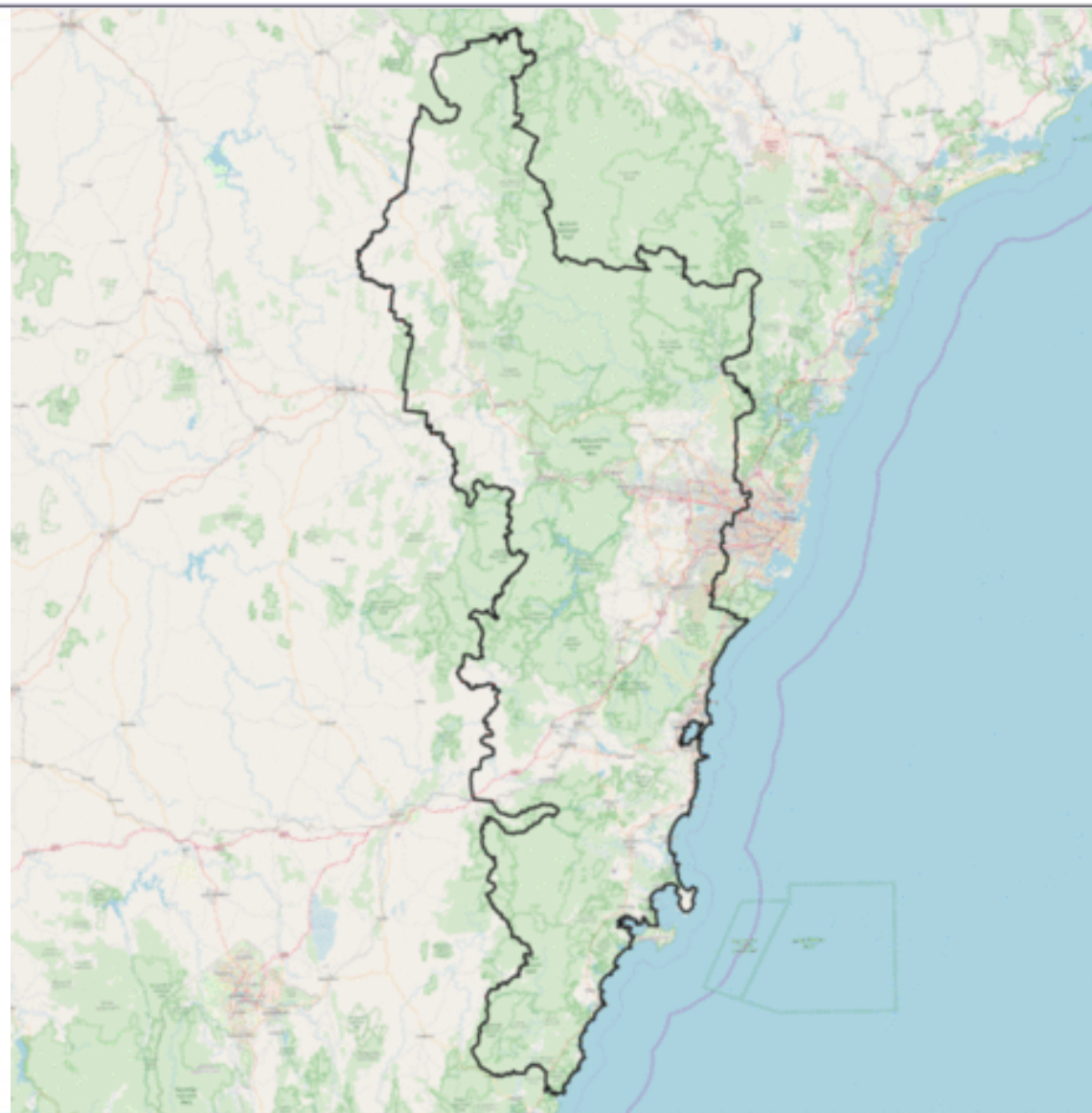


Bushfires and Recovery

National General Assembly







Repair into Recovery

Work to restore Shoalhaven to normal operation & community activity as soon as possible

Our Economy

Over \$45m of State Government stimulus money

- \$36m in \$10k grants to small business
- \$9.9m in \$50k grants



50 tradies who lost equipment received Biz Rebuild Vouchers

Campaigns

- Rejuvenate Shoalhaven 10.5 million + reach
- Spend Here This Year 165 new business listings generating online sales

Workshops

- 200+ businesses have received one on one business support, advice & grant information
- 13 Digital Support Workshops (with 130 businesses) & 20 one on one sessions delivered
- Attended 48 cross regional small business & tourism recovery meetings to gather & share information

Our Environment

520m of coir logs and sandbags installed to stop sediment/ash movement into waterways

\$1.4m in grant funding secured for bushfire affected waterways, to be used over the next 3 years

Monitoring

Air, sea, land & water monitoring including asbestos presence conducted throughout recovery

