



2019-20

South Australian Bushfire Recovery Report

Final
September 2025



Government
of South Australia

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Acknowledgement of Country

The Department of the Premier and Cabinet acknowledges and respects Aboriginal people as the state's first people and nations, and recognises Aboriginal people as traditional owners and occupants of South Australian land and waters.

Message from the Premier

South Australians remember the 2019-20 bushfire season as one of the most significant and catastrophic in our history.

From November 2019 to February 2020, the fires in South Australia resulted in the destruction or damage of more than 1,180 homes, non-residential buildings, and facilities. Emergency responders worked bravely to mitigate these impacts. Tragically, three people lost their lives.

The large-scale bushfires burnt almost 280,000 hectares of land, severely impacting the communities of Yorketown, the Adelaide Hills, Kangaroo Island and Keilira. Key industries were significantly impacted including tourism, primary production, viticulture and forestry.

In the aftermath, the South Australian Government worked closely with affected communities to understand and meet their relief and recovery needs.

This involved taking immediate action to provide shelter, food and other basic necessities, through to the development and implementation of longer-term recovery programs to ensure impacted communities remained supported in the years following the fires.

The bushfire recovery landscape was influenced by the advent of the COVID-19 pandemic. Local Recovery Coordinators, recovery staff, organisations and agencies were agile in their project delivery to ensure the impact of the pandemic was minimised.

The wider public also provided considerable support, donating to the SA Bushfire Appeal. Millions of dollars were raised and donated to individuals, families, businesses, community groups and organisations to meet the needs of affected communities.

Five years on from the fires, key recovery projects and initiatives have been completed to help South Australians impacted by the fires rebuild their lives, businesses, and communities.

We have seen the devastation the bushfires wrought, and the incredible resilience of our communities. It's part of the character of our state and its people.

We know that bushfires are a fact of life in Australia, and that it is a question of when, not if, we face another fire season.

I am confident that through vigilance, planning, and expertise, we can help ensure that all South Australians, wherever they are, have the recovery resources, information, and support they need for successful community recovery.



Peter Malinauskas
Premier of South Australia



About this Report

The Security, Emergency and Recovery Management unit within the Department of the Premier and Cabinet (DPC) presents the 2019-20 South Australian Bushfire Recovery Report – Final. This report is the second related to the 2019-20 bushfire recovery in South Australia, following the 2019-20 South Australian Bushfire Recovery Interim Report published in December 2020.

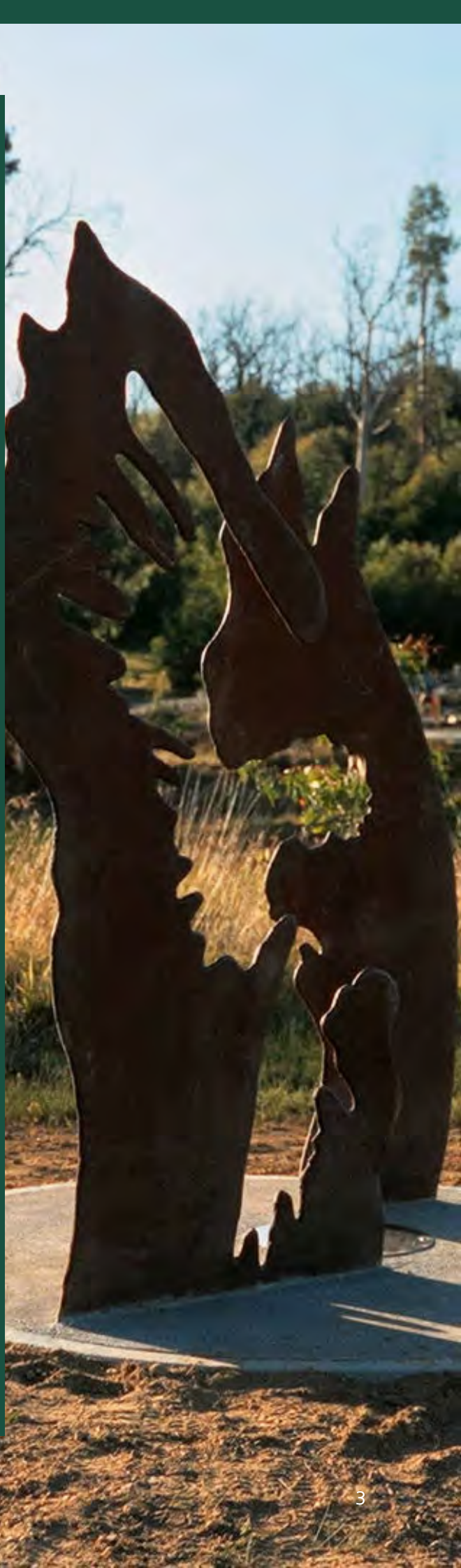
This report outlines a summary of the impacts from the bushfires and identifies important achievements during the recovery phase across the four nationally recognised recovery domains: social, economic, built environment (or infrastructure), and the natural environment.

