



Senator Hollie Hughes
Liberal Patron Senator for the Hunter Region

7th April 2022

Media Release

National Bushfire Recovery Fund grants for Shortland

Projects in the Hunter Region have received over \$35 million in grants from the Federal Governments Black Summer Bushfire Recovery Grants program.

Patron Senator for the Hunter Region, Hollie Hughes said “As part of the \$2.1 Billion National Bushfire Recovery Fund, the Black Summer Bushfire Recovery Grants program is helping to support affected communities and their ongoing recovery.

There were 524 projects funded under the program, and I’m delighted to announce two very important projects in my Patron Seat of Shortland.”

Applicant	Project Title	Project Description	Approved Grant Amount
Lake Macquarie City Council	The ART of Recovery	<p>The grant entails several economic projects and initiatives that start with an investigation of the impacts of bushfires and COVID on Lake Macquarie's cultural sector.</p> <p>This data will then be used to set strategic actions to develop artists and creatives and provide platforms for creative engagement. The implementation phase will include key activations with existing programs and initiatives, expanding the Open Studios and Dobell Arts Festival, develop makerspaces and makerculture and other opportunities that arise from the program to promote the city as a Creative Hub.</p> <p>Based on growth to date, this recovery program will greatly improve employment outcomes, expand existing</p>	\$80,000

		markets and develop new audiences for creative products and services.	
Lake Macquarie City Council	Enhance Fernleigh Awabakal Shared Track FAST for Economic Resilience	<p>The Fernleigh Awabakal Shared Track (FAST) project is extending the Hunter Region's most popular walking and cycling track, delivering 27km of shared pathway from Newcastle to Lake Macquarie.</p> <p>Enhancements to FAST will deliver a 3.5m high elevated viewing platform, a 25m long bridge spanning Cold Tea Creek and 400m of fire retardant decking. FAST will create a regionally significant tourism landmark, education and cultural experience, capable of holding major sports, community and fitness events.</p> <p>The project will leverage business and employment growth and help drive the region's Indigenous tourism economy. Long-term direct and flow-on benefits relating to health, environment, tourism and culture, provide exceptional value for investment.</p>	1,150,000

Full details of the funded projects are available below and also on the National Recovery and Resilience Agency website at: <https://recovery.gov.au/programs/black-summer-grants>

Media: Karen Howard M: 0413 123 258 (Senator Hughes)



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Applicant	Project Title	Project Description	LGA	Approved grant amount
Australia Walkabout Wildlife Park Pty Ltd	Walkabout Fire Trail Upgrade: Protecting Culture, Community and Wildlife	The project is to upgrade Walkabout Wildlife Sanctuary's existing fire trails so they can carry Category 1 Firefighting Vehicles. With upgraded fire trails, the sanctuary is a defensible gateway against bushfires reaching the Central Coast from the South. The sanctuary's 170 acres of natural bushland forms a defensible buffer between Popran National Park and Glenworth Valley in the south/south-west, and the suburbs of the NSW Central Coast to the north-west.	Central Coast	57620
Australian Red Cross Society	Australian Red Cross 2019/2020 Australian Bushfire Recovery Program	The Australian Red Cross 2019/2020 Australian Bushfire Recovery Program (the Program) is a community based social recovery and resilience program supporting communities impacted by the 2019/20 Bushfires. Red Cross provides information, practical assistance, and emotional support to enhance community recovery and resilience – focussing on the psychological, social and cultural aspects of wellbeing. Red Cross Recovery Officers and Volunteers share resources and deliver recovery and psychosocial training to individuals, communities and groups; and work with communities to strengthen resilience to future disasters. The Program reflects needs of LGA's through a community-led approach, working with government, community services and groups.	Bellingen, Wollondilly, Lithgow, Nambucca, Clarence Valley, Coffs Harbour, Queanbeyan-Palerang, Muswellbrook, Bega Valley, Tamworth, Snowy Monaro, Snowy Valleys, Central Coast, Blue Mountains, Cessnock, Mansfield, Wellington, Indigo, Gold Coast, South Burnett, Bundaberg, Ipswich City, Fraser Coast, North Burnett, Gympie, Glamorgan/Spring Bay, Kingston, Lower Eyre Peninsula	7256492
Australian Red Cross Society	Australian Red Cross 2019/2020 Australian	The Australian Red Cross 2019/2020 Australian Bushfire Recovery Program (the Program) is a community based social recovery and resilience program supporting communities	Bellingen, Wollondilly, Lithgow, Nambucca, Clarence Valley, Coffs Harbour,	7256492

