




ACTION PLAN NOV 2021





Kempsey Shire Council acknowledges the land of the Thunggutti/Dunghutti Nation. We pay respect to Elders past and present. We acknowledge the role of emerging leaders to continue to guide us in the future. We acknowledge the Stolen Generations and the need to change practices to be inclusive. This land always was and always will be Thunggutti/Dunghutti land.



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INTRODUCTION

Commencing in late 2019, Kempsey Shire was severely impacted by large scale bushfire events that resulted in 46% of the local government area being burned and more than 340 houses, outbuildings and facilities being damaged or destroyed by fire.

Burning 150,750 hectares of land, 46% of which was private property, the scale of the event was profound for the shire and severely impacted key industries including primary producers and forestry.

The huge scale of the firefighting operation involved Rural Fire Service and emergency services teams from multiple regions, coordinated by the RFS Mid North Coast team. Homes, businesses, livestock, grazing land, forestry, crops, machinery and infrastructure were lost or damaged in this devastating event.

The bushfire event compounded on the terrible impact of an ongoing drought that had already crippled much of the region. Then within months of the fires, much of the shire experienced significant rain.

The combined impacts of these events, in addition to the scale of the disaster, has resulted in unprecedented community hardship with the long term impacts of the disaster on the environment, the economy and the health and wellbeing of the community yet to be realised.

The full extent of damage to property is still being measured, and it is widely understood the

economic impact of a disaster of this scale will be significant and ongoing.

From the outset Council were closely involved in the emergency response led by the Rural Fire Service and NSW Police. In the ensuing months Council's focus shifted to actively working to support residents with the task of recovery and rebuilding.

Council has engaged with the affected communities since the first weeks to understand their immediate needs as well as the work required to rebuild. Community meetings have been held to link residents with support services, provide up to date information and hear the needs of the community. In addition, dedicated staff have provided one-on-one support for impacted residents. This ongoing work ensures that the communities and individuals have been able to share concerns and provide valuable input.

It is vital that the community has a sense of ownership in this recovery planning process. As such, a focus on engagement with these communities will continue as we support the recovery journey of the Macleay Valley.

The community resilience and cooperation that

has been the overwhelming response to these compounding disasters is a point of pride and feeds Council's confidence that the communities impacted by these natural disasters can not only recover but thrive in the wake of this terrible chapter in our history.



ABOUT KEMPSEY SHIRE

The Shire of Kempsey is a diverse region, comprising mountain and forested areas, open farmlands, urban areas, coastal beaches and seaside towns. The towns and communities of the shire are equally diverse.



The original inhabitants of this area are the people of the Dughutti Nation made up of the Dangaddi, Daingatti, Thungutti and Djunghatti people. The Dughutti nation is bordered by the Gumbaynggirr in the north, Biripi in the south and Anaiwan in the west.

European settlement began in 1827 when Capitan A.C. Innes established a cedar party north of Euroka Creek on the Macleay River.

At the heart of the Macleay Valley is Kempsey, the main service town for the community. Built on the banks of the Macleay River, it continues to be a key centre. Kempsey has the largest residential population and is the principle serviced centre for the shire, providing a range of administrative, civic, education and health services.

The Macleay River is the artery of our community that meanders through rural and urban areas. Whilst core to the valley's development, the river's

serenity is sometimes interrupted and the flood prone nature of parts of the valley largely shape distinctive land use patterns and built form.

The shire boasts over 15,000 hectares of National Parks and 79 kilometres of pristine coastline. The diverse range of individual plant species and vegetation range from coastal heathland to subtropical warm temperate and cool temperate rainforests. This broad variety of habitats support a large diversity of fauna.

The Macleay Valley has strong foundations in cattle, dairy and cropping and, in recent years, has witnessed further growth through new and higher-value agriculture production on smaller parcels of land. The Upper Macleay communities are predominately supported by the small towns of Willawarrin and Bellbrook. Both towns have a small primary school, a local pub and general store.

