

BUSHFIRE RECOVERY NEWSLETTER



Edition 1 – April 2020

WELCOME

Welcome to the first edition of the new Queanbeyan-Palerang Bushfire Recovery Newsletter.

The bushfire recovery assistance point in Braidwood is temporarily closed for face-to-face meetings due to COVID-19 but we are still available via phone (6285 6789) and email (recovery@qprc.nsw.gov.au).

This newsletter is one of the new ways we have created to stay in touch, keep you updated and ensure you are on the road to bushfire recovery.

If you would like to receive the next newsletter by post or email please contact us on the above details

New Facebook group

QPRC Bushfire Recovery team has set up a new Facebook Group where the team will upload all the latest information. It will also act as a platform where you can ask questions and reach out to your fellow community.

If you would like to join, search Queanbeyan-Palerang Bushfire Recovery in Facebook.

Laing O'Rourke update

Work is soon beginning on the clean-up of properties in and around Nerriga destroyed by summer's bushfires.

Teams from Laing O'Rourke, appointed by the NSW Government to coordinate the clean-up, will start clearing debris from residential and eligible small business properties in Nerriga and surrounding localities including Corang, Oallen, Tomboye and Wog Wog over the coming month.

The NSW and Commonwealth governments are covering the cost of the clean-up and there is still time for owners of eligible properties to sign up if they have not already done so. You must opt in to have your property cleaned up. **Call Service NSW on 13 77 88**

Message from the Mayor

During these difficult times the Queanbeyan-Palerang Bushfire Local Recovery Committee continues to meet fortnightly (now via audio-visual link) focussing on coordinating the implementation of the Recovery Action Plan, identifying and pre-empting local and regional recovery issues, ensuring our affected communities are kept informed of progress made and that recovery activities are in line with the NSW Recovery and Regional Plans. The LRC comprises the Mayor (Chair), Local Emergency Management Officer, RFS, NSW Police, Office of Emergency Management, QPRC Recovery Coordination Team, NSW Health, Disaster Welfare, LLS and NPWS representatives. Service NSW and Public Works/Laing O'Rourke representatives also attend.



Like most communities, Queanbeyan-Palerang has been significantly impacted by the Coronavirus (COVID-19) shutdown restrictions. Earlier this month, Council resolved to extend hardship provisions for residential and business ratepayers suffering under the COVID-19 pandemic, similar to previous Council resolutions that extended hardship relief for drought and bushfire affected ratepayers.

Council will be considering a draft Financial Assistance Policy – Drought, Bushfire, COVID-19 at its meeting on Wednesday 22 April, with a view to seeking community feedback. The draft policy is an extension of Council's existing Hardship Policy provisions, and reflects previous Council resolutions. It contains provisions to support the community – individuals, businesses and community groups, in the short term and medium term.

Tim Overall, Mayor
Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council

Talking bushfire recovery on Braidwood FM

Through the generosity of Braidwood Community Radio, we are now bringing you two half-hour radio programs each week about bushfire recovery. You can tune in each Wednesday and Friday from 11-11.30am when we'll talk about bushfire recovery with special guests from a range of support services.

Tune in to FM 88.9 or stream live from

www.braidwoodradio.com.au

Small Business Grant

The Commonwealth and NSW governments have announced a new small business support grant of \$10,000 to cover small business loss of income. Please follow the link below to apply.

www.service.nsw.gov.au/campaign/business-supportbushfire-impacted-communities/grants-and-loans

BlazeAid

BlazeAid is a volunteer-based organisation that works with families and individuals in rural Australia after natural disasters such as fires and floods. Working alongside the rural families, volunteers help to rebuild fences and other structures that have been damaged or destroyed.

Equally important, volunteers also help to lift the spirits of people who are often facing devastating losses through bushfires or flood. BlazeAid volunteers work in a disaster-affected area for many months, not only helping individuals and families, but also helping rebuild the local communities.

BlazeAid has a camp at the Braidwood Showground and has now set up a second camp at Nerriga. 188 properties have registered, with 85 completed.

To date BlazeAid has completed 78km of new fencing, 280km of repaired fencing and erected more than 10,778 star pickets. Thank you to all the BlazeAid volunteers.

**Lifeline Bushfire Recovery:
13 43 57**

Beyondblue: 1300 22 4636

**NSW Mental Health Line:
1800 011 511**

Mensline: 1300 789 978

Kids Helpline: 1800 551 800

Domestic Violence: 1800 656 463

Replacement of damaged boundary fences

The NSW Government has committed \$209 million to help bushfire-affected landholders with the cost of rebuilding boundary fences adjoining public lands.

Private landholders who share a boundary with public land and were impacted by the fires of late 2019 and early 2020 are eligible to receive up to \$5,000 per kilometre to contribute to the replacement of damaged boundary fences. Note that for the purposes of this grant, public lands includes:

- National parks
- Forestry Corporation land
- Traveling stock reserves
- Crown reserves,
- Tenured roads and leased roads managed by Roads and Maritime Services or Local Government.

Grants can be issued retrospectively to cover costs already incurred by landholders replacing fire damaged fencing where a boundary is shared with public lands.

Please apply: www.lls.nsw.gov.au or call 1300 795 299

Red Cross

Red Cross has grants available for people whose homes were destroyed or structurally damaged, as well as for people hospitalised for injuries in the fires.

- Emergency Grant
- Primary residence repair grant
- Injury Grant
- Rebuild Grant

Call 1800 733 276 or visit

www.redcross.org.au/get-help/emergencies/recovering-from-emergencies/grants/bushfire-grants-questions

CONTACT US

It is important during community-led recovery that we hear from you about how you are managing and coping, what issues you are facing, what comments you'd like to make, and any ideas you have to support the community renew. Please share comments or ideas with us by contacting:

Phone: 6285 6789 Email: recovery@qprc.nsw.gov.au

Facebook: @Queanbeyan-Palerang Bushfire Recovery

When gathering restrictions associated with the COVID-19 pandemic are lifted, we hope to return to being available for face-to-face meetings from our information and referral point in the Old Braidwood Library building, Park Lane, Braidwood.

For translating and interpreting assistance call TIS on 13 14 50