1,000+ animal water & feed stations installed



Night Cameras placed at feed stations for data/species research

22 Eastern grey kangaroo joeys remain in care from fires. Rehabilitated animals return to the wild



Aerial Food Drops 1.6 tonnes by 20 March across 14 locations

550 endangered **Grey Headed** flying foxes successfully rehabilitated by the bat clinic

Endangered Kangaroo Valley brush tailed rock wallaby **colony survives**

NatureMapr App introduced for wildlife station location & species identification



\$105,000 Secured for fire trail maintenance & asset protection works

Our Infrastructure

133.27km of burnt roads **29 roads** affected

Damaged/destroyed

- 1,200 guideposts
- 65+ signs

Properties

• 796 registered (with some duplicates in system)

• 391 ineligible or works carried out by owner or insurer

6-month rate relief for affected customers



Sites

• 316 cleaned by 10 June

• 29 sites on track for clean up by 30 June

DA stats for rebuild

- 22 dwellings applications lodged with 9 approved
- 29 additions, outbuildings & other development applications lodged with 18 approved
- DA fees for affected customers waived



\$510K green waste fees waived until 8 April

17,797 tonnes Non-contaminated waste received by 18 June

Demolition waste from 295 homes Recycling target 60%, **achieved 93%**

- 9,501 tonnes recycled
- approx 400 tonnes to landfill
- 7,946 in processing stockpile for recycling

March 2020

- ADF ground teams depart Shoalhaven
- COVID19 social distancing & isolation measures introduced nationally
- Closure of face to face recovery centres
- Recovery centres re-open as virtual & telephone Recovery Helpline
- Virtual community meetings trialled in Shoalhaven by Laing O'Rourke (local tradespeople recruitment) & NSW Government Inquiry
- Health & Wellbeing workshops planned & deferred due COVID19
- Wildlife food drops conducted

April/May 2020

- Grants, clean-up, monitoring, waterway management continue through COVID19 lockdown
- Call back by Recovery Helpline of all registered Shoalhaven registered residents commences & continues

Shoalhaven City Council website & social media - Dec & ongoing

June 2020

- Recovery Helpline service & call back continues during working hours
- Virtual Health & Wellbeing workshops begin
- Non-contaminated waste recycling area at West Nowra decommissioned
- 90%+ Clean-up of eligible properties cleaned & debris removed
- Federal & State community support officer positions created
- Recovery Action teams and Recovery Committee transition to Council business as usual

Our Supporters

42 staff from 7+ Other Councils, ACT health & HVTC

80 ADF personnel assist with clean-up over 6 weeks & Fleet Air Arm support throughout

Blaze Aid

- 3,220 cumulative volunteer days by 4 June
- 84kms cleared fencing
- 69kms new fencing

Our Community

430+ people attend community meetings

7 meetings with external service providers with more than 50 representatives from state and federal agencies and NGOs

6 Mobile Recovery Hubs held



Registered

• 1,488 at Ulladulla Recovery Centre by 13 March

16,800 visits to the Bushfire Recovery Get Involved page by 11 June

156 responses to our Community Recovery survey

250 people joined the Laing O'Rourke Recovery Webinar

Mayor's Bushfire Relief Fund

- \$361,696.18 raised
- 265 grants allocated to members of the community



Recovery Call backs

- 906 attempts to contact individuals
- 687 successful contacts
- 376 people require no further assistance
- 82 cases require additional follow up
- 100+ people referred to external agencies as of 16 June



Recovery Progress Timeline

December 2019/January 2020

- Recovery Committee formed
- Evacuation Centres opened
- Mayoral Relief Fund activated
- Rejuvenate Shoalhaven launched
- Shoalhaven Waste Management proposal submitted
- Local recovery Coordinator appointed & Recovery Action Plan approved by Council
- Environmental testing of Water, Land, Sea & Air commences
- ADF ground teams arrive in the Shoalhaven
- Evacuation Centres closed & Recovery Centres opened
- Local, State & Federal Government Relief packages begin

February 2020

- Community Recovery Meetings held
- Heavy rainfall & king tides occur simultaneously causing flooding
- Shoalhaven Waste Management proposal endorsed & implemented
- Property clean up commences
- Green waste accepted free of charge & extended hours introduced at Waste Management Centres
- Mobile Recovery Hubs commence operation
- BlazeAid operations commence from Milton & Kangaroo Valley camps

Visit the Shoalhaven Bushfire Recovery website for full detailed information







Shoalhaven Community Recovery Into Resilience Project (RRP) Action Plan

October 2020



Three Activity Streams of the RRP

1. Long Term Community-led Resilience

This Activity Stream involves the 10 to 20 year view of Community-led resilience embracing Community human and economic wellbeing, and the Community's vision for the local environment, emergency and disaster management. It will be a completion of previous work from Griffith University's research in the Sussex Inlet area and continuing its study through other Shoalhaven Communities. It will be conducted under Council supervision with assistance of the Federal Recovery Support Officer, currently seconded to SCC for the next nine months.

