



Alpine Community Recovery Newsletter

MAY 2021

Welcome to the twelfth edition of the Alpine Community Recovery Newsletter, a joint initiative by Alpine Shire Council and Bushfire Recovery Victoria.

Improved Emergency Telecommunications

Access to internet and connectivity is a key priority for all regions affected by bushfire. While there is no immediate resolution to this complex and multi-layered issue, NBN Co is in the process of finalising the installation of nine Disaster Satellite Services as part of the Australian Government's Strengthening Telecommunications Against Natural Disasters (STAND) package. The Disaster Satellite Services have the capacity to provide free satellite broadband connectivity during a disaster, which is integral in an emergency event.

The nine Disaster Satellite Services have been installed in the following sites across the Alpine Shire:

- Ovens DELWP Office, Ovens
- Myrtleford Senior Citizens Centre
- Myrtleford Sports Stadium
- Dinner Plain Community Centre
- Pioneer Park Pavillion, Bright
- Harrierville Community Hall
- Mount Beauty Community Centre
- Mount Beauty Swimming Pool and Sports Centre
- Dederang Memorial Hall

Find out more about the Disaster Satellite Services by visiting <https://www.nbnco.com.au/blog/the-nbn-project/supporting-community-connectivity-in-times-of-disaster> or contacting NBN Co on 1800 687 626.

In conjunction with Towong Shire Council, Alpine Shire Council will be engaging a consultant to develop a strategic document on telecommunications issues and solutions across both local government areas and Alpine Resorts to promote resilience in our communities.

New National Agency

The National Recovery and Resilience Agency (NRRRA) is a new federal government agency that engages local knowledge to ensure that people impacted by natural disasters get the support needed to recover. The NRRRA has brought together the National Bushfire Recovery Agency and the National Drought and North Queensland Floor Response and Recovery Agency to offer broader support.

Local Recovery Support Officer, Hayley Payne, is available for our local communities to help people prepare and support locally-led recovery in response to natural disasters. Hayley is also available to feed advice back to the highest levels of government about what is working and what needs to be improved. Get in touch with Hayley by calling 0437 309 598 or emailing Hayley.Payne@recovery.gov.au.

Nature-Led Recovery Grants

Nature-led Recovery Grants, a joint initiative between Bushfire Recovery Victoria, Zoos Victoria and DELWP, are now open. Funding of up to \$5,000 is available for projects to help bushfire-affected communities deliver on-ground action for wildlife and habitats, or nature-based, educational or arts programs that connect the local environmental recovery with its human recovery. Applications close Wednesday, 30 June, 2021. For program guidelines and where to apply, visit www.vic.gov.au/environment-and-biodiversity-bushfire-recovery.

Support for First Responders

The Bush Fire Support Service, developed by the Black Dog Institute, is designed to help first responders and their loved ones manage and maintain their mental wellbeing.

Emergency service workers and their families can get access to free one-on-one clinical sessions via telehealth or face-to-face from leading mental health specialists. Access this confidential service by calling 02 8627 3314 or visiting <https://www.blackdoginstitute.org.au/bush-fire-support-service/>.

ALPINE CHAT

Alpine Community Recovery Committee News
Edition 6 | May 2021



ABOUT US

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

MAILING LIST

Have the Alpine Community Recovery Newsletter and Alpine Chat delivered to you. Sign up or get in touch by emailing info@alpinecrc.org.au.

WHO WE ARE

Fiona Nicholls | Chair
Myrtleford and Surrounds

Steve Belli | Deputy Chair
Mount Hotham

Kellie Gray
Bright and Surrounds

Fiona Laird
Harrietville and Surrounds

Gail Owen
Dinner Plain

Sally McDonald
Myrtleford and Surrounds

Malcolm McPherson
Dinner Plain

Jane Shadbolt
Bright and Surrounds

Dani Sheean
Falls Creek

Lachlan Thomas
Harrietville and Surrounds

Nicholas Wright
Kiewa Valley

COMMUNITY RECOVERY PLAN

The Community Recovery Plan is an important part of advocating on behalf of Alpine communities to Federal, State and Local Government agencies. The Alpine CRC are committed to consulting with Alpine communities to develop their Plan, a living document that is open to continual development as needs and priorities arise. To do so, the Alpine CRC are currently working to develop a communications piece to ensure our communities know and understand what the Plan means for you.

One of the first steps for consultation saw the Alpine CRC presenting the working draft of the Plan to key agencies involved in recovery, including Alpine Shire Council, BRV and the Legislative Council. Representatives from the Alpine CRC will now be going out into their communities, engaging with community leaders and residents to ensure your voices are heard.

The development of the Plan has mutual value for community members applying for grant opportunities, as projects may align to the four priority areas highlighted and strengthen both the Plan and your application. Do you want to speak to a representative about the Plan? Get in touch with your local community representative by emailing info@alpinecrc.org.au.

The Community Recovery Plan in action:

- **Listening** – a community survey was conducted across the regions of Bright, Dinner Plain, Falls Creek, Harrietville, Kiewa Valley, Mount Hotham and Myrtleford.
- **Identifying needs and priorities** – through the survey, community needs and priorities were identified and placed into four key areas of focus: preparedness, response, recovery and resilience.
- **Pathways to implementation** – flagship projects were identified that require a coordinated, region-wide response.
- **Implementing the Plan** – the Plan has been and will continue to be aligned with existing and new government projects or community projects, processes and initiatives.
- **Regular updates** – the Alpine CRC will publish an annual summary of activities and efforts against this plan and update the community needs, priorities and the list of projects, as necessary. The next update on the plan is scheduled for mid-year.

