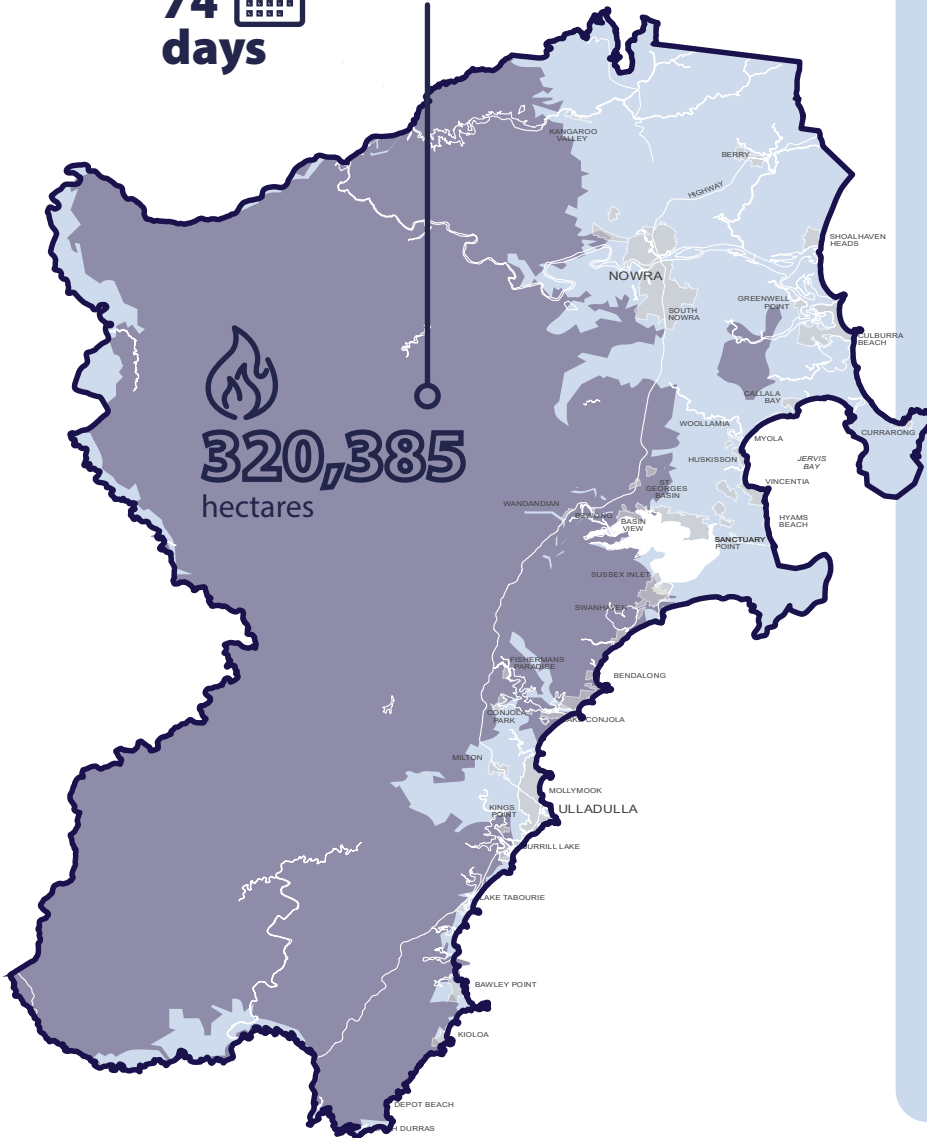




Currowan & Comberton Fires 2019/2020

Currowan Fire began 26 Nov & burnt for **74 days**

80% of the Shoalhaven land area impacted or burned



312 homes destroyed
173 homes damaged



Firefighting efforts saved **1,889 homes**



125 properties supplied with fodder = a total of **154.9 tonnes**



126 properties supplied with water = a total of **569.5 KL** utilising Council's water tankers at no cost to the community.



