



8 May 2023

Coroners Court of Victoria  
Coroner David Ryan  
65 Kavanagh Street  
**Southbank Victoria 3006**

**By email:** [cpuresponses@courts.vic.gov.au](mailto:cpuresponses@courts.vic.gov.au)

Dear Coroner Ryan

**Coronial Investigation into the death of Nina Barake (COR 2021/003026)**

I refer to the above Coronial Investigation into the death of Nina Barake at Glenfyne and to the findings delivered by your Honour on 16 January 2023.

I note the recommendation made in your Honour's findings that was directed at Corangamite Shire Council (**Council**), specifically:

*That the Corangamite Shire Council review the floodway over Curdies River on Maddens Bridge Road to consider the feasibility, safety and utility of other construction options or enhancements, in light of the traffic use and frequency of flooding.*

Council has carefully considered the findings and the above recommendation. Council takes matters that pose a risk to the health and safety of the community very seriously. As previously advised, Council has an appropriate system in place to warn approaching motorists of the risks associated with proceeding through the floodway at this location during flood events where water rises above the level of the roadway/culvert. The warning signage at this location is clearly visible when approaching from either side of the floodway and maintained by Council to ensure it remains clearly visible and accurate.

Despite having a clear warning system (i.e. signage) and road maintenance system, Council appreciates that the unfortunate incident involving the death of Ms Barake provides an opportunity to learn and reconsider whether there are any additional measures that it could implement to further enhance safety at such locations across the Shire.

Since the Findings were delivered, Council has:

- Considered the specific recommendations set out in the brief prepared by investigating police.



- Engaged an experienced consultant/contractor to supply and install a remote monitoring and warning system at the Maddens Bridge Road floodway that will provide advanced notice of extreme weather events and enable timely public warnings about the status of the Curdies River at the floodway.
- Included additional funding to be allocated to the 'Maddens Bridge Road Culvert Upgrade and Road Raising Design & Construct' in its draft 2023-24 budget.
- Completed bridge and causeway upgrades at various locations across the Shire and installed new/upgraded traffic signage at specific roads subject to flooding to ensure they are at the required standard that was and remains in place at Maddens Bridge Road.

I would like to thank your Honour for the careful consideration given to the matters relevant to this Coronial investigation and assure you that Council will continue to monitor the important public safety issues associated with roadways within the Shire that may be subject to flooding during extreme weather events.

Yours sincerely

Michael Tudball  
**Acting Chief Executive Officer**  
Corangamite Shire Council