As outlined in the interim report, the overall aim of recovery is to:

- Restore or improve the lives and livelihoods of people within a disaster-affected community
- Restore or improve the economic, physical, social, cultural and environmental assets and systems of a disaster-affected community
- Align with the principles of sustainable development, and 'build back better' to avoid or reduce future risk
- Rebuild and sustainably restore the infrastructure, services, housing, facilities and livelihoods required for the functioning of a community over the medium to long term.

This report builds on the interim report by outlining the recovery initiatives implemented by the South Australian Government, with funding support provided by the Commonwealth Government, under the state-led coordinated recovery program. A number of important recovery efforts undertaken by communities, local councils, non-government organisations (NGOs), and other recovery partners are also outlined. While every effort has been made to accurately reflect the bushfire recovery program, it is beyond the capacity of this report to outline a complete representation of each individual recovery effort undertaken, due to the significant body of work undertaken to support bushfire-affected communities.

Every effort has been made to ensure the information presented in this report is as accurate as possible at the time of publication.



The impact of the fires

As outlined in the 2019-20 South Australian Bushfire Recovery Interim Report, the most significant impacts from the bushfires were experienced on Kangaroo Island and Cudlee Creek in the Adelaide Hills during December 2019 and January 2020. Homes, livestock and crops were also lost in other fires across South Australia that summer.



278,603 Hectares burnt



3 Fatalities



194 Homes destroyed



1,273+ Properties saved



890 Non-residential buildings destroyed or damaged*



97 Homes with major/minor damage



658 Vehicles lost/damaged



67,928 Livestock lost

*Includes business and tourism facilities, community facilities, sheds, vacant houses, etc.



Cudlee Creek	
Properties saved	938
Homes destroyed	98
Non-residential buildings destroyed or damaged	542
Hectares burnt	23,253
Fatality	1
Homes with major/minor damage	56
Vehicles lost/damaged	325
Livestock lost	3,852

Keilira	
Properties saved	-
Homes destroyed	1
Non-residential buildings destroyed or damaged	5
Hectares burnt	37,182
Fatality	0
Homes with major/minor damage	0
Vehicles lost/damaged	0
Livestock lost	3,666

Kangaroo Island	
Properties saved	335
Homes destroyed	87
Non-residential buildings destroyed or damaged	332
Hectares burnt	211,474
Fatality	2
Homes with major/minor damage	32
Vehicles lost/damaged	322
Livestock lost	59,730

Yorke town	
Properties saved	-
Homes destroyed	8
Non-residential buildings destroyed or damaged	11
Hectares burnt	6,694
Fatality	0
Homes with major/minor damage	9
Vehicles lost/damaged	11
Livestock lost	680





Agriculture

\$186.57m in production alone, including:

1,200 primary production businesses impacted

67,928 of livestock worth **\$16.99m**

781 hectares of viticulture worth **\$8.78m**

15,275 hectares of forestry worth **\$143.31m**



National Parks

Over **90,000** hectares of parks burnt, including:

17 parks impacted

100% lost Charleston Conservation Park, Porter Scrub Conservation Park

98% lost Flinders Chase National Park, Kelly Hill Conservation Park (including \$41m damage to park infrastructure)

111 Heritage Agreements impacted, up to 27,546 hectares



Wildlife

40-50k koalas lost

40 threatened species had more than half of their habitats destroyed

2 birds + 4 mammals named as highest priorities for urgent intervention



Industries most affected

Wine

Tourism

Honey

Farming (crops/livestock)

Forestry

Aquaculture

The recovery process

The 2019-20 South Australian Bushfire Recovery Interim Report articulated the vision and measurable objectives of South Australia's bushfire recovery program.

Vision

The lives and livelihoods of the communities affected by the bushfires of 2019-20 are restored and improved, along with their economic, physical, social, cultural and environmental assets.

Objectives



Social

Communities affected by the bushfires feel safe and secure to engage in the recovery process and connect with their communities and support.



Economic

Businesses and industries continue to work towards positions of strength and can operate and trade in their local environment.



Built environment

Essential services and critical infrastructure are restored and made more resilient.



Natural Environment

The natural environment is restored and regenerated to a more resilient landscape with healthy biodiversity and ecosystems.



Recovery governance

As the recovery phase of the event commenced, several governance groups were established at the local and state level to bring together key recovery stakeholders to assist in the development and implementation of the recovery program.



Recovery works best as a true partnership. Communities can and do lead, but when government is involved, it must support that leadership and take on much of the heavy lifting—because community fatigue is real.

– *Miranda Hampton, Community Recovery Officer*

Disaster Rebuilding and Resilience

At the beginning of the 2019-20 fire season the State Recovery Office within the Department for Human Services (DHS) held responsibility for recovery planning and delivery in South Australia. In January 2020, The Disaster Rebuilding and Resilience unit (DRR) was established within DPC in recognition of the scale and complexity of the bushfires.

The DRR unit provided a single point of coordination to oversee the South Australian Government's recovery and rebuilding response in support of fire-affected communities, including:

- coordinating bushfire funding agreements;
- working directly with the Commonwealth, local governments and key stakeholders on bushfire recovery related policy and programs;
- developing the long-term bushfire recovery and rebuilding plan for the state; and
- coordinating offers from major non-government donors providing support to bushfire-affected communities.

DRR worked closely with other State Government agencies to develop initiatives that addressed the medium and long-term recovery needs of impacted communities.

State Recovery Operations Group

The State Recovery Operations Group (SROG) was the state level recovery group responsible for overall leadership and coordination in the implementation of recovery operations. The SROG was chaired by the State Recovery Coordinator, responsible for leading state-coordinated recovery planning and operations in South Australia. The first SROG meeting was held on 22 November 2019 for the Yorketown fires, and was expanded on 22 December 2019 to incorporate the Adelaide Hills and Kangaroo Island regions.

Local Recovery Coordinators

Deb Richardson was appointed as the Local Recovery Coordinator for the Yorketown fire on 20 November 2019, and Alex Zimmermann was appointed as the Local Recovery Coordinator for the Cudlee Creek fire on 23 December 2019. On Kangaroo Island, Mike Williams was appointed as the Local Recovery Coordinator on 6 January 2020 and performed the role until 20 March 2020, after which point Rob Manton resumed the role. Each Local Recovery Coordinator worked closely with their respective communities to understand their individual and collective needs, acting as a conduit between those on the ground, the government and other support agencies to help deliver recovery services.



The willingness of people to pitch in and help their fellow Australians impacted by these significant fires will stay with me forever. As tragic as the fires were for the Island, the resilience of the people and the natural environment is there now for us all to see.

– *Mike Williams, Local Recovery Coordinator, Kangaroo Island*

Separate to the Local Recovery Coordinators, Miranda Hampton was appointed as the Community Recovery Officer for the Adelaide Hills bushfires, and Jennifer Trethewey (followed by Cathie Tydemann) was

appointed Community Recovery Officer for the Kangaroo Island bushfire. Community Recovery Officers worked closely with impacted communities to develop a community recovery plan. The Community Recovery Officers provided additional recovery support to the Local Recovery Coordinators and to the impacted communities.