A total **307** livestock dead or destroyed



5 beekeepers assisted
14,199 hives affected
179 hives destroyed



Over **1,180** businesses directly impacted



1 Dec - **11,500 ha**

19 Dec - **Tianjara fire begins**



31 Dec - **Three lives lost** & significant structural losses across the Shoalhaven

8 Jan - **over 300,000 ha**

27 Nov - **2,500 ha**

4 Dec - **47,000 ha**

30 Dec - Currowan, Charleys Forest & Clyde Mountain fires joined, burnt more than **257,000 ha**

3 Jan - **262,274 ha**

8 Feb - **Fires extinguished**

Repair into Recovery

Work to restore Shoalhaven to normal operation & community activity as soon as possible

Our Economy

Over \$45m of State Government stimulus money

- **\$36m** in \$10k grants to small business
- **\$9.9m** in \$50k grants



50 tradies who lost equipment received Biz Rebuild Vouchers

Campaigns

- Rejuvenate Shoalhaven *10.5 million + reach*
- Spend Here This Year *165 new business listings generating online sales*

Workshops

- **200+** businesses have received one on one business support, advice & grant information
- **13** Digital Support Workshops (with 130 businesses) & 20 one on one sessions delivered
- **Attended 48** cross regional small business & tourism recovery meetings to gather & share information

Our Environment

 **520m** of coir logs and sandbags installed to stop sediment/ash movement into waterways

\$1.4m in grant funding secured for bushfire affected waterways, to be used over the next 3 years

Monitoring

Air, sea, land & water monitoring including asbestos presence conducted throughout recovery

1,000+ animal water & feed stations installed



Night Cameras placed at feed stations for data/species research

22 Eastern grey kangaroo joeys remain in care from fires. Rehabilitated animals return to the wild



Aerial Food Drops 1.6 tonnes by 20 March across 14 locations

550 endangered **Grey Headed** flying foxes successfully rehabilitated by the bat clinic

NatureMapr App introduced for wildlife station location & species identification

Endangered Kangaroo Valley brush tailed rock wallaby **colony survives**



\$105,000 Secured for fire trail maintenance & asset protection works

Recovery Progress Timeline

December 2019/January 2020

- Recovery Committee formed
- Evacuation Centres opened
- Mayoral Relief Fund activated
- Rejuvenate Shoalhaven launched
- Shoalhaven Waste Management proposal submitted
- Local recovery Coordinator appointed & Recovery Action Plan approved by Council
- Environmental testing of Water, Land, Sea & Air commences
- ADF ground teams arrive in the Shoalhaven
- Evacuation Centres closed & Recovery Centres opened
- Local, State & Federal Government Relief packages begin

February 2020

- Community Recovery Meetings held
- Heavy rainfall & king tides occur simultaneously causing flooding
- Shoalhaven Waste Management proposal endorsed & implemented
- Property clean up commences
- Green waste accepted free of charge & extended hours introduced at Waste Management Centres
- Mobile Recovery Hubs commence operation
- BlazeAid operations commence from Milton & Kangaroo Valley camps

Our Supporters

42 staff from
7+ Other Councils,
ACT health & HVTC



80 ADF personnel
assist with clean-up over
6 weeks & Fleet Air Arm
support throughout

Blaze Aid

- **3,220** cumulative volunteer days *by 4 June*
- **84kms** cleared fencing
- **69kms** new fencing



Our Infrastructure

133.27km of burnt roads
29 roads affected

Bridges

- **4** under reconstruction
- **7** bridges repaired

Damaged/destroyed

- **1,200** guideposts
- **65+** signs

Properties

- **796** registered
(with some duplicates in system)
- **391** ineligible or works carried out by owner or insurer

Sites

- **316** cleaned
by 10 June
- **29 sites** on track for clean up *by 30 June*

6-month rate relief for affected customers



DA stats for rebuild *at 10 June*

- 22 dwellings applications lodged with 9 approved
- 29 additions, outbuildings & other development applications lodged with 18 approved
- DA fees for affected customers waived



