



**Senator the Hon Marise Payne**  
Minister for Foreign Affairs  
Minister for Women  
Senator for New South Wales



**Robyn Preston MP**  
Member for Hawkesbury

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## MEDIA RELEASE

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30 March 2021

### **NEW BUSHFIRE RESILIENCE AND RECOVERY FUNDING FOR HAWKESBURY**

Funding for bushfire recovery continues to be delivered for the Hawkesbury, with the Australian and New South Wales Governments today announcing that over \$1.6 million will be invested across 13 projects.

This work is among 173 new projects just approved under Stream Two of the Bushfire Community Recovery and Resilience Fund (BCRRF). A full list of projects is included below.

Liberal Senator for Western Sydney, Senator the Hon Marise Payne, said the projects would be driven locally.

“Both state and federal levels of government are yet again throwing their support behind community-led solutions,” Senator Payne said.

“The funding package is focused on boosting community wellbeing, connectedness, social recovery and future disaster resilience because we know how important this is to our long-term recovery effort.

“This coincides with the wide variety of supports activated in response to the NSW storm and flood events, which have particularly impacted the Hawkesbury region.

“As a result of the 2019-20 bushfires, over \$8 million has been directed into the bank accounts of locals under the Disaster Recovery Payment, the same financial assistance that eligible locals are now able to apply for.

“As with our ongoing bushfire recovery effort, the federal government will work hand-in-hand across the community to deliver the essential on-the-ground supports as required.”

Member for Hawkesbury, Robyn Preston MP, said that these projects will support Hawkesbury’s local communities.

“The NSW Liberals alongside the Australian government are building a safer and stronger NSW by continuing to deliver funding to bushfire affected communities.

“These projects, alongside the wide range of support offered by the NSW Government in response to the Hawkesbury storms and floods, will promote community wellbeing and build resilience for any future disasters that may affect Hawkesbury.” Ms Preston said.

Stream Two comprises \$29 million from the Australian and NSW governments, for locally led bushfire recovery projects, through the jointly funded Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements

Australian Minister for Emergency Management, the Hon David Littleproud MP, thanked all those who took time to put in applications under BCRRF, and the many people in communities who will keep working hard to deliver the projects.

“The Australian and NSW governments are working hand in hand with councils and communities to deliver this funding in the hardest hit communities in NSW – just another way we can support local people as they drive their recovery,” Mr Littleproud said.

“It will take years, not months, for these communities to recover and the Australian Government will be with them every step of the way, delivering the support they so desperately need.”

Funding for BCRRF is just one of the initiatives supported by the Australian Government to help communities recover from the 2019-20 bushfires. To date, more than \$1.9 billion in Australian Government support has been provided to help bushfire affected communities, including \$1.3 billion spent so far from the National Bushfire Recovery Fund.

More information is available about all 173 funded projects at [www.nsw.gov.au/grants-and-funding/bushfire-community-recovery-and-resilience-fund](http://www.nsw.gov.au/grants-and-funding/bushfire-community-recovery-and-resilience-fund).

**ENDS**

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**Projects funded under Stream 2 of the Bushfire Community Recovery and Resilience Fund**

<b>Funding recipient</b>	<b>Funding amount</b>	<b>Project name</b>	<b>Project description</b>
CatholicCare Western Sydney and the Blue Mountains	\$ 50,150.00	CatholicCare BCRRF - Stream 2 - Trees and Minds project	The Trees and Minds project will see a connection of both practical needs (burnt tree removals that were not removed earlier and have become dangerous) with mental health supports through links to local counsellors for longer-term recovery support.
Cobargo Wellness Group	\$ 180,000.00	Cobargo Wellness Group - BCRRF - Stream 2 Ginger the Frog Community Project - tour	Ginger the Frog combines theatre, art and wellbeing activities designed to help children, their parents and other adults to communicate their post-bushfire trauma and begin to build a positive post-fire vision for their community.

CatholicCare Western Sydney and the Blue Mountains	\$63,000	Catholic Care BCRRF Stream 2 - Cool Kids Bush Fire Anxiety Support Program	This project will deliver Macquarie University's Cool Kids anxiety support program for school-aged children and Cool Little Kids information sessions for parents/carers of preschool-aged children and preschool staff in targeted bushfire affected areas.
Habitat for Humanity Australia	\$280,627	Habitat for Humanity - BCRRF - Stream 2 (Blue Mountains)	This project offers practical support to build community resilience, capacity, and management of bushfire prevention activities. Habitat for Humanity assists residents and volunteers to be better organised and to prepare for, and respond to, bushfires.
Winmalee Neighbourhood Centre Inc	\$43,640	Winmalee Neighbourhood Centre Inc - BCRRF - Stream 2 "Mt Tomah - Phoenix - Mental Health and Resilience"	This project addresses the need for a program of activities to improve the mental wellbeing of residents in the communities, along the Bells Line of Road in the Northern Blue Mountains, who were devastated during the intense bushfire of December 2019.
MacKillop Family Services	\$290,852	Good Grief – supporting kids and communities to recover and build resilience: Intensive community development to help vulnerable cohorts recover from the bushfires through direct program delivery and wrap around supports.	In response to local requests, we will support communities seeking to improve wellbeing of over 7,000 children, young people and families through delivery of post-disaster mental health education programs to help them recover and build resilience.
CatholicCare Western Sydney and the Blue Mountains	\$67,300	Catholic Care BCRRF Stream 2: REACH recovery program	Deliver the REACH psychoeducational wellbeing group for individuals with a particular condition, such as depression or anxiety as a result of, or compounded by bushfire, run by qualified Black Dog Institute-trained facilitators.
Winmalee Neighbourhood Centre Inc	\$28,384	Winmalee Neighbourhood Centre Inc. - BCRRF - Stream 2"-Planting Seeds of Recovery	Planting the Seeds of Recovery is a healing and learning project. Residents have the opportunity to participate in hands on workshops allowing renewing and rebuilding their gardens while learning what local native species to plant and the caring of them.

Blaxland Ridge Rural Fire Brigade	\$26,220	Blaxland Ridge Rural Fire Brigade - BCRRF - Stream 2	Installation of a Community Electronic Notice Board at the front of our brigade station.
CatholicCare Western Sydney and the Blue Mountains	\$20,160	Catholic Care BCRRF Stream 2 - Finances after Fire	Community education workshops to support community recovery and well being focusing on financial matters and mental health after the bushfires.
Winmalee Neighbourhood Centre Inc	\$59,171	Winmalee Neighbourhood Centre Inc. - BCRRF - Stream 2 The Art of Recovery - A Resilience & Wellness Project	The Art of Recovery is an asset based community development art project that recognises existing skills in the community while acknowledging the value of these assets. Its practical application focuses on building relationships to increase social capital.
Peppercorn Services Inc	\$300,000	SODA - Hawkesbury Nights Out (SODA = Social & Dance)	Collaborative community-led social enterprise utilizing partner dancing in conjunction with psychological support to foster connection, support social recovery and build community resilience for people impacted by bushfires in the Hawkesbury Region.
Bligh Park Community Services Inc	\$278,246	Bligh Park Community Services - BCRRF - Stream 2	“Ready to Go”. Scan and certify copies of vital documents to a flash drive for residents at risk of evacuation due to bushfire, flood, extreme weather events and other emergencies. Volunteers will be trained to continue project “Ready to Go”.