Local Recovery Committees

Local Recovery Committees in the Adelaide Hills, Kangaroo Island and Yorketown were established within the first fortnight of the fires. These committees were established at the local level to identify and address local recovery needs, and to provide community input into recovery decision making. The committees were made up of local community members selected by the Local Recovery Coordinators, who also chaired these committees. To achieve their objective, Local Recovery Committees developed Community Recovery Plans, outlining initiated recovery actions and identifying a coordinated approach to help impacted communities recover.

Community Reference Groups

A series of Community Reference Groups were established to assist domain-specific areas of recovery, and assist the work of the Local Recovery Committees. Community Reference Groups focused on social health and wellbeing, environment and natural resources, economic tourism and primary production, and infrastructure.

Consequence Management Group

On the 10th of January 2020, the Consequence Management Group (CMG) was established for the 2019/20 bushfire recovery for the impacted areas of the Adelaide Hills and Kangaroo Island. The CMG was chaired by DPC. The CMG focused on enhancing South Australia's capacity to address the longer-term impacts of the fires, including economic factors, regional development, community well-being and the environment.

State Recovery Coordination Group

As the recovery effort progressed, in April 2020 the SROG and the CMG merged to become the State Recovery Coordination Group (SRCG). The SRCG was chaired by the State Recovery Coordinator within DPC.

After SRCG meetings ceased in December 2020, participating recovery agencies remained tasked with ensuring the State Recovery Coordinator remained informed regarding ongoing recovery efforts and issues, in addition to providing ongoing grant and funding updates.

Tree Felling and Fencing Subgroup

A Tree Felling and Fencing Subgroup was also activated to address recovery issues relating to trees and fences. The subgroup considered options to address the treatment of burnt trees across public and private land to facilitate community recovery, and considered solutions to repair and rebuild fences damaged during the bushfires.

Transition to community-led recovery

With the Recovery Centres closing in 2021 due to a reduction in community demand for services, and the Local Recovery Coordinators completing their roles in March 2021, the transition from state-led recovery to community-led recovery commenced.

Despite the closure of the Recovery Centres and the completion of the Local Recovery Coordinator roles, several supports remained available for impacted communities. The Local Recovery Committees remained active, and two Community Development Officer positions were funded for an 18-month period, one in the Adelaide Hills and one in Kangaroo Island, to provide additional support for recovery activities. A four-year bushfire mental health project, implemented by Wellbeing SA in partnership with non-profit and philanthropic organisations, was also implemented to provide additional mental health and wellbeing services in the Adelaide Hills, Yorketown, on Kangaroo Island and in surrounding areas.

The transition to community-led recovery is an important milestone in the recovery journey. Community-led recovery acknowledges the resilience, capacity and leadership of impacted communities to begin to lead their own recovery, and empowers communities to shape the future of their local areas.



Much of the work that began during recovery has continued across the Adelaide Hills district. Many communities are now planning for future emergencies and their own local recovery efforts. Our communities are more connected and are learning from each other's experiences. We've learnt so much from Cudlee Creek, and it's heartening to see how we're improving our preparedness for future bushfires.

– Miranda Hampton, Community Recovery Officer



Response and Recovery Assistance

The government allocated more than \$305 million in response and recovery assistance measures for the 2019-20 Bushfires.

Several of the measures were jointly funded by the Commonwealth and the State under the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA).

