

Water survey under way at Bridgewater

LAUREN HENRY

AN amphibious craft is surveying the Loddon River at Bridgewater mapping trees and debris that litter the waterway following the January floods.

The surveying will allow the Loddon Shire Council to discover where obstructions are so it can organise a clean-up and re-open the ski-run on the river, a tourism attraction for Bridgewater.

Peter Bailey, from Redborough Mapping Service, is travelling up and down the river in five-metre intervals, surveying for material.

A Global Positioning System allows Mr Bailey to map the position and depth with a 25 millimetre accuracy to find obstructions.

The area being mapped is from the Calder Highway bridge to Sweeney's Lane, four kilometres away, and includes the ski-run.

Mr Bailey said there was a lot of debris along the edges of the river, and a few trees in the middle.

"Apart from that it's all pretty clear," he said.

Loddon Shire Council chief executive John McLinden said a three-dimensional map on an electronic file would be given to the council.

Mr McLinden said it was the council's responsibility to clean up the river, but had state government funding assistance.

"The council will organise salvage crews to pull out obstructions, and the majority will be large trees," he said.

"It depends on the results on how long it will take us but the ski season traditionally opens in September so we'll try and reopen the river by September."



SURVEY: Peter Bailey, from Redborough Mapping Service, is travelling up and down the Loddon River near Bridgewater, mapping trees and debris left from the January floods.

Picture: BRENDAN McCARTHY