Farming enterprises are established throughout the shire, however those most impacted by the recent drought and bushfires are the broad range of primary producers across the Shire as well as those residents living on small acreage on the Upper Macleay.

THE BUSHFIRE EVENTS

Bushfires intensified in rural areas west of Kempsey on Saturday 26 October 2019, triggering a section 44 declaration under the Rural Fires Act 1997.

Whilst fires had burned from 10 August, the horrific day of 8 November was the day residents of the Shire are unlikely to forget. On that Friday multiple local townships were devastated as the Carrai East bushfire breached containment lines and spread rapidly in multiple directions. The fire passed through the village of Willawarrin and threatened the historic village of Bellbrook.

The fires continued for many weeks and the small communities of Bellbrook, Millbank, Five Day Creek, Boonanghi-Wittittrin, Nulla Nulla, Temagog, Wittittrin, Willawarrin, Moparrabah were all impacted.

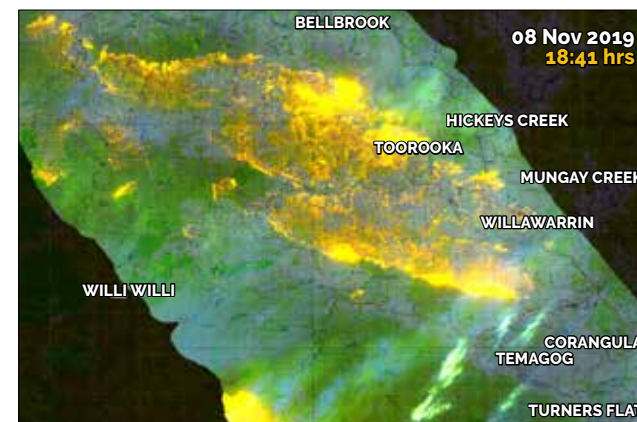
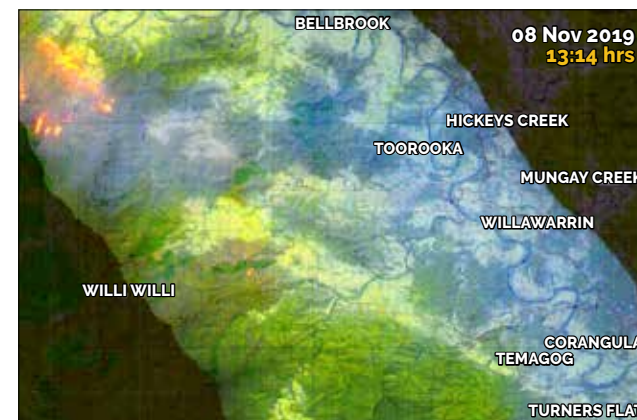
In this time, one person lost their life and over 1,050 members of the community sought shelter at the Evacuation Centres. Many

properties were left isolated without power, phone or suitable drinking water.

From the day after the disaster first struck, work began on the clean-up and recovery for these small but resilient communities even as the fires still threatened. The primary focus was to restore road access, electricity and provide potable water to the impacted areas.

Council has played a vital role in the coordination of both recovery and the emergency response as the bushfire event continues to impact our region.

In total, from 1 July to 31 December 2019, 616 Major Fire Incidents were reported in the shire, compared to 342 in the same period the year before. Overall, Kempsey Shire has been significantly impacted by the bush fire events with 46% of the local government area burnt.



BUILDING IMPACT

Destroyed:

67 houses, 3 Facilities and 170 Outbuildings

Damaged:

23 houses, 7 Facilities and 70 Outbuildings

COUNCIL BRIDGES

Destroyed: 5 Damaged: 6

TOTAL AREA BURNT

150,750 ha



NATIONAL PARK

69,345 ha (46%)



STATE FOREST

16,582 ha (11%)



PRIVATE PROPERTY

61,807 ha (41%)



RESPONSE AND RECOVERY

Kempsey Shire Council commenced recovery work in the days immediately after the Carrai East fire devastated the Upper Macleay communities. The primary areas of focus were to restore access for both emergency services and those seeking to return to their properties, with many roads and bridges impacted, to restore essential services and to provide potable water to the impacted community.

