



# Wingecarribee Shire Council

## Community Recovery & Resilience



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# Black Summer Bushfire: Impact

- **707 sq km** burnt (26 per cent of Wingecarribee)
- **58 sq km** of primary production land burnt (6 per cent of primary production land)
- **578 sq km** of bushlands and forests burnt (58 per cent of bushlands and forests)
- An estimated **\$43.7 million** in damage to the local economy (2.1% of the total local economy).



Photo credit: Julie Vulcan

Destroyed	Damaged
197 outbuildings	69 outbuildings
0 facilities	2 facilities
68 houses	18 houses

# Community Recovery: identifying community needs

Council facilitated two community workshops in both the Southern and Northern Villages of the Wingecarribee.

The following key themes were identified:

- Community connection
- Community Resilience
- Mental Health and Wellbeing support
- Preparedness and hazard reduction
- Firefighting infrastructure
- Telecommunications (infrastructure)
- Support for rebuilding (residential)
- Housing Support
- Natural Environment
- Economic Recovery
- Insurance & Financial Aid





# Community Recovery: programs and events

Councils Community Recovery team has delivered a range of recovery events and programs, these have been funded through the CRO program and other grant funding opportunities

- Outdoor Experiences - Forest Bathing & Canoeing
- Drive-In Movies over 3 nights
- Community Recovery Concert
- Regrow Wingecarribee – The School planting project
- Writing for Wellbeing workshops
- Walk a Mile Project with Primary Schools
- PhotoVoice; Renewal and Resilience – Book launch



# Community Recovery & Resilience: small grants for community

## **Bushfire Community Recovery and Resilience Small Grant Program**

The Men's Table - Wingecarribee Resilient Communities of Men

Garden of Memories – replanting day

Gather & Connect

Reflection & Healing through song

Balmoral Basketball Buddies

'I know a safe place' book launch

Community open days

'Stories Toward Recovery'

Improved community response to emergency

Fostering a strong resilient community – Bundanoon P&C



# Community Recovery: Social Recovery Subcommittee

Immediately after the fires Council established the Wingecarribee Social Recovery Subcommittee.

Agencies represented include; Resilience NSW, National Recovery & Resilience Agency, Department of Primary Industries, Community Links Wellbeing, The Red Cross, Health NSW, Anglicare, Department of Education, Salvation Army, St Vincent De Paul, Rural Financial Counselling, GIVIT and Habitat for Humanity,

The Social Recovery Action Plan was developed to outline recovery objectives for the community and to remain accountable throughout recovery.

The Social Recovery Action plan objectives are to:

- Connect disaster-affected residents to appropriate support services
- Support community members to access psychosocial and social support services to aid recovery
- Identify and address immediate shelter, material and physical needs for affected community

- Support community members to access financial assistance and advice
- Engage affected communities in recovery planning and implementation
- Restore and maintain community connection and cohesion
- Increase community resilience
- Support affected residents through the rebuilding process



# Wingecarribee Bushfire Response and Recovery Review

## Summary

On the 12 May 2021, the Wingecarribee Shire Council Interim Administrator requested a review be undertaken into councils' response to the 2019/20 Black Summer Bushfires.

This review included Councils initial response, short term recovery including the establishment of Local Recovery Committees and long-term recovery including recovery plans.

The review subsequently resulted in 44 recommendations.

## What Council is doing

Council has been working through the recommendations with a specific focus on:

- response to the immediate bushfire emergency, including coordination of Local Emergency Management Committee
- provision of immediate support and information for bushfire impacted residents, including Council's Mayoral Relief Fund
- management of short-term recovery needs, including set up, participation in and effectiveness of local and regional recovery

committees

- development of recovery plans and implementation of actions
- approach to seeking and utilising bushfire response and recovery funding offered by Federal and State Government



# Black Summer Bushfire Recovery: Clean up & Rebuild

## EPA Green Waste Program

Wingecarribee Shire Council was successful in securing over **\$4.5mil** of funding from the EPA Green Waste Program for the clean-up of green waste for eligible bushfire impacted residential properties and road reserves.

There are over **130 properties** in the Wingecarribee shire that have registered and are eligible under this program of works.

It will take approximately eight (8) months to complete the entire program of works across all eligible properties and road reserves under the grant.

Council has been working closely with the contract arborists and Community Links Wellbeing to ensure that impacted residents under this program of works has sufficient health and wellbeing support for impacted residents participating in this program.

## Rebuild

**25** Development Applications have been submitted for new dwellings.

Over **40** Development Applications have been submitted for outbuildings





# Community Resilience: Now and into the future

## What community told us

Community would like a clear plan for recovery that is community owned. Council also heard a desire to have more opportunity for community input.

Working groups told us there are people in community who are ready to contribute, Council heard an interest in developing mentors who can help their communities in preparing and recovering from future disasters.

## What Council is doing

Community Resilience Officer

Community Resilience Network

Community recovery and resilience plans

## Projects in the Wingecarribee

Council are working with programs that foster disaster mentors, harnessing the learnings from our community members and providing opportunity for peer to peer support and mentoring.

Council is also excited to be working in partnership with Bega Valley Shire Council with our joint Community Resilience program of events.

Canberra Regional Joint Organisation (CRJO) Projects

- Resilience Blueprint Project
- Simtable

# Wingecarribee Shire Council: key contacts

## Bushfire Recovery Hotline

1800 316 500

## Community Recovery Team

48680888

[communityrecovery@wsc.nsw.gov.au](mailto:communityrecovery@wsc.nsw.gov.au)

## Bushfire Recovery

<https://www.yoursaywingecarribee.com.au/bushfire-recovery>

## Community Resilience

[www.wsc.nsw.gov/community/community-resilience](http://www.wsc.nsw.gov/community/community-resilience)

