

# Sir Ivan Fire Recovery Committee community newsletter

Edition 5 | 7 April 2017

## Recovery support continues for our community

Mother nature has certainly provided some challenges in NSW over the last nine months - the Central West floods, the Sir Ivan and surrounding fires and now the North Coast floods, our thoughts are with everyone who has been affected by all these disasters.

The Sir Ivan Fire Recovery Committee wants to reassure our fire affected communities that recovery support will continue and remain in place for as long as needed.

Agencies are still available to help affected residents and landholders. If you haven't already made contact please visit or call the Recovery Information Point.

- Recovery Information Point at the Council Office, 59 Binnia Street, Coolah.
- Recovery Line on 6377 1122.

You can also receive this Newsletter by email, phone the Recovery Line with your email address.

## BlazeAid is here to stay

Laurie Dawson, BlazeAid Coordinator wants to assure landholders that BlazeAid is here to stay over the coming months to provide ongoing help and support. Laurie will be working hard to encourage

volunteers to the area to assist with the rebuilding of fences on fire affected properties.

The main BlazeAid base camp for Warrumbungle Shire is at the Dunedoo Showground. This facility is working very well and able to support up to 100 volunteers at any one time. While there were some recent plans to establish a second base camp at Coolah, it has been decided that BlazeAid is best able to assist the whole community from the central Dunedoo base camp. BlazeAid invites anyone to visit the Dunedoo camp at the show grounds, see the setup and learn more of the BlazeAid philosophy which can be summed up simply as "mates helping mates."

To get help from BlazeAid, it's simple. Call them on:

- Dunedoo camp 0418 349 317
- Cassilis 0428 984 117

## Recovery Grants for Primary Producers.

Recovery grants are 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 trade (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 damaged by the fire.

To be an eligible primary producer:

- You must earn majority of your gross income from the farm enterprise
- You are in working occupation of the farming enterprise
- You have been affected directly by the Sir Ivan bushfire
- You must be in the area identified on the RAA website

Talk to an RAA Assessor on 1800 678 593 or your local Rural Financial Counsellor about your eligibility, do not self-assess.

Information and application forms can be found on the NSW Rural Assistance Authority website

<http://www.raa.nsw.gov.au/assistance/natural-disaster-relief/grants-information-and-application-forms..>

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

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 of up to \$130,000, subject to certain eligibility criteria, at a concessional interest rate for those in urgent need. These loans may be used for essential working capital, replacement and repair of damage caused 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 of up to 50 per cent of the cost of transporting fodder and/or water to an affected property and stock to/from agistment are available.

Applications for loans and transport assistance must be received by the RAA by 22 August 2017. You will find all scheme information and the forms to apply for assistance on the NSW Rural Assistance Authority website at [www.raa.nsw.gov.au](http://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.

### **Other Assistance for primary producers**

Primary producers can call their nearest Local Land Services office for support, advice and assistance with livestock issues or other matters on 1300 795 299.

### **Livestock**

Making sure water and feed are of good quality is very important, the energy and protein of the feed should be appropriate for the class of stock. Stock on agistment should be monitored closely, and if you have any nutrition or health concerns please contact us.

### **Weeds**

Weeds can be an issue when rainfall follows closely after fires. Some of the species can be poisonous to livestock. Weeds can also be introduced with donated fodder from other areas. We can

help with weed identification, control and pasture management.

### **Invasive Pest Animals**

As a result of the fires, pest animals have been destroyed by fire and some animals have moved and spread to and from other areas. If you are seeing wild dogs or feral pigs, please contact our Biosecurity Officer Mark Knight 0459 030599 from Coonabarabran Local Land Services for advice on control methods and timing.

If you have grain available, you can start "Free Feeding" feral pigs in preparation for baiting. We can also assist with pig traps in some cases.

Wild dogs have been an issue for some time in the Leadville area where producers have been working together to control these dogs.

### **LLS Rates Payments**

Central West Local Land Services advise landholders whose holdings have been directly impacted by the fires that rates payments for the 2017 year have been deferred for six months. If after this period you require further time to finalise your account, payment arrangements will be made available.

