

Royal Commission into National Natural Disaster Arrangements

Eurobodalla Shire Council

Response to the Notice and Summons to Produce

(NTP - HB2-249)

4 May2020

## ***Preparedness and Response***

- 1. Key documents, such as response plans and emergency/response management frameworks, used to inform the response to the 2019-2020 bushfire season and other natural disasters.***

### **Legislation**

State Emergency and Rescue Management Act 1989

[http://www6.austlii.edu.au/cgi-bin/viewdb/au/legis/nsw/consol\\_act/searma1989331/](http://www6.austlii.edu.au/cgi-bin/viewdb/au/legis/nsw/consol_act/searma1989331/)

The NSW State Emergency Management Plan is the document outlining the overall agreed roles and responsibilities of agencies.

### **Response Plans**

Agreements and arrangements between the different agencies involved in Emergency Management are documented in plans. These plans are then endorsed by the appropriate NSW Government emergency management committee.

NSW State Emergency Management Plan December 2018

<https://www.emergency.nsw.gov.au/Documents/publications/20181207-NSW-state-emergency-management-plan.pdf>

Illawarra South Coast Regional Emergency Management Plan July 2018

<https://www.emergency.nsw.gov.au/Pages/publications/plans/Regional-plans.aspx>

Note: Part 5 is not shown in the public document for confidentiality reasons as it contains restricted operational information.

Eurobodalla Local Emergency Management Plan 2019

<https://www.esc.nsw.gov.au/living-in/about/emergency-information/Emergency-Management-Plan-2019.pdf>

Note: Part 3 is not shown in the public document for confidentiality reasons as it contains restricted operational information

### **Sub-Plans**

<https://www.emergency.nsw.gov.au/Pages/publications/plans/sub-plans/Sub-plans.aspx>

Sub-Plans are produced by the authority with the primary responsibility for responding to the particular threat, for example, the State Flood Plan is produced by State Emergency Service and the State Bush Fire plan is produced by the NSW Rural Fire Service

The relevant sub-plan for bushfire under a Section 44 declaration may be found at

<https://www.emergency.nsw.gov.au/Documents/plans/sub-plans/state-bush-fire-plan.pdf>

This sub-plan includes relevant references to the NSW Government working with the ADF and Federal agencies. It also covers emergency warnings issued by the RFS and evacuation.

## Supporting Plans

<https://www.emergency.nsw.gov.au/Pages/publications/plans/supporting-plans/supporting-plans.aspx>

Supporting Plans are produced by the relevant Functional Area Sub Committee. The SEMC is responsible for reviewing State and Regional Emergency Management Plans

**2. Any documents including implementation plans, milestone reports or other supporting documents which complement and give effect to the National Partnership on Disaster Risk Reduction in the State of New South Wales.**

Council has undertaken a literature review and provided links to the relevant Federal/State documents below. Council has had no direct involvement in the development of implementation plans which complement and give effect to the National Partnership on Disaster Risk Reduction in the State of New South Wales.

National Partnership Agreement on Natural Disaster Resilience 2020

<https://www.coag.gov.au/sites/default/files/communique/national-partnership-agreement-disaster-risk-reduction.pdf>

National Disaster Risk Reduction Framework 2018

<https://www.homeaffairs.gov.au/emergency/files/national-disaster-risk-reduction-framework.pdf>

NSW Critical Infrastructure Resilience Strategy 2018

<https://www.emergency.nsw.gov.au/Documents/publications/policies/NSW%20Critical%20Infrastructure%20Resilience%20Strategy%202018.pdf>

NSW Emergency Risk Assessment Framework July 2017

<https://www.emergency.nsw.gov.au/Documents/publications/ERM-framework.PDF>

Natural Disaster Resilience Program and Grants

<https://www.emergency.nsw.gov.au/Pages/emergency-management/Funding-Programs/Natural-Disaster-Resilience-Program.aspx>

**3. Documents which show current number of evacuation centres and resourcing to each of these evacuation centres within each Local Government in the State of New South Wales.**

The Welfare Services Functional Area is responsible for:

- Establishment and management of evacuation centres
- Provision of emergency accommodation and basic human needs

Further details are provided in the Welfare Services Functional Area Supporting Plan 2018  
<https://www.emergency.nsw.gov.au/Documents/plans/supporting-plans/Supporting-Plan-Welfare-Services-Functional-Area.pdf>

The Animal and Agricultural Functional Area is responsible for coordinating the housing of pets and companion animals of displaced persons.

Further details are provided in the Agricultural and Animal Services Functional Area Supporting Plan 2017.

<https://www.emergency.nsw.gov.au/Documents/plans/supporting-plans/Agriculture-and-Animal-Services-Functional-Area-Supporting-Plan-2016.pdf>

Council is responsible for making available existing facilities to be used for evacuation centres within the Eurobodalla LGA. These are identified in the Eurobodalla EMPLAN 2019.

Eurobodalla Local Emergency Management Plan 2019

<https://www.esc.nsw.gov.au/living-in/about/emergency-information/Emergency-Management-Plan-2019.pdf>

Note: Part 3 is not shown in the public document for confidentiality reasons as it contains restricted operational information

There are three primary Eurobodalla evacuation centres identified in the Eurobodalla. Details of these are provided in Part 3 of the Eurobodalla Local Emergency Management Plan. Part 3 is not shown in the public document for confidentiality reasons as it contains restricted operational information.

Information relating to evacuation centres is only made available for the specific event to ensure people are directed away from harm given the prevailing circumstances specific to the disaster at hand.

In this bushfire event, formal evacuation centres were established at various times at:

Evacuation Centre	Short term Capacity	Long Term Capacity
Hanging Rock Function Centre, Batemans Bay	125	70
Batemans Bay Basketball Stadium (co-located with Hanging Rock)	300	175
Mackay Park Function Centre, Batemans Bay	105	60

Moruya Showground Basketball Stadium	350	200
Narooma Leisure Centre	300	170

These facilities all have the advantage of having immediately adjoining open reserves to bolster evacuation capacity. At the peak of the evacuations to main town, reserves, streets and golf clubs were also used to temporarily hold people in cars, car/caravans combinations in the largest evacuations. Over nine thousand five hundred people formally registered for evacuation on one occasion with many more simply utilising available spaces within main towns to take respite.

Council has already recognised the important role that various clubs played in assisting during the evacuations. See previous submissions.

Displaced animals were temporarily housed at various locations including:

- Moruya showground
- Moruya high school
- Moruya showground
- Batemans Bay high school

It is important to note that evacuation centres also act as triage point to move evacuees into temporary accommodations, first by directing people to family or friends, and/or into temporary accommodation (such as motels, caravan parks and the like).

The evacuation of tens of thousands of people freed up accommodation within main towns to allow more people to be placed in temporary accommodation.

## Recovery

- 4. Key documents, such as recovery plans and recovery management frameworks, used to inform the recovery efforts following the 2019-2020 bushfire season and other natural disasters.**

NSW Recovery Plan November 2016

<https://www.emergency.nsw.gov.au/Documents/plans/supporting-plans/Supporting-Plan-Recovery-2016.pdf>

Southern Region NSW Bushfire Plan January 2020 attached

Eurobodalla Shire Council Bushfire Recovery Action Plan – April 2020 attached.

**5. Key documents relating to the use of Commonwealth funding for recovery used in response to the 2019-2020 bushfire season and other natural disasters.**

Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements 2018

<https://www.disasterassist.gov.au/Documents/Natural-Disaster-Relief-and-Recovery-Arrangements/disaster-recovery-funding-arrangements-2018.pdf>

Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements 2018 – Guideline 1 – An Essential Public asset

<https://www.disasterassist.gov.au/Documents/Natural-Disaster-Relief-and-Recovery-Arrangements/drfa-2018-guideline-1-an-essential-public-asset.pdf>

NSW Natural Disaster Essential Public Asset Restoration Guidelines 2018

<https://www.mpsc.nsw.gov.au/index.php/hot-topics/docman/council-meetings-ordinary-council-meeting/2019-1/1-january-1/1268-report-6-attachment-7-disater-funding-doc046154-nsw-essential-public-asset-restoration-guidelines-2019-01-24/file>



- 6. Any current Memorandum of Understanding (or other similar agreements) with Defence and/or the ADF that is used to plan for, respond to, or recover from, natural disasters, including any that may have applied in the local area during the 2019-2020 bushfire season.**

Refer to cross references within the NSW EMPLAN and associated sub-plans. Refer Q1 for links to those documents.

The emergency management processes used in this event required requests for assistance from the Australian Defence Force to be directed from the Emergency Operations Centre to the Regional Operations Controller (REOCON) and/or through the Regional Emergency Management Officer (REMO) to State level.

Council submitted requests as outlined under our response to Notice and Summons to Give Information NTG-HB2-263 Question 28 & 29.

**DRAFT**

**Recovery Action Plan**

**Southern Region**

**NSW Bushfires**

**January 2020**

# Southern NSW Regional Recovery Plan

Last updated: April 2020 – Version 4.0



## Purpose

- This Recovery Action Plan (the Plan) documents the arrangements to manage and coordinate the recovery from the bushfires affecting the Southern Region of New South Wales in December 2019 and January–February 2020.
- The Plan identifies the scope, impact, objectives, strategies, priorities and actions that underpin recovery operations. The recovery structure and considerations which underpin recovery efforts are documented.

## Scope

- The 2019/20 bushfire event caused damage to 12 Local Government Areas in Southern New South Wales, including Wingecarribee, Shoalhaven, Eurobodalla, Bega Valley, Queanbeyan–Palerang, Snowy-Monaro, Snowy Valleys Shire, Greater Hume, Wagga Wagga, Cootamundra–Gundagai, Upper Lachlan and Goulburn–Mulwaree.
- Local Government Areas (LGAs) on the South Coast were severely affected, as were parts of the Shoalhaven, large areas of Eurobodalla and Bega Valley and Snowy Valleys Shire. Queanbeyan–Palerang and Snowy–Monaro were affected to a lesser extent, in conjunction with some affected areas in Greater Hume, Wagga Wagga, Cootamundra–Gundagai, Upper Lachlan and Goulburn–Mulwaree.

## Impact

Lost buildings assessment (February 24, 2020)

Region	Destroyed	Damaged
<b>Southern</b>		
Residence	1621	685
Facility	202	109
Outbuilding	3667	1202

- Map of total losses by Local Government Area (4 April, 2020)

*Note: The attached map also covers some LGAs not part of this recovery region; Hawkesbury, Blue Mountains, Wollondilly and Oberon. OEM will need to eliminate those areas from the map*

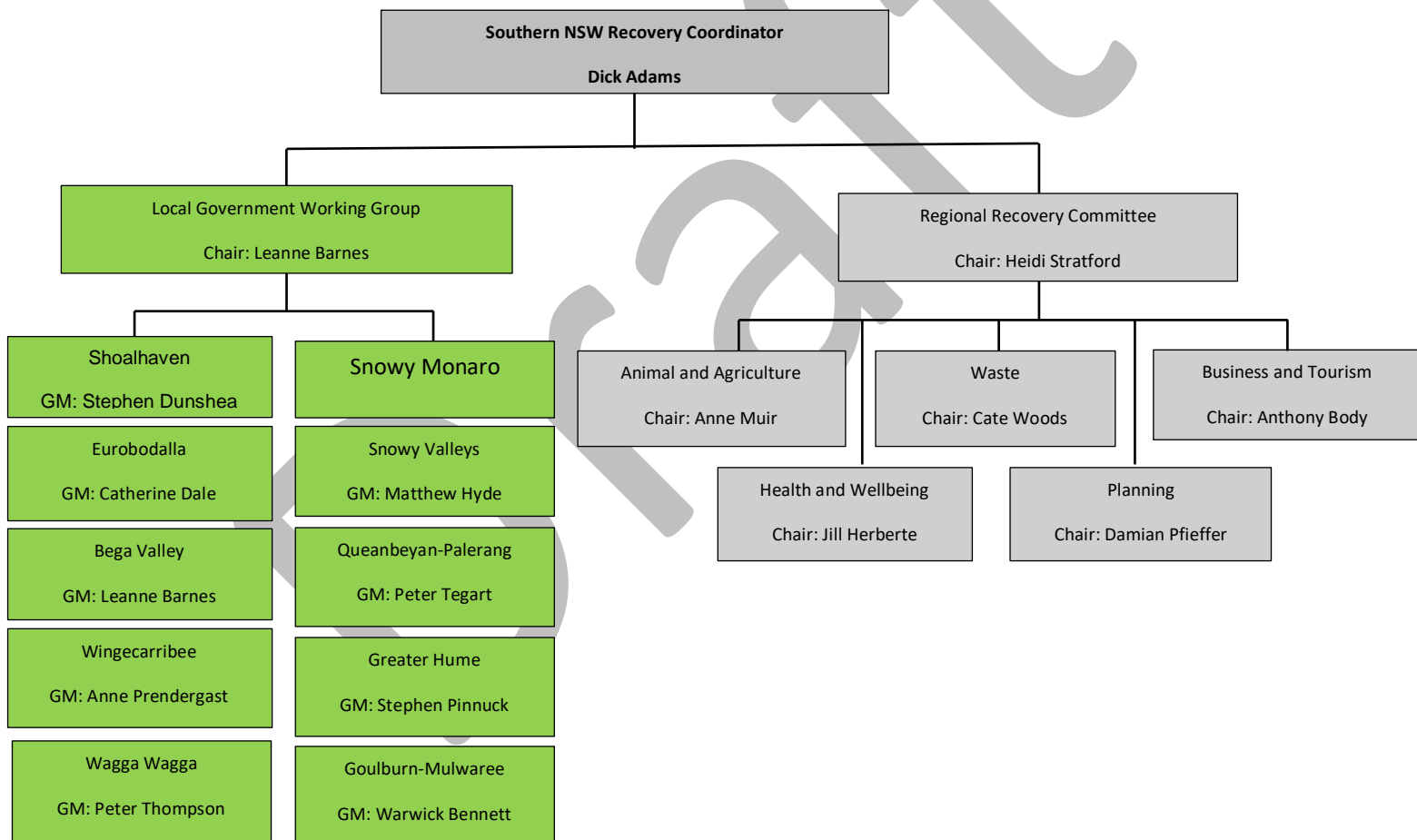
## MAP IN PREPARATION

Insert current impact map here

### State and Regional Recovery Governance Structures

#### State Recovery Committee

The Southern Region is one of four regions in NSW affected by bushfires. The Southern Region is represented under a joint state–regional structure. The Southern Region Recovery Committee also informs state recovery priorities, as outlined in the table below.



