

# Bushfire Recovery

NEWSLETTER 2 JULY 2020 *Final edition*



## Service Updates



### Bushfire Helpline

The Bushfire Assistance Helpline is available Monday to Friday during business hours on 02 4429 5888.



### Mayor's Bushfire Relief Fund

raised \$361,696.18 and disbursed \$258,995 to members of the community by 25 June.



### Waste Update

17,797 tonnes non-contaminated waste received by 30 June.



### From Our Community

Preparing to release a brush-tailed rock-wallaby, Kangaroo Valley.  
Photo: Alex Pike

## A Word From Vince

I am both delighted and sad to say we have reached the logical transition point when the demands for Recovery Action Teams can be referred directly to Council without Recovery Committee involvement. Referrals to external agencies are now manageable as normal business for Council. I'm delighted because it speaks volumes about how much progress was made to get the Shoalhaven back on its feet as quickly as possible. Huge amounts of work and effort have gone into the clean-up, non-contaminated waste disposal, recycling, flora and fauna remediation and protection and business initiatives such as grants, workshops and mentoring. At the heart of our collective effort has been a desire to be open and available for the community. We listened to residents and kept communication alive through a thorough and well managed Council website and Facebook page, Recovery Assistance Helpline, and call backs to check on residents' wellbeing. More plans will be put into action as soon as the COVID-19 restrictions ease.

I'm sad because the Recovery Committee's current form will end. I have learned and gained so much from the Recovery Team over the past six months.

I look forward to rolling up my sleeves again should I be of value to the City in the future. I also anticipate many opportunities learned in Recovery to grow better Resilience and Readiness.

**Vince Di Pietro** - Recovery Co-ordinator

## Built Recovery

Milton BlazeAid is back to full strength with 30 volunteers, almost all backpackers, following relaxation of COVID-19 restrictions. As of 21 June, farm registrations were at 180, with 55km of fence line cleared and 42km re-fenced. The Kangaroo Valley camp closed on 4 June, however, Nowra residents under Milton management are finalising the last remaining farms in the Budgong area.

### Warwick Papworth

*Built Recovery Action Team Leader*

## Social Recovery

The Red Cross Financial Assistance Grants have been revised and in many cases increased. If you have received a grant from Red Cross, you should receive an SMS or email about any additional entitlement.

Bereavement Grant – \$50,000

Emergency Grant – \$20,000 per household

Primary Residence Repair Grant – \$10,000

Injury Grant – \$15,000

Re-establishment Grant – \$40,000 per household

For information visit [www.redcross.org.au/grants](http://www.redcross.org.au/grants)

### Michael Paine

*Social Recovery Action Team Leader*



**Vince Di Pietro**

*Recovery  
Co-ordinator*



**Shannan Perry-Hall**

*Economic/Tourism  
Recovery Action  
Team Leader*



**Shane Pickering**

*Environment  
Recovery Action  
Team Leader*



**Warwick Papworth**

*Built Recovery  
Action  
Team Leader*



**Michael Paine**

*Social Recovery  
Action  
Team Leader*

## Economic/Tourism

It is great to see that over \$45 million in grants have been applied for by Shoalhaven businesses. We encourage all businesses to continue to seek out grant opportunities. The free Business Digital Mentoring program was a huge success and we are pleased to let you know they will be returning. Please email [hello@lemonsocial.com.au](mailto:hello@lemonsocial.com.au) if you are interested in being involved.

### Shannan Perry-Hall

*Economic/Tourism Recovery Action Team Leader*

## Environment

It is exciting to learn about projects currently underway across Agencies. Whether it's controlling erosion, monitoring bushfire affected waterways, fencing, weed and pest control or conflict resolution around flying fox colonies, the work is getting done. Some may think 'not soon enough' however, recovery is a marathon and these projects, along with many more, will continue for years to come. Here is other news from our networks [bit.ly/2ZpyvF1](https://bit.ly/2ZpyvF1)

### Shane Pickering

*Environment Recovery Action Team Leader*