Measure	Agency
Local Recovery Coordination Local recovery co-ordinators and community development officers to support communities impacted by the bushfires	DPC
Local Recovery Centres Local Recovery Centres in Lobethal, Parndana and Yorketown to provide support to communities impacted by the bushfires	SAHT
Personal Hardship Grants Personal hardship grants up to \$700 per family or \$280 per individual adult	SAHT
Re-establishment Grants Up to \$20,000 re-establishment grants for uninsured households	SAHT
Housing Support Temporary housing for individuals and families who lost their principal place of residence during the bushfires	SAHT
Small Business Loss of Income Grants Loss of income grants of up to \$10,000 for eligible small businesses	DSD
Small Business Recovery Grants Recovery grants up to \$50,000 for eligible small businesses and not for profits	DSD
Concessional Loans Concessional loans for small businesses, primary producers and NGOs for the restoration and replacement of business assets, and/or to cover working capital expenses.	Multiple
Small Business Disaster Transformation and Growth Program Establishment of a business hub on Kangaroo Island, first response financial counselling and tailored training and development for small business	DSD
SA Export Accelerator Grant program for eligible businesses who export and were affected by the bushfires	DIT
Primary Producers – Immediate Bushfire Response Activities Immediate relief measures animal relief services, impact assessments, emergency fodder assistance and the Family and Business Support Program	PIRSA
Primary Producers Recovery Grants Recovery grants up to \$75,000 for eligible primary producers	PIRSA
Back to Business Grants for Apple Growers Grants up to \$120,000 per hectare for eligible apple growers impacted by the bushfires	PIRSA

Measure	Agency
Back to Business Grants for Wine Producers Grants of up to \$10,000 for eligible wine grape producers who had smoke impacted vineyards	PIRSA
Eradication of Feral Pigs on Kangaroo Island Eradication of feral pigs on Kangaroo Island which were detrimental to the island's environmental and economic recovery in the wake of the bushfires	PIRSA
Biosecurity Measures Package of measures seeking to limit current and future biosecurity risks and includes weed management, biosecurity checks, machine hygiene management and soil/crop/animal health program, fodder and freight assistance, donation of fence posts and potato bins	PIRSA
Increase Mental Health Services Increase to mental health clinical services to support bushfire-affected communities	SA Health
Targeted Community Wellbeing and Resilience Program Targeted community wellbeing and resilience program for those impacted by the fires	SA Health
Immediate Recovery Grants Grants to non-government organisations to assist with immediate relief and recovery activities at Kangaroo Island and Cudlee Creek	DPC
BlazeAid Support Package Subsidised ferry travel to Kangaroo Island for BlazeAid volunteers supporting recovery activity	DPC
Local Economic Recovery Package A package of community-led economic recovery projects to support bushfire-impacted communities in the Adelaide Hills and Kangaroo Island	Multiple
Disaster Waste Management Clean-up and management of waste and debris (including felled trees and green waste) from the bushfires	GISA
State Emergency Relief Fund A \$2m contribution made by the State Government to the State Emergency Relief Fund for the bushfires.	DHS
#BookThemOut campaign and tourism marketing Support for tourism recovery in regions impacted by the bushfires	SATC
Road Repairs Clean-up, replacement and repair of road assets damaged by the bushfires	DIT/Councils
East End Kangaroo Island and Seal Bay Projects Upgrade of nature-based tourism sites and improvement of visitor facilities at Seal Bay	DEW
Woodland Bird Resilience Reinstate lost habitat for declining woodland bird species	DEW

