

# Mogo Town Meeting Wednesday the 18<sup>th</sup> of March

Only the relevant points remain and changes due to Covid-19 are in red

## Attended by representatives from:

- Eurobodalla Council (Community Services, Waste Services, Mobile Recovery Centre, Bushfire housing assistance program, Public Works)
- Office of Emergency Management (Eurobodalla recovery co-ordinator)
- NSW services (Disaster Welfare service)
- NSW mental health team members
- Primary Health Network
- Laing O'Rourke (contractor for NSW clean-up, abbreviated to LOR below)
- Greater Mogo Fire Recovery (community group)

## Questions for Council

### 1. Has extra staff been added to deal with the extra workload?

**Answer:** Yes, 3 additional planners. If you have questions or concerns, have a conversation with the DA help desk at council.

### 2. Tip access for residents or any contractors they hire

- When will burnt debris be accepted? Estimate of time if still unknown? What fees will be involved, and will they be waived for fire affected residents?

**Answer:** 1 free trailer load of household fire damaged debris. Does not include construction/ demolition waste only household waste ie; dog houses, washing lines, burnt outdoor furniture. **Currently not possible due to Covid-19, check with council for when this will again be possible.**

- LOR has been able to access the tip as they could sort the debris first. Therefore, if residents or those they contract to remove debris first sort it, will it be accepted at surf beach?

**Answer:** As of Monday, the 23rd March: Any contractor will be able to access the tip for fire damaged debris (non-asbestos only). The tip was not receiving non asbestos debris from contractors outside of Laing O'Rourke to make sure everyone could be included in the state-run clean-up. We also needed time to get ready for the influx of waste ( 4 years of waste in 4 months). We needed to get the right equipment and staff ready for this.

### 3. Council informed residents they can rebuild on the same site /footprint if “like for like”

- Is this correct? Is this regardless of any new LEP/ environmental restrictions?

**Answer:** Yes, this is correct. If the house is exactly the same, you will not be required to submit a new DA regardless of LEP changes. But please seek advice from the DA helpdesk at council.

### 4. Waiver of fees

- For fire effected properties, what fees will be waived? (BAL rating registration is already waived)

**Answer:** Currently only BAL rating registration fee is waived. There is a whole suite of fees required in the building process (about 12). We agree this needs to be looked at and we will be working on it.

- Under what conditions will a new DA not be required?

**Answer:** If the house you rebuild is exactly the same you will not be required to submit a new DA.

- Wait for DA when required?

**Answer:** To be advised

- Can council draw up a “what to do next” list for fire damaged properties?

**Answer:** All the information is available on the council website (select “living in” and then “bushfire recovery”). We are working on getting hard copy flyers done for noticeboards etc.

### 5. Burn offs

- There is a large amount of green waste to burn off, including on properties within 200m of highway. Can extra firefighting resources be brought in to supervise these the burn-offs?
- Can the 200m restriction be waived?

**Answer:** This is something we can consider but cannot make any promises for anything that far in the future.

## Questions for Laing O'Rourke

### 6. Eligibility criteria phrasing mixed with the scope of works phrasing is confusing and ambiguous.

- Definition of "Residential" is required with regards to eligibility criteria ie; Residential, small business or primary production properties are eligible for the clean-up program. (where someone lives)

**Answer:** "Residential" is where someone lives.

- Definition of "Primary Residence" is required with regards to what is considered within the scope of works on an eligible property. For example, is it inclusive of structures within a property used as a primary residence or is it literal, ie only the primary dwelling/home/structure?

**Answer:** In an urban environment "primary residence" is basically the dwelling. On a rural property, the "primary residence" is the residential area on that property, the area you use in your day to day living, your lifestyle and activities. It includes the garage out the back, the sheds, essential services to the house (water tanks, septic etc.) Ask for things to be escalated if you think something should be included that is not currently within scope.

- From the data sheet: "the clean-up costs of outbuildings that are uninhabitable or unusable that are located within the vicinity of a primary residence or business operation are covered" What distance does "within the vicinity" above mean? Need a guideline so we know what to expect. Have been told 100m, have been told only if connected or within 10 metres.

**Answer:** There is no specific measurement, there never has been. It is different for every property, depending on how you live. If it is part of the area you use in your day to day living and activities, then it is included. Ask for things to be escalated if you think something should be included that is not currently within scope.

- Is green waste "within the vicinity" considered fire damaged material?

