

7.2 Disaster Recovery Funding Update

REPORT BY THE BUSHFIRE LIAISON OFFICER

TO 17 MARCH 2021 ORDINARY MEETING

GOV400088, A0060009, GRA600016

RECOMMENDATION

That Council receive the report by the Bushfire Liaison Officer on the Disaster Recovery Funding Update.

Executive summary

In January 2020 the Federal Government announced Disaster Recovery Funding (DRF) of \$1.275 million for Mid-Western Regional Council as one of the 42 most severely impacted Local Government Areas (LGAs) following the 2019/20 Black Summer Bushfires. Funding needs to be fully spent by 30 June 2022.

This report provides an update on the DRF funding.

Disclosure of Interest

Nil.

Detailed report

The \$1.275 million DRF received from the Federal Government was allocated to a number of programs to support bushfire recovery and resilience by Council in March 2020. Funding needs to be fully spent by 30 June 2022.

Office of Local Government – 12 month Progress Report

A progress report was submitted to the Office of Local Government in February 2021 and is included as an attachment to this report.

Large Water Tanks Project

Council is nearing completion of the Large Water Tanks project. All 12 tanks have been installed, including completion of all plumbing and ballast at the base of the tanks. Only minor works are outstanding which include filling tanks to 50% capacity (as per the agreement), securing the inlet and outlet standpipes and minor remediation works. Access works are also still required at the Grattai and Birriwa sites. It is expected that these works will be completed in the coming months.

A full list of sites where a tank has been installed is included in the attachments.

Rate Relief for directly impacted residents

In March 2020, Council allocated \$90,000 to provide six months rate relief to all residents directly impacted by the 2019/20 bushfires. In June 2020 an additional \$15,000 was allocated to provide a total of \$105,000 in rate relief to 117 properties across the impacted area.

An additional 26 properties have been identified as being eligible for this rate relief program, totalling \$18,482.23. This additional rate relief is to be funded from the Bushfire Liaison Officer budget with the role currently vacant (since January 2021).

This will bring Council's rate relief support to over \$120,000 to directly support residents with their individual recovery priorities.

Community Plan implications

Theme	Good Governance
Goal	Strong civic leadership
Strategy	Provide accountable and transparent decision making for the community

Strategic implications

Council Strategies

Operational Plan.

Council Policies

Not applicable.

Legislation

Local Government Act 1993.

Financial implications

Any revenue that has been recognised has had a contra expenditure therefore, the net impact is neutral.

No budget variation is required as both the bushfire liaison officer and the rates relief are in the same budget allocation.

Associated Risks

Not applicable.

ALAYNA GLEESON
BUSHFIRE LIAISON OFFICER

23 February 2021

Attachments: 1. Disaster Recovery Funding OLG Progress Report February 2021.
2. Disaster Recovery Funding Large Water Tank Locations.

APPROVED FOR SUBMISSION:

BRAD CAM
GENERAL MANAGER

Projects / Activities

Please answer questions for each individual project/activity on a new row.

Note that elements of the reporting in this tab will inform briefings to Commonwealth Ministers and Officials at both an aggregated and disaggregated basis.

Some details below may also be shared publicly. Refer to reporting instructions and FAQs in the separate PDF provided for more information.

