



DRAFT Snowy Valleys Council Bushfire Recovery

Action Plan January 2020

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76 Capper Street, TUMUT NSW 2720

P.	1300 275 782
E.	info@svc.nsw.gov.au
W.	svc.nsw.gov.au
ABN.	535 588 918 87

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Event Summary

Shire wide fire activity summary of incident :

Multiple fires impacted the area and commenced at different localities within the SVC boundary

- The Dunns Road Fire first started from a lightning strike on 29/12/19
- The Green Valley
- The Ournie Creek
- Mary's Hill
- Mount Yungai
- Nine Mile Complex
- Snowy Complex
- Yellow Bog Road

An Emergency Operations Centre was opened in Tumut on Tuesday 31 December 2019. The whole local government area experienced large smoke haze for a number of days.

A Section 44 declaration was in place from 12.00pm, 29 December 2019 for the Snowy Valleys Council area which means the RFS should have had easier access to resources although resources across the state were stretched due to the number and severity of fires in other areas

- Evacuation Centres were opened:
 - Wagga Wagga
 - Albury
 - Adelong
 - Tumbarumba
 - Tumut
- Detailed Assessments commenced and as at 13/1/20:
 - 337,226 Hectares impacted by fire
 - 572 Homes and properties impacted by fire
 - 115 Homes destroyed by fire
- The Section 44 declaration was revoked on [insert date]

Regional Fire Recovery Committee

The Regional Recovery Committee operates across seven local government areas covering:

- Snowy Valleys
- Bega Valley
- Eurobodalla
- Shoalhaven
- Snowy Monaro
- Queanbeyan Palerang
- Wingecarribee

The State will bring all key agencies together to work with us to assess damage and needs and commence the critical stages. The Regional Fire Recovery Committee is chaired by Heidi Stratford (Premiers) Council's General manager Leanne Barnes is Deputy Chair of this group.

A Recovery Coordinator has been appointed to Southern NSW by the Premier to cover the area. Dick Adams a former senior police commander has been announced.

As we move through the recovery event State, ACT and Federal agencies will work with us to look at how we transition from the current evacuation centers to disaster welfare assistance and how this will work to assist communities across our whole Shire.

We will keep updating recovery information on Council's website and community meetings will be held across the local government area. Recovery information will be released regularly in a whole range of formats so that all members of the community can access it.

Regional Disaster Recovery Committee Structure

- Fire Impacted Councils
- NSW Rural Fire Service
- NSW Police
- NSW SES
- South East Regional Health
- Transport NSW
- NSW Regional Infrastructure
- NSW Environment Protection Authority
- NSW Public Works Advisory
- Family and Community Services
- Insurance Council of Australia
- Department of Premier and Cabinet
- Office of Minister Andrew Constance, Local Member for Bega
- Office of Emergency Management

Recovery Centre

It is intended that a base location will be established for Snowy Valleys Recovery with outreach to be the primary contact with impacted residents and the business community.

SVC Local Government Recovery Action Committee

Council has established a Local Government Recovery Action Committee. The key areas of focus will be health and well-being, forest industry, agriculture and livestock, business and tourism, infrastructure, waste and environment, donations and disaster relief, Council business, communications and community engagement. We will also look to refocus our Council "business as usual" activities as we deal with the challenges ahead. Membership currently includes (next page):