Measure	Agency
Wildlife and Habitat Recovery Program Emergency interventions to protect threatened plants and animals, their habitats and other natural assets as a result of bushfires	DEW
Increase in Hazard Reduction Burns More hazard reduction burns in the Mount Lofty Ranges and Kangaroo Island, as well as on private land in collaboration with landholders and the CFS	DEW
Volunteer support grants Up to \$6,000 for volunteer firefighters who volunteered for more than 10 days and who were either self-employed, or employed by a small/medium business	CFS
State Bushfire Management Planning and Compliance Unit Establishment of a State Bushfire Management Planning and Compliance Unit. The unit supported bushfire management planning, including measures to assist in hazard reduction and provision of guidance to owners	CFS
Australian Fire Danger Rating System Stakeholder consultation and the provision of training and development in relation to the introduction of the Australia Fire Danger Rating System	CFS
Fire Truck Safety Protection Retrofit additional CFS operational response vehicles with safety systems to provide burn over protection while fighting bushfires	CFS
CFS Replacement of Heavy Fire Tankers Accelerated replacement of CFS heavy fire trucks. The trucks were fitted with the latest safety and operating systems to improve volunteer firefighter safety and capability	CFS
CFS Regional staffing enhancements Regional staffing enhancements for CFS, including the establishment of a permanent CFS presence on Kangaroo Island	CFS
MFS General Purpose Pumpers Accelerated replacement of MFS general purpose pumper appliances	MFS
Emergency Alert South Australia's contribution to the upgrade of Emergency Alert, the national telephone warning system used by emergency services to send voice messages to landlines and text messages to mobile phones	SAFECOM
Automatic Vehicle Location System Implementation of an automatic vehicle location system for the emergency services sector providing real time location of firefighting and other emergency response vehicles during incidents	SAFECOM
Improved Facilities, Capability and Mental Health Support Improved facilities and support structures for volunteers	SAFECOM/CFS
Bureau of Meteorology Dedicated meteorologist working with the CFS during the fire danger season and with the SES for the storm season to ensure timely weather reports were available to inform planning and incident response	SES

Relief and Recovery Centres

In the immediate aftermath of the bushfires, Relief Centres for the Adelaide Hills were first established outside of the fire scar. Relief Centres were opened in Highbury, Mount Barker, Gawler and Lobethal. For the Yorketown fires, a Relief Centre was initially opened in Stansbury, then moved to Yorketown when safe to do so. Relief Centres were opened to help communities access essential recovery information and services. Assistance at the centres addressed immediate community needs such as the issuing of personal hardship grants, accommodation and re-establishment grants, psychosocial support, and food relief. As urgent community needs were met over time and the focus turned to the longer term recovery, the Relief Centres transitioned to Recovery Centres. Bushfire recovery information, support, and service referrals continued to be provided to those who attended a Recovery Centre. A Recovery Centre Hotline was also activated to help disseminate important information in real time.



I decided that I would go down to the Lobethal Recovery Centre and I met Amanda Hunt who has just been amazing in my recovery. I actually got a little bit of counselling and then Amanda pointed me in the right area for the grants that we were eligible for, and was successful with those grants which has been absolutely amazing. It got us to a point where I could put some bikes back into my fleet, and then also we've gone through new marketing, all my buses have gone through rebranding, new social media, there's so many things I've been able to do now to get us back in a new market.

– Jack Young, *Bike About Mountain Bike Tours and Hire*

Recovery Centre staff implemented a dedicated outreach service for those who were unable to visit a centre in person, or who benefitted from a visit to their homes. In a further effort to increase outreach to those impacted, a series of Recovery Centre 'pop-ups' were

held, including a 'listening post' where attendees could engage directly with Recovery Centre staff, Local Recovery Coordinators and Community Recovery Officers.

Approximately 7,000 people visited the Relief and Recovery Centres to seek support. As community need for recovery services decreased over time, visitor numbers naturally reduced, resulting in the Recovery Centres closing in 2021, more than a year after the bushfires began.



It's actually about making sure that everyone gets the resources that they need to have a really healthy recovery, and I think that's been one of the strengths of the Recovery Centre ... they were just really good at timely ways of helping people.

– Nell Ward, *Lobethal Local*

Minderoo Foundation Recovery Pods

194 homes were lost in the bushfires in South Australia, causing a need for temporary housing solutions to be quickly identified and implemented. An agreement was reached between the South Australian Government and the Minderoo Foundation, an Australian philanthropic organisation, to deliver Minderoo Foundation Recovery Pods to bushfire-affected properties in the Adelaide Hills and Kangaroo Island. The Minderoo Foundation Recovery Pods are shipping container-style temporary accommodation.

By 30 June 2020, eight recovery pods were deployed in the Adelaide Hills and 36 were deployed on Kangaroo Island. The Recovery Pods were provided to those who had lost their homes and had been unable to secure appropriate alternative accommodation.

