

Mallacoota District Recovery Update

DECEMBER 2022



Recovery Progress Report released

We are pleased to announce that the East Gippsland Bushfires 2019/20 Third Progress Report is now available on our website.

The report outlines recovery efforts for community recovery committees, Council, and partner agencies (Emergency Recovery Victoria (ERV), Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) and Parks Victoria).

Significant progress is being made across all five recovery pillars and there have been some important milestones to celebrate in the past 18 months. Much of the damaged or destroyed infrastructure is now back in place; roadsides have been treated for emerging weeds to encourage recovery of native vegetation; and economic investment across East Gippsland is improving, with Gross Regional Product, local expenditure and visitation rates all trending-up, reflecting opportunities for future development in this area.

The report by its nature will always be incomplete. There are such a large number of community members and other entities that have contributed to recovery, and the contributions of all are recognised and appreciated.

Recovery is different for everyone, and significant support is still required.

A social recovery needs assessment undertaken by Council in partnership with ERV, health service providers and community identified priority areas for continued support and funding.

We advocate strongly for funding to further support our communities' identified recovery needs.

To view the progress report, visit www.eastgippsland.vic.gov.au/community/bushfire-recovery-plans-and-reports.

Place Manager update

The year has flown by and it's already that time of the year again. I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to the Mallacoota and District community and Mallacoota and District Recovery Association (MADRA) for the past 12 months. I stepped into the Place Manager role full time at the beginning of the year, and I am grateful for the support and partnership.

This year has seen the progress of many exciting projects and events. A few highlights include the opening of Genoa Bridge, the Cann to Coota All Emergency Services Cup, Fruit Tree Grafting Workshops and seeing the hard work of many community members result in a range of successful grant applications.

I'd like to take this opportunity to acknowledge MADRA. The team has worked tirelessly to understand and promote the recovery needs of the community and has shown dedication to strengthening recovery.

I congratulate them on their many achievements.

We also acknowledge that, for some, rebuilding their lives and livelihoods continues almost three years after the devastating Black Summer bushfires.

Finally, I would like to wish you all a happy and safe holiday and I am keeping my fingers crossed that La Niña is kind to us and we all get to enjoy some warmth and sunshine.

Mallacoota Skatepark update

The Mallacoota Skatepark redevelopment has experienced delays due to recent extremely wet weather.

Further work will continue until after the Christmas holidays to avoid unnecessary disruptions over the busy peak period.

Update from our EM team

The Mallacoota Bushfire Fuel Management Group met recently to develop an agreed long-term plan for sensitively reducing bushfire fuel for the protection of Mallacoota township. The plan will evolve over time.

An online forum regarding Foot and Mouth Disease and other diseases currently threatening to face farmers into the future was recently held. This forum also provided opportunity for communities to test the audio-visual units installed in many community halls across the municipality, which can be used in times of an emergency.

Road supervisors have allocated roadside slashing works to contractors to ensure the safety of road users by slashing roadsides, maintaining clear sight lines at intersections, and clearing some reserves. These works will be completed when conditions allow, with consideration given to risk, weather conditions and ensuring no damage occurs due to bogging or wheel rutting from the machinery.

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Our teams continue to inspect static water tanks, Neighbourhood Safer Places and Community Assembly Areas in preparation for the coming season.

Fire Prevention inspections on private properties commenced in November, so this is a reminder to increase your property maintenance and preparedness for the summer season.

Current weather models indicate increased chances of above-average rainfall for Eastern Australia during spring and summer, bringing a feeling of relief to those in our bushfire-affected areas.

The Bureau of Meteorology says the current La Niña event peaked during spring and will return to neutral conditions early in 2023. Our Emergency Management team is actively monitoring flooding events across the border and local river catchment levels.

We are still awaiting the outcome of a funding application to install generators at some Community

Assembly Areas as identified under their Local Incident Management Plans. The installation of these generators will ensure greater resilience for communities as these facilities can provide power, communications, increased protection and social connectedness in times of an emergency.

Rebuild Support Service update

The Rebuild Support Service continues to assist people whose homes were destroyed or damaged by the fires of 2019/2022 in East Gippsland.

