

BUSHFIRE RECOVERY NEWSLETTER



Edition 6 - August 2020

WELCOME

Welcome to the sixth edition of the Queanbeyan-Palerang Bushfire Recovery Newsletter. This newsletter is one of the ways we are working to stay in touch, keep you updated and hear from you through your recovery journey.

The **Bushfire Assistance Hub** in Braidwood is now **open**, located in Park Lane at the Old Braidwood Library.

Opening hours: Monday-Friday, 9am – 3pm

You can come in and see us or contact the Recovery Team on **6285 6789** and recovery@qprc.nsw.gov.au.

After the Rain



Temporary repair to Neringla Road – Araluen Creek

Council has access to disaster recovery funding for repairs to bridges and roads damaged by the recent flood event. Assistance is being provided through the jointly funded Commonwealth-State Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA). Immediately following the event, our roads crews have been busy assessing the amount of damage sustained during the flood events and making urgent repairs as necessary to keep roads open.

Over the coming weeks, we will be assessing the damage more formally with Transport for NSW assessors and seeking approval for permanent repairs to damaged roads and bridges. Residents should be aware that this process can take some time as we access the DRFA to make these permanent repairs.

Good News Story

Gundillion community stepping up to the plate with their own drive-through takeaway



Since February, the Gundillion community has come together to ensure their neighbours are all ok and to support each other in these challenging times with drought and fires. By March people were isolated again with COVID restrictions in place, but this didn't stop the community from connecting and supporting each other.

Being more physically isolated in a rural area, simply ordering takeaway wasn't easy or possible for the community, and the usual gathering spots like the hall were closed as well. Local community members Di Izzard and Brooke O'Connell came together to start a drive-through takeaway night from a shearing shed, following all guidelines to ensure it is COVID-Safe. This idea started small, with the expectation that 30 people would come along. It was certainly well received, with over 100 people attending on the night. Di Izzard said "the community wanted a reason to leave home, if it was only to drive down the road and get a hamburger and drive home again at least they could wave to their neighbour".

This event has proven a great success, with three more held since the first, and an email check-in every couple of weeks. This helps the community members stay connected and feel less alone in these times, not socially distant, only physically distant.

This community is an amazing example of the need to remain socially close with each other and continue to check in and ask 'are you OK?' because in times like this, it's OK not to be OK.

Care Financial Counselling Service

Care Financial Counsellors help people understand their options to manage debt and get their finances back under control.

Care offers a free, confidential and independent service.

We are a not-for-profit, community-based service for people experiencing financial difficulty.

Care also offers no interest loans for people on low to moderate incomes for the purchase of household goods and services.

We can be contacted on **02 6257 1788** or visit us at the Bushfire Hub in Braidwood on Tuesdays.

NSW Rural Financial Counselling Service

RFCS is a free confidential service, supported by the Federal and NSW Governments for farmers, fishing enterprises, forest growers and related small regional business owners.

A Rural Financial Counsellor can help identify your financial and business options, negotiate with your lenders, identify other assistance and help apply for the Farm Household Allowance. They do not give family, emotional or social counselling, but, can refer you to other professional services, including accountants, agricultural advisors, training, or mental health services.

Fiona Taylor is the Rural Financial Counsellor covering the Queanbeyan-Palerang council area so if you find yourself needing a hand and are experiencing financial hardship, please contact Fiona **0429 057 597 or 1800 319 458**. For more information please visit our website www.rfcsnsw.com.au

Red Cross

Emergencies by their very nature are disruptive and can be very stressful. What you, your family or friends have experienced is a unique and personal event.

It's normal to have a range of feelings in reaction to an abnormal situation like this. Red Cross have a range of booklets and webinars to support individuals, parents/cares and educators available to support you.

If you would like information on any of these, or have questions about Red Cross grants, please contact Monica Kincade, Recovery Officer on mkincade@redcross.org.au or **0407 160 939**.

QPRC Bushfire Renewal Reference Group

The Bushfire Recovery team are passionate about working cohesively and collaboratively with local communities to guide our work implementing support in affected areas.

The aim of the QPRC Bushfire Renewal Reference Group is to provide a forum where individuals, community groups, non-government organisations and government agencies can work together for the benefit of the community

The group meets every Wednesday morning at 9:30am via zoom. Please contact the Bushfire Recovery Team to register your interest for this group.

Health & Wellbeing Support

Australia's First 24 hour hotline for Aboriginal men - staffed by Aboriginal men

Brother to Brother is Australia's first 24-hour hotline assisting Aboriginal men throughout COVID-19.

The crisis number is **1800 435 799**, and is staffed by Aboriginal men, including elders to promote a culturally-safe service.

Staying Sane

A free online tool that helps you gain an understanding of the effects of stress and trauma and valuable skills to support your own Health and Wellbeing.

[https://rise.articulate.com/share/IA8yEPGhriCtIvyeffJoLLwD9tK9bQS#/#/](https://rise.articulate.com/share/IA8yEPGhriCtIvyeffJoLLwD9tK9bQS#/)

QPRC Business Grants Program

Recovery to Renewal



Supporting local businesses
in the bushfire recovery



Funding has been provided by NSW Government to support business recovery following the impacts of the 2019/20 bushfires.

Local research and surveys were conducted to gather input from the business community on what priorities to consider and where support could be directed. In response the Local Economic Recovery Advisory Group and QPRC has developed the QPRC Business Grants Program – Recovery to Renewal.

This grants program has been specifically designed to support small to medium sized businesses located in the QPRC region that have been impacted by the bushfires, and to support community groups to conduct community-based events designed to attract visitors to bushfire-affected areas.

Objectives

- To support and assist local small businesses to recover from the impact of the bushfires
- To support local businesses in the QPRC region to adjust their business to be viable in the changed local context following the bushfires
- To support local businesses in the QPRC region to develop and extend business reach through marketing and communications activities
- To help make improvements to make the business more resilient to future disasters
- To revive visitor numbers to bushfire-affected areas and assist with the recovery of regional tourism

Funding streams available

A total pool of \$210,000 is available. Funding is available for projects and activities in the following streams:

1. Grants of up to \$3,000 for Marketing Support, Online and Ecommerce Development
2. Grants of up to \$2,000 for Business Mentoring and Development
3. Grants of up to \$3,000 for Community and Business Events

Local businesses wanting to apply for a grant can do so by completing an online application form at www.qprc.nsw.gov.au/recoverygrants.

Applications open on Friday 14 August 2020 and will be received up until 5pm Friday 11 September 2020, or unless all funds are dispensed prior.

Recovery Webinars

Red Cross is hosting a range of events to support people, hosted by experts. Register or watch sessions with experts, and connect with our team at www.redcross.org.au/get-help/emergencies/coping-after-a-crisis/bushfire-recovery-events-and-webinars

Recovery Matters Webinar Series

The Recovery Matters webinars get to the heart of key issues in disaster recovery. How do you go about supporting communities in recovery? What can you expect on the journey ahead? What about the support needs of particular groups?

Through a series of informative webinars, the Australian Institute for Disaster Resilience invites expert speakers to share what they know and help us move forward with disaster recovery. View all webinars on the YouTube playlist which you can find at <https://knowledge.aidr.org.au/resources/recovery-matters-webinar-series/>

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 and any ideas you have to support the community's renewal. Please share comments or ideas with us by contacting:

Phone: 6285 6789

Email: recovery@qprc.nsw.gov.au

Facebook: @Queanbeyan-PalerangBushfireRecovery

For translating and interpreting assistance call TIS on 13 14 50