

Our Ref: S008-T00025

18 August 2020

Dr Brett Stevenson  
A Better Eurobodalla  
11 Haslingden Street  
MORUYA NSW 2537

Dear Dr Stevenson

Thank you for your letter regarding the employment generated by Eurobodalla Shire Council's expenditure to date of funds received relating to Bushfire recovery/support from NSW and Australian government.

Council received \$250,000 funding from the Bushfire Community Resilience and Economic Recovery Fund (BCRERF) provided through the joint Australian and NSW Government Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangement. At its meeting on 10 March 2020, Council allocated the funding as follows:

Proposed projects	Value	Comments
Support café and retail businesses through outdoor licensing fees exemption for six months	\$87,000	Waive fees from 1 January to 30 June 59 businesses affected
Encourage existing and additional events by waiving Council event charges	\$30,000	
Assist food retailers through waiver of food premise inspection fees	\$80,000	67 Businesses affected
Support accommodation providers through waiver of public pool inspection fees	\$12,000	58 businesses affected
Support whole of community through provision of free internet at libraries	\$20,000	Currently approximately 20,000 sessions per annum
Business Chambers	\$25,000	Provide \$5000 per business chamber to fund event or program to benefit whole of business community – currently approx. 300 members

It should be noted that a number of those projects cannot be undertaken in light of COVID-19 restrictions. Approval has been granted for those timelines to be extended. Details on this report can be found <https://www.esc.nsw.gov.au/inside-council/council/meetings/2020/march/ordinary-council-meeting-10-march-2020>

The funding for the *Disaster Recovery Funding – Commonwealth Government, Councils Affected by Bushfires* is provided by the Australian Government through the National Bushfire Recovery Agency. An allocation of \$1,416,667 has been made available to Eurobodalla Shire Council.

At its meeting on 7 April 2020, Council allocated the funding as follows:

Proposed projects	Value	Comments
Community Development Program	\$250,000	A structured program of community development, arts and recreational projects and activities will be developed to support our community's recovery. The program will include sound, evidence-based projects that have been implemented successfully as part of recovery and community development processes elsewhere and modified to suit the Eurobodalla. The program will also include activities and ideas put forward by community groups and organisations within the Eurobodalla community, in collaboration with Council, that advance positive recovery outcomes. Wherever possible, funds will be supplemented with additional grants and partnership arrangements to maximise the benefit to the Eurobodalla community. It will also cover the waiver of hall hire fees for community groups conducting bushfire recovery business or events. These strategies will support people during recovery.
Mogo Town Plan	\$150,000	Supporting and facilitating rebuild of directly impacted shops, whilst looking for an overall improved outcome for Mogo as a town and community. (The DCP work undertaken by strategic planning in 2018 identified a need for a vision and town plan for Mogo). Working with NSW Government Architect to develop a masterplan for affected sites that addresses the requirements of new DCP. An analysis of carparking to determine if on-site requirements can be delivered through an alternate solution, and whether pedestrian and bike linkages can be improved to connect town to mountain bike trails.

Spendmap Data Package	\$38,000	An online program which gives council full access to the Eftpos and cash sales recorded within the community. Can give us full data on economic yield by the municipality, showcasing both local spend and visitor spend.
Evacuation Centre modification to increase resilience	\$200,000	Improve functionality of centres through provision of facilities to connect generators and improve facilities with a focus on Moruya and Narooma evacuation centres.
Community Events Calendar	\$25,000	A new Council website will improve engagement with the community during and beyond bushfire recovery - particularly hard to reach populations like young people - with contemporary features and an integrated community events calendar.
Water saving assistance program extension	\$60,000	Increase dual flush toilet rebate for business + residential. Increase roll out and reduce eligibility thresholds for business pre-rinse spray nozzle, hose down gun + low flow taps and showerheads.
Captain Oldrey Amenities rebuild	\$200,000	Contributing to a complete rebuild of amenities to a fire affected site.
Mogo Pathway	\$33,000	Contribution to pathway from Princes Highway to playing fields.
Emerging Issues	\$435,667	Fund other areas identified as a result of bush fire recovery, not covered by existing funding.
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$1,416,667</b>	

Details on the report can be found at <https://www.esc.nsw.gov.au/inside-council/council/meetings/2020/april/ordinary-council-meeting-7-april-2020>

At its meeting on 23 June 2020, Council allocated \$200,000 from the \$435,667 Emerging Issues funding to assist significantly impacted ratepayers, as categorised by the NSW Government, with Development Application fees. Up to \$1000 will be available for these residents. Applications for this funding can be found at <https://www.esc.nsw.gov.au/inside-council/council/grants/da-fee-rebate-application>

At the same meeting, Council allocated a further \$200,000 from the \$435,667 Emerging Issues funding to be distributed to businesses for further financial support through the Eurobodalla Disaster Relief Fund. Further details on round 2 of the Disaster Relief Fund for businesses can be found at <https://www.esc.nsw.gov.au/inside-council/council/grants/eurobodalla-disaster-relief-fund/phase-2-details>

At its meeting on 14 July 2020, Council was allocated over \$1.8million in funding for Natural Resource Management Bushfire Recovery from a number of different funding sources.

Funding was allocated to the following projects:

South East catchment and waterways bushfire recovery plan (partnership with Bega Valley Shire Council and Shoalhaven City Council)	\$427,281
Eurobodalla coastal waterway bushfire impact mitigation	\$1,105,000
Protecting Pretty Point post fire project funds	\$14,500
Deua River Post fire regeneration project funds	\$14,900
Wildlife Relief Eurobodalla Stage 1	\$49,000
Combating Priority Agricultural Weeds in the Eurobodalla Shire	\$249,988
Eurobodalla Landcare Managing Post Fire Weed Growth	\$7,000
Bushfire impact mitigation works at Broulee	\$15,000

At the same meeting, Council allocated \$35,000 from the Emerging Issues funding to deliver a community sport sustainability training for local volunteer sport and recreation clubs. Information on these projects and initiative can be found at <https://www.esc.nsw.gov.au/inside-council/council/meetings/2020/july/ordinary-council-meeting-14-july-2020>

Further, Council has received funding from the Australian and NSW Government to facilitate the Eurobodalla Bushfire Recovery support services for affected residents in Eurobodalla. This service will run for a two-year period and offer a single point of contact with a Case Management Officer who will provide practical and personal support to help manage recovery needs, access relevant services and assist in decision making. This funding has enabled the employment of 11 additional staff in our community as well as the hiring of premises.

These and other grants will assist stimulate our local economy however, it is difficult to ascertain more specific data. The National Bushfire Recovery Agency has compiled key information on each bushfire impacted Local Government Area. Each profile includes general data, as well as information on bushfire impact, relief and recovery support, and maps. This information can be found at [www.bushfirerecovery.gov.au/progress-to-date/local-communities](http://www.bushfirerecovery.gov.au/progress-to-date/local-communities)

Should you require further information, please contact Council's Executive Services Officer, Mrs Kylie Green on 4474 1005 or [kylie.green@esc.nsw.gov.au](mailto:kylie.green@esc.nsw.gov.au)

Yours sincerely

*Catherine Dale*

Dr Catherine Dale  
General Manager