



# Community Update

## Thomson Jordan Divide & Walhalla Stoney Creek Fires

**Edition 17 (03/05/2019) valid until 7 June 2019**

### What is Council doing / What is Council's Role?

- Council is continuing to work with the emergency service agencies to prepare long-term Recovery Plans for the region.
- Council Officers have been working directly with impacted residents in relation to the support that can be made available to assist with cleaning up and removal of waste and have connected individuals with the appropriate support services.
- Council is strongly recommending to all community groups and associations within fire affected communities to apply for a Community Development Grant. This round of Community Development Grants close on **10 May 2019**.

### Rebuilding

- Residents considering rebuilding should seek advice from a private building surveyor.
- State and Local Planning and Building Regulations will apply to residents wanting to rebuild.

### Community Support

- Case support workers are available to work with individuals by helping them navigate the various support services available including:
  - Financial assistance;
  - Mental health services;
  - Family violence supports;
  - Services for repairing and rebuilding damaged properties and re-establishing livelihoods.
- The program is available now and for the next 12 months.
- To access the service, contact council or call **1800 560 760**.
- Further Information relating to the case management can be found via <http://www.emergency.vic.gov.au/relief>
- Community recovery fact sheets are available from the Council website via <http://www.bawbawshire.vic.gov.au/CommunityBushfireUpdate>
- A short video on how you can help yourself to recover can be found via <https://youtu.be/ia4ZU-KksyY>
- The better health channel has bushfire information that can be found via



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[www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au](http://www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au)

- Clinical Psychologist Dr Rob Gordon spoke recently in the Cardinia Shire in relation to coping with trauma. The Department of Health and Human Services has a number of short videos featuring Dr Gordon, they can be found via <https://services.dhhs.vic.gov.au/travelling-road-recovery-video-series>

### Business

- The Small Business Victoria bus will be visiting Baw Baw Shire on Wednesday 22 May at the Trafalgar Business Centre Car Park and Thursday 23 May at 61 Smith Street Warragul. The Small Business Victoria bus offer a FREE 45-minute business mentoring session. Bookings are essential at [business.vic.gov.au/sbb](http://business.vic.gov.au/sbb)
- Council is hosting two workshops for business. Further information and bookings can be made can be found at [bawbaw.eventbrite.com](http://bawbaw.eventbrite.com)
- Information for businesses on planning, preparing and recovering from bushfire emergencies can be found via <https://www.business.vic.gov.au/tourism-industry-resources/Business-Tools-and-Support/crisis-management-guide/assess-risks/preparing-your-business-for-bushfire>
- Services for repairing and rebuilding damaged properties and re-establishing livelihoods are available through case management by calling **1800 560 760**.

### Clean Up

- A State Government Clean-Up program has been announced to support all the residents who were impacted by the devastating bushfires.
- **Uninsured property owners**
  - Property owners who wish to register interest in participating in the clean-up program are able to call **1300 199 048** Monday to Friday 8am to 6pm and register their details.
- **Insured property owners**
  - Impacted property owners with insurance will already have been working with their insurers to identify clean-up needs and engage contractors. If you have not already been in contact with your insurance provider, you should do so now.



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- Insurers of impacted property owners are invited to participate in the clean-up program.
- **Keeping safe and avoiding risks**
  - Residents who have properties that have been damaged or destroyed and are planning to start cleaning up are encouraged to read the associated fact sheets published by the Department of Health and Human Services. Information can be found via <https://www2.health.vic.gov.au/emergencies/emergency-type/natural-disasters/bushfire-factsheets>
- **Asbestos risk**
  - Asbestos material has been found on some properties. Residents need to be aware of the risks of asbestos.
  - Residents must ensure that a suitably qualified and licensed person undertakes the clean-up, removal and disposal of asbestos.
  - Information from the Environment Protection Authority regarding to asbestos can be found via <https://www.epa.vic.gov.au/our-work/environmental-public-health/environmental-health-in-the-home/asbestos-in-the-home>
- **Treated timber ash**
  - Ash from burnt timbers that have been treated with copper chrome arsenate (CCA) is a danger to people and animals.
  - Keep children and pets away from the CCA-treated timber ash until it is removed.
  - Ash from CCA-treated timber can be double-bagged, sealed and taken directly to your local landfill. When removing CCA treated timber ash, wear protective gloves, disposable overalls, and a P1 or P2 face mask (P2 masks are sometimes referred to as N95 masks) to minimise exposure to dust. Do not bury CCA treated timber ash.
  - More information is available on the Better Health Channel <https://www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au/health/HealthyLiving/copper-chrome-arsenic-cca-treated-timber>



