

6th September 2010

Windstorm cleanup begins

The SES, RFS, Integral Energy and Shoalhaven City Council have been working around the clock to clear roads and restore services to homes in the Shoalhaven. Thousands in the Shoalhaven lost power as a result of Saturday and Sundays violent wind storms.

Shoalhaven Water lost power to its sewerage systems and had to resort to using generators at some stations. Carmel Krogh, Director of Shoalhaven Water says "whether they have power or not, we are asking all residents to conserve water at the moment as electricity is being reconnected. It will relieve the load on the sewage plants if all non-essential water use can be postponed until full services are restored".

With many trees over roads and debris lying about, staff are continuing their efforts to clean up limbs and other rubbish. Waste Services Manager Mr David Hojem has said there will be no charge to the tipping of green waste accumulated as a result of the windstorms in the Shoalhaven.

Major damage to public buildings and facilities in the Shoalhaven has been identified with the estimated cost to be in excess of 1 million dollars. Damage includes the loss of the roof from the Sanctuary Point Fire Station, damage to cabling at the Sussex Inlet Communications Tower and fence and solar matting damage at the Ulladulla Leisure Centre.

Reports of numerous fallen tree damage has been identified at Holiday Haven tourist parks, including Lake Tabourie, Ulladulla Headland, Bendalong, Swan Haven, Huskisson, Shoalhaven Heads, Lake Conjola and Crookhaven Heads.

Shoalhaven City Mayor Councillor Paul Green says, "The Shoalhaven was severely battered by the strong winds on the weekend. We are lucky that no-one was hurt as a result. It's important that we remain patient as services are restored. Our emergency services and Council staff are stretched but doing a great job out there. I would like to extend my thanks to Council, the RTA road crews, the SES and RFS crews, Integral Energy crews and Police on behalf of the community for their response and enormous efforts since early Sunday morning."

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