In addition, numerous Council staff members worked at the Emergency Operations Centre, Rural Fire Service Centre and the Emergency Evacuation Centre during the response phase to provide support to the community. Soon afterwards the Willawarrin Recovery Centre was opened and coordinated by Council.

Council has appointed a Recovery Coordinator and regular community meetings have been held. Recovery drop-in centres continued until March 2020 to keep communities informed on the status of the fires, the progress of the recovery and the available resources. Engagement meetings were held across the shire to ensure the community has the opportunity to participate in the process of recovery.

A thank you parade and concert with music, entertainment and kids activities was planned for late March as a way for the community to thank the fire fighters and to mark the end of the bushfire season,

however this was sadly postponed due to the coronavirus pandemic.

In addition to the significant infrastructure works to ensure people could return home as soon as it was deemed safe, since the outset Council has worked with local organisations, charity and not-for profit groups to link them with community members for whom they could provide much-needed immediate physical and emotional support.

This includes St Vincent De Paul, Team Rubicon, Red Cross, BlazeAid, Rotary and Lions Club. Collectively these organisations have done incredible work to support the communities affected by the fires from raising funds and collecting donated items, to clearing vegetation and repairing fencing.

Council is now moving into a longer-term strategic approach to recovery with this action plan.



Figure 1 - Integrated & Holistic Recovery (EMA Community Recovery Handbook 2011).



INTENT OF THE RECOVERY ACTION PLAN

This Recovery Action Plan aims to address the damage done by both drought and bushfires which devastated the Kempsey Shire. Developed in conjunction with the community, the list of initiatives are an example of the holistic strategic approach that the organisation is taking to all recovery planning.

This plan is more than just a list of tasks required to clean up after a disaster event. It outlines programs that are designed to go "beyond immediate relief, to assist affected people to rebuild their homes, lives and services and to strengthen their capacity to cope with future disasters".*** We will assist the whole community to drive their own recovery and retain a sense of control over their lives.

Council will deliver a significant program of work involving multiple facets of the organisation, including the infrastructure services team, property and facilities, economic development and community development, all coordinated by a dedicated recovery role.

The plan was developed through a deep and ongoing level of engagement. This has involved numerous engagement events, ongoing conversations with the community and partner organisations, discussions with disaster recovery experts, as well as organic engagement through our extensive on-ground involvement right from the very start of the emergency.

Longer term recovery can only be achieved with partnership between all tiers of government, non-government agencies, the private sector and the broader community. Of these, local government is the level closest to the people affected and strategically placed to assist in the coordination of recovery program to assist rebuilding the community.

These programs will be primarily be funded via:

- \$1.416M Federal Government National Bushfire Recovery Agency
- \$1M Federal Government Drought Communities Program
- \$250,000 Bushfire Community Resilience & Economic Recovery Fund
- Additional successful competitive grant applications

The action plan outlines a locally-led approach structured around the recognised OEM framework that categorises actions into four streams of Built, Environment, Economic and Social and is expected to deliver genuine and lasting recovery support to the whole community. This Action Plan is a working document to ensure a flexible approach to recovery and will be updated as new opportunities or priorities are identified.

*** International Federation of Red Cross and Crescent Societies, 'From Crisis to Recover





COMMUNITY AND SOCIAL

A sense of community, as well as a connection to place and the people that share it, has long been an important part of recovering from disasters in the Macleay Valley. A bushfire of this scale coupled with the preceding drought has increased the need for connection, helping neighbours and having places to meet, gather and share.

It is a priority for Council to invest in our rural communities and villages, creating opportunities for new growth and even stronger connections. Activities, events and projects focused on social outcomes will be a critical stream in helping the community have a sense of ownership in their recovery.