## **Southern Region Recovery Governance**

### **Southern Region Recovery Objectives**

The Southern Region Recovery supports communities affected by the 2019/20 bushfires in their return to normality. Its principal goals are:

#### **A focus on people**

To restore the social, economic, physical and mental well-being of communities.

#### **To restore and reconstruct infrastructure**

To stabilise infrastructure and commence the rebuild as soon as possible.

#### **The clean up and removal of waste**

Commence clean-up and waste removal safely, including the proper management of asbestos and the identification of existing licensed landfill facilities for the disposal of fire-affected material (FAM) and debris.

#### **To assist in animal welfare and agriculture**

Ensure animal welfare and assist the agricultural sector in returning to production as soon as possible.

#### **Help build community resilience and capability**

Empower and support community self-determination and recovery.

#### **Promote shared responsibility**

Recovery is a collaborative effort across community, all levels of government, the non-government sector, key stakeholders and partners.

To ensure the Southern Region Recovery Committee can work toward these goal, key roles and governance structures have been established.

## **Southern Region Recovery Coordinator**

Mr Dick Adams was appointed to the Southern Region Recovery Coordinator role on 3 January 2020 and brings a wealth of experience from his time as a former NSW Police Deputy Commissioner and State Emergency Operations Controller. Mr Adams previously led bushfire recovery efforts in Wyong, Lake Macquarie and Port Stephens as the Recovery Coordinator in 2013.

The Region Recovery Coordinator ensures recovery efforts meet the needs of impacted communities. The intent of the Region Recovery Coordinator is to enable affected communities to quickly return to an adequate level of functioning after a bushfire emergency. It is intended the recovery operation be:

- Inclusive and collaborative;
- Integrated and coordinated;
- Adaptable to changing community needs;
- Empowering and supportive of community self-determination; and
- Sharing the responsibility of recovery actions.

## **Southern Region Recovery Committee**

The Southern Region Recovery Committee (Region Recovery Committee) drives the recovery

by working with and supporting regional and local recovery efforts for communities impacted by the Southern NSW bushfires. It also develops and delivers a Southern Region Recovery Action Plan which guides priorities, resourcing and the delivery of well-coordinated recovery actions.

The Southern Region Recovery Committee:

- Ensures visibility, strategic planning and alignment of effort;
- Develops and coordinates a consistent approach to the implementation of the Southern Region Recovery Action Plan and Local Recovery Action. These plans align to regional and state assessments;
- Identifies priorities and resources required to assist with recovery operations, including short-, medium- and long-term responses;
- Ensures that relevant stakeholders, especially the communities affected, are involved in the development and implementation of recovery objectives and strategies and are consistently informed of the progress made;
- Identifies and manages regional and local recovery issues and trends;
- Ensures that recovery activities align with the NSW Government State Recovery Plan.

### **Local Recovery Committees**

Twelve Local Government Areas (LGAs) were directly affected by fire. Under the recovery, each LGA is required to establish a Local Recovery Committee to drive local recovery efforts.

A Local Recovery Plan for each LGA is provided to the Regional Recovery Committee for review. This ensures the most appropriate support is provided to the local community and identifies regional challenges and opportunities.

### **Service Delivery Model**

Agencies provided tailored assistance to individuals and communities according to an evolving service-delivery model. Disaster Welfare Assistance Points (DWAPs) provided a range of services at a central point where those affected can seek coordinated assistance.

The DWAPs transitioned into full Recovery Centres at four locations (Ulladulla, Batemans Bay, Narooma and Bega) in the region or operated as an outreach service model (services temporarily established in remote locations), depending on the requirements of the local government concerned. Recovery centres were run by local government staff in conjunction with state and NGO personnel. This model operated until its closure by COVID-19. Recovery services continued to operate via telephone extension overseen by local government and state recovery officers.

In addition to recovery centres and outreach servicing, regular community meetings were held across the region in affected communities. Any issues raised in these meetings were communicated to the Regional Recovery Committee.

## Why Southern Region Outreach-based Recovery Assistance?

Due to some geographical and cultural aspects of the Southern Region, an outreach style of service delivery was identified as most appropriate model at the earliest stages of this recovery. The need for outreach was primarily due to three factors; the remote nature of some smaller communities, the difficulty of travel between some locations and their major centres, and the lack of cultural identification between some centres. In addition to these factors, a strong sense of self-reliance and an attachment to locality in certain communities was a disincentive for people to seek assistance. The use of a centre-based model or an outreach style model was tailored according to the needs of each affected community. (Outreach models have personalised team visits to remote localities or mobile service centres present at set times in smaller towns and villages).

## Southern Region Key Challenges January – April 2020

Fire-severity mapping undertaken by Professor Ross Bradstock at the University of Wollongong (UOW) indicates that the 2019/2020 Southern Region Bushfire Event had the largest extent and the greatest severity of any prior bushfire event in NSW. The ecological impacts and the geographical extent of the Southern fires were greater than those on the North Coast. Data is still being collected and research is continuing, however advice provided by researchers at the UOW indicates that long-term damage is likely and that full ecological recovery is to be measured in decades.

The table below identifies the key recovery challenges faced in the period immediately after the bushfire operations were completed.

ISSUE	CHALLENGE
<b>Ongoing fire/flood activity</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Recovery efforts were delayed or not underway in some parts of the region due to ongoing fire activity and resourcing constraints.</li><li>• Rain events led to floods in certain areas.</li></ul>
<b>Impact and damage assessment</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Delays in assessments due to accessibility and ongoing fire activity in the region.</li><li>• Rain events causing flooding; these impacts also required assessment.</li><li>• Data capture and consistency became an issue as clean-up commenced.</li></ul>
<b>Restoring critical infrastructure</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Stretched infrastructure services had difficulty restoring critical infrastructure such as power, telecommunications, water and roads.</li><li>• Key industries in the region had immediate difficulty in restoring business continuity.</li><li>• Telecommunications in some areas still not available as of April 2020.</li></ul>
<b>Well-being and mental health</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Transitions between Disaster Welfare Centres to Recovery Centres were affected by the continuing bushfire emergency and subsequently COVID-19.</li><li>• The delivery of mental-health support services and the assessment of longer-term trauma, including the servicing of a continuing demand.</li><li>• Servicing the continuing need for temporary accommodation and assessing the need for short-, medium- and long-term housing.</li></ul>
<b>Water</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Ensuring accessibility to safe drinking water and establishing a reliable water supply.</li><li>• Protecting fire-affected water catchments and waterways from contaminated run-off.</li><li>• Replacement of water used in the fire-fighting operations.</li></ul>

<b>Clean-up and waste removal</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mobilisation of Public Works' Engineering Emergency Management teams.</li> <li>• Immediate stabilisation of asbestos and other toxic waste.</li> <li>• Completion of Building Impact Assessments on all properties.</li> <li>• Developing waste management strategies with local government for the disposal of demolition and construction waste.</li> <li>• Removal of dangerous trees.</li> <li>• Laing O'Rourke was announced as head government contractor to coordinate clean up.</li> <li>• Identification of usable waste facilities, both in the region and within reasonable transport distance.</li> </ul>
<b>Local Government capacity</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Varying capacity, experience and capability in LGA staff and differing levels of damage in the Southern Region.</li> <li>• Each affected LGA needs to be individually assessed.</li> <li>• General Managers Working Group established and working with the Regional Recovery Committee to identify and manage issues.</li> </ul>
<b>Economic recovery</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Small business and industry have been significantly affected by the Southern fires.</li> <li>• The State and Commonwealth provided a range of support packages and assistance, as did a number of NGOs.</li> <li>• The major employment industries of forestry, horticulture and dairy were heavily affected and require a long-term commitment to recovery.</li> <li>• Support for small business, including a Southern Fires Small Business Roadshow, rolling out across 12 LGAs. Support for small business in the region is evolving and has now been included in the COVID-19 response.</li> <li>• Service NSW assumed the role of providing information and a customer care model to assist bushfire-affected businesses.</li> <li>• State and Commonwealth government provided funding to Local Government to reinvigorate tourism in the region but this was subsequently overtaken by the COVID-19 lockdown. Effectively, tourism is still subject to COVID-19 lockdowns. There are continuing concerns regarding the mental health of small business owners and a request for specific mental health services.</li> </ul>
<b>Donated goods</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Unsolicited donated goods overwhelmed communities throughout the bushfire event. The Australian Defence Force (ADF) and later the NSW Police assumed a logistics-and-coordination role for donated goods.</li> <li>• Some communities wish to retain donated goods either for continuing distribution or in case of a future event. This has presented problems for local government, particularly where multi-purpose community facilities cannot be used because they are storing donated goods.</li> <li>• Due to the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, recovery centres have closed. This has stalled the implementation of the above strategies.</li> </ul>
<b>Resourcing</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Resources at both state and local government level were limited due to the continuing overlap of an extended response-and-recovery operation. In some cases, staff demand for evacuation centres, welfare centres and recovery centres intersected.</li> <li>• The Office of Local Government (OLG) was able to coordinate resourcing of experienced local government officers from the Sydney Metropolitan area to the region which greatly assisted local government in meeting this demand. State agencies were similarly stretched.</li> </ul>
<b>Briefing elected officials</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establishment of a formal Elected Officials Group of state and federal members, with regularly briefings from the Regional Recovery Coordinator.</li> <li>• The Elected Officials Group was active in identifying issues for the Regional Coordinator, assisting in the management of local politics and in communicating with constituents.</li> </ul>
<b>Regional recovery committee and associated structures</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regional Recovery Committee was operational throughout the event.</li> <li>• Six sub-committees were established, planning sessions were held with plans developed until April 2020. Review to take place after April 2020.</li> </ul>



<b>Impact of trauma – withdrawal from support</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Some concerns have been expressed that severely affected people are withdrawing from services. This is supported by some anecdotal evidence and some quantified data from Service NSW.</li> <li>• Withdrawal creates additional complexity for health and well-being support services, which has also been compounded by COVID-19.</li> </ul>
<b>Social-distancing measures</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• COVID-19 social-distancing requirements have disrupted the delivery of health and well-being services. It is unclear how effective the transition to telephone service delivery will be.</li> <li>• Key community development activities are important for healing and community-building. Such activities have been postponed, with COVID-19 social-distancing measures contributing to reduced attendance at recovery centres.</li> </ul>

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## Key Actions Completed January – April 2020

The six sub-committees have established key action plans to drive delivery from January–April 2020. Each sub-committee has state and local government representatives to ensure the actions are being delivered.

Industry groups have also joined the Business, Tourism and Primary Industry Sub-Committee to ensure industry views are represented.

Below is a list of key actions delivered from January–April 2020 (broken down by sub-committee) in collaboration with the State Recovery Committee, the Region Recovery Coordinator and Local Government.