	Bushfire Recovery Program	impacted by the 2019/20 Bushfires. Red Cross provides information, practical assistance, and emotional support to enhance community recovery and resilience – focussing on the psychological, social and cultural aspects of wellbeing. Red Cross Recovery Officers and Volunteers share resources and deliver recovery and psychosocial training to individuals, communities and groups; and work with communities to strengthen resilience to future disasters. The Program reflects needs of LGA's through a community-led approach, working with government, community services and groups.	Queanbeyan-Palerang, Muswellbrook, Bega Valley, Tamworth, Snowy Monaro, Snowy Valleys, Central Coast, Blue Mountains, Cessnock, Mansfield, Wellington, Indigo, Gold Coast, South Burnett, Bundaberg, Ipswich City, Fraser Coast, North Burnett, Gympie, Glamorgan/Spring Bay, Kingston, Lower Eyre Peninsula	
Careflight Limited	Building Resilient NSW Communities through Trauma Care Training	CareFlight will deliver a series of Trauma Care Workshops to volunteer and professional first responders in bushfire affected communities throughout NSW. Engaging communities in preparedness activities can ensure that individuals and communities are resilient to natural disasters. CareFlight's Trauma Care Workshops provide first responders and community members with the skills, knowledge and confidence to treat and manage critically ill patients during bushfires and natural disasters. First responder agencies are also provided with a unique opportunity to train together and strengthen their communication and inter-agency collaboration, which helps to support service cohesion and fortify their response efforts in the field.	Gwydir, Mid Western, Glen Innes, Snowy Monaro, Kuring-gai, Singleton, Central Coast, Inverell, Armidale, Eurobodalla, Tweed, Upper Lachlan	252000
Central Coast Council	Water and Sewer Bushfire Management Planning	The Central Coast Council (CCC) Water and Sewer (W&S) directorate manages considerable parcels of bushfire prone land which relates to drinking water catchments and critical treatment and distribution infrastructure. The key objectives are to produce comprehensive bushfire prevention and planning actions through the development of a Bushfire Management Plan for CCC W&S infrastructure, as well as development of site-specific Strategic Bushfire Management Plans for all critical infrastructure with a high bushfire risk. The outcome of this work is to improve the resilience of the water and sewer services for the Central Coast region. This is through reducing bushfire related risk to water quality, water treatment and water distribution.	Central Coast	381000
Cessnock City Council	Cessnock Airport RFS Aviation Fire Base Project	Cessnock Airport RFS Aviation Fire Base Project aims to create a new and permanent base for the RFS to conduct aerial	Cessnock	1651260

		<p>firefighting. Cessnock airport is located in the heart of the Hunter Valley, has numerous accomodation options to house emergency service personnel during operations and has excellent rural roading infrastructure to ensure efficient transportation by emergency service vehicles. Cessnock Airport offers a safe and secure location to operate aerial firefighting aircraft during fire emergencies. A large aircraft apron with RFS hangar and helicopter landing area will be created where crews, water, equipment and emergency services can efficiently perform their duties during emergencies.</p>		
Cessnock City Council	Support Local and Product Champion Program	<p>Cessnock has 8,500 businesses which enable the LGA to grow as a great place to live, work and play. The Economic Development team at Cessnock City Council will engage and promote local businesses post the Black Summer Bushfires to ensure fast recovery and grow resilience. Council's Support Local and Product Champion Program is a service for small and medium-sized enterprises (SME) and supports local business activity and innovation while also building the reputation of the region as a key investment location. Whether starting or scaling up a business, the Economic Development Team works with businesses, Chambers of Commerce and Industry Groups to identify, connect and deliver initiatives that inform, educate and connect SME's.</p>	Cessnock	150000
Darkinjung Local Aboriginal Land Council	Darkinjung Local Aboriginal Land Council - Fire Trail Construction	<p>The project is to construct 590m of new fire trail on Darkinjung land at Halekulani (Halekulani Complex) to protect a seniors living development rated as Very High bushfire risk, and to reconstruct 3565m of very poor condition fire trail on Darkinjung land at Wallarah to protect critical infrastructure and high-quality bushland (Tooheys Complex). Burnt out cars and rubbish will be removed from the sites. Both fire trail complexes will facilitate future indigenous cool burns and/or Hazard Reduction burns. Suitable fencing, gates and signage will improve land management (e.g. weeds, dumping, arson, and illegal activity). An opportunity will be made available for local indigenous employment during the project enhancing local capability.</p>	Central Coast	220261
Firesticks Alliance Indigenous Corporation	Healing people with cultural knowledge revival of good fire	<p>Firesticks Alliance will deliver a suite of fit-for-purpose projects that will support Aboriginal communities in SE Queensland, Hunter Valley, S NSW and Tasmania to revive & share Cultural</p>	Singleton, Lake Macquarie, Mid Coast, Cessnock, Bega Valley, Snowy Monaro,	9456641