* Project name	* Project description	* Recovery domain	* Activity category	* Recovery timeline	Community Consultation	* Project location	* Intended benefits and impacts	Have the intended benefits of this project been achieved and how?	* Project status	* Project start date	* Project completion date	* Total grant funding allocated to this project	* Actual expenditure (as at 31 January 2021)	* In the absence of this grant funding, would this project have gone ahead?	
1	Bushfire Liaison Officer	Social Environment	Coordination of recovery	Immediate relief	No specific consultation	Mid-Western Regional Council, 88 Market St Mudgee NSW 2850	- Provide dedicated resource at Council as first point of contact and to provide direct support for bushfire impacted residents - Provide advocacy on behalf of residents to relevant agencies. - Coordinate recovery activities and initiatives	Yes	Position vacant as at January 2021.	100% - Completed	20/01/2020	30/12/2020	\$ 60,000	\$ 39,818	No, this project was created as a direct result of the funding received
2	Large Water Tanks	Built Environment	Infrastructure (other)	Future resilience/preparedness	No specific consultation	Mid-Western Regional Council, 88 Market St Mudgee NSW 2850	Provide water source at strategic locations across LGA to secure supply in the event of future emergencies, including bushfire and drought.	Somewhat	As this is a future resilience/preparedness project, the benefits will be seen in the future	75%	1/02/2020	30/06/2021	\$ 250,000	\$ 155,905	No, this project required this grant funding to progress
3	Donations to volunteer groups	Social Environment	Other	Immediate relief	Partial	Mid-Western Regional Council, 88 Market St Mudgee NSW 2850	- Fire volunteer groups: 2000 volunteers who were benefited included: - 2000 Bales - \$12,600 donation to provide feed for stock which were impacted by bushfires - Winesaver Prizes and Farmers Day - donation towards the fundraising events to support local fires and farmers in the region - WA volunteer fencing group - donation towards covering accommodation costs for a group of farmers from WA who came to the region to assist local property owners with repairs to bushfire damaged infrastructure	Yes	Donations to these cause provided direct support to bushfire impacted residents, including RFS members	100% - Completed	20/12/2019	30/03/2020	\$ 47,600	\$ 47,600	Unclear
4	Private Property Tree/make safe program	Built Environment	Clean up/ hazard reduction	Short/medium term recovery	Partial	Running Stream, Olinda, Coss Creek, Brogo Creek	- Support resident recovery and wellbeing through the removal of dangerous trees	Somewhat	Programs is ongoing and being rolled out through a staged approach to ensure highest priorities are met. Positive feedback has been received from residents.	25%	1/06/2020	30/06/2021	\$ 370,000	\$ 88,498	No, this project was created as a direct result of the funding received
5	Rate Relief	Economic Environment	Economic (other)	Immediate relief	Partial	Running stream, Olinda, Coss Creek, Brogo Creek	- Provide rate relief to residents to support individual recovery activities. This program was designed with the acknowledgement that all residents had different recovery priorities and through waiving rates, this provided funds to focus on key recovery priorities	Yes	The program has given residents control over and funding towards their individual recovery priorities and activities.	100% - Completed	1/03/2020	31/12/2020	\$ 90,000	\$ 93,800	No, this project was created as a direct result of the funding received
6	Economic stimulus	Economic Environment	Economic (other)	Short/medium term recovery	Partial	Mid-Western Regional Council, 88 Market St Mudgee NSW 2850	Stimulate the local economy Support businesses directly and indirectly impacted by bushfire in the LGA	Yes	A marketing campaign has been developed to promote the region for investment.	75%	1/03/2020	30/06/2021	\$ 90,000	\$ 62,253	No, this project was created as a direct result of the funding received
7	Local hall upgrades	Social Environment	Infrastructure (general upgrades/rebuilding)	Future resilience/preparedness	Full	Olinda Hall, Colcalwin St Running Stream Hall, Mount Vincent Rd Iford Hall, Iford Hall Rd	improvements to facilities which provide social connection and are important meeting places in the community to support health and wellbeing	Yes	Once complete, the halls will provide facilities to support local communities	25%	1/03/2020	31/12/2021	\$ 277,400	\$ 58,685	No, this project was created as a direct result of the funding received
8	Community Welfare Initiatives	Social Environment	Community events	Short/medium term recovery	Partial	Mid-Western Regional Council, 88 Market St Mudgee NSW 2850	Identify recovery issues and support community health, wellbeing, connectedness and resilience	Somewhat	Programs ongoing where the main body of work to date being community forums to provide directly impacted residents with the opportunity to provide feedback to address current recovery issues and support future recovery activities. This program has been heavily impacted by COVID.	25%	1/03/2020	31/12/2021	\$ 30,000	\$ 1,917	No, this project was created as a direct result of the funding received
9	Waiver of development fees and charges	Built Environment	Other	Short/medium term recovery	No specific consultation	Mid-Western Regional Council, 88 Market St Mudgee NSW 2850	Support residents with rebuild costs to waive Council associated fees	Somewhat	Provide financial relief to impacted residents	0% - Not started	1/03/2020	30/06/2022	\$ 50,000	\$ 2,936	No, this project required this grant funding to progress
10	General Recovery Costs	Social Environment	Contingency	Short/medium term recovery	No specific consultation	Mid-Western Regional Council, 88 Market St Mudgee NSW 2850	Support other recovery activities including initiatives such as a tree giveaway program for directly impacted residents	Somewhat	Benefits are yet to be seen	50%	1/08/2020	30/06/2022	\$ 10,000	\$ 587	No, this project required this grant funding to progress
												\$ 1,275,000	\$ 549,979		

