

February 16, 2024

**Re: Supporting the Dandenong Ranges after the extreme weather event**

Dear Resident,

I hope this letter finds you well during these challenging times.

I am writing to let you know about the efforts being made by the Allan Labor Government to support Victorians affected by the catastrophic weather event that occurred on February 13<sup>th</sup>, 2024.

We know that the impact of this event has been significant for many residents across the hills and foothills, with homes and vital transmission infrastructure damaged, and widespread power outages.

Premier Jacinta Allan has announced additional support for thousands of Victorians who are still without power.

- The Albanese and Allan Labor Governments are implementing a **Prolonged Power Outage Payment** program. Eligible households without power for seven days following the storm **can receive \$1,920 per week for up to three weeks**. This will be administered by energy distribution businesses.
- **Small businesses can access \$2,927 per week for up to three weeks**.
- **The waste levy will be completely waived for storm-impacted residents** across Yarra Ranges, Cardinia and Knox Local Government Areas **until April 30, 2024**.

Efforts are still underway to ensure all customers have access to power, with generators being prepared for distribution. Priority will be given to the most vulnerable individuals facing prolonged power outages. If you know of anyone in this situation, **please do not hesitate to contact my office on 9754 5401 or [daniela.demartino@parliament.vic.gov.au](mailto:daniela.demartino@parliament.vic.gov.au)**

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In addition to financial assistance and power restoration efforts, **you may also be eligible for assistance under the Guaranteed Service Level payments program**, providing electricity bill credits based on your individual circumstances.

For more information on eligibility for support programs, please visit [esc.vic.gov.au/electricity-and-gas/information-consumers/guaranteed-service-level-payments-energy-outages](http://esc.vic.gov.au/electricity-and-gas/information-consumers/guaranteed-service-level-payments-energy-outages).

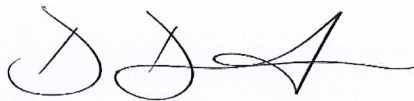
For further support in relation to emergency relief and the best location to dispose of your green waste, please contact your local council.

- **Yarra Ranges Shire Council** 1300 368 333
- **Cardinia Council** 1300 787 624
- **Knox Council** 03 9298 8000

You can also contact the Emergency Recovery Victoria Hotline on 1800 560 760.

Please do not hesitate to reach out if you require further assistance or information.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D De Martino', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Daniela De Martino  
**State Member for Monbulk**