As a temporary solution, the Minderoo Foundation Recovery Pods provided basic necessities – a toilet, shower, washing machine, small kitchen and up to four beds in the form of shipping container-style temporary

accommodation – allowing people to stay on their land during the rebuilding phase. The fully self-contained units are equipped with a 2,300 litre water tank and 5 KVA generator, which means they can be installed on properties or locations that do not have access to mains water or power. They can also use a 15-amp external plug-and-play mains connection.

The Recovery Centres worked to identify the individuals and families most in need of the temporary housing solution. Recovery Pod recipients were identified as being the highest priority for temporary accommodation during the recovery process, needing the pods to rebuild and stay on their property. The South Australian Government engaged local tradespeople to transport, install and maintain the Recovery Pods.



We received a Minderoo Pod on the 11th of April. It's been awesome to have somewhere that you can get out of the weather, to be able to come in after you've been working all day or, in my case it's been until sometimes 2am, and then just walk inside and have somewhere to cook, have somewhere to sleep, have somewhere to have a shower, it's been really, really helpful.

– Ben Davis, Kangaroo Island Farmer



Local government

The local government areas of Adelaide Hills Council, Kangaroo Island Council, Mid Murray Council, Murray Bridge Council, Mount Barker District Council, Yorke Peninsula Council, and Kingston District Council were impacted by the 2019-20 bushfires. Each council undertook a series of recovery actions which provided support to their impacted communities, such as amplifying recovery information, undertaking essential community asset repairs, participating in Local Recovery Committees, and helping to form Community Recovery Plans. A snapshot of recovery actions undertaken by local government areas is outlined below:

Adelaide Hills Council

The Adelaide Hills Council undertook clean-up works of dangerous roadside trees and vegetation to enable access and road safety.

The council prioritised and expedited development applications relating to destroyed or damaged buildings and/or outbuildings that were impacted by the bushfire. Council staff met residents on site and directed them to services including the Planning Institute of Australia, to assist residents with plans and their submission. Council also employed additional development assessment resources to handle the applications arising from the bushfires.

The council provided representation and input to several interagency and community meetings related to recovery, including the Cudlee Creek Community Reference Group and the Local Recovery Committee.

The Adelaide Hills Council also provided co-funding to the development of the Lobethal Bushland Park playground program, with the project also being funded by the Local Economic Recovery Program and the State Emergency Relief Fund. The council also helped to co-fund the Fabrik Arts and Heritage project at Lobethal, alongside the Local Economic Recovery Program. The council also undertook environmental works, including habitat restoration and roadside weed control activities.

A dedicated Cudlee Creek Community Recovery Officer operated through the Adelaide Hills Council. The Community Recovery Officer, Miranda Hampton worked closely with the Adelaide Hills community to develop and write a recovery plan for the affected townships, ensuring the plan addressed the needs of the impacted

community. This role provided executive assistance to the Community Reference Group meetings, and much needed support and guidance, including liaison with the Insurance Council of Australia, conducting Build Back Better workshops, Community Ready Plans, Bushfire Mental Health Projects, and various community events.

The Community Recovery Officer also developed community recovery newsletters, shared information with the community through a dedicated Facebook page and at community meetings, and conducted community engagement to ensure that community needs and ideas informed the development of the recovery plan.

Kangaroo Island Council

In response to the bushfires on Kangaroo Island, the Kangaroo Island Council established the Kangaroo Island Mayoral Relief & Recovery Bushfire Fund. This fund accepted donations from members of the general public, with donations used to provide funding to contribute to the recovery and rebuilding efforts of fire-affected residents on Kangaroo Island.

The *Kangaroo Island Mayoral Bushfire Relief and Recovery Fund* concluded in December 2021. More than \$5.9 million was provided to the Kangaroo Island community from the fund. Over 560 applications from individuals and families were assessed, along with 23 applications from community groups. Funds were donated to a range of recovery projects including contributing to rebuilding the Stokes Bay Hall and the Western Districts Memorial Sports Club, both of which were destroyed in the bushfires. Administrative support for the fund was provided by the Council.