Mid-Western Regional Council
 Large Water Tanks Locations - February 2021

Site number	Name	Property Address	Lot	Section	DP	Coordinates	Land Manager	Notes	Tank Installed
1	Birriwa RFS Shed Birriwa Recreation Ground	3106 Castlereagh Highway BIRRIWA NSW 2844	7001		93500	-32.123628882946576, 149.46492629479036	Birriwa Progress Association	Water tank is located on Birriwa Recreation Reserve ground, adjacent to Birriwa RFS shed. Consent was received from Birriwa Progress Association as Land Manager of the Reserve grounds	1/09/2020
2	Bungaba Community Hall	1637 Blue Springs Road BUNGABA NSW 2852	100		1092931	-32.16727097969478, 149.63233130022516	Council CLM: Mid-Western Regional Council	Water tank located on Bungaba Community Hall site. Land owned/managed by MWRC however consent also received from Bungaba Progress Association to locate tank on site	20/08/2020
3	Ulan RFS Shed	15 Spring Street ULAN NSW 2850	7	1	759017	-32.28016218173857, 149.74432732346153	Council CLM: Mid-Western Regional Council		4/06/2020
4	Cooyal RFS No 1 Shed	1357 Wollar Road COOYAL NSW 2850	415		755414	-32.45248590386878, 149.75368896989704	Cooyal Park Reserve	Water tank is located on Cooyal Park Reserve land, adjacent to Cooyal RFS shed site. Consent was received from Cooyal Park Reserve as Land Manager of the Reserve ground. Appointment of MWRC as land manager of Part Reserve for purposes of installing tank received from Crown Lands Office	20/01/2021
5	Lue Havilah RFS Shed	3 Garner Street LUE NSW 2850	25		1140863	-32.65247514663774, 149.8432077727993	Council CLM: Mid-Western Regional Council		3/06/2020
6	Clandulla RFS Shed	18 Ferris Street CLANDULLA NSW 2848	4	19	758249	-32.90545519499159, 149.95020430525236	Council CLM: Mid-Western Regional Council		8/07/2020
7	Olinda Recreation Reserve	17 Nullo Mountain Road OLINDA NSW 2849	8/9 7011		758812 1051738	-32.83717094130305, 150.14562336992321	Olinda Community Association Inc.	Water tank is located on Olinda Recreation Reserve ground adjacent to Nullo Mountain Road. Consent was received from Olinda Community Association (Land Manager for Olinda Public Hall and Recreation Reserve)	10/12/2020
8	Iford RFS Shed Iford Recreation Reserve	RFS Shed 35 Iford Hall Road ILFORD NSW 2850 Recreation Reserve Ground 41 Iford Hall Road ILFORD NSW 2850	307/308		722283	-32.963118918760784, 149.86164043771387	Council CLM: Mid-Western Regional Council	Water tank is located on Recreation Reserve Ground Lot 308 DP 722283, adjoining Lot 307 DP 722283 (RFS shed). Consent received from Iford Recreation Reserve Trust as Land Manager of reserve ground	02/12/2020
9	Running Stream RFS Shed	23 Mt Vincent Road RUNNING STREAM NSW 2850	176		755778	-33.02934058644303, 149.90078993633685	Council CLM: Mid-Western Regional Council		3/12/2020
10	Pyramul Recreation Grounds	1361 Pyramul Road PYRAMUL NSW 2850	34		756909	-32.8881688231563, 149.61927274147234	Pyramul Recreation Reserve Trust Inc.	No room at RFS shed site so alternate site at Recreation Grounds after consultation and sign-off received through Pyramul Recreation Reserve Trust as Land Manager of the Recreation ground	8/10/2020
11	Windeyer RFS Shed Long Creek Reserve	1896 Windeyer Road WINDEYER NSW 2850	29		756923	-32.79628480044782, 149.5569226003124	Windeyer Recreation Reserve Trust	Water tank located on Long Creek Reserve (at back of RFS shed). Consent was received from Windeyer Recreation Reserve Trust as Land Manager of the Reserve	9/10/2020
12	Erudgere Grattai RFS Shed	1494 Hill End Road GRATTAI NSW 2850	1402		1153716	-32.6393834154893, 149.48792361091444	Road Reserve Mid-Western Regional Council	Water tank is located on Road Reserve at the RFS shed site adjoining Lot 1402 DP 1153716	29/05/2020