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By [The Bendigo Advertiser](#)

**Updated** October 18 2022 - 9:41am, first published October 13 2022 - 5:30am



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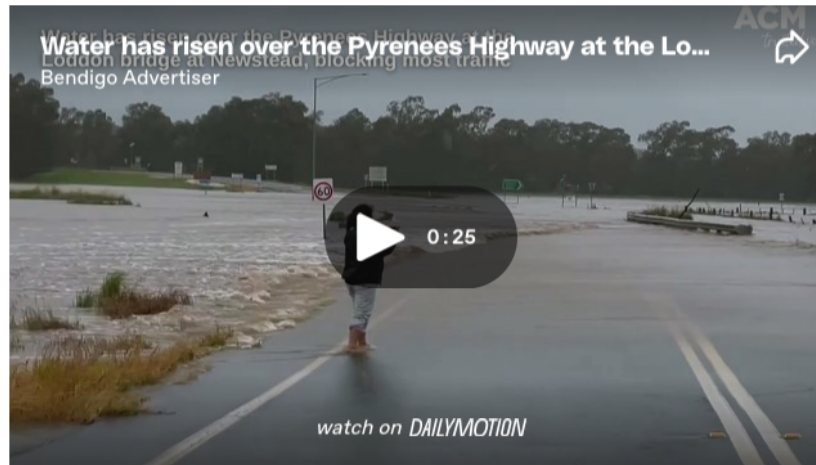
***This flood blog is provided free to readers during the emergency event unfolding across our region these next few days, and will include essential community information and updates as reported by the Bendigo Advertiser.***

It's been a frantic 13 hours across the region today. A big thanks to the emergency services personnel who put their lives at risk to save others and worked hard to help their communities.

*The Advertiser* is proud to be the voice representing the region during this time, from everyone here our thoughts are with those affected by flooding.

## Water submerges Pyrenees Hwy at Newstead

The Pyrenees Highway was cut at Newstead this afternoon, with the Green Gully Creek swelling to the west of the town's bridge.



Maryborough resident Simeon Zisomopoulos and his partner, Tai, who arrived at the blocked bridge at about 4pm, said that despite the fast moving water they had seen several vehicles venture across.

Late on Thursday afternoon Newstead CFA captain Doug Richardson said a crew was pumping water out from where it had drained to, inside the town's levee bank but the water hadn't yet risen to threaten the levee.

Some mitigation work had been done to the levee bank a week or so ago.

Capt Richardson said the brigade had had a couple of callouts earlier in the day, including to sandbag a local house.

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"I think it's just a wait and see", he said.

"All we can do is sit tight and watch the river, like every other small community."



Picture: Jenny Denton.

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At the Crown Hotel in Newstead the publican was sanguine.

Water had covered the paddocks and the area around the cemetery and was getting higher, he said.

But so far the town was dry and there were a few people in the pub.

"Not from the Maryborough side. But the Castlemaine side's still good at the moment," he said.

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Thankfully there was no shortage of beer.

### **Powercor works to restore electricity**

There are about 3480 customers without power across central-western Victoria, with about 2700 of these customers located in the Woodend and Gisborne region.