		knowledge & provide training, jobs & business strategy development. We will deliver a nationally accredited and culturally certified program to mentor and certify 100 Indigenous Fire Practitioners in 3 regions, a trauma-informed storytelling initiative to help school students in the Hunter learn about right fire, install interpretive signage at 9 Cultural Burn sites to provide guided Cultural Fire educational tours in the Hunter & enhance emergency response efforts in remote areas of Tasmania by providing critical firefighting equipment & infrastructure.	Shoalhaven, Ipswich City, Lockyer Valley, Flinders, Central Highlands, Glamorgan/Spring Bay	
Firesticks Alliance Indigenous Corporation	Healing people with cultural knowledge revival of good fire	Firesticks Alliance will deliver a suite of fit-for-purpose projects that will support Aboriginal communities in SE Queensland, Hunter Valley, S NSW and Tasmania to revive & share Cultural knowledge & provide training, jobs & business strategy development. We will deliver a nationally accredited and culturally certified program to mentor and certify 100 Indigenous Fire Practitioners in 3 regions, a trauma-informed storytelling initiative to help school students in the Hunter learn about right fire, install interpretive signage at 9 Cultural Burn sites to provide guided Cultural Fire educational tours in the Hunter & enhance emergency response efforts in remote areas of Tasmania by providing critical firefighting equipment & infrastructure.	Singleton, Lake Macquarie, Mid Coast, Cessnock, Bega Valley, Snowy Monaro, Shoalhaven, Ipswich City, Lockyer Valley, Flinders, Central Highlands, Glamorgan/Spring Bay	9456641
Lake Macquarie City Council	The ART of Recovery	The grant entails several economic projects and initiatives that start with an investigation of the impacts of bushfires and COVID on Lake Macquarie's cultural sector. This data will then be used to set strategic actions to develop artists and creatives and provide platforms for creative engagement. The implementation phase will include key activations with existing programs and initiatives, expanding the Open Studios and Dobell Arts Festival, develop makerspaces and makerculture and other opportunities that arise from the program to promote the city as a Creative Hub. Based on growth to date, this recovery program will greatly improve employment outcomes, expand existing markets and develop new audiences for creative products and services.	Lake Macquarie	80000
Lake Macquarie City Council	Enhance Fernleigh Awabakal Shared Track FAST for Economic Resilience	The Fernleigh Awabakal Shared Track (FAST) project is extending the Hunter Region's most popular walking and cycling track, delivering 27km of shared pathway from Newcastle to Lake Macquarie. Enhancements to FAST will	Lake Macquarie	1150000

		<p>deliver a 3.5m high elevated viewing platform, a 25 m long bridge spanning Cold Tea Creek and 400m of fire retardant decking. FAST will create a regionally significant tourism landmark, education and cultural experience, capable of holding major sports, community and fitness events. The project will leverage business and employment growth and help drive the region's Indigenous tourism economy. Long-term direct and flow-on benefits relating to health, environment, tourism and culture, provide exceptional value for investment.</p>		
Mackillop Family Services Limited	Building community capacity and resilience to respond and recover	<p>MacKillop will build local capacity to improve wellbeing and build resilience through delivery of trauma informed professional learning and post-bushfires mental health education programs for children and parents. Our project addresses mental health concerns and support the social recovery and build resilience to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - improve community connectedness through mental health programs in schools, health and community services; - support community development and resilience by training local facilitators; - implement and ensure culturally safe and responsive practice in collaboration with local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities - build capability and capacity to recover from bushfires and promote future resilience. 	Lake Macquarie, Central Coast	240507
Mangrove Mountain Flora Reserve (R.67322) Land Manager	Community Emergency Communications Enhancement	<p>Currently, during disasters and emergencies, our district regularly loses communications due to landline, mobile phone and internet outages. Proposal is to provide a CB Radio network which allows isolated, ageing communities to better communicate with each other, with emergency services and with disaster relief agencies, providing a method for communicating and relaying critical information about how a disaster is impacting them, triggering other Emergency Plans, addressing the needs of the vulnerable members of their communities, lessening the dependence on lead services such as RFS and SES and providing valuable information to those services and also offering those services a means to reach the affected communities.</p>	Central Coast	600100