Category	Name	Organisation
Health & Wellbeing	Denise Garner	Murrumbidgee Health – Recovery role
Agriculture & Livestock	Barney Hyams	Chair, Riverina Local Land Services
Business	Ken Dale	President, Tumbarumba Chamber of Commerce
Business	Natalie Randall	President, Tumut Regional Chamber of Commerce
Tourism	Matt Lucas	Thrive Riverina
Infrastructure	Roy Humphries	VALMAR
Waste & Environment	John Stanfield	Manager VALMAR Disability Enterprises
Donations & Disaster Relief	Hannah Speers	Elders, Adelong
Communications & Community Engagement	David Eisenhauer	Sounds of the Mountains
Forestry	Peter Crowe & Phil Clements	Softwoods Working Group
Forestry	Rab Green	AKD
Industry	Kevin Anderson	Visy
Industry	Katie Fowden	Hyne
Industry	Nico and Angeline Mulder	Costa Berries
Industry	Richard Cottam	Mount Tumbarumba Vineyard
Industry	Pernell Hartley	General Manager, Batlow Fruit Company
Industry	Guy Boardman	Area Manager, Lower Tumut Region, Snowy Hydro
Mayor	James Hayes	Snowy Valleys Council
Deputy Mayor	John Larter	Snowy Valleys Council
CEO (Chair)	Matt Hyde	Snowy Valleys Council
Local Recovery Coordinator	To be advised	Snowy Valleys Council
Optional	Heidi Stratford	Department Premier and Cabinet
Optional	Dick Adams	Recovery Coordinator Southern NSW
Optional	Justin Clancy MP	State Member for Albury
Optional	Joe McGirr MP	State Member for Wagga
Optional	Steph Cooke MP	Member for Cootamundra
Optional	Mike Kelly MP	Federal Member for Eden-Monaro
Optional	Paul Lloyd	Regional Emergency Management Officer (REMO)
Optional	Bob Noble	NSW Police
Optional	Stan Wall	NSW Police
Optional	Brad Palmer	Australian Defence Force
Optional	Steve Pinnuck	General Manager, Greater Hume Shire Council

Local Recovery Action Plan

The Recovery Action Plan outlines the priorities and actions of the Snowy Valleys Fire Recovery Committee as at January 2020.

Immediate Recovery Priorities

- On-ground assessment of damage and needs
- Safety and shelter for residents impacted
- Stabilisation of infrastructure systems – access to water, power, communications, waste and transport
- Stabilisation of communications systems – mobile, fixed line and data
- clean up and disposal or reuse of waste material
- getting business re-established and repurposed where required
- redirection of employment and establishment of complimentary industries

Intent of the Local Recovery Committee

To work to provide timely support and tools to affected communities to quickly return to an adequate level of function after the 2020 bushfire event.

Our approach will be:

- community focused
- inclusive and collaborative
- integrated and coordinated
- timely, tailored and adapted to the changing community needs
- empowering and supporting community self determination
- sharing responsibility between all sectors of the community
- empathetic
- positively future focused

Objectives

1. assess damage and needs
2. reconstruct and restore physical infrastructure
3. ensure support for emotion, social, economic and physical wellbeing
4. adapt to a changed natural environment
5. build community resilience and capability
6. betterment of infrastructure and support systems and adaptation to modified environmental conditions

The key actions outlined in the Plan are:

Health and Wellbeing Sub-committee:

The role of the health and wellbeing subcommittee is to lead and coordinate the planning and implementation of the social aspects of recovery including in safety and wellbeing, physical and psychological health, immediate and long-term shelter, social engagement and education. Recognising that a community's strengths and vulnerabilities can help inform the recovery process.

- Recovery Support
- Programs to address psychological support
- Redeployment and retraining for modified community needs

Infrastructure, Waste and Environment Sub-committee:

The role of the infrastructure, waste and Environment subcommittee is to lead and coordinate the planning and implementation of the built environment and lead and coordinate the planning and implementation of the environmental recovery in terms of the ecosystem components of air, water, land and soil and plants and animals.

This includes:

- Recovery of commercial and industry buildings and structures, physical infrastructure (including power, water, telecommunications, transport) and
- Rebuilding of damaged council infrastructure. This infrastructure can be owned by a range of entities including; multinational companies, individuals, government and community groups.
- Restoration of essential services during recovery may require temporary solutions and can also provide an opportunity to meet the needs of the future environment.
- Clean up and remediation of fire affected properties
- Waste management facilities and waste tracking
- Land management for environmental and community outcomes (sediment and erosion control)
- Support to the restoration of the natural flora and fauna

Forest Industries Sub-committee

The role of the forest industries sub-committee is to lead and coordinate the planning and implementation of repurposing, modification of processes, reestablishment and recovery. The subcommittee is responsible for providing specialist support and advice on key issues confronting industry and the community reliance.