CHALLENGE	ACTION	RESPONSE
<b>Waste Sub-Committee</b>		
<b>Waste</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Coordinate general and hazardous waste</li> <li>• Communities are requiring detailed information on waste clean-up and a calendar of approach</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Government approval of a Managing Contractor delivery model</li> <li>• In February 2020, Laing O'Rourke was appointed head contractor to undertake the clean-up.</li> <li>• NSW and Commonwealth Government announced that clean-up would cover both insured and un-insured residential properties (with some commercial businesses also being included).</li> <li>• Fire-affected residents and business owners register for clean-up with Service NSW.</li> <li>• Regional Recovery team ensure the coordination of landfill space, transport and waste disposal arrangements between local government, Public Works Advisory and Environment Protection Authority.</li> <li>• Waste arrangements for each LGA successfully negotiated at both municipal and commercial facilities. Laing O'Rourke clean-up is continuing across the Southern Region.</li> </ul>
<b>Business, tourism and primary industries</b>		
<b>Eden Wood Chip Mill</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Eden Wood Chip Mill was directly affected by fire. The company, Allied Natural Woods Exports (ANWE), is a major employer in the area, with direct and indirect</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ADF tasked with supporting RFS to extinguish the woodchip pile fire at the plant. This task was successfully carried out over several days.</li> <li>• ADF reconstructed water pollution recovery ponds and cleared access to the export log facility.</li> </ul>

	<p>employment of 1,600 jobs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Determining the medium/long-term impacts on the timber supply of this event will be critical in the recovery and sustainability of the industry.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Regional Recovery Team arranged for NSW Roads and Maritime to re-laminate the surface of the log yard.</li> <li>Laing O'Rourke are investigating the removal of damaged buildings (ANWE) as part of the state-funded clean-up.</li> <li>Regional Recovery Team negotiated the early opening of Edron Road and Imlay Road to logging trucks. This work brought the Eden facility closer to early operation and recovery.</li> <li>Regional Recovery Team made submission to Recovery Minister on the provision of generators, telehandler and infrastructure to enable ANWE to load ships for export.</li> <li>Regional Recovery Team made submissions to ForestCorp and EPA to open hardwood co-ops for ANWE to log and chip; and to DPIE regarding clean up of the mill facilities.</li> <li>The NSW government has recently announced a comprehensive support package for the hardwood industry.</li> </ul>
<b>Softwood industry</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Softwood industry in Snowy Valleys Shire was dramatically affected through the loss of a significant amount of its plantation resource.</li> <li>The industry in Tumut and Tumbarumba is a high-tech manufacturer of high-value construction timber, and fibre-based products papers and cardboards.</li> <li>The industry is a significant local employer, reliant on a small cohort of highly skilled workers.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Region Recovery Team met with Softwood Working Group, together with mill and fibre operators, and made submissions on skilled-worker retentions and freight subsidies to Recovery Minister.</li> <li>Forestry Corp. NSW has assisted in accelerating the salvage of burnt timber, which has secured short-term employment for up to 12 months.</li> <li>With a plantation harvest cycle of 25–30 years, viability of the industry will depend on the ability to source an economical supply of timber from out of area and an increased schedule of replanting over the next 10 years.</li> <li>\$46 million announcement by NSW Government, with financial injection to NSW Forestry Corp. to assist in infrastructure rebuild, employment and replanting.</li> <li>The NSW government has recently announced a comprehensive support package for the softwood industry.</li> </ul>
<b>Snowy 2.0</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Snowy 2.0 is a \$5.2 billion project, significant in ensuring the future</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Regional Recovery Team worked with Snowy Hydro and the LEMC to gain access to the Lobs</li> </ul>

	<p>national energy supply. The main works site and the village of Cabramurra were both affected by the Southern fires.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The loss of more than 35 accommodation units at Cabramurra left Snowy Hydro with a significant worker accommodation shortage which needs to be addressed in the short to medium term.</li> </ul>	<p>Hole construction site for construction operations to rapidly recommence.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>As a consequence of this swift action, the Snowy 2.0 project only experienced two weeks of lost construction time.</li> <li>Accommodation for workers in the region is an ongoing issue. The Snowy 2.0 State and Regional Coordination Groups are working on a solution in collaboration with Snowy Hydro and local government.</li> </ul>
<b>Tourism and hospitality</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The loss of the summer tourist season was felt across the region. Government moved quickly to encourage visitors to return to the region to support businesses to recover from the impacts.</li> <li>Effort was required to ensure businesses across the region were informed of the NSW government support available including advisory services and financial support.</li> <li>Evidence of business impacts was gathered through the roll-out of a wide-ranging business survey conducted by the Small Business Commission.</li> <li>The cashflow impacts to businesses enduring the fire period quickly became evident through the survey. The suitability and streamlining of available financial support to address this emerged as a significant issue that</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A joint initiative of Federal and State Government agencies delivered a series of business information events in 22 locations to provide information on the Service NSW Customer Care model, advisory services delivered by Business Connect, Federal Government loans and grants, access to training opportunities, mental health initiatives available to business owners, and the deferral of tax liabilities and reporting. The events were attended by 766 businesses, with 1,700 businesses supported through the Service NSW Customer Care program to date.</li> <li>The launch and promotion of a \$10 million Business Grant to assist businesses suffering the reported loss of revenue and cashflow impacts. Thirteen thousand (1,300) grants have been approved, equalling \$13 million in total.</li> <li>A total of \$13.09 million has been paid to recipients of \$50,000 Working Capital Grant to directly affected businesses.</li> <li>Local governments across the region were supported through the provision of \$2.5 million under the Bushfire Community Resilience and economic Recovery Fund Phase 1. Local governments have submitted a range of project proposals, mainly to host events to increase tourism to their areas. The projects will be delivered by end of 2020.</li> <li>The Country Shows Program was extended to communities across Southern NSW where shows had been cancelled due to fire, and later, COVID-19 impacts.</li> <li>The tourism industry was consulted through the hosting of forums by the NSW Destination</li> </ul>

	<p>required strong advocacy.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A Regional Roadshow of business support events was coordinated with the delivery of information through the Service NSW website.</li> <li>• Delivery of tourism round-tables and development of draft responses document.</li> <li>• Partnership with OEM and Local Government to embed business support and information dissemination in BAU through recovery centres and other appropriate locations.</li> </ul>	<p>networks in several locations to gather intelligence for the development of an industry-recovery strategy and provide information regarding business support, including the initiatives being delivered by Destination NSW and Tourism Australia.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The roll-out of regional visitor campaigns was supported through the efforts of the Destination networks and local government.</li> <li>• The longer-term recovery of the tourism sector is addressed in the refresh of the four priority Economic Development Strategies including Snowy-Monaro, Snowy Valleys, Far South Coast and Shoalhaven. The review is complete and addenda prepared for delivery of further support in the medium and long term.</li> </ul>
<b>Workforce</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Job losses and employment retention is a significant issue for all rural communities.</li> <li>• Southern NSW may experience loss of population due to potential lack of employment.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Training NSW have multiple courses scheduled for delivery by TAFE and other RTOs to provide skills for the clean-up.</li> <li>• Training NSW has commenced the development of a Regional Skilling Strategy for delivery in the medium term.</li> <li>• Regional NSW is working with the Federal Department of Employment, Education and Skills to develop new innovative approaches to upskill the tourism workforce on the coast.</li> <li>• Regional Recovery Team made submission on extension of TAFE programs, in collaboration with South Coast Trades and Labour Council, to Recovery Minister.</li> </ul>
<b>Animal welfare and agriculture</b>		
<b>Dairy industry</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The South Coast dairy industry was seriously affected by loss of life, stock losses and damage to infrastructure.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Region Recovery Team organised Victoria Police escort for milk and consumable deliveries to Bega Cheese from Orbest to ensure production.</li> <li>• Regional Recovery Team arranged for DPI to conduct loss assessments of individual dairy farms; submission made for dairy recovery scheme to Recovery Minister.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Key challenges for the industry included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Mental health and trauma issues</li> <li>○ Loss of herds</li> <li>○ Loss of fencing</li> <li>○ Stock feed issues</li> <li>○ Transport routes blocked due to fire impact</li> <li>○ Discarding of product due to spoilage and inability to get to market.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Blaze Aid established 12 camps across the region and assisted in providing labour and limited materials to restoration of fencing.</li> <li>• Regional NSW has coordinated linking affected farmers and NPWS to access fencing materials.</li> <li>• NSW DPI and LLS appointed Neil Moss, a dairy farm consultant, to provide support in the area and act as emergency dairy liaison officer based at the Bega Control Centre.</li> <li>• The Dairy Liaison Officer has contacted farmers and brought together different industry stakeholders (NSW DPI, LLS, milk processors (Bega Cheese, Lactalis and Saputo), NSW Farmers, Dairy Connect, Dairy Australia (and regional branch, Dairy NSW), local farm consultants and vets) to act in the immediate fire response.</li> <li>• Immediate issues resolved included: personal safety, coordinate and provide affected farmers with three days' worth of feed for the whole herd (together with LLS), distribution of donated fodder (then handed over to NSW Farmers), helped coordinate the arrival of generators on-farm so people could milk and issues around milk quality/animal health, management of biosecurity risks and coordination of volunteers.</li> <li>• Meeting held in Bega on 16 January 2020 to initiate recovery phase concentrating on fencing, water supplies, security, feed shortages and OH&amp;S due to burnt trees and mental health.</li> <li>• Collated technical advice and information relevant to dairy farmers is available on the DPI website under bushfires: <a href="https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/climate-and-emergencies/bushfires">https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/climate-and-emergencies/bushfires</a></li> <li>• Regular distribution of information collated by NSW DPI to key organisations such as Dairy NSW, Subtropical Dairy, Murray Dairy, NSW Farmer and Dairy Connect, as well as processors – including links with grants and advice.</li> <li>• Individual farmers in the Murray, Bega and Shoalhaven assisted with information on grants and support.</li> <li>• Dairy NSW is running a program called 'Taking Stock' to assist and discuss with farmers their options moving forward – now a 'modified</li> </ul>
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		<p>version' called 'Bushfire advice response consultation'.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dairy NSW have run events to assist in navigating through support. Also in attendance were Blaze Aid, Rural Resilience team members and RAMHP.</li> </ul>
<b>Primary-producer support</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support for those not eligible for current grants due to particular criteria, such as farmers with off-farm income, hobby farmers, indirectly impacted businesses, etc.</li> <li>Significant loss of fencing. Many farmers are requesting additional support with fencing, including donations of fencing materials, and fencing cost-sharing with public land management.</li> <li>A lack of resources for those who have not lost homes but are affected in other ways, for example, the effect of road closures on agricultural business income, the loss of future income and staffing (which includes the personal income for community members).</li> <li>Primary producer financial support criteria have not changed to recognise contemporary models of farm-succession planning., Many genuine primary producers are excluded from current Government support initiatives</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Developed the South East LLS Recovery Action Plan and the Communications and Engagement Plan to provide an overview of the planned recovery initiatives.</li> <li>Various methods of communications are being used to extend recovery message including newspaper articles, Facebook pages, newsletter (Regional LLS Circulars).</li> <li>Specific training developed and delivered by LLS staff for land managers to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>understand temporary erosion structures mitigating sediment run-off</li> <li>teach contractors, LALCs, and Council the process for installing coir logs in drainage lines post fires</li> <li>how to determine locations, safety and Aboriginal heritage</li> <li>encourage fire-affected landholders to monitor the regeneration progress, manage weeds and seek assistance with post-fire works when needed.</li> </ul> </li> <li>Provided support and participation in funding applications for erosion control works through coastal and estuaries grants.</li> <li>Delivered five workshops with Meat &amp; Livestock Australia addressing pasture recovery, livestock decisions and restocking options, marketing and managing integrity systems obligations after fires. 55 attended in Murray and 30 in Riverina. Also discussed MLA's Back to Business 1:1 advisory sessions and heard from DPIs Rural Resilience Officer and NSW Rural Financial Counselling Service (RFCS).</li> <li>Established a regular joint newsletter in Murray and Riverina affected areas covering topics such as pasture recovery, managing water quality, identifying potential erosion, assessing vegetation recovery, etc. This newsletter will be circulated when needed and does not have a set release day as of yet.</li> <li>Each Local Land service commenced the delivery of Australian Government's endangered species fire recovery grants addressing pest animals, erosion and water-</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provision of primary producer-specific assistance to negotiate/navigate assistance programs</li> </ul>	<p>quality issues directly related to threatened species.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Planning to deliver erosion management support in areas exposed to fire for landholders via two workshops (COVID-19 dependent), webinars, instructional video clips and one-on-one support to be delivered where appropriate.</li> <li>• Planning for delivery of feed budgeting and managing livestock through winter workshops (COVID-19 dependent) for areas where pasture recovery has not been sufficient to generate adequate winter feed.</li> <li>• Grants criteria to extend to those who are currently not eligible for the current agriculture grants and financial assistance. This is to include hobby farmers, farmers with off-farm income and the vigneron (grape-growers and winemakers) industry.</li> <li>• <b>Rural Financial Counselling Service</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Employed six additional rural financial counsellors.</li> <li>- Attending all Disaster Recovery Centres.</li> <li>- Tracking how many farmers RFCs have interacted with that have been bushfire affected and are currently at over 400 but expect that to increase now the new staff are on board.</li> <li>- Commenced marketing services in the bushfire-affected areas.</li> <li>- Working with PHN to develop a bushfire recovery pack.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• DPI, through the Rural Resilience Program, obtained funding through OEM to employ additional support workers. Due to commence late April.</li> <li>• \$209 million co-contribution of up to \$5,000 per km to repair/replace boundary fencing on private land adjoining Crown Lands.</li> <li>• As at 1 April 2020 the RAA had received 768 applications for Primary Producers' Special Grants and 281 applications for Special Disaster Loans from within the region.</li> </ul>
<b>Aquaculture and water quality</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The oyster industry is a significant and high-value industry on the Far South Coast. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Concern regarding post-bushfire water quality and the impact on aquaculture closure and supply impacts.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Regional Recovery Team worked with Local Government at Womboyn Lake and Lake Conjola to ensure that coastal lakes opened in accordance with estuary management rules after significant rainfall in February.</li> <li>• ADF tasked with installing water treatment for the Bega Water Supply.</li> </ul>



