****

**Samaritan’s Purse Responds to Historic Flooding in Echuca and Rochester**

**Sydney, NSW, 27 October 2022** – Samaritan’s Purse will be aiding families in the devastating floods that have inundated Echuca, a town of approximately 15,000 who have recently constructed a 2.5km emergency levee, dividing the town to reduce the impact of floodwater to the majority, leaving about 190 homes exposed to flooding. 25 minutes further south of the Campaspe River is Rochester, a town of about 3,000 residents who have been devasted by the floods, impacting an estimated 90% of homes.

The Samaritan’s Purse staff and volunteers will be helping impacted families clean up their properties – removing flood-damaged furniture, cabinetry, walls, and floors as well as sanitising timber frames to prevent mould ingress. Samaritan’s Purse is also partnering with Echuca Community Church to help begin the recovery process, while reminding them that they are not alone.

“The people of northern Victoria have endured one of the biggest flood events in the state’s history. The recovery will be long, and so much help is needed. We’re looking forward to coming alongside the local churches and affected communities.”
Dan Stephens, Australian Disaster Relief Manager.

To follow coverage of the flood relief response and information about how to help, visit [**website.**](https://samaritanspurse.org.au/coming-alongside-central-victoria-in-wake-of-devastating-floods/)

To volunteer or donate go to – [samaritanspurse.org.au](https://gifts.samaritanspurse.org.au/product/flood-relief-adr/)

**MEDIA OPPORTUNITIES:**

* Interview Dan Stephens – Australian Disaster Relief Manager, Samaritans Purse Australia & New Zealand

**MEDIA CONTACT:
Meredith Percy**Email:meredithp@samaritanspurse.org.auMobile: 0420 558 011Office Ph: 1300 884 468

Samaritan’s Purse Australia and New Zealand responds to physical and spiritual needs of individuals in crisis situations – especially in locations where few others are working. Samaritan’s Purse works in more than 100 countries to provide aid to victims of war, disease, disaster, poverty, famine and persecution. For more information, visit [SamaritansPurse.org.au](https://www.samaritanspurse.org.au/)