



Ordinary Meeting of Council

SUPPLEMENTARY

AGENDA

25 August 2021

Commencing at 5.30pm

On-site Inspections - Nil

SUPPLEMENTARY REPORTS

Item 7 Requests to Council for Black Summer Bushfire Recovery Fund Grants	3
Item 9.13 Strengthening Telecommunications Against Natural Disasters	5

LIST OF ATTACHMENTS –

Open Attachments

Item 7	Requests to Council for Black Summer Bushfire Recovery Fund Grants
Attachment 1	<i>Letter from Araluen Progress Association re Black Summer Bushfire Recovery Fund grant (Under Separate Cover)</i>
Attachment 2	<i>Letter from Araluen Recreation Reserve Land Manager re Black Summer Bushfire Recovery Fund grant (Under Separate Cover)</i>

Closed Attachments

Nil

**7.1 Requests to Council for Black Summer Bushfire Recovery Fund Grants (Ref: ;
Author: Overall/Overall)**

File Reference: 11.10.1-1

Summary

Further to the Black Summer Bushfire Recovery Fund grants, Council has received the following requests after closure of the business papers:

- Gundillion Recreation Reserve (Gundillion Hall) for a letter of support
 - The Servicemen's Club, Old Anglican Hall and Braidwood Radio for a letter of support
 - Araluen Progress Association for reconsideration of elements of the application
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Recommendation

That Council consider the following requests for the Black Summer Bushfire Recovery Fund grants:

- 1. A letter of support from the Gundillion Recreation Reserve (Gundillion Hall) for their \$100,000 application for a Multipurpose Recreation Area and Sensory Garden.**
 - 2. A letter of support for the combined application from the The Servicemen's Club, Old Anglican Hall and Braidwood Radio to establish recognised evacuation centres in the Club and the Hall.**
 - 3. Modify the application for Araluen, to the items requested by the Araluen Progress Association and Araluen Recreation Reserve managers up to the value of \$100,000**
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Background

The Gundillion Recreation Reserve (Gundillion Hall) Committee are requesting a letter of support from Council for their \$100,000 grant application for a Multipurpose Recreation Area and Sensory Garden under the Black Summer Bushfire Recovery grants program.

The application from the Reserve is to cement the tennis court area and make it useable for many types of sport including tennis, cricket, netball, basketball, fickle ball, handball and volleyball. The area could also be used for soccer and general games. They hope a hit-up wall could also be added so individuals can play handball or tennis or just bounce a ball. The Committee would also like to add to the outside a sensory garden.

If successful the funds will be mainly used to cover the excavation, form work and carting of cement which will be the biggest expense due to their isolation.

The Servicemen's Club, Old Anglican Hall and Braidwood Radio are applying as a group for funding for a joint community project to establish recognised evacuation centres in the Club and the Hall to fill a need identified during the bushfires. Resilience and recovery for Braidwood and the broader area is an urgent task required to address all future emergencies.

Both the Servicemen's Club and the Old Anglican Hall are well known in the Braidwood community, and it makes sense to utilise buildings that have much of the infrastructure in place, while Braidwood FM Radio, which has its home at the Servicemen's Club, was

7.1 Requests to Council for Black Summer Bushfire Recovery Fund Grants (Ref: ; Author: Overall/Overall) (Continued)

invaluable during the black summer fires and continues to be Braidwood's 'go to' for local information.

The addition of an automated watering system will create a green belt around the club, helping to provide a haven for the entire Braidwood Community, whilst minimising wastage of one of our most valuable resources.

At the August Planning and Strategy meeting, Council resolved to endorse the priority list for applications under the Black Summer Bushfire Recovery Grants Program including \$200,000 for Majors Creek/Araluen footpaths (resolution no PLA144/21). Subsequently correspondence has been received from the Araluen Progress Association, and the Araluen Recreation Reserve management group, requesting Council amend its decision and consider \$100,000 on the priority list for the following items for Araluen:

- fencing for Anglican/Church of England Cemetery
- improved road access to Anglican/Church of England Cemetery Road
- improved road access to the Roman Catholic Cemetery Road
- new kitchen for the Shelter Shed
- 1 x 25,000 water tank
- updated playground equipment
- outdoor gym equipment
- electric outdoor BBQ facilities
- walking/bike/pram/ track around the town to point to the gold mining past, the indigenous past and natural attractions such as waterfall, creek walk in the campground and beyond

The Progress Association believes the community will be much better served with the above items which were identified through the Council led Resilience Planning workshop held in Araluen.

Conclusion

As the Black Summer Bushfire Recovery Fund grant applications from Gundillion Recreation Reserve (Gundillion Hall) and the combined application from the Servicemen's Club, Old Anglican Hall and Braidwood Radio are for worthwhile causes that will undoubtedly benefit QPRC residents, letters of support from Council may strengthen their applications.

As the requests from the Araluen Progress Association and the Managers of the Araluen Recreation Reserve have highlighted the wants and needs of the Araluen community, Council may see the benefit of amending its decision to include some or all of the suggested items up to the value of \$100k in the grant application.