		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DPI coordinated a meeting with oyster farmers, NSW Food Authority, NSW Farmers Association and Ocean Watch to assess immediate and longer-term industry needs.</li> <li>• The Food Authority increased sampling for phytoplankton.</li> <li>• Fee waivers for eligible applicants and advice on assistance (State/Commonwealth/DPI) were provided to permit holders in a series of four industry updates.</li> <li>• Ongoing water-quality monitoring under a Food Agility CRC project.</li> <li>• Assisted with industry assistance and support workshops held in Merimbula and Batemans Bay (27–28 February 2020) with Ocean Watch and DPI Rural Resilience. Three Oyster Tasmania representatives spoke on their experiences after the Dunalley fires.</li> <li>• Working with oyster marketers and processors to assess industry marketing needs, including support for South Coast regional events: Eat at Merimbula and the Narooma Oyster Festival.</li> </ul>
<b>Horticulture</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Significant impact to the horticulture industry in the Snowy Valleys region, particularly around apple orchards and other types of fruit-growing.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regional Recovery Team developed a submission to Recovery Minister, regarding the provision of housing for bushfire-affected persons and seasonal works in the Batlow and Tumbarumba areas.</li> <li>• Announcement regarding \$3.5 million for dangerous trees and netting and a structure clean-up for Batlow and Bilpin by the Deputy Premier.</li> <li>• Research trials to be established to improve future tree-recovery processes and fruit-quality assessments.</li> <li>• Rebate of \$1,200 per producer/grower for smoke taint testing</li> </ul>
<b>Water access and quality assessment</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Water access – most rural dwellers and communities have experienced significant stress in accessing clean drinking water.</li> <li>• Water quality – expecting contaminated run-off and sludge given exceptional</li> </ul>	<p>Availability of funding for the provision of water to properties with contaminated water supplies due to the bushfires.</p> <p>Despite the community's need, this service was ended due to the lack of available funding outside of the S44 declaration.</p>

	<p>rains in early February. Concerns about the lack of alternative water resources.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continued demand from surrounding areas for replacement water tanks, water delivery and associated infrastructure.</li> </ul>	
<b>Health and well-being</b>		
<b>Local communities mobilising</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Conjola, Quaama, Mogo, Cobargo, Nerrigundah, Balmoral and Kangaroo Valley organised their own community meetings, support centres and local leadership.</li> <li>These communities have organised their own distribution and coordination of donations, welfare checks and community events and meetings.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Regional Recovery Team liaised with these communities and its work was ultimately included in RAP activities. In the first few days of the response and recovery, local self-determined action was useful, effective and well received.</li> <li>Local distribution centres closed as of 1 April 2020.</li> <li>The Office of Emergency Management (OEM) and local government recovery staff worked with community members to support local efforts, manage unsolicited donations and decommission community centres.</li> </ul>
<b>Unsolicited donations</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Unsolicited donations were a significant problem in the region.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Early in the event, ADF were tasked with establishing a logistics centre in Batemans Bay to handle the overwhelming number of donations.</li> <li>As the event continued, public messaging discouraging donations was undertaken (to some effect).</li> <li>NSW Police have now undertaken to remove and stockpile regional donations.</li> </ul>
<b>Temporary and transitional accommodation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Temporary and transitional housing for a range of cohorts is an immediate and ongoing priority.</li> <li>Work with Local Government and Department of Planning to develop a set of parameters and planning rules for temporary</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Regional Recovery Team were approached by numerous suppliers of temporary housing with philanthropic offers. It became difficult to assist local government through the many offers and demands.</li> <li>Disaster Recovery Office established a Temporary Housing Steering Committee. The Disaster Recovery Office negotiated with Mindaroo Foundation for the delivery of 100</li> </ul>

	<p>accommodation to avoid ad-hoc and crisis planning responses.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of philanthropic offers to build or provide temporary housing in the region.</li> <li>• The policy and programs regarding housing will need flexible solutions particularly in relation to rebuild illegal dwellings, community housing and housing the vulnerable.</li> <li>• Review of planning policy/legislation and regulation to ensure support for local government and a timely rebuild.</li> </ul>	<p>'disaster pods' across the state for temporary housing over a two-year period.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Amendments to the Codes SEPP will allow demolition of buildings significantly affected by bushfires as exempt development. These changes commenced 31 January 2020.</li> <li>• Exemption from Federal <i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act</i> has been obtained for activities undertaken on behalf of State and Local Governments related to fire-fighting and recovery.</li> <li>• The State developed a successful partnership with the Mindaroo Foundation to provide temporary accommodation pods to landholders in remote locations. A number of these pods have now been deployed.</li> <li>• EES has published a guideline for applying the Biodiversity Assessment Method on land impacted by severe bushfire.</li> <li>• The Planning Department has made amendments to <i>the State Environmental Planning Policy (Exempt and Complying Development Codes) 2008 (Codes SEPP)</i> to allow shipping containers for storage purposes for up to two years as exempt development (no council approval). These changes commenced 31 January 2020.</li> <li>• The Planning Department has made changes to the Local Government (<i>Manufactured Home Estates, Caravan Parks, Camping Grounds and Movable Dwellings</i>) Regulation 2005 (LG Regulation) which provides people more choice to decide where to temporarily live while they rebuild their home. The amendments allow the installation of a movable dwelling – such as a caravan – on land for up to two years. These changes commenced 5 February 2020.</li> <li>• The Department of Planning, Industry and Environment are waiving fees for BASIX and Planning Reform Fund fee.</li> </ul>
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<b>Mental health support</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Coordination of mental health and counseling services.</li> <li>• Equality of access for bushfire-affected people across the regions.</li> <li>• Longterm emotional well-being of community is a key priority and an increase in resourcing is needed.</li> <li>• Suicide risk is also consistently raised as an issue, although the anecdotal evidence presented to the recovery team at meetings does not align with actual data.</li> <li>• Outreach mental health and counselling is a medium- to long-term service where possible.</li> <li>• Community engagement and opportunities for socio-economic recovery and community-organised and centered activities, played and continues to play a significant role.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 12 Mental Health Bushfire Recovery Clinician positions have been created across the Local Health District: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ 5 in Southern</li> <li>○ 4 in Murrumbidgee</li> <li>○ 3 in Illawarra Shoalhaven</li> </ul> </li> <li>• In addition Recovery Support Workers will be placed in LGAs with the current proposal being: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Bega Valley – 8 positions</li> <li>○ Eurobodalla – 10 positions</li> <li>○ Wollondilly/Wingecarribee – 3 positions</li> <li>○ Shoalhaven - TBC</li> </ul> </li> <li>• The Primary Health Network has enhanced its Care Navigation Services for an initial four months. Three positions across McKillop Family Services and Barnardos will assist families to navigate and access services, particularly primary care supports.</li> <li>• The Local Health Districts and Primary Health Networks have commenced weekly meetings to coordinate responses to bushfire recovery and improve the service user experience.</li> <li>• 79 community grants up to \$10,000 each, were approved through the Primary Health Network to support community regeneration activities.</li> <li>• Southern NSW Local Health District has developed a Mental Health Recovery Contact Resource to assist in navigating the available supports.</li> </ul>
<b>Difficulty or ease of accessing relevant financial support</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Significant confusion and anger regarding the available financial support available from Government.</li> <li>• Large charities with significant donations also came under scrutiny for their disbursements, leading to anger within the community.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 30 Bushfire Customer Care Specialists have been employed with Service NSW to assist people to access available services and supports.</li> <li>• Service NSW has attempted to contact all bushfire-impacted people who haven't engaged with any support networks and will provide data on outcomes to each council and recovery support service.</li> <li>• OEM-funded Recovery Support Services are either finalised, in final approval stage or acquisition stage, depending on the location. Once commenced, the roles are intended to</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The financial disbursement of both Government and charities, and its perceived accessibility, has led to increasing accusations of fraudulent claims.</li> </ul>	<p>provide a consistent point of contact and to assist people in the navigation of available resources.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Australian Red Cross has expanded its criteria for the Primary Residence Repair Grant to include those with damage to outlying structural elements such as water tanks, septic tanks or private electricity poles.</li> <li>The NSW Police advised that fraudulent claims are actively investigated.</li> </ul>
<b>Local Government</b>		
<b>Waste and clean-up</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Immediate clean-up is a priority for local government and communities.</li> <li>Local government not to be worse off regarding waste facilities if required for bushfire waste and clean-up.</li> <li>Solution to tree and organic waste removal is required.</li> <li>Extension from 21 days to 90 days for clean-up and day labour.</li> <li>Data integration of bushfire impact assessment figures, local government, Service NSW and Laing O'Rourke data.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Waste and disposal arrangements were negotiated with LGAs by the NSW EPA</li> <li>Restoration of essential public assets was undertaken by Council under the Disaster Recovery Funding arrangements.</li> <li>Insured and uninsured private properties were cleaned up by Laing O'Rourke under contract to Public Work Advisory on behalf of NSW Government</li> </ul>
<b>Local Recovery Committees</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Each bushfire-impacted area established a local recovery committee and developed a local recovery action plan.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Each of the 12 LGAs impacted by the Southern Region bushfires has established a local recovery committee and local recovery action plan suited to their individual needs.</li> </ul>
<b>Local Government resourcing</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>OEM has provided temporary (until June 2020) funded Recovery Officer positions in 12 affected councils</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All councils have Recovery Officer positions in place, funded by the State.</li> <li>The State and Commonwealth are in the process of determining funding for Recovery Officers for up to 12 months</li> </ul>

<b>Economic development and industry rebuilding</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Individual council and industry sector work.</li> <li>Review of the Regional Economic Development Strategies (REDS).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Funding allocations have already been made to support events and reinvigorate tourism in the region. This will now need to be modified due to COVID-19.</li> <li>REDS consultations undertaken in Snowy-Monaro, Far South Coast, Shoalhaven and Snowy Valleys.</li> <li>Further work to be undertaken for Wingecarribee, Queanbeyan–Palerang and Southern Tablelands.</li> <li>Local Government represented on Regional Business, Tourism and Primary Industries Sub-committee.</li> </ul>
<b>Environmental issues relating to tree removal</b>	The removal of dangerous trees on private property is not covered by the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements. This led to some frustration among landholders.	<p>The ADF undertook tree removal on behalf of some landholders, particularly where trees were an immediate danger to residents' safety.</p> <p>Team Rubicon provided a service for tree removal in locations where they were present.</p>
<b>Local Government funding, rate relief and budget challenges</b>	<p>Continuing issues raised regarding the financial impacts of disaster recovery on local government</p> <p>In addition, residents raised issues regarding the financial impact of the requirement to pay rates by residents affected by the bushfire</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Advocacy work being done by individual councils and with Government members.</li> <li>OLG is working with councils on rate relief</li> <li>The State and Commonwealth have provided additional funding to affected Local government to support continuing operations.</li> </ul>
<b>Local Government elections</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Concerns that the local government elections to be held in September 2020 could be a distraction to the bushfire recovery and lead to a detrimental impact on the community.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>NSW local government elections delayed until September 2021 due to COVID-19.</li> </ul>

### **Southern Region Bushfires Medium – Long-term Actions**

As the bushfire recovery now moves from short-term reactive actions to longer term support, the Southern Region Recovery Committee is now looking to medium to long-term actions to assist communities to build resilience and return to normality. Key challenges include economic recovery, mental health, temporary/transitional accommodation, skill loss and rebuild.

It needs to be acknowledged that COVID-19 will further affect communities already suffering due to the bushfires.

The actions below are indicative of continuing government policy, programs and assistance packages to be delivered in the next six to twelve months. The work will continue to evolve and will require all levels of government to meet community needs and ensure targeted delivery.