2. Short Term Community Readiness 'the crocodile closest to the canoe'

This Stream involves preparing for next season with the necessary published information and checklists designed to better inform Communities of the signals, messages and protocols to educate the Community and visitors in the event of an emergency. This will be conducted under close supervision of Council with assistance of the Local Emergency Management Committee (LEMC) and NSW Community Recovery Officer, seconded to SCC for twelve months from mid-October.

3. Highest Risk/Most Urgent Need

The most evident needs were outlined in the many statements and testimonies to the Royal Commission into Natural Disasters, NSW State Government's Independent Inquiry into the Summer 2020 Bushfires and many press and academic commentaries. The flow, or lack thereof, of authoritative, accurate and continuous information was a significant cause of community concern. The primary disruption to communications generally were the significant vulnerabilities to power and communications.

Both of these disruptions, invariably, were the main causes of poor information flow and understandable feelings of helplessness and fear in the Community, given the fires' proximity and significant presence of heavy smoke.

Using a risk-based assessment consistent with principles of AS/NZS 4360 Risk Management, Council's critical infrastructure and amenities have been identified and assessed to determine the greatest risk and, therefore, priority of need for the allocation of resources to address vulnerabilities experienced during the fire but, most of which, are not fire-specific and prevalent throughout the year's variety of emergencies (flood, wind, accident, fire).

Examples of Project Activity may include power and communication redundancy options involving renewables, existing micro-grid applications, emergency power generation and digital satellite-based internet. Direct involvement of Shoalhaven's City Lifestyles Directorate will explore lawful and accountable partnerships with providers whose innovation assisted greatly during the Currowan Fire (such as Endeavour Energy and NBN Skybridge), in concert with potential commercial providers of relevant digital, electronic and electrical devices.

Underlying Principles of the RRP

When addressing urgent and priority shortcomings, "perfection is the enemy of 'good enough'". Existing, affordable and fit-for-purpose options are preferred in the first instance to emerging technologies and future possibilities which may have some way to go before they become affordable and available.

Emerging technologies and future possibilities will be monitored to measure their progress as future development paths and appropriate partnerships built for achievement. If an 80% solution exists now, it will be taken and utilised

to get the Community's Resilience and Council's project coordination moving in a positive direction to build upon the good work of the Recovery and Get Ready successes.

Adherence to lawful and legal activity, the Local Government Act and funding arrangements is paramount to prevent any misunderstanding or improper outcomes. A close relationship with Council's City Lifestyles Directorate will assure a positive outcome.

Look After Vulnerabilities and Threats will Largely Take Care of Themselves

All decisions are to be made utilizing AS/NZS 4360 Risk Management principles. This ensures that the primary assessment of need is truly based on Recovery into Resilience and not just a 'nice to have' community beautification activity. There is room for both, however, the urgency is to mitigate risk and treatment of residual risk as much as possible.

To this end, a 'Pilot' location will be selected to initiate, implement and prove the concept of the RRP. A successful Pilot identifies 'bugs' early and offers confidence for the RRP to rectify any problems before expanding into other geographic locations. The RRP Pilot has a target of no more than 60 days to prove the concept successfully.



Recovery into Resilience

**Community Led
Resilience Planning**
10-20 year plan

**Community
Readiness**
Getting ready now

Local Information Hubs
*Helping communities stay
informed, because not
knowing is the biggest risk!*



Partnered with Griffith University



Workshops with community to work together on planning for resilience



Create community plans for the future



Engage directly with communities to prepare



Create checklists to respond appropriately to community warnings and alerts



Identify local champions to help when needed so that communities can be prepared



Upgrade technology in 22 halls with energy to power essential hall services and satellite internet



Design a dashboard (digital noticeboard) so people can always be updated



Community village information hubs are connected to the Emergency Control Centre for 2 way up-to-date information flow in an emergency

Award Winning



Acknowledgements

- Video footage: courtesy of Stuart Emslie, Director of Milton Ulladulla Hospital and creator of the "SEED Program"
- The SEED Program is a staff wellness initiative designed by Stuart Emslie to empower staff to support each other in an emotionally safe, non-hierarchical environment which focuses on using post-traumatic vulnerability as vehicle for personal growth, resilience and acceptance tailor-made to support the staff and embed wellness into workplace practice at Milton Ulladulla Hospital.
- Further information:
 - Shoalhaven City Council Road to Recovery: <https://getinvolved.shoalhaven.nsw.gov.au/BushfireRecoveryShoalhaven>
 - <https://doc.shoalhaven.nsw.gov.au/displaydoc.aspx?record=D20/283015>
 - SEED Program



Legislative Change to Support Purpose over Profit

Satellite technology is currently available but we can't access it unless we pay commercial fees for service.

We need telecommunication service providers to prioritise safety over profit and provide satellite connections to communities immediately in times of emergency.

immediate access to satellite technology in times of emergency will drive better communication outcomes enabling direct connectivity to the Emergency Operations Centre establishing a single point of truth for communications.