New South Wales State Emergency Service Volunteers Association Ltd	The First Responder Resilience Program (FRRP)	The FRRP will be designed to provide volunteer frontline managers of first responder organisations with the skills and the confidence to engage positively with their people. These skills will be developed through a series of scenario based sessions where leaders work together to enhance their communication expertise. The FRRP will be delivered local emergency volunteer team leaders at all 31 Category 1 LGAs and include a train the trainer component, the development of an online knowledge hub to support the program delivery and include a research component to determine efficacy of the program.	Walcha, Tamworth, Sutherland Shire, Upper Hunter, Port Macquarie-Hastings, Kyogle, Kempsey, Cootamundra-Gundagai, Shoalhaven, Wagga Wagga, Ku-ring-gai, Bellingen, Hawkesbury, Glen Innes, Goulburn-Mulwaree, Cessnock, Coffs Harbour, Inverell, Central Coast, Gwydir, Greater Hume, Blue Mountains, Lismore, Tweed, Snowy Valleys, Dungog, Eurobodalla, Richmond Valley, Narrabri, Uralla, Oberon, Bega Valley, Snowy Monaro, Mid Western, Tenterfield, Mid Coast, Wingecarribee, Upper Lachlan, Lithgow, Penrith, Lake Macquarie, Nambucca, Queanbeyan-Palerang, Muswellbrook, Clarence Valley, Byron, Wollondilly	463900
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			Valley, Snowy Monaro, Mid Western, Tenterfield, Mid Coast, Wingecarribee, Upper Lachlan, Lithgow, Penrith, Lake Macquarie, Nambucca, Queanbeyan-Palerang, Muswellbrook, Clarence Valley, Byron, Wollondilly	
Pearl Beach Progress Association Inc	Pearl Beach Community Support Centre (CSC or Project)	<p>Pearl Beach is an isolated village highly vulnerable to bushfire, natural disasters & climate change through its geography, demographics, & infrastructure. In the absence of practical ways to reduce bushfire risk, our project improves the resilience of the community.</p> <p>The outcome of Pearl Beach Community Support Centre is to protect the community during bushfire. The community hall will be modified to provide a safe haven for residents, and a hub for emergency volunteers.</p> <p>Key activities improve safety and resilience by installing backup power and fire protection sprinklers, a volunteer hub and communications. Training, community education, ongoing management and operation of the CSC will ensure it is effective and utilised when needed.</p>	Central Coast	91630
River Cares Incorporated	Building Community Resilience and Bushfire Preparedness	<p>River Cares is actively working on the Community Emergency Plan (CEP). Spencer and Gunderman consists of a number of a number of hamlets at certain points along the Hawkesbury River. The CEP is mandatory for our Community and It is imperative that the residents learn and are aware of what they can do during a bushfire. The CEP will hopefully enable our Community to better plan, strengthen the community connectedness and resilience and help the residents to better cope during times of hardship during and after natural bushfires. The CEP will benefit our Community to be better equipped for all future weather events and natural disasters.</p>	Central Coast	21200
The Alternative Technology Association Inc	Green Rebuild Toolkit	<p>This project will empower and support fire-ravaged communities to rebuild their homes in a climate-resilient way. The Green Rebuild Toolkit includes a range of tools, resources and online events tailored for communities rebuilding after the 2019/2020 Australian bushfires. In partnership with our local member Branches, and building on our 40 years of practice in home sustainability, the Toolkit is a wealth of expert resources,</p>	ACT unincorporated, Clarence Valley, Blue Mountains, Coffs Harbour, Wagga Wagga, Eurobodalla, Oberon, Cessnock, Mid Coast, Upper Hunter, Central Coast, Inverell, Kyogle, Bellingen,	161399

virtual and physical events, and one-on-one advice sessions to support communities to build back sustainably and resiliently. Households will be better informed, communities will be empowered, and rebuilt properties will be sustainable and resilient.

