

Sir Ivan Fire Recovery Committee

Community Newsletter

Edition 6, 1 May 2017

The Sir Ivan Recovery Support Service to commence May 2017

The **Sir Ivan Fire Recovery Support Service** (Sir Ivan RSS) is a temporary service funded by government to help affected primary producers, households and communities recover from the Sir Ivan and other nearby fires that occurred in the Warrumbungle, Mid-Western and Upper Hunter local government areas in February 2017.

The **Sir Ivan RSS** complements the existing human and primary industries services by providing a custom-built service to ensure that individuals and communities who have experienced significant loss can access the recovery support they need.

The **Sir Ivan RSS** offers a single point of contact for householders and primary producers, connecting them with local **Recovery Support Workers** who will listen to their needs and link them with the range of personal, agricultural and financial services they require.

For more information or to make an appointment with a **Recovery Support Worker** contact the **Recovery Line on 6377 1122**.

Stay tuned for information on opportunities to meet the **Rural Support Workers** in your local communities.

'Category C' Recovery Grants for Primary Producers

Recovery grants are still available for farmers impacted by the Sir Ivan fire.

A grant of up to **\$15,000 per farming enterprise** is available to eligible primary producers in the Sir Ivan fire zone who have suffered damage to farm buildings, crops, pasture, stock, fencing and / or tools of the trade, ie. equipment / plant.

This grant can help with clean-up and restoration costs such as fencing, fodder for livestock, re-sowing of pastures and other repairs due to fire damage.

Talk to a **Rural Assistance Authority Assessor** on 1800 678 593 or your local **Rural Financial Counsellor** about your eligibility. Please do not self-assess.

Information and application forms can be found on the **NSW Rural Assistance Authority** website at www.raa.nsw.gov.au/assistance/natural-disaster-relief/grants-information-and-application-forms .

Applications must be received by **15 September** 2017. Forms can be lodged by post, email or facsimile.

Contact details for **Rural Financial Counsellors** are provided in this newsletter.

The Rural Assistance Authority (RAA) **Natural Disaster Relief Scheme** also has a number of other assistance measures to help primary producers who were affected by any of the fires that occurred in February 2017 in Mid-Western Regional, Warrumbungle and Upper Hunter LGA's.

Assistance includes:

Disaster relief loans for up to \$130,000. Loans are subject to certain eligibility criteria and are provided at a concessional interest rate for those in urgent need. These loans may be used for essential working capital, replacement and repair of damage to the property and associated improvements not covered by insurance. The repayment term is preceded by a two year interest and repayment free period.

Transport subsidies for up to 50 per cent of the cost of transporting fodder and / or water to an affected property and stock to / from agistment .

Applications for loans and transport assistance must be received by the RAA by **22 August 2017**.

Information and forms can be found on the **NSW Rural Assistance Authority** website at www.raa.nsw.gov.au .

Alternatively, if you would like to talk to an assessor please contact the **Authority** toll free on **1800 678 593**.

Financial Counselling

The **Rural Financial Counselling Service** NSW Central Region (RFCSCR) provides free and confidential financial counselling to a range of eligible clients. Contact details for the service and local Rural Financial Counsellors are:

RFCSCR: 1800 940 404

RFC Mudgee: Elizabeth Brown – 0427 726 660

RFC Servicing Coolah: Susan Kelley – 0439 323 443

Website: www.rfcscr.com.au

Email: ceo@rfcscr.com.au

Disaster Relief Grants

The Department of Justice, **Office of Emergency Management**, can provide disaster relief grants to eligible individuals and families whose homes were damaged in the recent fires. Please contact **Disaster Welfare Services** on **1800 018 444** for further information about how to apply

BlazeAid is here to stay

Laurie Dawson from BlazeAid has said BlazeAid is here to stay over the coming months to provide ongoing help and support to assist with the rebuilding of fences on fire affected properties. To hear how BlazeAid can lend a helping hand on your fire-affected property contact them on the numbers below:

Dunedoo Camp: 0418 349 317

Cassilis Camp: 0428 984 117

Are you insured? If you are insured, you should talk to your insurance company as soon as possible about how to make a claim. If you have any questions, concerns or complaints about your insurance, contact the **Insurance Council of Australia** on 1800 734 621.

Warrumbungle Shire Mayor's Bushfire Appeal – community recovery support

Warrumbungle Shire Council established the **Warrumbungle Shire Mayor's Bushfire Appeal (Sir Ivan Fire)** to receive donations from people and organisations who wanted to assist those affected by the Sir Ivan Fire.

The **Mayor's Appeal** aims to provide a "one-stop shop" where members of the public can donate money to assist victims of the Sir Ivan Fire, while ensuring that all monies donated are used solely on assisting residents who have suffered as a result of this natural disaster.

All donations to the **Mayor's Appeal** over \$2.00 are tax deductible. All funds received will be used to provide direct assistance to victims of the Sir Ivan Fire. Council will not use any donated funds for administration or other Council purposes.

To assist with the distribution of funds, Warrumbungle Shire Council has brought together an **Advisory Committee** made up of people from the local communities.

Representatives on the **Advisory Committee** are:

- Peter Shinton, Mayor, WSC
- Ken Harrison, NSW DPI
- Peter Manning, St Vincent de Paul
- Chris Sullivan, St Vincent de Paul
- Laurie Dawson, BlazeAid
- Bronwyn Drew, Caring for Coolah
- Joy Beames, CWA
- Irene Osborne, Anglican Church

The **Advisory Committee** will assist with decisions regarding the allocation of the funds raised.