The local networks and existing groups to be utilised to inform a needs and capacity assessment would include:

- Softwoods Working Group
- Major businesses impacted such as Visy, Hyne, AKD, Borg, Hume Forests

Agriculture and Livestock Sub-committee

The role of the agriculture subcommittee is to lead and coordinate the planning and implementation of the primary industries and rural farming recovery. The subcommittee is responsible for providing specialist support and advice on key issues confronting primary industries and rural community.

The local networks and existing groups to be utilised to inform a needs and capacity assessment would include:

- Tumbarumba Vignerons Association
- Tumut Co-op
- Batlow Fruit Company
- Upper Murray Inc.

Business and Tourism Sub-committee

The role of the business and industry sub-committee is to lead and coordinate the planning and implementation of the community's economic recovery. Economic recovery is vital to the whole of community and can affect residents and households, public infrastructure and community facilities, business enterprises and supply chain as well as government.

Communications and Community Engagement Sub-committee

A Communications sub-committee should be established in the initial stages of recovery to ensure timely, accurate and consistent recovery information is disseminated by all agencies. Members of the group should comprise communications representatives from council along with relevant state government agencies and key local organisations.

The Communications sub-committee reports directly to the Recovery Committee and a council communications representative should also regularly attend Recovery Committee meetings.

Community members understand their needs better than any of the professional, government, non-government or corporate supporters. They have the right to make their own choices about their own recovery. It is well recognised that the processes used by government and other key recovery agencies to interact with and support communities are critical and can impact either positively or negatively on the capacity of individuals and groups to manage their own recovery process.

The effects of a disaster on an impacted community are compounded by the nature of the disaster and of the community itself, as well as complex considerations such as human behaviour and relationships and the evolving needs of recovery.

Interagency networks are a useful resource to seek input and feedback through existing relationships and networks.

Council Business as Usual Sub-committee

Council's operations are also impacted through resources redirected to support the Rural Fire Service Operations, the Emergency Operations Centre and Recovery activities. Both Council's soft and hard assets will be impacted. While juggling varied roles Council needs to re-establish priorities in our business operations to return as close as possible to business as usual being mindful of the change in the business environment and community needs.

Donations and Disaster Relief Sub-committee

Donated Goods

Following an emergency event, people often want to donate goods to the disaster affected community. Unless there is a specific need, the public will always be encouraged to donate money in preference to donated goods. Donated goods are difficult to sort, store, distribute and manage and can divert recovery efforts. If left uncoordinated and unsupported, donations received can be not needed, of varying quality and can undermine the local economy.

Due to the organic nature of these activities occurring, there will likely be several local agencies receiving and distributing donated goods following an emergency. If this occurs, it is useful to establish a temporary working group for these agencies to meet face to face to share information about their activities and for those agencies to receive up to date information about the recovery operation. The working group should ensure as much as possible a coordinated approach to managing donated goods, including consistent public messaging.

This process also needs to dovetail into supporting ongoing welfare needs of the community as well as developing welfare needs due to the fire event.

Appeals

Following a disaster, individuals may want to donate money to the affected community. To assist the public should be strongly encouraged to donate money to a coordinated appeal, if established. It is more empowering for people to receive cash grants so that they can choose what they most need to support their own recovery which can also assist in stimulating the local economy. When considering if an appeal should be launched, assess the level of impact and the financial needs of the impacted community. There may be other existing charity appeals to partner with, who have expertise in managing appeals. Council has a Disaster Relief Fund established in partnership with the Social Justice Advocates; the MOU with them is currently ready for signing with the first meeting planned.

Community Advisory Group

Working and Advisory groups may also be initiated to support sub-committees in navigating specific time limited issues which do not require involvement of the full Committee. Working groups can be initiated or disbanded by the Recovery Committee or a sub-committee at any time depending on need.

The Plan is a 'living document' that will be updated as required to reflect completed actions and new and emerging priorities. A formal review of the Plan will be undertaken [insert date].

The following one-page action plans are to be populated by the sub-committees.