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### Community Events

- Youth that are interested in getting involved with planning and running events for youth can join Council's FReeZA program. Further Information can be found via <http://www.bawbawshire.vic.gov.au/Our-Community/Youth-in-Baw-Baw-Shire/FReeZA>
- The West Gippsland Arts Centre have many community events and activities for all ages. From the 14<sup>th</sup> May until 14<sup>th</sup> June 2019 there will be an exhibition of art from two local artists who lost works in the recent Bunyip Fires. Information regarding events and exhibitions on at the Arts Centre can be found via <http://www.wgac.com.au/index.html>
- Check out Council's community events calendar for activities for you and your family. Information regarding community events can be found at <http://www.bawbawshire.vic.gov.au/Things-To-Do/Events/Calendar-of-Events>
- West Gippsland Libraries host many community events and activities for people of all ages. Information regarding community events at West Gippsland libraries can be found via <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/o/west-gippsland-libraries-2879952531>

### Community Grants

- Council has identified the following grants that community groups can apply for to support their recovery. If you identify other grants that are available for communities, please contact Council so we can share the information.

Grant Program	Summary	Status	Key Dates
Baw Baw Shire Council Community Development Grants	Multiple Categories Available including Minor Capital Works, Environmental Projects and Minor Equipment Grants  EOI for Minor Capital Works closes 29 March 2019.  <a href="http://www.bawbawshire.vic.gov.au/CDG2019">www.bawbawshire.vic.gov.au/CDG2019</a>	<b>OPEN</b>	Closes 10 May 2019
Baw Baw Shire Council Community Sponsorship	Baw Baw Shire Council offers sponsorship to local individuals and community groups requiring financial and in-kind assistance for a variety of events, projects and programs. The Community Funding Assistance Program is part of Council's commitment to community development, building responsible leadership and creating vibrant communities.  More information <a href="http://www.bawbawshire.vic.gov.au/Our-Community/Grants-and-Sponsorship/Sponsorship">http://www.bawbawshire.vic.gov.au/Our-Community/Grants-and-Sponsorship/Sponsorship</a>	<b>OPEN</b>	Closes 12 May 2019
FRRR, ABC Heywire Youth Innovation Grants	Grants to help communities tackle the issues concerning young people across rural, regional and remote Australia	<b>OPEN</b>	Closes 14 May 2019



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Sun Super, Dreams for a better world	<p>Round 2 Brighter Futures</p> <p>Tell us if you need funding for education initiatives or to create jobs for those in need, or improve financial wellbeing and affordability for Australians. We're also looking for dreams that enhance employment opportunities, or offer training and support to those who need a helping hand to get into or back to work.</p>	<b>OPEN</b>	Closes 21 June 2019
FRRR, Strengthening Rural Communities – Small and Vital	<p>Strengthening Rural Communities (SRC) Small &amp; Vital grants (up to \$10,000) can be used for a wide range of purposes including; Delivering activities, programs and services; Purchasing or hiring equipment and materials; Community infrastructure projects; Operational and administrative costs <b>associated with your project</b> will be considered. This could include wages, paying a skilled contractor, or paying for overhead costs incurred in the project's delivery.</p>	<b>OPEN</b>	Current Round Applications are due by 25 June 2019
FRRR, Tackling tough times together	<p>The tackling tough times together program helps communities access the resources they need to support one another through the drought. Open year round, grants up to \$20,000 and \$60,000 are available, with EOIs invited for grants up to \$150,000.</p>	<b>OPEN</b>	Applications Close 23 July 2019
Sun Super, Dreams for a better world	<p>Round 3 Active Community</p> <p>If you're looking for sports grants to help people of all ages and abilities be more active, or to improve the health and fitness of those in your community, apply for our Active Community grant. Or if you have a dream to create more active communities through health initiatives, wellbeing programs or by tackling medical issues faced by the wider community we also want to hear from you.</p>	<b>OPEN</b>	Closes 13 September 2019
FRRR, ANZ Seeds of Renewal	<p>An ANZ funded program that aims to help build thriving communities in rural, regional and remote areas of Australia through the provision of Grants. Seeds of renewal also offers information technology equipment.</p>	<b>FUTURE</b>	Opens July 2019
FRRR, Caring for Ageing Rural Australians	<p>A targeted program designed to benefit and support older people living in small rural and remote communities in Victoria</p>	<b>FUTURE</b>	Opens August 2019

### Roads

- Currently there are no closed Council roads due to the fire in the Walhalla area. A full list of closures can be found on the VicRoads website [www.vicroads.vic.gov.au](http://www.vicroads.vic.gov.au)



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### Water (Tank)

- Department of Health and Human Services recommend that those with tank water check to ensure it is safe for consumption. Information on health and safety of tank water can be found via <https://www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au/health/HealthyLiving/bushfires-and-water-tanks>

Next update due on or before Friday 7<sup>th</sup> June 2019