\$510K green waste fees
waived *until 8 April*

Demolition waste from 295 homes Recycling target 60%, **achieved 93%**

- **9,501** tonnes recycled
- approx **400 tonnes** to landfill
- **7,946** in processing stockpile for recycling

17,797 tonnes

Non-contaminated waste received *by 18 June*



Our Community

430+ people attend community meetings

7 meetings with external service providers with more than 50 representatives from state and federal agencies and NGOs

6 Mobile Recovery Hubs held



Registered

- **1,488** at Ulladulla Recovery Centre *by 13 March*

16,800 visits to the Bushfire Recovery Get Involved page *by 11 June*

156 responses

to our Community Recovery survey

250 people joined the Laing O'Rourke Recovery Webinar

Mayor's Bushfire Relief Fund *as of 25 June*

- **\$361,696.18** raised
- **265 grants** allocated
- **\$258,995** disbursed to members of the community



Recovery Call backs began 21 April

- **906** attempts to contact individuals
- **687** successful contacts
- **376** people require no further assistance
- **82** cases require additional follow up
- **100+** people referred to external agencies

as of 16 June



Visit the Shoalhaven Bushfire Recovery website for full detailed information

March 2020

- ADF ground teams depart Shoalhaven
- COVID19 social distancing & isolation measures introduced nationally
- Closure of face to face recovery centres
- Recovery centres re-open as virtual & telephone Recovery Helpline
- Virtual community meetings trialled in Shoalhaven by Laing O'Rourke (local tradespeople recruitment) & NSW Government Inquiry
- Health & Wellbeing workshops planned & deferred due COVID19
- Wildlife food drops conducted

April/May 2020

- Grants, clean-up, monitoring, waterway management continue through COVID19 lockdown
- Call back by Recovery Helpline of all registered Shoalhaven registered residents commences & continues

Shoalhaven City Council website & social media - Dec & ongoing

June 2020

- Recovery Helpline service & call back continues during working hours
- Virtual Health & Wellbeing workshops begin
- Non-contaminated waste recycling area at West Nowra decommissioned
- 90%+ Clean-up of eligible properties cleaned & debris removed
- Federal & State community support officer positions created
- Recovery Action teams and Recovery Committee transition to Council business as usual

Recovery into Resilience

The full consequence of the bushfires will never be completely realised.

The distress and suffering for some will remain and many will continue to need support, patience and understanding. Council's vision is for the Shoalhaven to emerge from this bushfire season and its impacts in a better, stronger and more resilient position than it was prior to the bushfire emergency. Shoalhaven City Council is actively engaged in activities to improve our community's resilience.

Being prepared can save lives.

5 Easy Steps to get ready

1

Know your risk

Think about the area you live in and the types of disasters that could affect you.

2

Plan now for what you will do

Sit down and talk with your family and plan for what you will do if a disaster affects your area.

- Make important decisions such as when to leave, what to take, and what to do with animals. Don't leave it until the last minute. Disasters can happen with little or no warning.
- How will you and your family get to a safe place? You could be separated from each other. How will you contact each other?
- Think about how you will protect your pets, important documents and valuable personal items. If you take regular medications, have a reserve supply ready.
- The emergency service agencies have designed many plans to help you Get Ready for specific hazards like fire and flood. Visit www.emergency.nsw.gov.au to prepare an emergency plan.
- Plan how you will escape a fire in your home and practice it with your family.

3

Get your home ready

Prepare your home by doing general home maintenance and checking your insurance.

Trim overhanging trees and branches and remove dead and dry vegetation from around the house. Clean out gutters and downpipes. Secure or put away loose items in your yard or balcony. Check the roof is in good repair.

Do a home safety check and make sure your smoke alarms are working. And make sure that your home and contents insurance is up-to-date.

4

Be aware

Find out how to prepare and what to do if there is a disaster in your area. Check the NSW State Emergency Service, NSW Rural Fire Service and Fire and Rescue NSW websites, apps and social media to stay informed.

5

Look out for each other

Share information with your family, friends, neighbours and those who may need assistance. Talk about your plans with family, friends and neighbours before an emergency happens.