Community and Social

Objective	Actions Needed	Outputs	Actioned by	Timeframe	Status	
1	The Kempsey Evacuation Centres operate efficiently and effectively to support displaced residents.	KSC to provide personnel to assist operations at the Kempsey Evacuation Centres located at the Kempsey Showground and the Kempsey Macleay Bowling Club.	KSC provided over 500hours of staff support. KSC provided 24hour support at the Kempsey Showground Evacuation Centre.	KSC	11- 27 November 2019	Completed
2	Facilitate immediate assistance for those people impacted by the bushfires	Assist the Department of Office Emergency Management in the setup of Disaster Welfare Assistance Points (DWAPs) in Willawarrin and Kempsey. Support Mobile Disaster Welfare Assistance Points.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Suitable sites identified & leased - Furniture ordered and delivered - KSC personnel in attendance to provide advice on Council services - DWAPs promoted on social media and in the local community Mobile DWAPs undertaken in Moparrabah, Millbank and Bellbrook	KSC	November 2019	Completed
3	Ongoing support provided to impacted landholders by linking people with key services and charitable organisations	Council led Recovery Centre to be established. Relevant support services invited to be present at Recovery Centre and public meetings.	Willawarrin Recovery Centre established. The following agencies and charities contributed to the Willawarrin Recovery Centre - Local Land Services, Rural Adversity Mental Health Program (RAMHP), Lifeline, Red Cross, Salvation Army and St Vincent de Paul, Aussie Helpers, Team Rubicon, National Parks and Wildlife Services,	KSC Various agencies	November 2019 – April 2020	Completed

			<p>Rural Fire Service and the Insurance Council of Australia.</p> <p>Community meeting held in Bellbrook – approximately 80 people in attendance</p> <p>Over 70 new entries were developed to form a new 'Disaster Recovery & Relief Services' section of the Directory.</p> <p>Additional staff member from OEM working with Kempsey Shire Council on a fulltime basis.</p> <p>The majority of case management services is now being provided by Department of Primary Industries</p> <p>Mobile recovery team (Council & partners) visit Willawarrin and Bellbrook each Wednesday.</p>			
		<p>Online Community Directory to include details of support service directly related to Bushfire Recovery assistance.</p> <p>Case management provided to impacted residents who require additional assistance.</p>		KSC	December 2019	Completed
				KSC/OEM	December 2019	Completed
					Oct onwards	Completed
					January – December 2020	Completed
		Recovery Hub established	The Hub at 57 Elbow Street, West Kempsey provides residents with ongoing advice and a referral process where required.	KSC/OEM NSW Heath DPI Vinnies	July 2020 onwards	Ongoing
4	Coordination of monetary donations and donated household goods	<p>Identification of Council's preferred charities to:</p> <p>a) receive monetary donations</p>	a) Council resolved to promote the 'Rotary Compassionate Grant for Macleay Valley Bushfire Relief' as the preferred charitable organisation for monetary donations to assist the Kempsey	KSC	November 2019	Completed

		b) receive & distribute donated goods	community. The Rotary Clubs of the Macleay Valley collaborated to facilitate this arrangement. b) Council became a registered charity for the purpose of the GIVIT online platform		December 2019	Completed
5	Impacted residents to receive offers of direct monetary assistance	Linking charitable organisations to residents who lost their homes without breaching necessary privacy requirements.	Correspondence sent to residents on behalf of the following charitable organisations offering direct assistance: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Rapid Relief Team - Tzu Chi Australia - Catholic Diocese - Anglican Church - Rotary 	KSC	January - April 2020	Completed
6	Develop a Recovery Action Plan which is reflective of community recovery priorities	A range of community engagement activities are undertaken following engagement with residents across the Shire.	Recovery Planning Workshops held at: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Willawarrin - Kempsey - Wittitrin 	KSC	Feb- April 2020	Completed
7	Kempsey Shire residents have the skills & resources to respond to future natural disaster events effectively and safely.	Facilitate increased community capacity to ensure improved preparedness and response capabilities.	<u>Individual preparedness</u> 6 Bushfire preparedness programs were carried out in August, September and October. Programs were facilitated by local RFS Captains and supported by KSC. All participants will receive a basic emergency grab kit. <u>Community preparedness</u> Development of a Local Community Preparedness Plan for KSC villages	KSC KSC	August, September & October. 30 June 2021	Completed First draft plan to be drafted for the Stuarts Point Community