Muswellbrook, Uralla, Tenterfield, Tamworth, Cootamundra-Gundagai, Narrabri, Wingecarribee, Lismore, Lithgow, Penrith, Kempsey, Mid Western, Queanbeyan-Palerang, Bega Valley, Port Macquarie-Hastings, Greater Hume, Glen Innes, Walcha, Lake Macquarie, Sutherland Shire, Singleton, Snowy Monaro, Shoalhaven, Nambucca, Kuring-gai, Goulburn-Mulwaree, Upper Lachlan, Armidale, Ballina, Byron, Richmond Valley, Gwydir, Hawkesbury, Dungog, Tweed, Snowy Valleys, Wollondilly, Southern Grampians, Pyrenees, Strathbogie, Glenelg, Ararat, Golden Plains, Northern Grampians, Moyne, Campaspe, East Gippsland, Wellington, Mansfield, Greater Bendigo, Indigo, Wodonga, Alpine, Wangaratta, Ballarat, Towong, Alpine Resorts (including the Falls Creek Mount Hotham Mount Buller and Mount Stirling alpine resort areas only), Brisbane, South Burnett, Somerset, Southern Downs, Whitsunday, Ipswich City, Townsville, Redland, Rockhampton, Bundaberg, North Burnett, Cook, Mareeba Shire, Gold Coast, Sunshine Coast,

			Gympie, Gladstone, Lockyer Valley, Livingstone, Noosa Shire, Scenic Rim, Fraser Coast, Toowoomba, Break O'Day, Central Highlands, Flinders, Southern Midlands, Glamorgan/Spring Bay, Murray Bridge, Mid Murray, Playford, Southern Mallee, Kingston, Adelaide Hills, Kangaroo Island, Mount Barker, The Coorong, Lower Eyre Peninsula, Yorke Peninsula	
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			<p>Grampians, Pyrenees, Strathbogie, Glenelg, Ararat, Golden Plains, Northern Grampians, Moyne, Campaspe, East Gippsland, Wellington, Mansfield, Greater Bendigo, Indigo, Wodonga, Alpine, Wangaratta, Ballarat, Towong, Alpine Resorts (including the Falls Creek Mount Hotham Mount Buller and Mount Stirling alpine resort areas only), Brisbane, South Burnett, Somerset, Southern Downs, Whitsunday, Ipswich City, Townsville, Redland, Rockhampton, Bundaberg, North Burnett, Cook, Mareeba Shire, Gold Coast, Sunshine Coast, Gympie, Gladstone, Lockyer Valley, Livingstone, Noosa Shire, Scenic Rim, Fraser Coast, Toowoomba, Break O'Day, Central Highlands, Flinders, Southern Midlands, Glamorgan/Spring Bay, Murray Bridge, Mid Murray, Playford, Southern Mallee, Kingston, Adelaide Hills, Kangaroo Island, Mount Barker, The Coorong, Lower Eyre Peninsula, Yorke Peninsula</p>
The University of Newcastle	Climate-Smart Adaptive Resilience and Engagement for Animal Evacuation	University of Newcastle will work collaboratively with Hunter Local Land Services agricultural producers, and key groups that underpins Hunter region's economies and communities by delivering locally appropriate programs, and communication and awareness campaign to enable the adoption of sustainable	Lake Macquarie, Muswellbrook, Cessnock, Dungog, Singleton, Mid Coast, Upper Hunter 468000

		<p>and innovative practices and improve community connections to build productive resilient communities.</p> <p>Using a co-creation approach, innovative cost-effective resilience technical solutions will be developed for upgrading and extending Animal sheltering facilities and collates logistical data requirements to better protect wider regional agricultural Sector, and vulnerable communities, enabling them to thrive in the disasters events.</p>		
The University of Newcastle	Climate-Smart Adaptive Resilience and Engagement for Animal Evacuation	<p>University of Newcastle will work collaboratively with Hunter Local Land Services agricultural producers, and key groups that underpins Hunter region's economies and communities by delivering locally appropriate programs, and communication and awareness campaign to enable the adoption of sustainable and innovative practices and improve community connections to build productive resilient communities.</p> <p>Using a co-creation approach, innovative cost-effective resilience technical solutions will be developed for upgrading and extending Animal sheltering facilities and collates logistical data requirements to better protect wider regional agricultural Sector, and vulnerable communities, enabling them to thrive in the disasters events.</p>	Lake Macquarie, Muswellbrook, Cessnock, Dungog, Singleton, Mid Coast, Upper Hunter	468000
Wyong Creek Literary Institute Inc	Wyong Creek Hall disability access	The project will provide disability access and facilities for the Hall which will enable community use for all members of the community including providing access during disaster situations.	Central Coast	174500