### **Fodder Distribution**

Donated fodder is still available for any landholder affected by the fires. Large round bales, large square bales and small bales are available. Please contact the fodder coordinator, Catherine Beer on 0417 816 428.

### **Rural Resilience Officers**

Rural Resilience Officers and Rural Support Workers can also provide information on support available:

- Caroline Hayes on 0407 971 675 [caroline.hayes@dpi.nsw.gov.au](mailto:caroline.hayes@dpi.nsw.gov.au) or
- Liane Corocher on 0427 188 643 [liane.corocher@dpi.nsw.gov.au](mailto:liane.corocher@dpi.nsw.gov.au)

### **Are you insured?**

If you are insured, you should talk to your insurance company as soon as possible about how to make a claim.

### **Insurance Council of Australia**

For any questions, concerns or complaints about your insurance, call: 1800 734 621

### **Financial counselling**

The Rural Financial Counselling Service NSW Central Region (RFCSCR) provides free and confidential financial counselling to a range of eligible clients.

- Telephone: 1800 940 404 or
- RFC Mudgee Elizabeth Brown: 0427 726 660
- RFC servicing Coolah Susan Kelley: 0439 323 443
- Website: [rfcscr.com.au](http://rfcscr.com.au)
- Email: [ceo@rfcscr.com.au](mailto: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 who have had damage to their homes from the recent fires.

Please contact Disaster Welfare Services on 1800 018 444 during office hours for further information about how to apply

### **Dial Before You Dig - Telstra cabling**

For farmers experiencing problems with locating Telstra cabling the advice from Telstra Countrywide Office is to contact the 1100 number with your location details

to obtain a cabling map. This will be sent to you via email and could take up to 14 days to be received.

If after the map is received you are still having problems, then please contact NSW Department of Primary Industry Rural Support Workers and they will liaise with Telstra on your behalf.

**Contact details:** Caroline Hayes  
(Scone) [0407971675](tel:0407971675) [caroline.hayes@dpi.nsw.gov.au](mailto:caroline.hayes@dpi.nsw.gov.au)

Sue Freebairn (Coonabarabran)  
[0429212368](tel:0429212368) [sue.freebairn@dpi.nsw.gov.au](mailto:sue.freebairn@dpi.nsw.gov.au)

### **Taking care of your health and wellbeing**

After the fires there are 10 things that are important to keep in mind to help you recover.

1. Physical health check-ups with your GP are important even if you don't feel or see an issue.
2. Take time for activities of leisure and pleasure which you did before the fire – these will help you to recharge your batteries.
3. Spend time with family and friends and get back to a routine
4. Continue a healthy lifestyle (eating, sleeping, exercise) even if you don't feel hungry or tired
5. Take time out but don't isolate yourself
6. Write down your worries and concerns and express your feelings in your own time and way
7. Accept help when it is offered and expect to have all the answers

8. Remember you are not alone in your experience

9. Share thoughts and things you have learnt with one another, so we all learn and recover together

10. Try to avoid withdrawing, over-working, using alcohol or drugs for coping, or making major life decisions without completely looking at all options

Talk to family and trusted friends about your concerns or worries, or call Lifeline on 13 11 14. You can also talk to a GP or call the NSW Mental Health Line on 1800 011 511 for information and referral information. Some useful websites are:

Black Dog Institute:  
[www.blackdoginstitute.org.au](http://www.blackdoginstitute.org.au)

Beyond Blue: [www.beyondblue.org.au](http://www.beyondblue.org.au)

Living is for Everyone (LIFE) Suicide Prevention in Australia:  
[www.livingisforeveryone.com](http://www.livingisforeveryone.com)

### **Upcoming Community Events**

The Sir Ivan Fire Benefit Concert will be held at Denedoo Sports Club from 1pm on April 29. All profits will be donated to those affected by the fire.

### **Newsletter Suggestions**

If there is information that you would like to see included in the Newsletter call us on the Recovery Line 6377 1122.

Please share this Newsletter with family and friends. The newsletter has been produced by the Department of Justice and Warrumbungle Shire Council with contributions from the support agencies whose services are featured.