			and towns from an all-hazards approach.			following the completion of the community survey.
			<p><u>Business preparedness</u> Facilitation of a business breakfast with a guest speaker with information and preparedness resources available to encourage business continuity in times of disaster.</p>	KSC	30 June 2021	Planning commenced. Event planned for May 2021 – Postponed until February 2022 due to COVID restrictions.
			Develop an Adverse Event Plan (requirement under the Drought Communities Program Funding)	KSC	30 June 2021	Draft commenced.
		Increase the number of roadside property numbers visible to emergency services	Promote and coordinate a free rural property numbering initiative across the Shire.	KSC	30 June 2021	Initiative launched and applications are being received by the community.
					1 November 2021	241 numbers installed. 168 signs ready to be installed. Processing 140 further applications
		Key community members are given the opportunity to undertake relevant tertiary studies to become leaders in their communities in times of crisis.	12 community members are provided scholarships to study community leadership and resilience at Charles Sturt University.	KSC and Charles Sturt University	December 2020	Completed

8	The bushfire event in November and December 2019 are suitably commemorated.	A photography exhibition to be created based images taken and shared by residents Residents to have the opportunity to purchase (at a subsidised costs) hard copies of the photos included in photography exhibition.	The Black Summer and Beyond Photography Exhibition was held in November at Willawarrin, Bellbrook and Sherwood. A coffee table book to be published using the Black Summer and Beyond Exhibition photographs.	KSC KSC	November 2020 November 2021 November 2021	Completed for commemoration with over 1350 people visiting over one month at the three venues. The exhibition was open free to the public at the Slim Dusty Centre from 26 January – November 2021. Over 5,000 visitors experienced the exhibition. The 2021 commemorative events to include the launch of the oral history documentaries, Mates Brekky at Showground and Black Summer and Beyond book. Book published and available for sale (\$10).
9	Empower the community to invest recovery funds into their priority recovery projects.	\$300,000 Bushfire Recovery Community Grants Fund to be established.	Community Advisory Panel to be formed following public EOI process.	KSC	EOI process undertaken. Panel appointed July 2020.	Completed

			Bushfire Recovery Community Grants Program to be promoted.	KSC	October and November 2020	Completed
			Community Recovery Grants Program applications to be assessed by the Community Advisory Panel	KSC	December 2020	Completed
			\$251,143 worth of recovery grants distributed to community organisations as recommended by the Community Advisory Panel and ratified by the General Manager.	KSC	February 2021	Completed
			A further \$50,000 will be offered in the 2021/22 Community Grants Program.		1 November 2021	Completed
10	Ensure residents can efficiently and easily access recovery support services	Provide a single location centre for disaster assistance for a period of 12 months.	Macleay Valley Hub established at 57 Elbow Street, West Kempsey	KSC	Hub established. Officially opened 30 July.	Completed Additional services located at the Hub include: NSW Health Department Primary Industries St Vincent de Paul
11	Support the physical and mental wellbeing of residents.	Develop a range of free programs and activities to encourage the community to come together and support one another during the recovery phase.	The Strength, Support and Community booklet has been developed, offering a large range of free community workshops and activities including yoga, mixed fitness classes, gentle exercise, bootcamp and 'breaking bread' cooking classes.	KSC	August, September and October 2020.	Completed. 664 attendances at workshops/sessions over the three month period.

