



CRC Year in Review - CRC Chair Fiona Nicholls

Media Release 21/12/2020

The Alpine Community Recovery Committee (CRC) is wrapping up an extremely eventful year. We are looking forward to further supporting our community in 2021.

While we know that the past year has been very challenging, we have been heartened to see so many examples of our community supporting each other and rallying together.

We head into 2021 with a positive outlook and plenty of hope for the future.

The CRC is made up of representatives from across the Alpine Shire and Alpine Resorts, to help give a voice to the broad views and recovery goals of local communities.

We are pleased to welcome new Dinner Plain representative Gail Owen, who will take over from former representative Mark Hubbard, and thank Mark for his valued contribution during his time on the CRC.

CRC advocacy and support

We recently advocated for a grants officer to support the community in applying for any grants. This has now been approved and Bushfire Recovery Victoria are advertising for a projects officer.

We are also advocating for improved region wide telecommunications, and requested and were successful in ensuring that Alpine Resort communities are included in the Bushfire Recovery Victoria / National Bushfire Recovery Agency grant process.

The committee formally evaluated 18 applications from local community groups and businesses to a range of grant programs, assessing them against community recovery priorities.

We wish the grant applicants every success with their funding applications and their project implementation.

A strong understanding of the recovery and resilience-building needs of our communities is essential to ensure we advocate for services and assistance that will best support our residents and businesses.

The CRC has compiled the results of our recent community survey, identifying key needs and next steps to support our communities in their recovery from the 2019 - 2020 bushfires and the COVID-19 pandemic.

327 people completed the survey, which was available from September to mid-November. Something that stood out straight away is the level of care and concern people have for each other in our community, and people also expressed a keen enthusiasm for gathering and connection.

The results also show that 4 in 10 people impacted by the 2019-2020 bushfires are progressing well - however, just under 4 in 10 people impacted by the fires are making only some to no progress in recovery.

Our Committee greatly appreciates people letting us know how they are recovering, what kind of needs they have and their wonderful ideas for building community resilience.

Key focus areas for 2021

Next year we are committed to sharing more in-depth information on the results from the community survey in our regular Alpine CRC newsletters.

The results from the survey will be used to develop the CRC recovery plan, which will provide the framework for proactive actions and programmes and will better inform advocacy to State and Federal governments.

We will undertake more consultation on community needs to cover gaps identified in the 2020 survey and to explore more detail on the key priority areas identified.

The top three priority areas were:

- A focus on environmental protection and management;
- Improved internet and telecommunications; and
- Better co-ordination between response services.

I want to assure people that we have heard your feedback, including the the need for grant agencies to simplify the grant application process. As a Committee we are working on practical actions to address the range of issues raised as soon as possible.

A key priority for 2021 will be more engagement with the Local, State and Federal agencies involved in recovery to bring the community's voice to their actions and programmes.

Learn more about the CRC at www.alpineshire.vic.gov.au/community-recovery-committee.

To stay up to date with CRC and bushfire recovery news, email info@alpinecrc.org.au to be placed on the mailing list.

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