



Robyn Preston MP

Member for Hawkesbury

MEDIA RELEASE

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NSW GOVERNMENT COORDINATES BUSH FIRE CLEAN-UP

The NSW Government will coordinate the clean-up of residential and commercial properties destroyed by bush fires this season, at no cost to residents, so they can start rebuilding and communities can begin healing.

Clean-up arrangements coordinated by the NSW Government will include:

- The appointment of contractors in the South and the North to clean-up bush fire impacted properties.
- Costs for clean-up will be covered by the NSW Government in partnership with the Federal Government.
- Where insurance companies have commenced clean-up works for safety reasons these will continue.

This is in addition to \$1 billion provided over the next two years to rebuild bushfire impacted communities across NSW. The funding will prioritise the repair and rebuilding of vital state-owned infrastructure, such as roads, rail-lines, bridges, schools, health facilities and communications facilities, which have been damaged or destroyed by bushfires.

The Government also announced several more initiatives recently to provide bushfire relief. The Bushfire Housing Assistance Service can provide support to those temporarily or permanently displaced during the bushfire crisis and the deployment of Bushfire Recovery Clinicians across NSW will help individuals, carers and families receive support for their mental health. Legal Aid NSW lawyers can give free legal advice to those affected. The Disaster Welfare Assistance Line is also staffed with counselling support and can be accessed by phone on **1800 018 444**.

Robyn Preston, Member for Hawkesbury, said the NSW Government's announcement of funding and new relief initiatives will provide comprehensive support for those in the Hawkesbury to rebuild.

"The clean-up, funding and other bushfire relief initiatives are great news for the people of Hawkesbury impacted by the bushfires. It demonstrates the NSW Government's commitment to fast-tracking the rebuilding of communities and helping individuals get back on their feet.

"The road to recovery for the Hawkesbury will be long and difficult but I do not doubt the resolve of its people to pull through in these difficult times. I encourage all affected to reach out and use these resources."

Impacted owners wanting their property cleared through this program need to call Service NSW on 13 77 88 to register their details and provide consent for access to their land.

Details regarding the appointed contractors and clearing of commercial properties will be announced shortly.

Further information is available at: www.service.nsw.gov.au

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