		In partnership with other relevant agencies, develop a range of events/programs for children in drought affected regions.	Programs/events to be planned for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Willawarrin - Bellbrook - Collombatti/Frederickton - Sherwood/Wittitrin - Kempsey 	KSC	30 June 2021	Planning commenced for an after school activities however COVID 19 restrictions have delayed this program.
12	Keep the community informed and connected with all aspects of recovery.	Develop an interactive Recovery Website Page for Kempsey Shire residents.	Website developed – www.yoursaymacleay/recovery . Examples of information located on the website include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Clean up information - Charitable organisations - Stories about resident’s recovery journey - Available grants - Government announcements (eg rate support) - Updates on Council’s recovery initiatives 	KSC	Ongoing	Completed
		Regularly produce and distribute a Recovery Newsletter.	Newsletters developed and distributed. Information contained within the newsletter is reflective of that contained on the Recovery Website.	KSC	Ongoing	June, August, September, November and December newsletter completed. Summer 2021 newsletter completed and mailed to Upper Macleay residents.
13	To better understand and meet the needs of the local Aboriginal community in response and recovery to disasters.	Engage a suitable contractor for KSC to work with to undertake a series of workshops to achieve the identified objective.	GHD engaged to undertake an interactive stakeholder workshop on Wednesday 15 September. GHD undertook ‘ground-truthing’ with local community members	KSC/GHD	15 September 2021 Mid- late October 2021	Complete Complete

			following outcomes identified in the first workshop			
			Final workshop coordinated to present the findings and recommended actions.		November 2021	Complete



BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Critical infrastructure has been put under incredible strain during the bushfires including road, bridges, telecommunications and water. Essential services have been restored to our communities, yet there are actions which remain outstanding and require attention in order to facilitate the needed social and economic recovery actions.

The focus of the built line of recovery encapsulates actions that will facilitate the recovery process, replace and improve community infrastructure, restore transport and access for rural communities and create a greater level of preparedness and security against future disasters, particularly flood, fire and drought.



Built Environment

	Objective	Actions Needed	Outputs	Actioned by	Timeframe	Status
1	Facilitate assistance for landholders who lost stock fencing in the bushfires	Establish a BlazeAid Camp at Willawarrin	Negotiations undertaken with user groups of Willawarrin Rodeo Ground for the camp to be established at that location. Cleaning, amenities access, additional electricity and access to camp kitchen facilitated. Camp established	KSC & BlazeAid	December 2019	Completed
		Registration of landholders seeking assistance prior to the arrival of BlazeAid to the area.	Registration of approximately 100 landholders, taken, collated and forwarded onto BlazeAid.	KSC	December 2019	Completed
		Continue to support BlazeAid in their volunteer work.	New contract with Resilience NSW secured to ensure ongoing support of BlazeAid including the relocation to the Willawarrin soccer fields and contribution to meal costs.	KSC	June – July 2020	Completed.
		Council to show BlazeAid volunteers appreciation for their outstanding contribution to the recovery efforts.	Civic Reception held in recognition of their efforts	KSC	September	Completed. BlazeAid outputs: - Assisted 279 Farmers - Completing 254 projects - Rebuilt 127.3km of fencing - Cleared 95.3km of fencing - 3881 volunteer days - 265 volunteers

		<p>Request Australian Defence Force (ADF) for assistance with fencing that directly fronts roads, National Park or State Forestry.</p> <p>Promote NSW Government commitment of \$209 million to support landholders to rebuilding essential boundary fencing (\$5,000 per kilometre)</p> <p>Assist impacted landholders with the disposal of destroyed fencing.</p>	<p>ADF personnel undertake two (2) deployments to Willawarrin to assist with farm fencing.</p> <p>Correspondence sent to 55 landholders who were registered with BlazeAid and identified as potentially eligible for this funding.</p> <p>Grant application prepared through the EPA FenceCycle program.</p>	<p>KSC & BlazeAid</p> <p>KSC (assisted by BlazeAid)</p> <p>KSC</p>	<p>February 2020</p> <p>April 2020</p> <p>March 2021</p> <p>November 2021</p>	<p>Completed</p> <p>Completed</p> <p>Completed</p> <p>Notification from the EPA that the grant application was successful.</p>
2	<p>Destroyed homes, outbuilding and general bushfire waste is cleaned up and disposed of to assist resident's recovery.</p>	<p>Provide impacted residents with the information required to assist with the clean up of private property, including destroyed homes.</p> <p>Team Rubicon officially invited to the Shire to assist individuals with clean-up of their properties.</p> <p>Laing O'Rourke to be provided with relevant data to ensure all eligible residents have accessed clean-up assistance where eligible.</p>	<p>Waste meetings held at Bellbrook and Willawarrin. Agencies present included the Public Works Advisory, Rural Adversity Mental Health Program and NSW Farmers.</p> <p>Team Rubicon personnel aided throughout the Shire for approximately 5 weeks.</p> <p>All contact details held by Council forwarded onto Laing O'Rourke.</p> <p>All known properties on the destroyed list individually contacted.</p>	<p>KSC</p> <p>KSC/Team Rubicon</p> <p>KSC/OEM</p>	<p>January 2020</p> <p>Nov – Dec 2019</p> <p>March 2020</p>	<p>Completed</p> <p>Completed</p> <p>Completed</p>

