



The Community Recovery Plan describes how Council supports the community to recover from the 2019/2020 bushfires and the pandemic.

This plan contributes to Council's role in coordinating municipal-level recovery as designated in the Municipal Emergency Management Plan and the Municipal Relief and Recovery Sub Plan. It enables community participation in recovery in accordance with Part 6 of the Emergency Management Act 2013.

The Community Recovery Plan is developed following the creation of the Business Recovery Plan and addresses community needs or gaps identified by the Business and Community Recovery Advisory Committee (BCRAC), the youth recovery plan (Youth Affairs Council of Victoria) and through consultation with similar LGAs.

This plan supports the *Mansfield and Bonnie Doon Neighbourhood House – Enabling Communities* project. The project is run by Mansfield Adult Continuing Education (MACE) and extends the reach, assisting MACE to determine and develop its role in recovery.

Objective

This plan's objective is to build on the strengths of our community. It aims to support the community to adapt, evolve and thrive after disasters, such as the bushfires and the significant disruption of the pandemic.

Community-led resilience is central to our recovery plan. We acknowledge that our exposure and vulnerability to disasters and emergencies can change but will never disappear. The plan enables us to learn and be better prepared.

While the plan focuses on facilitating community connections, it creates opportunities for education, employment and youth engagement.

Approach

The plan uses a phased approach allowing for flexibility in periods of change. It focuses on recovery during this period of COVID-19 restrictions and bushfire recovery.

Respond

Support the community to understand restrictions, maintain health and wellbeing, and connect in new ways.

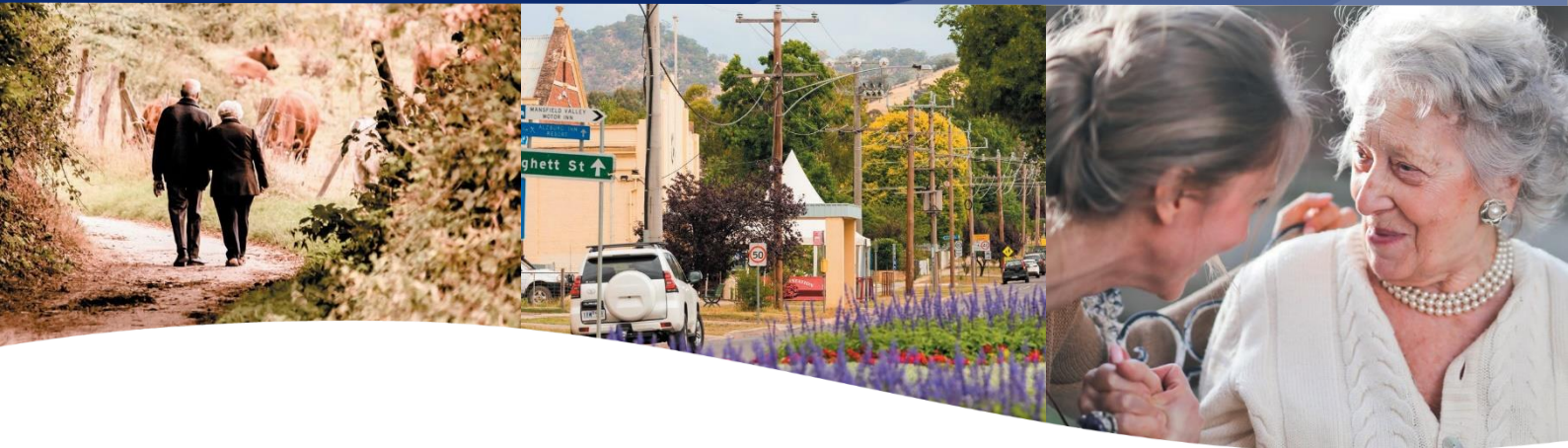
Recover

Council supports community groups to return to activities, encourages new groups and initiatives and supports other recovery activities to meet the needs of different cohorts and age groups.

Re-imagine

Council creates conditions for the community to learn, heal and thrive after the experience of COVID-19 and the 2019/2020 bushfires through exploring new initiatives.

Respond



This is a period of adaption as we face ongoing intermittent restrictions and continued health risk.