### Key Actions next 12 Months

(S) – short-term action

(M) – medium-term action

(L) – long-term action

Sub-Committee	Action	Funding/Agency
<b>Business, Tourism and Primary Industries</b>		
<b>Tourism &amp; Hospitality</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Under the Regional Economic Development Strategies (REDS), a further review will be undertaken for Queanbeyan–Palarang, Southern Tablelands and Wingecarribee.</li> <li>Rebuild critical tourism infrastructure damaged in the fires including Selwyn</li> <li>Ski resort, key NPWS assets and walking and rail trails damaged by fire.</li> <li>Further support of Tourism business through Grants/Loans, targeted business support programs.</li> <li>The development and delivery of Tourism specific workforce strategy targeting upskilling.</li> <li>Targeted regionally specific campaigns to encourage international visitors in regional area of local and regional tourism chambers to coordinate high quality promotions.</li> <li>Map key road and rail infrastructure and priorities works to improve access.</li> <li>Use stimulus to improve key marine infrastructure such as harbours/marinas and boat ramps.</li> <li>Link agriculture-based tourism and food trails to key primary industries in the region.</li> </ul>	<p>Treasury/Department of Regional NSW</p> <p>Treasury/office of Small Business Commissioner</p> <p>DRNSW/DoE</p> <p>DNSW</p> <p>DoE</p> <p>Transport</p> <p>Transport/Mido</p> <p>Planning</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Deliver the Bushfire Workforce Strategy in collaboration with Training Services NSW.</li> </ul>	Continued development and roll-out of the Regional Re-skilling Strategy.
<b>Forestry Industry</b>		NSW Forestry Corp package of \$46M announced.

	<p><b>Rebuild and repair critical infrastructure.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide financial assistance to facilitate rapid and ongoing repair and rebuild</li> <li>• Provide financial assistance for landholders to repair and rebuild fences adjacent to State Forest. (S)</li> </ul> <p><b>Support fire-affected businesses</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase Forest Industries Innovation Fund (FIIF) to \$100M and expand criteria for eligible projects. (M)</li> <li>• Assist businesses including mills, forestry contractors, and landholders to repair or replace buildings and equipment and/or expand existing processing capacity. (S)</li> <li>• Provide financial support for re-training and skills development for at-risk employees. (M)</li> <li>• Provide additional rural financial counsellors for the forestry industry. (S)</li> <li>• Improve fire preparedness and risk mitigation. (L)</li> </ul> <p><b>Harvest, haulage, processing and storage</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide financial assistance for plantation and forest owners to offset higher costs and lower returns associated with dealing with burnt logs. (S)</li> <li>• Provide haulage subsidies to reduce the cost of transporting salvage timber to mills that have the capacity to process it or to mills that lie outside the normal supply zone. (S)</li> </ul> <p><b>Clean up, regeneration and re-establishment</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase the capacity of nurseries to support plantation re-establishment and access to seed/seed collection over coming years. (S)</li> </ul> <p><b>Longer term recovery needs</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Diversify use of forest land. (L)</li> <li>• Promote timber use and raise community awareness of its benefits through industry associations. (L)</li> </ul>	<p>NSW Government contributions to public land fencing – announced April 2020. Forestry Industry Support Package announced April 2020.</p>
<b>Wellbeing and Health</b>		
	<b>Develop a single access point for bushfire recovery mental health services. (M)</b>	Local Health Districts and Primary Health Networks Funding is required.



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This will involve a coordinated approach across the three Local Health Districts and two Primary Health Networks. This resource will likely require outsourcing, however there is no funding available to procure this service.</li> </ul>	\$100,000 one off + \$660,000 p.a. The ongoing funding commitment can be regularly reviewed in consideration of the demand for the service.
	<b>Enhance the Mental Health Capacity in the Sector. (L)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This involves successful recruitment to Bushfire Clinician roles, and implementing sector/community training or resourcing.</li> </ul>	Local Health Districts, Primary Health Networks and Australian Red Cross. Funding exists within the sector.
	<b>Streamlined client journey where people only need to tell their story once in order to gain access to the supports they need. (S)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Internal referral process between Service NSW, funded Recovery Support Services and Health services to be developed and implemented; considering data sharing arrangements, warm referrals, and cross agencies reviews/monitoring to ensure a seamless client journey.</li> </ul>	Service NSW, Local Councils, Department of Primary Industries, Office of Emergency Management, Local Health Districts and Primary Health Networks.
	<b>Implement positive communication campaigns promoting general health and wellbeing strategies. (S)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In conjunction with the regional communications subcommittee, seek to implement coordinated campaigns that reach diverse groups of people and promote strategies for individual and community recovery.</li> </ul>	Health and wellbeing subcommittee/communications subcommittee, in partnership with local councils and local subcommittees.
<b>Planning, development and environment</b>	<b>Increase access to Wellbeing Health In Reach Nurses (WHIN) for children/young people impacted by bushfire. (M)</b> Pilot 5 WHIN nurse positions within local schools across priority locations for a 2 year period	Local Health Districts and Department of Education \$1.3 million in funding is required. (\$130,000 p.a per position x two years x five positions = \$1.3 million)
	<b>Increase recreational activities for young people directly impacted by Bushfire. (S)</b> Provision for five- day/four-night recreational camps to provide young people and their families some respite, bring people together and have positive connections. This would include multiple camps at Berry, Jindabyne and Borambola with a total of 384 young people. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Positive/mental health wellness strategies will be incorporated with the assistance of partner agencies.</li> </ul>	Office of Sport in partnership with key mental health agencies \$212,914 in funding is required to support sports camps for 384 young people across bushfire impacted locations. (\$188,164 in operational costs + \$24,750 in transport expenses)
	<b>Increase locally driven community recovery activities/events</b> Develop a small grants fund of \$100,000 in each local government area to support the work of the Local Health and Wellbeing Subcommittee. Small grants would be allocated to projects in targeted communities that	Council partners as leaders for Local Health and Wellbeing subcommittees. \$700,000 in one-off funding is required to fund \$100,000 per local government area.

	promote purposeful community connection and social cohesion	
<b>Waste</b>		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Confirmation of waste facilities, volumes and timing (S)</li> </ul>	Public Works Advisory to provide confirmation to each LGA about the final decision for waste going to waste facilities.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Waste levy on cover material (S)</li> </ul>	Environment Protection Authority currently working on this matter and will communicate once resolved.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fencing material (M)</li> </ul>	Determine options for dealing with fire impacted fencing material.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>EPA to explore options for undertaking the workshop to resolve issues surrounding fire-impacted green waste.</li> </ul>	Department of Regional NSW (Public Works)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assess COVID-19 impact on the program to achieve substantial completion</li> </ul>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Monitor waste volumes / tonnages being deposited at various landfills.</li> </ul>	
<b>Local Government</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Monitor and report on Waste recycling.</li> </ul>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Disposal of tree waste and organics</li> </ul>	
<b>Animal and Agriculture</b>		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support the roll-out of the Animal and Agriculture State Recovery Plan, in particular key actions associated with extensive grazing, dairy, horticulture, aquaculture, viticulture, and apiary.</li> <li>Assist agencies and industry to incorporate bushfire recovery priorities into BAU activities.</li> <li>Ensure Rural Recovery Support is linked with similar support provided by local councils to urban/business communities as well as Service NSW and that there are appropriate referral pathways.</li> </ul>	DPPE – Local Land Services, DPI, Rural Resilience Program and key industry groups.

<b>Temporary Housing Action Plan</b>		

Cohort	Characteristics	Evidence/data	Current Actions (short term)	Potential (medium term)
Rebuild – Resident (urban)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Owner occupied dwelling destroyed, uninhabitable</li> <li>Temporary accommodation required offsite (rental, tourist park)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>BIA (PWA)</li> <li>SNSW registration</li> <li>LOR inspection</li> <li>LGA rates, property</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>DA fees (NSW and LGA) generally waived or discounted</li> <li>Temp accommodation SEPP</li> </ul>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Temporary accommodation required onsite (van, pod, shed)</li> <li>• Rely on SEPP for 2 year temp onsite</li> <li>• Require assistance to source temp pod</li> <li>• Require assistance with the planning process, DA's for permanent rebuild</li> <li>• Rebuild timeframe urgent</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Owner/resident Survey</li> <li>• Pathways to Home</li> <li>• DA support through local government (both for client and Council)</li> </ul>	
Rebuild – Resident (rural)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Owner occupied dwelling destroyed, uninhabitable</li> <li>• Temporary accommodation required offsite (rental, tourist park)</li> <li>• Temporary accommodation required onsite (van, pod, shed)</li> <li>• Rely on SEPP for 2 year temp onsite</li> <li>• Require assistance to source temp pod</li> <li>• Require assistance with the planning process, DA's for permanent rebuild</li> <li>• Rebuild timeframe urgent</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• BIA (PWA)</li> <li>• SNSW registration</li> <li>• LOR inspection</li> <li>• LGA rates, property</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mindaroo Pods</li> <li>• Possibility of building a shed on site to live – reverts back to shed (Planning requirements?)</li> </ul>	
Rebuild – Non Resident (holiday)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Holiday home, unit, cabin destroyed; unlettable.</li> <li>• Insurance cover variable</li> <li>• Rebuild for holiday or retirement</li> <li>• Rely on letting income for mortgage</li> <li>• Rebuild timeframe variable</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• BIA (PWA)</li> <li>• SNSW registration</li> <li>• LOR inspection</li> <li>• LGA rates, property</li> </ul>		
Rebuild – second homes/investors	<p>People who may want to rebuild – but have no rehousing time pressures.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• People who do not wish to rebuild</li> </ul>			
Farmers/Primary Producers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dwelling, sheds destroyed; unusable</li> <li>• Insurance cover variable</li> <li>• Temporary accommodation in nearby town</li> <li>• Temporary accommodation required onsite (van, pod, shed)</li> <li>• Want to rebuild on to the farm/property</li> <li>• Seek onsite or worker accommodation to operate farm</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mindaroo Pods</li> <li>• Possibility of building a shed on site to live – reverts back to shed (Planning requirements?)</li> </ul>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Require assistance with the planning process, DA's</li> </ul>			
Vulnerable	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>May have been living in illegal or substandard living conditions prior the bushfire or illegal dwellings.</li> <li>Could require additional support services other than housing.</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mindaroo Pods</li> <li>Recovery Support Case Managers</li> <li>Crisis support</li> <li>Holiday Rental Houses provided for bushfire victims</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Social/community housing options/bushfire</li> <li>Government could be a need to so funding for (not the last)</li> <li>Holiday se opens up - housing be unavailable (Dec 2020)</li> </ul>
Affordable/Community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Renting or living in community housing prior to the bushfire.</li> <li>Need to acquire affordable housing, risk landlords not rebuilding due to cost, could be a shortage of rental properties/affordable housing in the medium to long term.</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mindaroo Pods</li> <li>Recovery Support case Workers</li> <li>Holiday Rental Houses provided for bushfire victims</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Diverse m housing su</li> <li>Rezoning to allow di housing m</li> <li>Government could be a need to so funding for (not the last)</li> </ul>
Industry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Needs to key industries such as Snowy 2.0, horticultural, agriculture and forestry.</li> <li>Impact on tourism product and needs associated with rebuild and clean up to ensure not competing in rental market.</li> </ul>		Snowy Valleys Proposal on site accommodation in caravan park	Snowy 2.0 Accommodation
Business	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Destroyed building or business</li> <li>Flow onto retail and hospitality sector</li> </ul>			

## **Attachment A**

### **Agencies Represented**

Wingecarribee Shire Council  
Shoalhaven Shire Council  
Eurobodalla Shire Council  
Bega Valley Shire Council  
Snowy-Monaro Regional Council  
Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council  
Snowy Valleys Shire Council  
Wagga Wagga City Council  
Cootamundra -Gundagai Regional Council  
Upper Lachlan Shire Council  
Goulburn-Mulwaree Council  
Greater Hume Shire Council  
Office of Emergency Management  
NSW Police  
Department of Primary Industries  
  
Office of Local Government  
Australian Red Cross

Local Land Services  
NSW Health Local Health Districts  
Primary Health Networks  
Housing Providers  
Department Community and Justice  
Transport NSW  
Environment Protection Authority  
Planning and Assessments  
Regional NSW  
NSW Small Business Commission  
Destination Networks  
Business Chambers  
Aboriginal Affairs  
Public Works Advisory  
Department Environment, Energy and  
Science  
Community Industry Group  
Department of Education

Draft



## **Eurobodalla Shire Council Bushfire Recovery Action Plan**



**Updated April 2020**



The Eurobodalla Shire Council's Bushfire Recovery Plan will assist our community to restore confidence and strengthen resilience. This will be achieved by co-ordinating activities to rebuild, restore and rehabilitate the social, built, economic and natural environment at the Eurobodalla community.

### Event Summary

The Eurobodalla Shire Council Bushfire Recovery Plan was written in response to the 2019-20 Bushfire disaster.

The Eurobodalla community has been significantly impacted by the bushfires since the Currowan Fire started on 26 November 2019. Since then further extreme conditions on Tuesday 31 December 2019, Saturday 4 January, Friday 10 January, Thursday 23 January, Friday 31 January and Saturday 1 February 2020 saw heavy fire impact or heat conditions in our towns and villages, as well as rural areas.

