

# Snowy flood stories are needed for study

**Orbost and district residents are encouraged to share their stories of flood events at a community meeting on Tuesday, May 24.**

The Snowy River Flood Study is one of 10 flood mapping projects underway across the state. The Victorian Government has provided \$1.5 million in funding for this program.

Steve Muncaster, manager of the Department of Environment Land Water and Planning's (DELWP) Floodplain Management Unit, said community meetings were an important part of the flood mapping program.

"I'd urge Victorians to get involved in the project's community meetings, as local knowledge is very important in understanding the impacts floods can have in particular areas," Mr Muncaster said.

"The outputs of these

projects will be used to improve land use planning, emergency planning and community preparation for floods, so residents' knowledge can help their community be better prepared for future flood events."

The focus of the Snowy River Flood Study is the Snowy River between the confluence with Wimbenduck Creek (upstream of Bete Bolong) and the Snowy River estuary.

The community meeting will take place at the Orbost Snowy Rovers clubrooms from 5 to 7pm. Light refreshments will be provided.

Residents are invited to drop in to share their experience, view flood maps and discuss the flood study with project staff.

"We want people to cast their memory back to a time when the Snowy River burst its

banks," Mr Muncaster said.

"Did you take a photo, mark a fence post, or note a landmark where the floodwater reached?"

Project staff will have equipment ready to take copies of residents' photos and pen and paper on hand to record anecdotes of wetter times.

Regional scale flood mapping projects are underway for the Avon, Goulburn, Fitzroy, Avoca, Loddon, Ovens, Wimmera, Otway, Upper Murray and Snowy catchments. The projects are being managed by DELWP and overseen by local steering committees that include catchment management authorities, local government, VICSES and community representatives.

For further information on the Snowy River Flood Study, contact Rex Candy at the East Gippsland Catchment Management Authority.