**Answer:** No, only if it is a tree that is in the way of clean-up or a danger to property (a tree that is currently standing). LOR will do a sight survey for dangerous trees, if not in their scope, you can have the tree assessed through council or an arborist.

### 7. Scope of Works has changed

- what has changed / what was the scope before? Will those who have signed a Deed of Release be re-assessed?

**Answer:** The scope of works has not changed, that was a miscommunication. No, properties will not be re-assessed.

## 8. Update on Statistics

- 56 Deeds of release last week, new figure? **Answer: 68**
- 70 Contacted last week, new figure? **Answer: to be advised**
- 3 escalated last week, new figure? **Answer: All 3 resolved**
- Finished? **Answer: to be advised**
- Commenced? **Answer: to be advised**

## 9. Local contractors

- How many have been contracted?

**Answer: to be advised**

- Any for Asbestos / A listed?

**Answer:** Yes, a new asbestos contractor will be starting.

## 10. Current arrangement with tip

- Does it exclude other contractors from accessing tip? If so, is this going to remain in place?

**Answer from council:** As of Monday, the 23rd March: Any contractor will be able to access the tip for fire damaged debris (non-asbestos only).

- Does it exclude residents from accessing the tip with fire damaged debris?

**Answer from council:** No, residents can now access the tip for fire damaged debris. **Currently not possible due to Covid-19, check with council for when this will again be possible.**

- For contractors quoting for LOR jobs, are they quoting assuming all waste must be taken to a different tip or does their quote assume they have access to Surf Beach tip? (this question was raised as residents were unsure why some local contractors were not working for LOR when they had quoted jobs for them.)

**Answer:** Those local contractors may not have had the capacity / equipment / tickets necessary. For example, we require a few houses to be done at once.

## Questions for NSW services / Office of Emergency Management

**11. “The cost of clearing properties will not be deducted from the funds available under insurance policies. Where insurance companies have already commenced clean-up works for eligible properties, Government will cover the reasonable cost of work already underway or completed.”**

- Does the “reasonable cost of work” above include taking burnt debris to other tips (not surf beach).

**Answer:** Insurance companies are responsible for getting the money from the government. You (as a resident) can say to your insurance company; “You are to pay to me the entire amount that is owed for clean-up.” Contact the insurance council or the ombudsman for advice if you are having difficulty with this.

**12. For the un-insured and underinsured, if aid organisation are able to arrange quicker clean-up, can those reasonable costs be covered as well?**

**Answer:** We encourage everyone to participate in the free NSW clean-up program. You can contact public works for an exemption but no, not likely.

- What happens with all the burnt debris now excluded from the new “scope of works” from LOR?

**Answer:** There is no new scope of works. If you think something should be included in your clean-up then escalate the matter.

- What happens to the green waste that was piled up for the army to remove in January? This should be added to the “scope of works” from LOR.

**Answer:** For green waste on private property, some can be included in LOR’s scope of works, but it is site specific. We do consider the circumstances of the property owner (if they are able to do it themselves). We are aware of problem of very large piles from council contractors (Tree Serve, Ashplande), the army etc.

**13. Case workers**

- Estimate of time until case workers are assigned/ will be following up on residents in the “un-insured/low income/low asset category.

**Answer:** Contents payment made for people deemed eligible are paid within 4 weeks of application, so have gone out already (this timeframe may change with covid-19). Unsure how long structural repair payments will take, as dependent on availability of trades. There will be case management specifically for bushfire affected residents moving forward. Department of primary industries will be targeting rural areas in a 12 month initial phase.

## **Other talking points during the meeting**

### **14) Regarding NSW clean-up / Lang O'Rourke**

It does not matter what you do on your private property, you are still eligible for the free clean-up. You can move damaged water tanks out of the way, you can move debris so you can access and use your property safely in the meantime (it was suggested to take photos first to show where the debris was even though public works does have photos already). Separating recyclable debris apart will assist LOR and speed up the process.

### **15) From the NSW mental health teams:**

The local community health teams will be taking over this week. They have noted that the frequency of people attending the Recovery centre has decreased but this does not mean the community need as decreased. There are still 3 mental health people at the Recovery centre. If you are concerned for another resident, call the police for a welfare check.

## **Greater Mogo Fire Recovery Updates and Mailing List**

To join our mailing list for updates via text and email:

Text your details to 0487797068

Or email us at [info@greatermogofirerecovery.com](mailto:info@greatermogofirerecovery.com)

If you only have a landline, please call 0487797068 and we can arrange for someone to call you with important updates

We will always endeavour to keep this notice board updated with current information