The Currowan Fire started on 26 November 2019 burning through Shoalhaven and into Eurobodalla. The Incident Management Team (IMT) for this fire was based from Shoalhaven with support by the Far South Coast RFS and Shoalhaven and Eurobodalla Emergency Operations Centres (EOC). At the same time, the Black Range Fire near Braidwood was impacting our neighbours with direct liaison between the Queanbeyan Palerang IMT and EOC.

This fire progressed further west crossing the Kings Highway above Government Bend and on 30 December 2019 was renamed the Clyde Mountain Fire. The Badja Fire started on 27 December 2019 along with the Coondella Trail Fire and Big Belimbla Creek fires on 30 December 2019 joining as one.

A Section 44 Declaration under the Rural Fires Act 1997 was declared on 27 November 2019 and a Natural Disaster Declaration on 6 December 2019 for the Currowan Fire for Shoalhaven and Eurobodalla local government areas. A new Section 44 was declared effective on 30 December 2019 for the whole of Eurobodalla.

The Currowan Fire resulted in the loss of homes in early December 2019 north of Nelligen and in the lower Shoalhaven. These fires included significant impacts to arterial road access via both the Princes and Kings Highways, with consequent adverse impacts to the Eurobodalla economy and supply chains. The fire burnt along the Kings Highway for an extended period resulting in closure of the Kings Highway and limiting access to allow works for re-opening for an extended period. The Kings and Princes Highway are now open in the Eurobodalla area.

Subsequently all fires within Eurobodalla progressed rapidly eastward on the morning of 31 December 2019, with widespread damage experienced in the areas of Belowra, Nerrigundah, Tuross River Valley, Nelligen hinterland, Nelligen township, Runnyford/Buckenbowra areas, Mogo, Bimbimbie, Batemans Bay and coastal suburbs from



Broulee to Batemans Bay. Fires on 4 and 10 January 2020 progressed with damage to Merricumbene, Mogendoura Valley and upper Deua River. 23 January 2020 saw significant damage to rural properties west of Moruya and into as far as the Moruya industrial area on Yarragee Road. Severe fire days were also predicted for Friday 31 January and Saturday 1 February 2020, however these were tempered by the strategic firefighting implemented and more favourable winds with an easterly influence.

The Currowan, Clyde Mountain and Badja fires have burnt over 397,789 hectares of land and caused significant impact to Eurobodalla. Within Eurobodalla more than 271,000 hectares of our 343,000 hectares or 79% of our Shire has been directly fire impacted.

Impacts from these extraordinary fires within Eurobodalla include:

- the sad and tragic loss of three lives, one each at Belowra, Nerrigundah and Bodalla rural areas
- large numbers of stock and native fauna
- loss of more than two thousand buildings (outlined in more detail below)
- substantial damage to public infrastructure (roads, bridges, water, sewer, waste, public buildings and facilities, electricity and telecommunications infrastructure)
- significant impacts on business and tourism due to the disruption to the peak visitor period
- extended closures of the primary transport and access routes into and out of Eurobodalla with both the Kings Highway and Princes Highway impacted
- significant adverse health impacts, particularly the mental health of our community
- more than 96,000 hectares or 90.5% of our State forests burnt
- more than 127,000 hectares or 90.6% of our National Parks burnt

Building Impact Assessments confirmed the following property losses:

- 501 homes destroyed
- 80 facilities destroyed
- 859 outbuildings destroyed
- 274 houses damaged
- 49 facilities damaged
- 297 outbuildings damaged

There is a huge number of fire affected hazardous trees along fire affected roads as well as on public and private land that have been identified and removal has commenced. This also led to the closure of State forests and National Parks and the Eurobodalla Regional Botanic Garden.

The fires were managed by the Incident Management Team, which is led by the Rural Fire Service and supported by NSW Forestry and National Park and Wildlife Service (NPWS) coordinating the firefighting response. The Incident Management Team is supported by a multi-agency team through the Eurobodalla Emergency Operations Centre (EOC).

The EOC comprises of representatives from NSW Police, Eurobodalla Shire Council, Essential Energy, NSW SES, NSW Ambulance, NSW Disaster Welfare, NSW Local Health District, Transport for NSW, NSW Department of Primary Industries, Agriculture and Animal Services and NSW Local Lands Services. Council is a key member of the EOC providing support to the Incident Management Team.

The fires have had a significant and sustained impact on our community. The devastation, fear and concerns, those families who have lost loved ones, those who have lost properties, prepared their houses, evacuated, business impacts and the tourists required to leave as well as the acts of kindness, generosity and comradery; all have created unique and individual impacts and experiences.

The impact in the short and long term will be very significant and addressing the issues of mental health and wellbeing are vitally important.

## NSW Response to Recovery

The NSW Government appointed Mr Dick Adams as the Southern NSW Recovery Coordinator. Following is the structure for Regional Committee reporting through to the State Recovery Coordinator.

## Regional Recovery Committee

The NSW Government brings all key agencies to work with Eurobodalla to assess damage and needs, to ensure that critical stages of recovery are undertaken.

The Regional Recovery Committee operates across the following local government areas covering:

Bega Valley	Eurobodalla	Shoalhaven
Goulburn Mulwaree	Greater Hume	Snowy Valleys
Snowy Monaro	Queanbeyan Palerang	Wingecarribee
Wagga Wagga		

The membership of this regional committee is broad with representation from the following organisations:

Councils	NSW Environment Protection Authority
NSW Rural Fire Service	NSW Public Works Advisory
NSW Police	Family and Community Services
NSW SES	Insurance Council of Australia
South East Regional Health	Department of Premier and Cabinet
Transport NSW	Office of NSW Minister Andrew Constance, Local Member for Bega
NSW Regional Infrastructure	Office of Emergency Management

The Regional Committee is supported by regional sub-committees. The following committees and Council's representatives are outlined below:

Committee	Council representative
Health and wellbeing	Kathy Arthur
Business and Tourism	Lindsay Usher
Waste	Amanda Jones
Planning	Lindsay Usher
Local Government	Dr Catherine Dale
Animal and Agriculture	Warren Sharpe OAM
Communications	Kellee Pisanos

## Eurobodalla Recovery Action Committee

Council established a Local Government Recovery Committee on 22 January 2020.

The key areas of focus are:

- Assist the community to restore confidence and strengthen resilience. This is achieved by coordinating activities to rebuild, restore and rehabilitate the social, built, economic and natural environment of the Eurobodalla community.
- Develop and coordinate the implementation of the Recovery Action Plans (with an agreed transition/exit strategy) that aligns with local assessments and plans.
- Ensure that relevant stakeholders, including relevant Government agencies, are involved in the development and implementation of recovery objectives and strategies and are kept informed of progress made.
- Identify, and proactively manage local and regional recovery issues and trends.
- Ensure that recovery activities are in line with the NSW Recovery Plan (<https://www.emergency.nsw.gov.au/Documents/plans/supporting-plans/Supporting-Plan-Recovery-2016.pdf>).

Membership of the local committee includes:

Council's Executive Leadership Team	Department of Premier and Cabinet
NSW Public Works Advisory	NSW Health
NSW Rural Fire Service	Local Land Service
Family and Community Services	NSW Police
Office of NSW Minister Andrew Constance, Local Member for Bega	NSW Emergency
Office of Emergency Management	Grand Pacific Health
NSW Environmental Protection Authority	Small Business Commission
Australian Defence Force	Coastguard

The objectives of the committee include:

1. Assess damage and needs
2. Reconstruct and restore physical infrastructure
3. Ensure support for emotional, social, economic and physical wellbeing
4. Adapt to a changed natural environment
5. Build community resilience and capability.

The Local Recovery Action Plan outcomes outlines the priorities and actions of the Eurobodalla Local Government Recovery Action Committee. This is a working document and is updated regularly.

## **Recovery**

It should be recognised that the Recovery Phase involves a whole of community, government, business association, private entities and not-for-profit organisational response. This Plan focuses on the activities that have a direct Council involvement of the facilitation role. There are many other programs that community and business groups are conducting, and these activities are integral to a holistic approach to community lead recovery.

Working alongside NSW Government agencies and in collaboration with other councils, activities and strategies have been implemented to rebuild Eurobodalla's social, built, economic and natural environment. These recovery actions are identified in the following action plan outcomes and links with Council's Operational Plan 2020-21.

In addition, a key focus is also placed on advocating to the Australian and NSW Governments for critical resilience strategies to be identified, funded and implemented for major infrastructure including telecommunication systems, power supply, regional transport links, water and sewerage systems, hospitals and schools, emergency operations and evacuation centres. We will also urge the Australian and NSW Governments to assist in improved business continuity - in particular alternate power supply - for fuel service stations, major food retailers and aged care facilities.

### **Social recovery**

A natural disaster of this magnitude impacts the wellbeing of the whole community in a myriad of ways. Council is working with a range of government departments and non-government agencies to support those directly impacted by fires and to identify challenges and potential solutions. This included providing management and staff for the Eurobodalla Recovery Centre in Batemans Bay, the recovery point in Narooma, and an ongoing outreach program that aims to provide practical help and answer the questions of property owners who have lost their homes.

Our advocacy was instrumental in bringing forward the opening of a Headspace youth mental health centre planned to open in Batemans Bay in May 2020, and Council has taken a lead role in galvanising youth sector workers to develop and implement a youth recovery plan.

A letter from the Mayor to non-resident ratepayers resulted in more than 80 holiday homes becoming available for emergency housing. A Disaster Relief Fund was established to provide direct assistance to those who need it most, and continues to attract donations.

Community recovery will be considered in the delivery of Council's arts, recreation and community services, including our popular children's and youth services, and community care for the elderly and people with disabilities.

### **Built environment recovery**

Council's program of work will prioritise rebuilding or improving key Council infrastructure damaged or destroyed in the fires, including 17 bridges that provide vital access to Eurobodalla's rural communities west of the highway.

Damaged road surfaces, guideposts, guardrails, signposts all require repair, along with water and sewer infrastructure including the new low-pressure sewerage system at Rosedale, which was extensively damaged.

Council's waste management facilities at Surf Beach and Moruya were significantly impacted by fire and were closed to the public for extended periods.

An agreement was reached with the NSW Government to dispose of fire-impacted demolition waste using the shire's three waste management facilities. Permission for a three-metre high overtop on Surf Beach facility will create an additional 100,000 cubic metres of landfill, or the equivalent of four years' capacity under normal circumstances. The arrangement allows the bushfire clean up to take place efficiently while making sure the community's regular waste management needs can be met in the coming years. The agreement sees the Australian and NSW government's take up the cost and resourcing of the facilities until the end of June 2020 when the government's contractor predicts the clean-up work will be substantially finished. We expect to receive more than seven years' amount of waste in those four months.

Council worked with the NSW Government to swiftly develop new planning provisions that allow people affected by bushfire to establish temporary accommodation like caravans on their property, or shipping containers for storage, without the need for council approval. Council is providing free Bushfire Attack Level assessments for those rebuilding, and has established a fast track for DA approvals including a streamlined process and extra assessment staff.

### **Economic recovery**

Eurobodalla's business community and the tourism industry have been hard hit. Up to 15 commercial businesses were destroyed or damaged by fires, particularly focused in Mogo. The indirect impacts of the Kings Highway closure from mid-November and the tourism exclusion zones and Princes Highway closures during the height of the fires meant the summer peak season was lost. Tourism is Eurobodalla's largest industry, normally injecting \$464 million into our economy each year. Data for December and January showed the fires and associated road closures cost the shire's economy around \$130 million in trade and 900 jobs. Many primary producers were directly fire impacted, while growers faced low demand and freight challenges.

NSW and Australian government grants and loans for fire impacted businesses were forthcoming, however in some cases the process and eligibility requirements were onerous. Strong advocacy for more business support led to the expansion of the program in March. The first three weeks of March were extremely positive for tourism and forward bookings were excellent, however, the announcement of the COVID-19 pandemic saw dramatic cancellations. A solid program of business recovery support developed by Council and funded by NSW and Australian governments will require ongoing review as the COVID-19 situation unfolds.

### **Natural environment recovery**

Council's sustainability team has joined forces with local agencies like WIRES and Local Lands Services to support our natural environment post-fires. Early on, wildlife feeding stations were set out across the shire, nesting boxes have gone up in burnt areas to support habitat, and erosion control work has helped manage the destruction caused by weeks of fires followed by flooding. Our community sees hope in nature, and we have put a focus on educating residents about how the bush will regenerate, and what they can do in their own backyards to attract wildlife.

Practical assistance has included free inspections of onsite sewer management systems on fire impacted properties to ensure environmental controls are maintained, and providing environmental health staff to assist Public Works inspections of impacted properties immediately after the fires.

Council has advocated for funding and support to manage environmental issues, and for a regional approach to prioritise works across south east NSW.

