



PRESS RELEASE – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – March 25

Greater Shepparton residents urged to respond to VEC notices

ARC Justice is urging Greater Shepparton residents who receive a notice about not voting in the 2024 council elections in the coming weeks not to ignore it.

The Victorian Electoral Commission (VEC) – the body that runs council elections across the state – recently revealed that 5162 Greater Shepparton residents will get an *Apparent Failure to Vote Notice* in the coming weeks.

ARC Justice CEO Damian Stock said understanding what the notice means is vital.

“If you missed voting in the council elections late last year, the VEC will send you this notice asking for an explanation. You won’t be fined if you have a valid reason and respond in time,” Stock said.

“We know that many residents across the Greater Shepparton region were still dealing with the impacts of floods during last year’s council elections. People were displaced, living away from home or facing ongoing disruptions.

“If flooding affected your ability to vote or if you had another valid reason – such as illness – you can explain this to the VEC. This notice is not a fine, but ignoring it could lead to a \$99 penalty, so it’s important to respond.”

To respond, visit www.vec.vic.gov.au/voting/finer-and-reviews or call 1300 551 575.

“ARC Justice encourages residents in flood-affected communities to check their mail and respond promptly if they receive this notice. Understanding your rights can help you avoid unnecessary fines,” Stock said.

About ARC Justice

ARC Justice is a rights-based, for-purpose organisation incorporating the Loddon Campaspe Community Legal Centre and Housing Justice, a specialist renter support program based in Bendigo, and the Goulburn Valley Community Legal Centre based in Shepparton. ARC provides legal and tenancy support services across 13 local government areas in central and northern Victoria, with a team of more than 60 staff working to advocate for and uphold the rights of rural and regional Victorians.

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