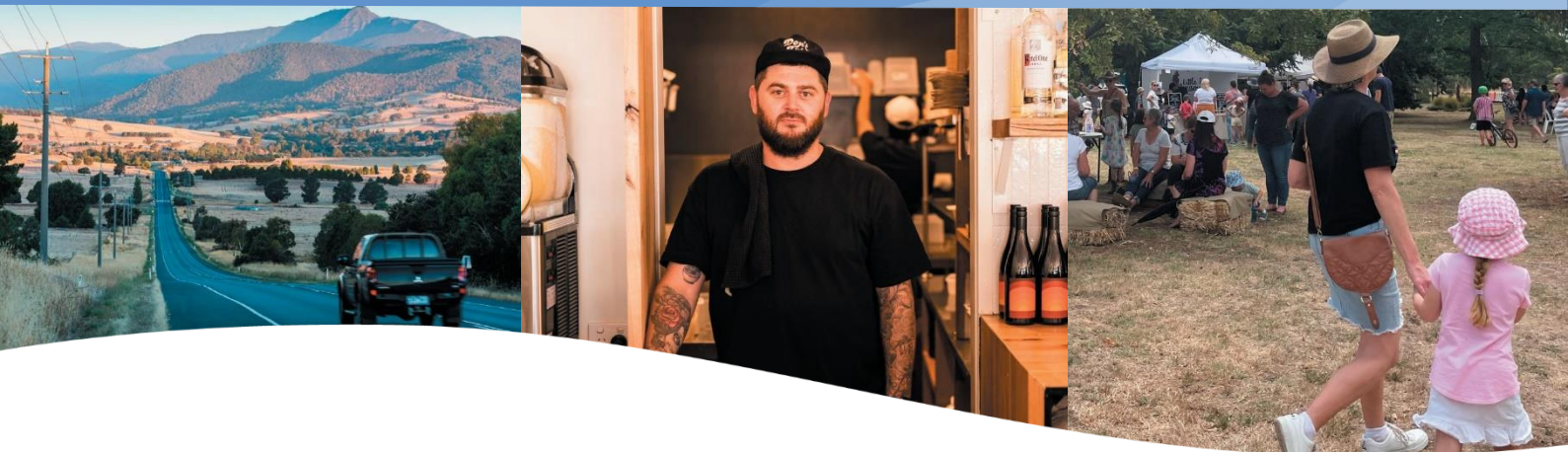
Opportunities

- ▶ Providing information to the community
- ▶ Promoting health and wellbeing
- ▶ Supporting community, sport and recreation groups
- ▶ Improving access to mental health services
- ▶ Increasing opportunities to connect to reduce isolation
- ▶ Ensuring people's immediate needs are met
- ▶ Ensuring the voices of all people are heard and included

Actions

- ▶ Implement the Municipal Relief and Recovery Sub-plan
- ▶ Provision of modified services such as:
 - Online library story time, click and collect
 - Household support services including meals, grocery and medicine delivery
 - Home Aged Community Care Services
 - Social Support Groups online or phone (maternal health nurse)
 - Vulnerable people register – weekly check-ins
- ▶ Communication campaign including:
 - Signage around town (flags, posters, social distancing markers)
 - Dedicated COVID page on website - Info on wellbeing
 - Messaging on services through the Mayor's videos

Recover



This is the period of transition as restrictions ease and movement around the state resumes within a COVID-19 operating environment.

Opportunities

- ▶ Supporting community, recreation and sporting groups
- ▶ Supporting community connections
- ▶ Supporting and promoting physical and mental health

Actions

- ▶ Identify new grant opportunities
- ▶ Promote grants for community groups to get together
- ▶ Promote grants for holding bigger community events
- ▶ Create and promote video on how to apply for grants
- ▶ Provision of information on how to hold events within COVID restrictions
- ▶ Roll out the youth trailer to outlying communities

Re-imagine



This is the forward-looking and longer term phase. It focuses on planning for how the community can thrive post COVID and bushfires.

Opportunities

- ▶ Improving access of information
- ▶ Ensuring all Shire communities are connected and have a voice
- ▶ Empowering communities to plan for their future
- ▶ Empowering youth to be part of the solution.

Actions

Improving access of information

- ▶ Keep website up to date with current funding opportunities
- ▶ Support the community in applying for grants
- ▶ Create quarterly newsletter (as part of rates notice)
- ▶ Develop a new resident's communication plan

Ensuring all Shire communities are connected and have a voice

- ▶ Update online community directory
- ▶ Create manual on how to make updates to ensure it is driven by the community groups themselves

- ▶ Implement communication/promotional plan
- ▶ Research capability of the directory to allow further engagement by community groups to connect or share news
- ▶ Conduct consultation to identify community group connection needs and ideas

Empowering communities to plan for their future

- ▶ Provide continuity plan template to groups
- ▶ Partnership with Alpine Valley leadership to up-skill identified and emerging leaders

Empowering youth to be part of the solution

- ▶ Create youth group
- ▶ Provide development opportunity
- ▶ Provide youth with a voice by creating communications channel to share ideas/ issues
- ▶ Facilitate connection with businesses