### *Government funding*

The NSW and Australian governments provided immediate disaster relief direct to fire-impacted councils – for us, \$1.4M as well as \$250K. We are working through a program of recovery actions to best benefit the community. COVID-19 will attract further stimulus funding and the recovery program will no doubt be a work in progress as more funding comes in and different needs are identified.

### *Stronger together*

Every person in the Eurobodalla has felt the impact of the bushfire disaster. Throughout this difficult time, our community has shown courage, resilience, humility and compassion. Taking the lessons learned, Council staff and councillors will work alongside residents to rebuild our beautiful place. We are stronger together.

### **Conclusion**

The Local Recovery Action Plan outcomes outlines the priorities and actions of Council, working with the Eurobodalla Local Government Recovery Action Committee. This is a working document and will be updated regularly.

Health and Wellbeing				
	Objective/Community Need	Recovery Actions	Timeframe	Responsible Agency/s
1	<p>Immediate health, wellbeing and general recovery supports, funding and services are made available locally to the community in an accessible, timely manner</p> <p>Operation Plan (OP) Link: 1.2.1.1 and 2.2.1.1</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Set up the Local Recovery Centre and train ESC employed staff to coordinate the service and register households.</li> <li>Advocate to ensure the appropriate services and agencies are available at the Recovery Centre and remain in attendance.</li> <li>Support provision of a crèche at the Recovery Centre to support families.</li> <li>Provide free transport to community members to enable them to attend the Recovery Centre.</li> </ul>	15 January – 18 March 2020.	<p>Council</p> <p>Office of Emergency Management</p>
2	<p>Opportunities for fire impacted communities to meet together and access information and service providers in their own neighbourhood provided using a community led model</p> <p>OP Link: 1.4.1.1, 1.4.2.2, 1.5.1.1 and 1.5.1.2</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Engage with community members in fire affected towns, suburbs and localities to determine preferred approach (eg. Pop up, community meeting).</li> <li>Meeting or pop up services organised, promoted and run, with key agencies and providers invited to meet stated community needs</li> <li>Follow up actions addressed to strengthen trust, including provision of sandwich boards and community noticeboards</li> <li>Provide Bushfire Recovery Helpdesk.</li> <li>Develop virtual community outreach via Council's website and social media platforms.</li> </ul>	From 29 January 2020 – ongoing.	<p>Council</p> <p>Office of Emergency Management</p>
3	<p>Provision of a comprehensive case management service to support community members to address complex situations and achieve a successful long-term recovery</p> <p>OP Link: 1.4.1.1, 1.4.2.2, 1.5.1.1 and 1.5.1.2</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Put proposal for case management service to NSW Office of Emergency Management (OEM)</li> <li>Implement proposed case management support service, including recruitment, leasing of premises, service mapping and outreach.</li> <li>Monitor and reporting of case management support service, in line with contract requirements.</li> </ul>	From May/June 2020. Initial 12 month contract.	<p>Council</p> <p>Office of Emergency Management</p>



## Health and Wellbeing

	Objective/Community Need	Recovery Actions	Timeframe	Responsible Agency/s
4	<p>Community development and recreational projects (operational and capital) to support social, cultural and economic recovery</p> <p>OP Link: 1.3.2.3 and 2.2.1.1</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Preparation of a comprehensive evidence-based program of community development, arts and cultural and recreational programs that provide social and economic benefits towards recovery</li> <li>• Enhanced rebuild of the Captain Oldrey amenities building to support fire affected and high growth area of the shire.</li> <li>• Waiving event fees, free internet, scanning and photocopying at libraries.</li> </ul>	From May/June 2020. Ongoing for 12 to 18 months.	Council
5	<p>Improve functionality and accessibility of Council's designated evacuation centres</p> <p>OP Link: 1.3.2.3</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improve and upgrade amenities, including showers and toilets at the designated Narooma and Moruya evacuation centres, as well as adjacent Council owned facilities that are required during significant evacuations.</li> <li>• Improve resilience and functionality of evacuation centres, to connect generators, kitchen equipment and Work Health Safety matters.</li> </ul>	2020 - 2021	Council
6	<p>Provide regulatory services in response to health and safety concerns arising from the fires</p> <p>OP Link: 1.1.2.3 and 3.4.1.1</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Respond to Customer Service Requests and general complaints regarding public health and safety issues related to bushfires.</li> <li>• Provide advice on environmental health issues including contaminated sites (asbestos)</li> </ul>	Ongoing	Council

## Business and Tourism

	Objective/Community Need	Recovery Actions	Timeframe	Responsible Agency/s
1	Implement Priority 5 of the Eurobodalla Destination Action Plan (EDAP)- tourism product and experience development  OP Link: 5.3.1.3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Seek funding for southern food trail</li> <li>• Work across region with Destination Southern NSW and neighbouring councils in cross border projects – Food Trail, Canberra Coast Walk, Southern Drive</li> <li>• Undertake audit of scenic drives affected by fire to review content and identify opportunities to enhance particularly with tourism wayfinding.</li> <li>• Develop training program for businesses to increase online presence.</li> </ul>	Commenced.  March 2020 – July 2021	Council  National Parks and Wildlife Service  Destination Southern NSW
2	Focus the implementation of the Nature Based Tourism Study on key category 1, 2 and 3 projects  OP Link: 5.3.1.4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify Category 2 short term Nature Based Tourism micro-infrastructure projects</li> <li>• Category 1 - Continue to work with National Parks and Wildlife Service on implementation of Murramarang South Coast Walk</li> <li>• Category 3 - Seek funding for the Coastal Headlands Walk.</li> </ul>	Commenced	Council  National Parks and Wildlife Service
3	Implement Priority 4 of the EDAP - Destination Investment and Development  OP Link: 5.3.1.3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue planning and design for Batehaven – Corrigan’s – Observation Point precinct.</li> </ul>	June 2021	Council
4	Economic Development Strategy Priority 4 and EDAP Priority 3 and 4 - Prioritise the attraction of investment to centres impacted by fire  OP Link: 5.3.1.3 and 5.1.1.3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mogo rebuild project – master plan impacted properties – including assessment of parking requirements and linkages and identification of commercial opportunities related to Mogo Trails Hub</li> <li>• Seek funding for Mogo Trails network</li> <li>• Build Mogo Pathway</li> <li>• Provide financial support to local Chambers of Commerce.</li> </ul>	December 2020	Council
5	Implement Priority 7 of EDAP with a focus on bushfire recovery marketing OP Link: 5.3.1.3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implement a bushfire recovery marketing strategy focusing on bringing visitors back to the shire.</li> </ul>	Ongoing	Council

## Business and Tourism

	Objective/Community Need	Recovery Actions	Timeframe	Responsible Agency/s
6	<p>Implement Priority 1 of Economic Development Strategy and EDAP Priority 2 - Industry engagement and development</p> <p>OP Link: 5.3.1.3 and 5.1.1.3</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Commence implementation of the industry development bushfire recovery plan in collaboration with chambers and other industry stakeholders.</li> </ul>	April 2020	<p>Council,</p> <p>Local Business Chambers</p> <p>Business Council of Australia</p> <p>Service NSW</p> <p>Destination Southern NSW</p>
7	<p>Implement Events Strategy with focus on bushfire recovery</p> <p>OP Link: 5.3.2.1</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support hallmark events with grant applications</li> <li>Seek to establish and seek funding for a new Taste Eurobodalla event with a focus on industry development opportunities.</li> <li>Ensure event development support remains consistent with Events Strategy</li> <li>Creation of events calendar to improve connectivity and enhance recovery.</li> </ul>	Ongoing	Council
8	<p>Implement Priority 3 of the Economic Development Strategy - retain and improve local employment opportunities</p> <p>OP Link: 5.1.1.1, 5.1.1.2 and 5.1.1.3</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Work with local businesses and chambers to attract local employment and training</li> <li>Seek government support for employment initiatives.</li> </ul>	Ongoing	<p>Council</p> <p>Local Business Chambers</p> <p>Business Council of Australia</p> <p>Service NSW</p> <p>Destination Southern NSW</p>

## Business and Tourism

	Objective/Community Need	Recovery Actions	Timeframe	Responsible Agency/s
9	Reopen Eurobodalla Regional Botanic Gardens  OP Link: 1.3.3.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Demolition and clean-up of debris</li> <li>Replace entry bridge</li> <li>Repair replace other infrastructure.</li> </ul>	Continuing – reopening late June 2020	Council
10	Undertake research and evaluation of bushfire impact of visitor economy and communities – EDAP Priority 3.  OP Link: 5.3.1.3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Seek funding to procure and utilise Spendmap</li> <li>Seek funding to procure and utilise PlaceScore to deliver a clear evidence base for planning and investment in our communities' post bushfire.</li> </ul>	Ongoing	Council
11	Undertake food inspection program and provide advice to food shops  OP Link: 1.1.2.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide inspection and advice services around relevant hygiene requirements</li> <li>Provide 1 free food compliance inspection to each food business.</li> </ul>	Ongoing	Council
12	Support the business community through waiving of fees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support accommodation providers with public swimming pool inspection fees</li> <li>Support café and retail businesses through outdoor licensing fees exemption for 6 months.</li> </ul>	Ongoing	Council

Waste				
	Objective/Community Need	Recovery Actions	Timeframe	Responsible Agency/s
1	Build, renew, operate and maintain waste landfill sites and transfer stations  OP Link: 4.2.1.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Extinguish fire in landfill cells and green waste stockpiles</li> <li>Operate without power or communication</li> <li>Repair damage to site – Surf Beach - cell liner</li> <li>Moruya Transfer Station – fire in stockpiles</li> <li>Repair damage to site – Moruya – power</li> <li>Repair damage to site- Moruya – power internal</li> <li>Repair damage to site –Moruya –retaining wall</li> <li>Increase capacity to resources of SurfBeach and Brou Tips to manage bushfire clean up waste.</li> </ul>	2/3 weeks complete 4 weeks complete 2-3 months in progress 2 weeks complete Complete 2 weeks in progress 1 month in progress	Council  Essential Energy
2	Manage kerbside collection  OP Link: 4.2.1.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Redirect collection vehicles to available sites</li> <li>Arrange for missed services to be picked up when roads closed due to fire are open</li> <li>Additional green waste pick ups</li> <li>Additional litter service at evacuations centres</li> <li>Replace burnt bins.</li> </ul>	2-3 months in progress	Council
3	Coordinate Clean Up Australia day activities  OP Link: 4.2.3.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Initiate a different approach to clean up due to waste exposed by bushfires.</li> </ul>	1 March 2020-complete	Council
4	Bushfire Clean Up  OP Link 4.2.1.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Work with NSW Government to ensure bushfire affected properties are cleaned up.</li> </ul>	Ongoing	Council Public Works

Planning				
	Objective/Community Need	Recovery Actions	Timeframe	Responsible Agency/s
1	Bushfire safety and fast approval process. Knowledge of expected Bushfire Attack Level (BAL) outcome will assist with fast tracking applications.  OP Link: 6.2.2.1, 6.2.1.2, 6.2.2.2, 6.2.2.3 and 6.2.2.4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Issue BAL certificates at no cost or significant reduction.</li> </ul>	Ongoing – 1 year	Council
2	Bushfire recovery fast track team  OP Link: 6.2.2.1, 6.2.1.2, 6.2.2.2, 6.2.2.3 and 6.2.2.4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dedicated team for enquiries, Bushfire Attack Level certificates and assessments to ensure smooth and efficient process.</li> </ul>	Ongoing – initially one year	Council
3	Advocacy on bushfire controls  OP Link: 6.1.1.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Precinct wide assessment of hotspots such as Rosedale, Guerrilla Bay.</li> </ul>	6 month period. To start in future. Maybe July	Council  NSW Rural Fire Service
4	Advocacy on biodiversity controls  OP Link: 6.1.1.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensure new houses meet current standards and achieve best practice for Asset Protection Zone and other bushfire protection measures.</li> </ul>	3 months	Council  Department Planning, Industry and Environment
5	Planner assistance  OP Link: 6.2.2.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Additional resources to cope with recovery action resourcing.</li> <li>Assistance with DA assessment (~\$400 per household).</li> </ul>	1 year	Council  South east Councils
6	Newsletters/ Forums  OP Link: 6.2.1.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensure new information gets out to industry.</li> </ul>	Next 6 months.	Council

Planning				
	Objective/Community Need	Recovery Actions	Timeframe	Responsible Agency/s
7	Undertake biosecurity programs (weeds and pests)  OP Link: 3.2.1.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Seeking funding and support for weed control and feral animal control.</li> <li>Provide extension and site inspections for farms to assist in managing weeds associated with fodder drops.</li> </ul>		Council Local Land Services Land Managers
8	Assist Landcare and community groups and projects  OP Link: 3.2.2.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Supporting WIRES with water and feed stations. DPIE provided short term staffing support.</li> <li>Supporting Landcare and groups.</li> </ul>	Multiple grant submissions underway	WIRES Council Landcare
9	Plan and implement environmental protection and restoration program  OP Link: 3.2.2.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Coordinating a regional grant under Department Planning, Industry and Environment for the south east councils to develop and identify high risk sites for remediation works.</li> <li>Facilitate land managers to determine who, how and when actions can be implemented.</li> <li>Sediment and erosion works completed through Local Land Service funds of \$50 000 with Council and Batemans Bay Local Aboriginal Lands Council.</li> <li>Seek funds for rehabilitation works, erosion and sediment control, revegetation priorities, Threatened Species, Endangered Ecological Communities and monitoring and evaluation.</li> </ul>	.	Council
10	Undertake estuary monitoring  OP Link: 3.3.2.2 and 3.3.1.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Water quality action plan.</li> <li>Develop and implement water quality program to identify impacts of the bushfires.</li> </ul>	Joint submission made 20/2/20 with Bega and Shoalhaven councils	Council
11	Delivery the onsite sewage management system inspection program  OP Link: 3.3.2.3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assist fire impacted properties with OSMS issues that may be affect public and environmental health and safety.</li> <li>Advice and assessment of OSMS associated with Development Applications for Bushfire rebuilds.</li> </ul>	Initial property inspection by 30 June 2020.  Ongoing	Council

## Planning

	Objective/Community Need	Recovery Actions	Timeframe	Responsible Agency/s
12	Heritage Management  OP Link 2.3.2.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide advice to community on repairs to and rebuilding of or in vicinity of heritage items.</li> <li>• Undertake assessment of and approve of proposed demolition of heritage items to facilitate bushfire clean-up.</li> </ul>	Ongoing	Council Heritage Advisory Service.



