BY COUNCIL
(AT THE COMPLETION OF MAINTENANCE GRADING PROGRAM)



Actual rural road
restoration & maintenance
expenditure in 2016/17-17/18
following 2016 flood event

\$8.52m

Budgeted rural road
maintenance
expenditure in 2019/20

\$2.49m