3	Provide residents with upgraded gravel roads to ensure adequate access for emergency vehicles.	Identify and undertake maintenance of key Council 'unmaintained' roads.	Maintenance undertaken on the following roads: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Davis Road, Wittittrin - Stoney Creek Road - Roses Road - Hickeys Creek Road (the unmaintained portion) 	KSC	June 2020 & again later in 2020	Completed
4	Bellbrook and Willawarrin have multi-functional community venues which are accessible to all the community.	Identify improvements to the Bellbrook & Willawarrin halls to ensure these facilities support everyday community gatherings as well as shelter in the case of an emergency. War memorial at Bellbrook to be upgraded with new flagpoles.	<u>Willawarrin Hall</u> Exterior of the hall repaired, lead based paint removed and repainted.	KSC	30 June 2020	Completed
			<u>Bellbrook Hall</u> New toilet block and disabled access to the hall built. Disabled carpark installed.		1 Dec 2020	Completed
			Three new flagpoles installed at Bellbrook War Memorial, area cleaned and new flags purchased.	KSC	June 2020	Completed
5	Alternate accommodation options are offered to those who lost their homes who wish to stay on their properties.	Support the Minderoo and NSW Government partnership providing accommodation pods to 112 families across NSW.	KSC representative appointed to the sub-committee to assess and recommend allocation of pods.	KSC	March 2020	Completed
			Eleven applications prepared and sent for consideration.	KSC	March & April 2020	Completed
			Eleven pods allocated to families in the Kempsey Shire.	Minderoo	April 2020	Completed - eleven pods installed.
6	Provide a multipurpose community space which provides a range of structured and informal leisure activities in the Upper Macleay.	Upgrade the existing Willawarrin Rodeo and Sporting Grounds into a multipurpose community precinct.	Replacement of the playground equipment	KSC	30 Dec 2020	Playground completed.

			<p>Refurbishment of the showground canteen</p> <p>Replacement of the soccer field goal posts & purchase of a line marker for the local club.</p> <p>Resurface the rodeo ground improve safety for equestrian events.</p>	<p>KSC</p> <p>KSC</p>	<p>1 November 2021</p> <p>1 November 2021</p> <p>30 September 2020</p>	<p>Final designs approved by community. Building to commence early 2022.</p> <p>Completed</p> <p>Completed.</p>
7	Ensure the community is adequately informed to respond to flooding.	Upgrade or replace flood gauges as deemed necessary	<p>Flood gauges to be upgraded/replaced:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Bellbrook - Collombatti Creek - Kempsey Traffic Bridge - Moparrabah - Sherwood Bride - Toorooka 	KSC	30 June 2020	Manly Hydraulics Laboratory have been undertaking works at the river level gauges at Moparrabah, Bellbrook, Sherwood and Collombatti. Works are nearing completion with commissioning of service in progress.
8	Ensure adequate infrastructure is in place to support the community in an emergency.	Replace, upgrade or build water filling stations across the Shire.	Filling stations to be upgraded or built at key locations.	KSC	1 November 2021	Completed.



ECONOMIC RECOVERY

Bushfires and drought are not only environmental threats but a high economic risk. The full extent of the impact of the 2019 bushfire disaster is yet to be totally understood but with such widespread damage and impact on key industry sectors such as agriculture and tourism, it is expected to exceed millions of dollars.