Recent figures indicate Mallacoota District landowners are progressing steadily with rebuilding, with 48 rebuilds currently in various stages of progress.

Of the 48 homes rebuilt or in progress, 26 dwellings are completed, eight are under construction and 14 additional planning permits have been issued in preparedness for rebuilding.

If you need assistance navigating

relevant approvals, please contact the Rebuild Support Service brss@egipps.vic.gov.au.

Continued funding to support recovery

\$1.1M in funding has been allocated to Council to support local CRCs and representative groups involved in the planning or delivery of community-led recovery initiatives and priority projects following the 2019-20 Victorian Bushfires.

This funding replaces the ERV-managed funding process for CRCs.

We have developed a more flexible process informed by lessons learnt and feedback from CRC representatives.

The new funding guidelines include increased flexibility on eligible expenses and Council Place Managers will work closely with CRCs to plan for expenditure of the funds as required.

We thank the CRCs for their patience and support as we navigate the new process together.

MY COUNCIL

My Community

To learn more about Council projects, decisions and news read our monthly **My Council My Community** newsletter.



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Funding is initially through to Friday 30 June 2023 with potential for an extension.

HAVE YOUR SAY

Rural Land Use and Housing & Settlement strategies

Our community is continually changing. Population growth, an ageing population, risks from natural hazards and changes to our economy present challenges and opportunities.

Council is progressing two important strategies and inviting community feedback to assist in shaping a prosperous and sustainable future.

The final draft of the Rural Land Use Strategy provides a framework that supports the farming sector, promotes opportunities for rural tourism and protects our rural environment yoursay.eastgippsland.vic.gov.au/rural-land-use-strategy-final-draft.

The Housing and Settlement Strategy guides the location of future housing and settlement growth to 2041.

A discussion paper outlines the key principles and will assist in the first step in the development of the strategy.

To complete the feedback form and be part of shaping the sustainable growth of towns in East Gippsland visit yoursay.eastgippsland.vic.gov.au/housing-and-settlement-strategy-discussion-paper.

The aim of the two strategies is to balance the need for housing and the sustainable growth of our towns and settlements with the need to protect rural areas and the natural environment.

Feedback will be open until Friday 3 February 2023 and documents can be viewed on the Council website or at any of our Customer Service Centres.

Electric Vehicle charging stations

Funding has been secured to install a single 50kW DC electric vehicle (EV) charger in Mallacoota, to supply two '90-minute EV only' car parks for concurrent charging.

Site investigations with AusNet have identified a couple of possible locations, which have the required perpendicular car parks.



Funding has been secured to install an EV fast charger in Mallacoota.

Please provide your feedback and preference for the sites selected, via the Your Say page: yoursay.eastgippsland.vic.gov.au/electric-vehicle-charging-stations.

Electric vehicle charging stations require access to three-phase power, so we will work with AusNet to allow for a new electrical point of supply.

As electric vehicles become more popular in Australia, there is a need to cater for residents and visitors to charge their cars. The EV charger planned is a 50kW DC charger, where the average charge time will be approximately 30 minutes (although between five to 90 minutes is likely depending on the size

of the car battery, how flat the battery is and if two cars are charging at once). Excitingly, our new EV chargers will source 100% renewable electricity, as part of the Victorian Energy Collaboration (or VECO).

Changes to recovery communications

The Mallacoota District recovery update has been available to community from December 2020 following the 2019/20 bushfires and has contained articles including local information and updates on recovery projects, infrastructure, events, and relevant shire-wide information.

From January, recovery-specific information will be available through community newsletters and social media, My Council My Community online monthly newsletter, and Council's Facebook page.

We acknowledge that recovery is a long-term process, and we will continue to support our communities throughout their recovery.

Youth Leadership 2023 series announced

A partnership between the East Gippsland Community Foundation and TAFE Gippsland will see the East Gippsland Youth Leadership Series delivered in 2023. Designed for 16-24 olds, it will provide an opportunity to explore leadership potential.

Applicants will be sourced from across East Gippsland, with priority given to areas hit by the Black Summer fires.

The series will run from February to October 2023 and will include three face-to-face sessions in Bairnsdale, 10 online workshops and a graduation ceremony in November. For more, visit www.tafegippsland.edu.au/about/youthleadership.