Beyond the Plan, the Alpine CRC have also achieved the following:

- Advocated for the Alpine Resorts to be included in the Bushfire Recovery Victoria (BRV) Local Economic Recovery (LER) funding program
- Advocated for improvements and changes to the LER grants processes
- Reviewed over 50 community projects for inclusion as community recovery priorities
- Undertaken a survey of the community's recovery needs

ALPINE CRC SUPPORT

Are you applying for a grant that requires you to demonstrate that your project is supported by the Alpine CRC? Access a proforma today by visiting <https://www.alpineshire.vic.gov.au/community-recovery-committee>. The Alpine CRC meet fortnightly, so get in early if you are seeking endorsement.

GRANT EXPECTATIONS AND OUTCOMES

The Alpine CRC has reviewed over 50 community projects that have applied for funding through a number of funding streams. It is a positive indicator of community enterprise that there are a significant number of shovel ready projects. As of 12 April, 2021, the total value of projects reviewed by the Alpine CRC has been \$35.86 million across different funding streams, with the success value of these projects totalling \$11.68 million. The Alpine CRC is seeing an oversubscription to grant pools from the Alpine region, as demonstrated through the BRV LER grants, where the applications reviewed by the Alpine CRC from the Alpine region has significantly exceeded the grant pool available for the state. Of the \$19.9 million available across two funding rounds for Victoria, communities within the Alpine region applied for \$20.4 million.

This is a clear indication that, while many worthwhile projects will be funded, many more worthwhile projects will not. The Alpine CRC encourages communities to look to other options if they are unsuccessful and continue to seek grant opportunities for your projects. Relevant grant opportunities are below and will continue to be listed in future editions.

GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

OPEN NOW

- **Agriculture Victoria On-Farm Energy Assessments** | The Victorian Government is inviting on-farm businesses to apply for a free on-farm energy assessment to improve energy efficiency and energy productivity. Closes 15 July, 2021. Visit <https://agriculture.vic.gov.au/support-and-resources/funds-grants-programs/agriculture-energy-investment-plan/on-farm-energy-assessments>.
- **Bushfire Recovery Victoria (BRV) Community Facilities** | Grants are available up to \$50,000 for community groups seeking to build, upgrade, or repair local facilities. Closes 30 June, 2022. Visit <https://www.vic.gov.au/bushfire-recovery-grants-community-facilities>.
- **BRV Local Government Authorities and Community Service Organisations** | Councils, community groups and organisations, and charities are invited to apply for grants up to \$500,000. Closes 31 December, 2021. Visit <https://www.vic.gov.au/bushfire-recovery-grants-local-government-authorities-and-community-service-organisations>.
- **Foundation for Rural & Regional Renewal (FRRR) Strengthening Rural Communities** | Grants up to \$25,000 are available for a broad range of community-led initiatives. Round 10 closes 24 August, 2021. Visit <https://frrr.org.au/funding/place/strengthening-rural-communities/> or contact Vivienne McCrory on 1800 170 020 or info@frrr.org.au.
- **Landcare Australia Landcare-Led Bushfire Recovery Grants Program** | Eligible local Landcare groups, environment networks, and community groups in bushfire-affected areas can access funding up to \$50,000. Closes June, 2021. Visit <https://landcareaustralia.org.au/> or contact Andrew Maclean on andrew.maclean@lvi.org.au.
- **Meat and Livestock Australia (MLA) Bushfire Recovery Sponsorship Program** | Sponsorship is available up to \$2,500 for red meat and livestock producers to host information sessions held now until 30 June, 2021, that will support producers. Visit <https://www.mla.com.au/research-and-development/dealing-with-natural-disasters/mla-bushfire-recovery-sponsorship-program/#> or email events@mla.com.au.
- **NAB Foundation Community** | Funding is available for local projects that prepare for natural disasters or support long-term recovery and resilience against future disasters. Round 2 closes 30 July, 2021. Visit <https://www.nab.com.au/about-us/social-impact/community/nab-foundation-and-grants/application-guide>.
- **Victorian Government Solar for Business Program** | Rebates of up to 50% of the total cost are available for small businesses in Victoria to install approved small-scale solar systems up to 30kW. Find out if you are eligible for a rebate value of up to \$3,500 by visiting <https://www.solar.vic.gov.au/site-4/solar-small-business>.
- **Indi Funding Finder** | The Federal Member for Indi has comprehensive information on grants available on their website, including how to apply for grants and upcoming opportunities in the region. For more information, visit <https://helenhaines.grantguru.com.au/>.

UPCOMING

- **Bushfire Recovery Victoria Local Economic Recovery (LER) Round 3**: opens Monday, 26 July, 2021. Find out more by visiting <https://www.vic.gov.au/local-economic-recovery-program-bushfire-affected-communities>
- **Victorian Government Solar for Business Program**: opens May, 2021. Find out more by visiting <https://www.solar.vic.gov.au/site-4/solar-small-business>
- **Victorian Bushfire Appeal Fund** | opens May, 2021. Find out more by visiting <https://www.communityenterprisefoundation.com.au/>