Actions identified under the economic line of recovery are interventions which will fast-track the recovery process, create new opportunities which will alleviate pressure in the impacted areas and ensure communities are given the opportunity not only to restore, but to grow and take control following such devastating events.



Economic Recovery

Objective		Actions Needed	Outputs	Actioned by	Timeframe	Status
1	Encourage Laing O'Rourke (LOR) to engage local contractors to undertake the demolition process.	Liaison with LOR to determine joint promotional opportunities	Local contractors invited to attend an information session held at Kempsey Shire Council. Approximately 30 contactors attended session. Promotion of sub-contracting opportunities with LOR.	KSC & LOR	March 2020	Completed
2	Attracting visitors back to affected regions.	Video footage and still photographs to be shot in the Upper Macleay to use on future campaigns		KSC	30 June 2020	Completed.
3	Businesses on the Upper Macleay are supported by increased tourism.	Existing primitive camping sites are upgraded	Amenities and BBQ facilities at the Blackbird Flat upgraded.	KSC	Dec 2020	Completed
		A major annual event to be scheduled for the Upper Macleay.	The Bellbrook Buster (adventure race with mountain biking, kayaking and trail running) event to be developed and seed funding provided for a two year period.	KSC	30 June 2021	Not commenced due to COVID.
4	Primary producers are supported in returning to full productivity.	Primary producers are given guidance on how to reassess their farming practices to best meet their individual business goals.	Farm planning workshops will be provided to primary producers covering a range of topics.	KSC	Aug – September 2020	Completed

		Kempsey Regional Saleyards are improved to ensure a quality selling centre catering for a large number of quality buyers and sellers.	Improvements are made as per the Saleyards Business Plan adopted October 2020.	KSC	30 June 2021	Completed
5	Kempsey Shire has a thriving business community.	Local businesses throughout the Shire are supported and innovation encouraged. Support the Kempsey Agricultural Show to improve the schedule of events and attractions to encourage more locals and visitors to the region.	Council to sponsor the 2021 Macleay Valley Business Awards to celebrate business excellence and support network opportunities. Donation to be made directly to the Kempsey Show Committee	KSC KSC	2021 (2020 event cancelled due to COVID 19) 30 June 2021	Donation provided to the Kempsey Chamber of Commerce Completed.





NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

Although recent rain has welcomed new growth and helped the regeneration of our bush and farmland to commence, the environmental impacts of the bushfires on the local flora and fauna are expected to be felt for many years.

This plan incorporates a number of initiatives to address this important component and to increase community involvement in ongoing environmental protection.



Natural Environment

Objective		Actions Needed	Outputs	Actioned by	Timeframe	Status
1	Facilitate vegetation and wildlife recovery within the impacted landscape.	Engagement of Macleay Valley Landcare Network (MLN) to undertake associated programs.	A series of community workshops conducted to inform landholders on methods to promote landscape recovery. Workshops to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Regeneration of gully forests (wet sclerophyll). - Farm wildlife habitat recovery - Replanting (in conjunction with a plant give away program) 	KSC/MLN	Aug – October 2020	Completed Total of 144 participants. Highlight was 2000 tree seedlings given away to 75 landholders who completed the Tree Planting for Success workshop.
		Assist residents with weed control for key species.	Deliver a comprehensive control program for Tropical Soda Apple on public land.	KSC	30 June 2021.	Completed
		The Bass population to be increased to assist with tourism and the eco-system	Council contribute to the Native Fish Restocking Program (Bass)	KSC	30 June 2021.	Completed
	Road verges are clear of burnt debris.	Roadside assessment	Council staff to undertake assessment of roadside trees to ensure motorist safety.	KSC		Completed
		Australian Defence Force requested to assist with the clean-up of felled roadside trees.	ADF personnel undertook 2 deployments to assist with the clean up of the road verges.	ADF		Completed

www.kempsey.nsw.gov.au

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