

Q. What is the purpose of community consultation?

A. We have been collecting your ideas for our recovery from the bushfires and incorporating them in our draft Recovery Plan. But COVID-19 has prevented us from having meetings and workshops along the way, so the ideas have not yet been endorsed by the community.

As part of the consultation process, you'll get the chance to vote on recovery projects and ideas.

At the end of the process, we hope to have a solid list of recovery projects and initiatives which have broad community support. This means when governments and other funding bodies ask what we want we can say, "Here is our list".

Q. What do you mean by 'community support'? Not everyone in the community is in MADRA.

A. That is true but 782 people who live and/or own properties here are MADRA members. That's pretty broad support when you consider our full-time community is around 1,100 people (including around 170 minors who are not eligible to be MADRA members).

Q. I'm not a member of MADRA. Do I get to have a say?

A. If you are age 15 or over and a resident of Murrumbidgee or own property here, yes.

Q. How will the consultation process work?

A. Our community consultation process is in three parts.

Part One – Community gatherings at Genoa and Murrumbidgee have been held. The aim of these sessions was to talk about progress to date and outline the consultation process going forward.

Part Two – Individual 'pillar' sessions to be held at the Murrumbidgee Community Clubrooms covering:

Recovery Chapter	Date	Time
<i>Buildings and Infrastructure</i>	13 th April 2021	1:30 – 3:00 pm & 7:00 – 8:30 pm
<i>Business and Economy</i>	27 th April 2021	1:30 – 3:00 pm & 7:00 – 8:30 pm
<i>People and Wellbeing</i>	11 th May 2021	1:30 – 3:00 pm & 7:00 – 8:30 pm
<i>Environment and Biodiversity</i>	25 th May 2021	1:30 – 3:00 pm & 7:00 – 8:30 pm
<i>Aboriginal Healing and Culture</i>	(to be confirmed)	

You'll be able to vote Y or N to the projects listed in the draft Recovery Plan which have not already commenced and to nominate your top five priorities. You'll also be able to talk to representatives from organisations who have a significant role in our recovery; for example, EGSC, Bushfire Recovery Victoria and our local Catchment Management Authority.

Part Three – A ‘wrap up’ session in which we outline those projects which have community endorsement, those which need more work, and those which are not agreed. This session will take place on 15th June 2021, venue and times to be confirmed.

Q. How can I vote?

A. There are several ways you can vote. You can:

- Fill in a voting form at a pillar session.
- Obtain hard copy voting forms from the Hub or the Genoa Pub and post into our suggestion boxes.
- Forms can be posted to those who do not live here.
- Vote online as pillar surveys are released.

Voting forms and online surveys will be made available to coincide with pillar sessions.

Q. What are we voting for?

A. You’ll be voting for those project ideas in the draft Recovery Plan which are *new* recovery initiatives; that is, projects and ideas which are not already underway or already funded.

Some of these new ideas are self-explanatory.

Others are project suggestions for which the idea is there but no detail as yet. In such cases, we are asking, “Is this idea worth developing further?” In other words, we are seeking endorsement of the *concept*, noting further community consultation will be needed as project plans are developed.

Projects and initiatives already commenced fall into a number of categories:

- Rebuilding of infrastructure destroyed in the fires for which consultation is ongoing – for example, influencing the design of replacement beach, parks and lakes infrastructure including provision for floating jetties and improving all abilities access.
- Advocating for ongoing case management, psychological assistance and other advice and support.
- Preparedness initiatives, such as the Fuel Management Webinar series.
- Projects initiated by community groups for which funding has been received. Examples include the Genoa Tennis Courts and the Skatepark upgrade.
- Projects which had already commenced prior to the bushfires and which are critical to our ongoing resilience, such as the Combined Emergency Services Shed.
- Improvements to our broader infrastructure including roads and telecommunications.

Q. Why are you asking for priorities? Does this mean outlying areas will be disadvantaged as less people live there?

A. There are many different funding programs for different purposes. If there are competing demands for the same funding program, having an understanding of community project priorities will assist funding bodies with their decision making. We will continue to support projects for our outlying districts and will ensure ‘and District’ is not disadvantaged through lesser numbers of votes.

Q. Is that the end of it? No more new ideas?

A. There is no ‘cut off’ point for our recovery. Our recovery story is ongoing. Projects and initiatives will be implemented. New ideas will emerge. New funding programs and other opportunities will arise.

This initial consultation process is about getting a solid list of projects we are confident has community backing. This is so when governments and donors ask, “What does your community want?”, we can hand over our endorsed Recovery Plan.

We envisage the Recovery Plan will be updated on a regular basis to reflect what has been achieved and priorities going forward. New ideas will be incorporated and put to your vote. But there is plenty in the current plan to be getting on with and that's why we need community endorsement.

So, if you've got a great idea, please put it forward for consideration in the *next* consultation round. Of course, flexibility is key and if the right funding/implementation opportunity for a new idea comes up before the next consultation round, we'll give the community the chance to vote on it.

Q. What's next? Does MADRA undertake the projects?

A. Our role is to be a voice for our community. We do this in two main ways.

- We identify recovery gaps/problems and put forward solutions based on local knowledge, history, preferences and values.
- We are advocates for our community. This means we 'stick up' for individuals, organisations and our community in cases which do not fit neatly within policy guidelines or do not align with our values. We also seek support, advice and assistance – such as grant writers – for those organisations and groups who wish to apply for grant funding, etc.

MADRA has a three-year outlook. Some of the bigger projects on the list need an enduring owner going forward. We are unable to undertake that role. For example, a key recovery project is the Main Hall upgrade. Project owners are EGSC and the Mallacoota Halls and Rec Committee.

Q. Where can I find more information?

A. More information can be found as follows:

- **Recovery Plan** – Draft Recovery Plan chapters and chapter summaries are available on our website madrecovery.com. Chapter summaries are also available at the Bushfire Recovery Hub and the Genoa Pub.
- **Video** – A video summarising our community consultation process is available on our website madrecovery.com.
- **Voting Forms** – Voting forms will be released to coincide with pillar sessions. Hard copy forms will be available at the Bushfire Recovery Hub and the Genoa Pub. Forms can also be posted. You will also be able to vote online.

Q. Where can I send queries and recovery ideas?

A. You put suggestions in our suggestion boxes outside the Bushfire Recovery Hub and at the Genoa Pub.

You can send an email to: mallacoota.district.assoc.2020@gmail.com

You can send a letter to: MADRA, Locked Bag 1005, Mallacoota Vic 3892.