Primarily the funds from the **Mayor's Appeal** will be given to local charities to give to the individuals and communities affected by the Sir Ivan Fire. Funds of more than \$75,000 have already been distributed to local charities.

Warrumbungle Shire Council Clean Up Assistance

Following the Sir Ivan Fire, **Warrumbungle Shire Council** has received a number of requests from landholders to provide assistance with the clearing of fence lines along fire affected roads. At the March 2017 meeting, **Warrumbungle Shire Council** resolved that Council provide a subsidy, capped at **\$1,000 per property**, to pay for plant hire to clear road reserves where trees are deemed a threat to new property infrastructure or road users. Conditions of the subsidy include:

- prior assessment must be conducted by Council
- full road frontage to be treated
- timber to be stacked on property
- fences must be deemed destroyed or damaged beyond repair
- only road reserves on roads maintained by Council are eligible
- only Warrumbungle Shire Council ratepayers are eligible
- subsidy is claimable if work undertaken by private contractor

If you have already completed these works, and would like to access the subsidy retrospectively, please contact **Warrumbungle Shire Council** via the **Recovery Line** on **(02) 6377 1122**.

Warrumbungle Shire Council Waste Transfer Stations

Warrumbungle Shire Council **Waste Transfer Stations** are open at the following times in the locations listed.

Coolah

101 Neilrex Road, Coolah

8:30am – 4:30pm Wednesday and Saturday*

9:00am – 12:00noon Monday

Dunedoo

128 Avonside Road, Dunedoo

8:30am – 4:30pm Sunday*

2:30pm – 4:30pm Monday,
Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday
and Friday

Coonabarabran

Coonabarabran 4202 Baradine Road, Coonabarabran

8:00am – 4:30pm Monday,
Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday
and Friday

8:00am to 5:00pm Saturday and Sunday

Closed between 12:00noon and 1:00pm

Binnaway

Warrumbungle Way, Binnaway

8:30am to 4:30pm Sunday*

2:00pm to 5:00pm Tuesday and Thursday

* Transfer Stations will close between 12 noon and 12:30 pm where the facility is open all day.

Fees and charges do apply. For information on Fees and Charges please visit:

<http://www.warrumbungle.nsw.gov.au/resident-services/warrumbungle-waste/waste-collection-and-transfer-station-services/waste-collection-and-transfer-station-services> .

All waste charges remain the same, though friable asbestos tipping is free for fire affected owners. Please note that friable asbestos will only be accepted at Coonabarabran Landfill.

Upper Hunter Shire Council Waste Depots

Upper Hunter Shire Council **Waste Depots** are open at the following times in the locations listed.

Aberdeen

Wells Gully Road, Aberdeen

8:00am – 5:00pm Monday,
Wednesday and Friday

9:00am – 5:00pm Saturday and Sunday

Cassilis

Golden Highway, Cassilis 8:00am – 4:00pm Saturday

Merriwa

Depot Road, Merriwa

8:00am – 12:00noon and 1:00pm – 4:00pm Friday – Monday

Murrurundi

Halls Road, Murrurundi

9:00am – 5:00pm Friday,
Saturday, Monday

9:00am – 1:00pm Sunday

Scone

Noblet Road, Scone

8:00am – 5:00pm Monday – Friday

9:00am – 5:00pm Saturday and Sunday

For more information, including fees and charges visit

<http://upperhunter.nsw.gov.au/our-services/waste-recycling/waste-disposal.aspx> .

Taking care of your health and wellbeing – Dr Rob Gordon online talks

Recently, clinical psychologist Dr Rob Gordon was able to visit Coolah to spend time talking to community members affected by the Sir Ivan Fire.

Dr Gordon has spent the past 30 years working with people affected by emergencies and disasters.

There has been such positive feedback about Dr Gordon's messages on dealing with disasters and trauma that you might like to view Dr Gordon's talks online:

<http://www.dhs.vic.gov.au/for-individuals/crisis-and-emergency/emergency-assistance/travelling-the-road-to-recovery-video-series>

In his talk, Dr Rob Gordon encouraged people affected by the fire to talk to family and trusted friends about your concerns or worries. People can also call **Lifeline** on **13 11 14**, talk to your **local GP** or call the **NSW Mental Health Line** on **1800 011 511** for information and referral information.

In addition to these services, some useful websites you might like to visit are:

Black Dog Institute

www.blackdoginstitute.org.au

Beyond Blue

www.beyondblue.org.au

Living is for Everyone (LIFE) Suicide Prevention in Australia

www.livingisforeveryone.com

Newsletter Suggestions

If there is information that you would like to see included in the **Recovery Committee Community Newsletter** call the **Recovery Line** on **(02) 6377 1122**.

Please share this Newsletter with family, friends and other members of your local community.

Newsletter Subscription

Would you or someone you know like to receive this Newsletter directly?

The Newsletter can be emailed or posted out.

To receive the Newsletter directly, call the **Recovery Line** on **(02) 6377 1122** with your email / postal address, or send an email to info@warrumbungle.nsw.gov.au with the title **Recovery Committee Community Newsletter Subscription**.

This Newsletter is produced by the **Department of Justice, Office of Emergency Management** and **Warrumbungle Shire Council**, with contributions from support agencies whose services are featured.