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**GMR20/009 DISASTER RECOVERY FUNDING – COMMONWEALTH  
GOVERNMENT -COUNCILS AFFECTED BY BUSHFIRES**

**S008-T00015,  
S012-T00025**

Responsible Officer: Dr Catherine Dale - General Manager

Attachments: Nil

Outcome: Protected and Valued Natural Environment

Focus Area: 3.1 Respond to our changing environment and build resilience to natural hazards

Delivery Program Link: 3.1.3 Collaborate with agencies and emergency services to support coordinated emergency management

Operational Plan Link: 3.1.3.3 Support emergency services agencies in planning and responding to natural and man made disasters

### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The funding for the 'Disaster Recovery Funding – Commonwealth Government, Councils Affected by Bushfires' is provided by the Australian Government through the National Bushfire Recovery Agency. Funding has been made available to bushfire affected Local Government areas in Australia following the unprecedented bushfires from August 2019 onwards. An allocation of \$1,416,667 has been made available to Eurobodalla Shire Council and this is allocated subject to an approved Program of Works, being submitted to the Office of Local Government and a report back to the Commonwealth in twelve months time.

The Commonwealth Government allocated a base payment of \$1 million to 42 of the most severely bushfire impacted councils in New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia and Queensland to help rebuild vital infrastructure and strengthen community resilience. Further funding of \$416,667 was allocated based on the severity of damage in the Eurobodalla region.

Councils are able to spend their payments on projects and activities that they deem essential for the recovery and renewal of their communities, including:

- Rebuilding damaged or destroyed council assets such as key local roads, bridges, and community facilities;
- Employing additional local staff to take on specialist recovery or planning roles to help coordinate and plan the rebuilding effort;
- Hosting new public activities and events to bring communities together and attract visitors back to affected regions; and
- Immediate maintenance and repairs to relief and evacuation centres.

This report outlines a list of projects that are recommended to assist the Eurobodalla community in the recovery process.

It should be noted that a number of these projects will be deferred until COVID-19 is under control and restrictions have been lifted. An extension of time has been sought.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

THAT the list of projects as outlined in this report be forwarded to the Office of Local Government for approval.

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**BACKGROUND**

The Disaster Recovery Funding for Local Councils is being provided through the Australian Government National Bushfire Recovery Agency.

Local councils are the only organisations eligible for this funding.

**CONSIDERATIONS**

Projects will need to contribute to one of the following criteria:

- Rebuilding damaged or destroyed council assets such as key local roads, bridges, and community facilities;
- Employing additional local staff to take on specialist recovery or planning roles to help coordinate and plan the rebuilding effort;
- Hosting new public activities and events to bring communities together and attract visitors back to affected regions; and
- Immediate maintenance and repairs to relief and evacuation centres.

Proposed projects	Value	Comments
Community Development Program	\$250,000	A structured program of community development, arts and recreational projects and activities will be developed to support our community's recovery. The program will include sound, evidence-based projects that have been implemented successfully as part of recovery and community development processes elsewhere and modified to suit the Eurobodalla. The program will also include activities and ideas put forward by community groups and organisations within the Eurobodalla community, in collaboration with Council, that advance positive recovery outcomes. Wherever possible, funds will be supplemented with additional grants and partnership arrangements to maximise the benefit to the Eurobodalla community. It will also cover the waiver of hall hire fees for community groups conducting bushfire recovery business or events. These strategies will support people during recovery.
Mogo Town Plan	\$150,000	Supporting and facilitating rebuild of directly impacted shops, whilst looking for an overall improved outcome for Mogo as a town and community. (The DCP work undertaken by strategic planning in 2018 identified a need for

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		a vision and town plan for Mogo). Working with NSW Government Architect to develop a masterplan for affected sites that addresses the requirements of new DCP. An analysis of carparking to determine if on-site requirements can be delivered through an alternate solution, and whether pedestrian and bike linkages can be improved to connect town to mountain bike trails.
Spendmap Data Package	\$38,000	An online program which gives council full access to the Eftpos and cash sales recorded within the community. Can give us full data on economic yield by the municipality, showcasing both local spend and visitor spend.
Evacuation Centre modification to increase resilience	\$200,000	Improve functionality of centres through provision of facilities to connect generators and improve facilities with a focus on Moruya and Narooma evacuation centres.
Community Events Calendar	\$25,000	A new Council website will improve engagement with the community during and beyond bushfire recovery - particularly hard to reach populations like young people - with contemporary features and an integrated community events calendar.
Water saving assistance program extension	\$60,000	Increase dual flush toilet rebate for business + residential. Increase roll out and reduce eligibility thresholds for business pre-rinse spray nozzle, hose down gun + low flow taps and showerheads.
Captain Oldrey Amenities rebuild	\$200,000	Contributing to a complete rebuild of amenities to a fire affected site.
Mogo Pathway	\$33,000	Contribution to pathway from Princes Highway to playing fields.
Emerging Issues	\$435,667	Fund other areas identified as a result of bush fire recovery, not covered by existing funding.
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$1,416,667</b>	

At its meeting on 10 March 2020, Council resolved how the \$250,000 for Bushfire Community Resilience and Economic Recovery Fund would be spent. A number of those projects cannot be undertaken in light of COVID-19 restrictions. Approval has been granted for those timelines to be extended.

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**Legal**

Council will need to provide a Schedule of Works to the Office of Local Government.

At the completion of the project(s), Council will need to provide a brief summary of the activities that were funded and evidence of expenditure.

**Financial**

The Commonwealth Government allocated a base payment of \$1 million to 42 of the most severely bushfire impacted councils in New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia and Queensland to help quickly rebuild vital infrastructure and strengthen community resilience. Further funding of \$416,667 was allocated based on the severity of damage in the Eurobodalla region.

**CONCLUSION**

Council is eligible for \$1,416,667 under the 'Disaster Recovery Funding – Commonwealth Government, Councils Affected by Bushfires' provided through the Australian Government National Bushfire Recovery Agency. The proposed list of projects meets the objectives and criteria of the Fund. This grant funding is welcomed and will assist the Eurobodalla community.