## Local Government

	Objective/Community Need	Recovery Actions	Timeframe	Responsible Agency/s
1	Advocate for community on bushfire and recovery related issues  OP Link: 3.1.3.4, 9.1.3.1 and 9.1.3.3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify and escalate issues through regional to state committee.</li> <li>Participate and respond to inquiries and royal commissions.</li> <li>Advocate for improved telecommunications networks which are more resilient in response to natural disasters.</li> </ul>	Ongoing	Council
2	Facilitate community grants  OP Link: 9.1.2.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop and administer the Eurobodalla Disaster Relief Fund.</li> </ul>	Ongoing	Council
3	Advocate for funding for bushfire and recovery related issues  OP Link: 9.1.3.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify project and programs to enhance community connectedness and recovery.</li> </ul>	Ongoing	Council
4	Communicate bushfire related recovery program  OP Link: 9.1.3.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Coordinate letters to impacted residents and monitor help desk enquiries.</li> </ul>	Ongoing	Council

## Agriculture and Animal Welfare

	Objective/Community Need	Recovery Actions	Timeframe	Responsible Agency/s
1	Provide temporary on-farm accommodation for landowners who have lost their farm home while they rebuild  OP Link: 1.2.1.1 and 2.2.1.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Advocate to the NSW Government for funding temporary pod/shed.</li> <li>• Support Minderoo with collation of requests for pods</li> <li>• Liaise with planning committee regarding approvals</li> <li>• Identify and escalate issues through regional to state committee.</li> <li>• Participate and respond to inquiries and royal commissions.</li> <li>• Advocate for improved telecommunications networks which are more resilient in response to natural disasters.</li> </ul>	Ongoing	Council OEM Minderoo
2	Provide temporary lockable containers for farm equipment and tools for landowners who have lost their farm sheds  OP Link: and 2.2.1.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support donors in providing loans of lockable shipping containers for storage of equipment</li> </ul>	Ongoing	Council Minderoo Maersk
3	Assist rural farmers re-establish fencing  OP Link: 3.1.3.3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Direct ADF to clean-up of fence on public boundaries</li> <li>• Advocate for improved funding solution</li> <li>• Secure grant to support Blazeaid</li> <li>• Support Blazeaid camp set-up Moruya</li> </ul>	Jan-March 2020  Ongoing	Council Local Land Service OEM Blazeaid
4	Distribute emergency fodder  OP Link: 3.1.3.3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Distribute fodder</li> </ul>	Jan – Feb 2020	Local Land Services
5	Support distribution of donated fodder  OP Link: 3.1.3.3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Leverage farmers networks to secure and distribute fodder</li> </ul>	Ongoing	Local Land Services

## Agriculture and Animal Welfare

	Objective/Community Need	Recovery Actions	Timeframe	Responsible Agency/s
6	Work with health providers to simplify access to mental health support and information.  OP Link: 1.2.1.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Blazeaid dinner Moruya showground</li> <li>• Provide information to Blazeaid for distribution</li> <li>• Refer request to map mental health services and share information</li> </ul>	Ongoing	Council Land Services NSW Health
7	Assist landowners in accessing financial and other support  OP Link: 1.5.1.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Advocate for funding to support restocking</li> <li>• Identify any gaps in financial support (eg bee keepers)</li> <li>• Provide information via existing communications</li> </ul>	Ongoing	Local Land Services
8	Assist landowners in environmental property management  OP Link: 3.2.1.1 and 3.2.2.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promote information on weed identification &amp; feral pest management</li> <li>• Weed checks on property underway</li> <li>• Provide information to landholders on do-it-yourself</li> </ul>	Ongoing	Council Local Land Services
9	Assist oyster growers to access support  OP Link: 3.3.1.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prioritise and treat catchments to reduce erosion</li> </ul>	Jan-March 2020	Council Local Land Service NSW Government
10	Seek funding and support for natural resource management across the landscape  OP Link: 3.2.2.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prioritise works for sediment and erosion control, invasive species management, revegetation and wildlife management</li> </ul>	Ongoing	Council Local Land Service

## Communications

	Objective/Community Need	Recovery Actions	Timeframe	Responsible Agency/s
1	Provide recovery information in print format  OP Link: 8.1.2.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prepare print version of recovery newsletter for community noticeboards in impacted areas and residents without access to internet.</li> <li>• Create posters and other materials for community noticeboards promoting recovery helpdesk and case management service.</li> </ul>	Ongoing	Council
2	Provide recovery information across various digital platforms  OP Link: 8.1.2.3 and 8.1.2.4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prepare content, images and video for distribution to local media and for Council's communications platforms - website, enewsletters, social media, weekly print ad in local newspaper and quarterly printed newsletters to all households.</li> <li>• Distribute Council's fortnightly recovery enewsletter, using new information from recovery agencies, Council's recovery helpdesk, and prepared Council content.</li> <li>• Encourage recovery newsletter subscribers to reply to the email with questions or suggestions – these can addressed one on one, or if a shared issue, featured in a future edition.</li> <li>• Repurpose recovery content for other relevant Council enewsletters, namely those for residents, business, tourism operators, builders and developers, plus copy for Council's weekly print ad in local newspaper.</li> <li>• Maintain verified, up to date information on Council's recovery website.</li> </ul>	Ongoing	Council
3	Provide in person media advice and respond to enquiries.  OP Link: 8.1.1.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Connect with editors of community-led newsletters and social media pages to offer exchange of content.</li> <li>• Arrange regular interviews on local radio to discuss recovery issues using subject matter experts, can include talkback.</li> </ul>	Ongoing	Council
4	Provide support and implement communication strategies for recovery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maintain the integrity of Council's bushfire recovery communications approach, respecting the privacy and grief of those impacted through personalised communications while</li> </ul>	Ongoing	Council

## Communications

	Objective/Community Need	Recovery Actions	Timeframe	Responsible Agency/s
4	<p>OP Link: 8.1.1.1 and 8.1.2.1</p> <p>(cont)</p>	<p>ensuring the broader community sees and understands recovery progress.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify recovery stories in Council and in the community to share new information, successes and challenges.</li> <li>• Liaise with recovery helpdesk staff, case management team and OEM communications to understand emerging issues with impacted residents, the wider community, council services and recovery agencies.</li> </ul>		

## Infrastructure

	Objective/Community Need	Recovery Actions	Timeframe	Responsible Agency/s
1	<p>Advocate for further restoration works for Kings Highway</p> <p>OP Link: 7.1.1.1, 7.1.1.2, 7.1.2.1, 7.4.2.1</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Advocate for further clearing on the Clyde Mountain Kings Highway</li> </ul>	Ongoing	Council T4NSW
2	<p>Restore vehicular access to properties and villages on local roads.</p> <p>OP Link: 7.1.2.1</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Clean-up and make safe local roads within the fire affected area (approximately 490km of local roads):                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Inspect all roads</li> <li>Re-open all Council roads</li> <li>Clean-up of fallen and hazardous fire affected trees</li> <li>Rectify road pavement damage</li> <li>Install guide posts, signs, protective fencing</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	1 June 2020	Council with approval from RFS or T4NSW
3	<p>Restore 18 fire affected road and pathway timber bridges (destroyed or damaged)</p> <p>OP Link: 7.1.2.1</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Initial work to establish emergency side tracks and/or undertake temporary repairs (where possible).</li> </ul> <p><b>Destroyed bridges</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Four Gums Bridge Belowra Road, Belowra</li> <li>Pigeon Gully Bridge Araluen Road, Merricumbene</li> <li>Rosedale footbridge connecting North &amp; South Bridge (partially destroyed)</li> <li>Sitters Ditch Bridge Belowra Road</li> <li>Peach Tree Bridge Eurobodalla Road, Nerrigundah</li> <li>Reedy Creek Bridge Eurobodalla Road, Nerrigundah</li> <li>Comans Bridge Gulph Creek Road, Nerrigundah</li> <li>Old Bolaro Mtn Road Bridge Old Bolaro Mnt Road, Bolaro</li> <li>Belowra Bridge Belowra Road, Belowra</li> <li>Belimbla Bridge Belowra Road</li> <li>Murphys Bridge Eurobodalla Road, Nerrigundah</li> <li>Old Tomakin Road Bridge, Old Tomakin Road, Mogo</li> </ul>	Ongoing	Council T4NSW

## Infrastructure

	Objective/Community Need	Recovery Actions	Timeframe	Responsible Agency/s
		<b>Damaged bridges</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clarksons Bridge Wagonga Scenic Drive, Narooma</li> <li>• Kennys Creek Bridge Araluen Road, Merricumbene</li> <li>• McGregors Creek Bridge Araluen Road Moruya west</li> <li>• Cheese Factory Bridge Eurobodalla Road, Bodalla west</li> <li>• Sinclairs BridgeEurobodalla Road, Bodalla West</li> <li>• Gulph Creek Bridge Nerrigundah Mountain Road, Nerrigundah</li> </ul>		
4	Replacement and repairs to fire affected water and sewer infrastructure  OP Link: 4.1.1.2; 7.1.2.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Damage to shed for Deep Creek Dam (DCD) aerators</li> <li>• Remove destroyed shed at water pump station at DCD</li> <li>• Mobile equipment -6" trailer mounted pump and toolbox trailer at Batemans Bay STP</li> <li>• Damage to sewer pods on private lots at Rosedale</li> <li>• Damage to Tuross River bores</li> <li>• Pursue insurance claim for claimable losses</li> <li>• Replacement of water meters</li> </ul>	Ongoing	Council
5	Batemans Bay SES and Depot Building and shed destroyed  OP Link: 3.1.3.1; 3.1.3.3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Temporary housing of Batemans Bay SES</li> <li>• Pursue insurance claim for destroyed building</li> <li>• Demolish burnt SES sheds</li> <li>• Work with SES to identify site for new SES building</li> <li>• Secure additional grant funding for new SES shed</li> <li>• Design and construct new SES shed</li> </ul>		
6	RFS Hot Fire Training Centre Jeremadra RFS building destroyed  OP Link: 3.1.3.1; 3.1.3.3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pursue insurance claim for destroyed building</li> <li>• Determine re-use of insurance payment</li> </ul>	Ongoing	Council

## Infrastructure

	Objective/Community Need	Recovery Actions	Timeframe	Responsible Agency/s
7	<p>Council Controlled Reserves Fire affected fallen and hazardous trees over approximately 20 km of urban bush interface directly impacted. Make safe.</p> <p>OP Link: 3.1.3.2</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Submit 'make safe' plan to the RFS</li> <li>• Pursue external arborist resource to assist inspections</li> <li>• Inspect fire impacted reserves</li> <li>• Identify fire affected hazardous trees</li> <li>• Call quotations and submit to RFS for approval</li> <li>• Remove/treat fire affected hazardous trees</li> </ul>	Ongoing	Council
8	<p>Mt Wandera Telecommunications Tower Council equipment on tower and site building destroyed</p> <p>OP Link: 5.4.1.1</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Repair to tower structure</li> <li>• Replacement of equipment</li> </ul>	31 August 2020	Council
9	<p>Funding for damage to local roads from transport of high waste volumes</p> <p>OP Link: 7.1.1.1</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Advocate for consideration in waste committee cost to Council of extra road damage</li> </ul>	Ongoing	Council Public Works