Attachments

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| Attachment 1 | Letter from Araluen Progress Association re Black Summer Bushfire Recovery Fund grant (<i>Under Separate Cover</i>) |
| Attachment 2 | Letter from Araluen Recreation Reserve Land Manager re Black Summer Bushfire Recovery Fund grant (<i>Under Separate Cover</i>) |

REPORTS TO COUNCIL - ITEMS FOR DETERMINATION

9.13 Strengthening Telecommunications Against Natural Disasters (Ref: ; Author: Hansen/Stokes)

File Reference: 36.3.4-02

Summary

Councils in regional and remote areas are invited to nominate up to four council-owned facilities identified as emergency operation centres (EOC) or evacuation centres identified in local emergency plans to receive a small site connection (satellite dish, network termination device, wireless access point (WAP) and ethernet port) to upgrade emergency connectivity.

Recommendation

That Council:

- 1. Endorse the installation of the satellite services in line with the parameters of the STAND program at the RFS Fire Control Centre in Queanbeyan, the Braidwood Fire Station and the SES/RFS Station in Bungendore.**
 - 2. Determine whether an additional service should be requested (to make up four sites) and the location of that service, being either the Queanbeyan Bicentennial Hall or the Braidwood National Theatre.**
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Background

This program is part of a \$37.1 million telecommunications resilience package launched by the Federal Government in May 2020 designed to prevent, mitigate and manage telecommunications outages during emergencies and natural disasters called Strengthening Telecommunications Against Natural Disasters (STAND). The STAND Program included a package of \$7 million to fund the installation of NBN Co Sky Muster satellite connections to 'fire service depots and evacuation centres' across the country.

Following representations from the states and territories, the roll-out of the satellite connections commenced with a pilot of select sites to ensure the service is financially sustainable and fit-for-purpose. NSW participated in the national pilot to test the installation of fixed telecommunications satellite connections at 20 sites. The sites selected were NSW RFS Fire Control Centres (FCCs).

For Phase 2 of the program, Resilience NSW has been in discussion with the Commonwealth and reached agreement to extend eligibility to EOC facilities located in areas of risk. Based on Council's survey responses to the Emergency Operation Centres Strategic Review and/or council EOC's known location, this opportunity has been extended to QPRC LGA.

NSW has a total site allocation of up to 445 small sites (satellite dish, network termination device, Wireless access point (WAP) and Ethernet port) and a limited 23 large sites (plus UPS battery backup and additional WAP). These sites will be spread across NSW SES, NSW RFS and NSW Surf Life Saving buildings. The small site allocation will be available for EOCs (or evacuation centres) that are Council-owned facilities.

The system has capacity of up to 40 users concurrently at each site and each user will be capped at an individual speed of 2Mbps, irrespective of the number of users. The service works in an Everyday and Disaster Response mode. Everyday mode does not allow download

9.13 Strengthening Telecommunications Against Natural Disasters (Ref: ; Author: Hansen/Stokes) (Continued)

of content from high demand streaming services ie. you tube, Netflix. Disaster Response mode does allow access to streaming services. Some sites are blocked. The systems are stand alone. A help desk is available 24/7 for the system. The equipment remains the property of the NBN. Small systems do not come with a UPS but are UPS compatible if the Council wished to include it (which may be able to be funded from the EOC upgrade funding recently made available to Council from Resilience NSW).

Implications***Asset***

The EOC currently operates out of the Fire Control Centre of the Rural Fire Service in Queanbeyan as the preferred EOC. If circumstances dictated that an EOC is required in either Braidwood or Bungendore, the EOC would look to operate out of the Braidwood Fire Station on Sandholes Road or the Bungendore SES/RFS centre on King Street and, as such, there would be benefit in trialling the satellite service at these sites for the duration of the funded period.

The EOC operates evacuation centres from a range of facilities depending on the circumstances and demands of the emergency at the time. The Council-owned buildings which are general preferred as evacuation centres, depending on the emergency, include the Bicentennial Hall in Queanbeyan and the National Theatre in Braidwood. Both or either of these facilities would benefit from the service as a trial for the funded period. Other Council-owned facilities or third-party owned facilities may be used from time to time as evacuation centres or information points. Additionally, there are some halls of significant as it relates to bushfire emergencies because of their standing as places of last resort. These include the community halls at Burra, Fernleigh Park and Wamboin. At Wamboin and Fernleigh Park the halls are co-located (and stand side by side) a Rural Fire Shed.

If Council opts in, eligible facilities will receive from NBN Co installation and operation of satellite services - at no cost to the councils - for the first three years. After this 3-year period, the council will need to make a commercial decision on whether to continue the arrangements, including the payment of applicable recurring fees from year 4 onwards. There is no offer of continued funding from the NSW Government. All works will be delivered through direct engagement with NBN Co.

Financial

There is no initial capital or operational expenses for Council.

Conclusion

It is recommended via the LEMC, that Council opt into the offer. If Council opts in, eligible facilities will receive from NBN Co installation and operation of satellite services - at no cost to the councils - for the first three years. After this 3-year period, the council will need to make a commercial decision on whether to continue the arrangements, including the payment of applicable recurring fees from year 4 onwards. There is no offer of continued funding from the NSW Government. All works will be delivered through direct engagement with NBN Co.

Attachments

Nil