Health and Wellbeing Sub Committee

Councillor Representative/s: Geoff Pritchard Chair: John Larter

Snowy Valleys (SVC)
Office of Emergency Management
Disaster Welfare Service
Rural Fire Service

Family and Community Services/Housing
Disaster Recovery Chaplains Network
Murrumbidgee Health
Department of Education

St Vincent de Paul
Anglican Church
PHN

Australian Red Cross
Salvation Army
Country Women's Association

	Objective/Community Need	Recovery Actions	Resources Needed	Timeframe and Status	Responsible Agency/s
	Ensure community needs are effectively understood; ensure a roof over heads and people's needs met				
	Provide timely and relevant information to the communities about recovery assistance measures and activities, as well as address issues and concerns as raised by community members				
	Develop and implement a range of psychosocial support services to address the identified community recovery needs through relevant partner				
	Community led and implemented initiatives to be supported which assist the community to utilise a range of socio-economic initiatives to assist their recovery processes				
	Community led recovery processes are supported throughout the recovery process				
	Building community resilience to future disasters				
	Community have access to available donated goods and services				
	Provide a range of financial support services / grants				

Infrastructure Waste and Environment Sub Committee

Councillor Representative/s: Andrianna Benjamin; John Larter Chair: John Stanfield/Roy Humphries

Snowy Valleys (SVC)
Office of Emergency Management

Environment Protection Authority
Office of Environment and Heritage

NSW Public Works
NSW Health

Safe Work NSW

	Objective, Community Need	Recovery Actions	Resources	Timeframe and Status	Responsible Agency's
	Develop land management program and erosion controls for fire impacted land				
	Facilitate rebuild of destroyed homes				
	Ensure the protection of catchment areas and water sources i.e. dams; creeks and rivers, and ensure an effective plan, and information dissemination to stakeholders.'				
	Provide local disposal options for community self-haul/self-clean up — appropriate disposal for environment and human health protection.				
	Provide additional capacity for tree, timber and green waste from fire impacted areas.				
	Protect public from dangerous trees				

Agriculture and Livestock Sub Committee

Councillor Representative/s: James Hayes; Julia Ham Chair: Barney Hyams

Insert Agencies involved	Insert Agencies involved	Insert Agencies involved	Insert Agencies involved
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	Objective/Community Need	Recovery Actions	Resource	Timeframe and Status	Responsible Agency's

Business and Tourism Sub Committee

Councillor Representative/s: Julia Ham; Andrianna Benjamin Chair: Ken Dale/Natalie Randall

Snowy Valleys (SVC) Office of Emergency Management		Forestry Corporation of NSW Department of Premier and Cabinet	Destination Southern NSW Chambers of Commerce	Community Organisations	
Objective/Community Need	Recovery Actions	Resources	Timeframe & Status	Responsible Agency/s	
Advertising Campaign					
Grant Application support					
Launch Get Ready Business Toolkit					
A Changing Landscape campaign					

Communications & Community Engagement Sub-Committee

Councillor Representative/s: Cate Cross; Cor Smit **Chair:** Dave Eisenhauer

Insert Agencies involved					
Insert Agencies involved	Insert Agencies involved	Insert Agencies involved	Insert Agencies involved		
	Objective/Community Need	Recovery Actions	Resources	Timeframe and Status	Responsible Agency's

Council Business as Usual Sub Committee

Representative/s: SVC Executive Leadership Team

Chair: CEO, Matt Hyde

Insert Agencies involved		Insert Agencies involved		Insert Agencies involved		Insert Agencies involved	
Objective/Community Need	Recovery Actions			Resources	Timeframe and Status	Responsible Agency's	

Donations & Disaster Relief Sub Committee

Councillor Representative/s: Margaret Isselmann; Cate Cross **Chair:** Hannah Speers

Insert Agencies involved	Insert Agencies involved	Insert Agencies involved	Insert Agencies involved
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	Objective/Community Need	Recovery Actions	Resources	Timeframe and Status	Responsible Agency/s

Community Advisory Group

Councillor Representative/s: ALL Chair: James Hayes

Insert Agencies involved		Insert Agencies involved		Insert Agencies involved		Insert Agencies involved	
Objective/Community Need	Recovery Actions			Resources	Timeframe and Status	Responsible Agency/s	