



# newsletter

J U N E 2 0 2 0

**Welcome!** *With clean-up well & truly underway & COVID-19 restrictions easing, we are now focusing our efforts on the next phase of recovery from the bushfires and drought that devastated our community.*

We will be producing this newsletter regularly to keep the community informed of the funding, programs and infrastructure upgrades that are part of our recovery. It will be available in print, email and also via our website. To subscribe to the online version visit [www.yoursaymacleay.nsw.gov.au/bushfire-recovery](http://www.yoursaymacleay.nsw.gov.au/bushfire-recovery)

With Council having provided staff support to the Emergency Operations Centre, Evacuation Centres and Disaster Welfare Assistance Points, as well as operations crews to restore road and bridge access, remove trees and maintain water supply during the fire emergency, we saw firsthand the impact of the fires.

Our initial recovery work included coordinating Community Recovery Centres, establishing volunteer basecamps and facilitating the arrival of groups like BlazeAid, the Australian Defence Force and Team Rubicon.



We have continued to focus efforts on managing community outreach and Community Recovery meetings so that we can understand and advocate for the support that our community needs.

With significant state and federal government funding secured, Council now have a dedicated Recovery team in place for the next 12 months. The team will work with the community to deliver the actions from the Macleay Valley Recovery Action Plan which was tabled at the May Council meeting.

That team is led by our Recovery Coordinator Jo McGoldrick who will oversee the development and delivery of Council's Recovery Action Plan and the management of grant funding to support this work.

From the first days at the recovery centre, Jo has been hands-on in the recovery process and you'll hear from Jo in the coming newsletters.

Thank you to everyone who has shared stories, ideas and thoughts and those who attended the Community recovery meetings. This Action Plan is a living document that captures the priorities for recovery that you shared with us.

We will keep in touch to make sure that Recovery is both informed and led by our community, through this newsletter, social media, face to face events and workshops (when they are allowed) and the news media.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us on 6566 3200.

Craig Milburn  
General  
Manager



# NEW RECOVERY WEBSITE

We have pulled together a new site to keep our community aware of news and updates during our recovery. You can find it on the Your Say Macleay site.

[yoursay.macleay.nsw.gov.au/recovery](https://yoursay.macleay.nsw.gov.au/recovery)



# RECOVERY ACTION PLAN

The Macleay Valley Recovery Action Plan will guide the investment of state and federal government funding and keep the community informed of Council's ongoing commitment to recovery.

Designed through formal recovery workshops, ongoing conversations with the community and partner organisations, advice from disaster recovery experts and organic engagement through Council's extensive on-ground involvement from the very start of the emergency, the Action Plan will be regularly updated and reported to Council meetings quarterly.

To date the Action Plan outlines works that will be delivered through:

- The Bushfire Community Resilience and Economic Development Fund \$250,000
- The National Bushfire Recovery Agency Fund \$1,416,667

The program of work funded through the \$1,000,000 Federal Government Drought Communities Program will be confirmed in June 2020.

The Action Plan is structured around the recognised Office of Emergency Management framework that categorises actions into four streams of Built, Environment, Economic and Social priorities. It is expected to deliver genuine and lasting recovery support to the whole community.

## Highlights of the Recovery Action Plan include:

- Maintenance work for Bellbrook and Willawarrin Halls
- Extensive upgrades to the Willawarrin Rodeo and Sporting Grounds, including playground, canteen and resurfacing the arena



- Community workshops on environmental repair and disaster preparation
- Improvements for previously unmaintained Council roads
- An opportunity for community driven recovery with a \$200,000 Bushfire Recovery Community Grants allocation
- Disaster planning education to assist people from all over the Shire to gain practical knowledge, to feel prepared and to be able to plan for a variety of emergency situations
- Community events
- Upgrades to Blackbird Camping Reserve
- Farm business planning workshops
- Support from Macleay Valley Landcare to help landholders undertake landscape and wildlife recovery

**To read the full Recovery Action Plan go to the Your Say Macleay recovery website.**

Further updates about how to get involved in workshops and the community grant program will be available in coming newsletters.





## QUICK REFERENCE

### NSW Bushfire Clean-Up

Properties used for residential, small business or primary production purposes are eligible for the free clean-up program, being delivered by Laing O'Rourke

**Call 13 77 88** or register by visiting <https://www.service.nsw.gov.au/transaction/register-opt-nsw-bushfire-clean>.

Clean-up is free but you must actively register.

Laing O'Rourke will always arrange household visits in advance and will not turn up unannounced or demand payment. Any tradespeople asking for payments are NOT part of the scheme.

### Mental Health Support

Chris Farley is the new mental health clinician appointed by Mid North Coast Local Health District to help people from our bushfire impacted community.

**Contact Chris for a chat on 0417 080 431**

The following free services are available 24 hours a day, seven days a week:

**Mental Health Line  
1800 011 511**

**Lifeline Bushfire Recovery Line  
- 13 43 57**

**Mensline – 1300 789 978**

**Kids Helpline – 1800 55 1800**

### New Small Business Grant

A new \$10,000 grant is available for bushfire affected small businesses.

To be eligible, you must:

- Be a small business owner
- Hold an Australian Business Number (ABN) and have held that ABN at the time of the bushfires
- Have been engaged in carrying on the small business in the area when you were affected by the bushfires
- Have suffered a decline in revenue of 40% or more in a 3-month period, compared to the

same period in the previous year, as a result of the bushfires

The simple application process does not require you to upload documents as evidence.

Small businesses owners who have already received financial support can also apply.

Apply and find more information through the Service **NSW Bushfire Customer Care line - 13 77 88**, and website: <https://www.service.nsw.gov.au/campaign/bushfire-customer-care-service>

### NSW Bushfire Customer Care Service

The NSW Bushfire Customer Care Service will help you navigate the support and financial assistance that's available across state and federal government.

**Call 13 77 88 or visit [www.service.nsw.gov.au](http://www.service.nsw.gov.au)**

# ACCOMMODATION PODS - TEMPORARY HOUSING

In April, Kempsey Shire received six of the first 10 accommodation 'pods' being rolled out to bushfire affected communities across the state.

The NSW Government is partnering with the Minderoo Foundation's Fire Fund to provide more than 100 temporary accommodation pods for people who have no alternative accommodation, need to be on their property and are looking to rebuild.

The 7.2m x 2.4m units are fully self-contained and come equipped with a 2,300 litre water tank and can operate on the included generator or use mains connection. Internally they have a toilet, shower and small open kitchen with a two-burner stove.

The pods will be provided for up to two years and will then be kept by the Government to be used in future emergencies.

People most in need are identified following applications and advocacy by Council, local recovery staff, charities and Service NSW and are approved by an independent advisory Committee to Mindaroo.



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