



John Barilaro
Deputy Premier
Minister for Regional NSW
Minister for Industry and Trade

MEDIA RELEASE

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NSW GOVERNMENT BUSHFIRE CLEAN-UP MEETS INITIAL JUNE 30 TARGET AS REBUILD BEGINS

The bushfire clean-up program undertaken by the NSW Government has met the initial 2,800 property clearing target and today announced further support for communities through a rebuild and housing strategy.

The Deputy Premier and Minister responsible for Disaster Recovery John Barilaro visited Cobargo today and met with the Morrison family to view their cleared property and discuss plans to rebuild.

“As the majority of the clean-up is completed and rebuild begins, the NSW Government has committed \$26 million in funding to assist some of the hardest hit families to rebuild their homes,” Mr Barilaro said.

“The Disaster Welfare Rebuild Program will rebuild the houses of up to 100 families who own their land but have no means to replace it.

“The program will be further supported by a NSW Government Housing Strategy which is currently in development through Resilience NSW.”

Mr Barilaro said that when Laing O’Rourke was appointed as the contractor to oversee the clean-up back in late January, the target was to clear 2,800 properties by 30 June and this has now been reached.

“It is my priority that no one is left behind, that is why we launched Operation Outreach, to actively seek out any other property owners who need assistance,” Mr Barilaro said.

“This has resulted in an additional 900 eligible properties, which we expect to be cleared by the end of July.”

Member for Bega Andrew Constance said the progress of the clean-up is remarkable, steaming ahead amidst a global pandemic, inclement weather, all whilst providing 1,000 jobs with 99% of contracts awarded to local and regional subcontractors.

“Our commitment from day one has been to help the people of NSW get back on their feet and am pleased to be focussing on the next stage which is rebuilding homes,” Mr Constance said.

“Our support does not have a cut-off date. We urge anyone who needs assistance with accommodation to call Service NSW on 133 77 88.”

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About the rebuild program:

There are eligibility requirements for the Resilience NSW rebuild program. The criteria include those that are uninsured, low income, low assets, lost their principle place of residence at the time of the disaster and have rebuild plans that are suitable to receive development consent.

- \$26 million has been dedicated to assisting with rebuilds so far
- BASIX Certificate and the Planning Reform Fund fees will be waived on all development applications related to homes damaged or destroyed in the recent bushfires
- We have so far helped more than 450 families with \$2,700,000 support in replacing essential household goods and \$1,400,000 towards structural repairs so far
- To find out more about the rebuild program please call Service NSW on 13 77 88.

About the clean-up:

Property owners are still able to register for clean-up after 30 June and are encouraged to register to have their property cleared for free by contacting Service NSW on 13 77 88 or visiting <https://www.service.nsw.gov.au/transaction/register-opt-nsw-bushfire-clean>

- 120 crews have worked across 29 Local Government Areas
- Crews have been active in 250 locations across the state
- 1,000 jobs have been created with 99% of work going to local and regional subcontractors
- 93 subcontractors are based in the LGA where they are working, or in the LGA next door meaning money is going to bushfire affected areas
- 29 of the subcontractors are Indigenous owned, with Indigenous Australians making up 10% of the total clean-up workforce.