Kangaroo Island Council also undertook a range of other recovery actions to support their community, including:

- Assessment, repair and replacement of damaged council assets
- Waste management (including replacement of fire damaged bins for residents, management of steel waste, replacement of council-owned fence posts)
- Sewerage and wastewater works
- Repairs to damaged stormwater infrastructure
- Tree management and roadside vegetation
- Council rate relief for fire-affected individuals and businesses

Kangaroo Island Council also assisted in amplifying a range of key recovery information to impacted communities, including:

- Planning, rebuilding, freight, insurance and design issues
- Waiving or reduction of fees relating to post-fire development
- CFS advice on fire safety of buildings in fire prone areas
- Development of community action plans for future emergencies, in close collaboration with communities, and
- Advice and assistance regarding garden recovery

Mid Murray Council

The Cudlee Creek bushfire impacted Mid Murray residents in the north western region of the Mid Murray Council district. Council undertook works relating to tree removal and clean-up, road treatment, and road sheeting improvements in the bushfire affected zone including Gladigau, Hermanns, Harrogate and Pym Roads.

Murray Bridge Council

The Murray Bridge Council undertook essential repair works on Bremer Valley Road and Wirilda Road (Rockleigh) that were impacted during the bushfires. These roads provide key access points into the Rockleigh and Harrogate areas that were significantly impacted by the Cudlee Creek fire. Both roads experienced significant traffic during the event as well as through the recovery process. The upgrade and widening of the road pavement and three culvert/bridge crossings significantly improved safety and allowed heavy vehicles to pass freely while entering and exiting the area. The widening of these roads has also improved daily commuter access.

Mount Barker District Council

The Mount Barker District Council undertook several recovery actions following the Cudlee Creek fire, including restoration of the Harrogate Cemetery and the addition of a new walking trail connecting the cemetery to the township. The council installed a large format fire water tank in Harrogate, and conducted work to make safe roadside vegetation affected by the fires. Council also supported the installation of replacement large animal yarding at the Mount Barker Showgrounds, used to house animals during emergencies.

The Mount Barker District Council also cleared roads and waste, restored road furniture and signage, repaired damaged community assets, and conducted roadside weed control. The council implemented a fast-track process for development applications associated with bushfire-affected properties. This included:

- Waiving of Council fees.
- A senior town planner operated as a dedicated case manager, managing all bushfire-related applications.
- Liaison of the 'case manager' directly with the applicant through phone/email to ensure that if there is any deficiency in required information, then it can quickly be provided to Council to complete the assessment.
- The average processing time from lodgement to email notification of the decision was two weeks.

Yorke Peninsula Council

During the response and into the relief phases of the fires, the Yorke Peninsula Council opened the Yorketown Caravan Park as a safe haven for short term respite, offering free accommodation for fire fighters.

During the recovery phase, Yorke Peninsula Council worked to restore infrastructure either damaged or destroyed by the bushfires. The council worked with the Local Recovery Committee and the local community to assist as required, loaning out council equipment and disseminating important recovery information. Community meetings were held in Edithburgh and Stansbury, where a Relief Centre was also established.

The council waived all development application fees for those impacted by the fires until 1 July 2021, lessening the financial burden on those affected. Council also worked closely with the Local Recovery Committee to plan, develop and launch a bushfire monument at Honiton.

Kingston District Council

The Kingston District Council released a community recovery newsletter, After the Keilira Fire, to help inform the local community during the recovery phase. Nine editions of the newsletter were published.

The Kingston District Council undertook works to clear hazardous roadside vegetation within the fire scar to ensure road safety and access. Council also re-sheeted Bald Hill Road, which was damaged as a result of increased traffic through the fire event, from heavy equipment use during the clean-up and additional traffic.

Social recovery

The impacts of the bushfires on the mental health and wellbeing of affected communities were profound and far reaching. The livelihoods and daily routines of individuals and families were significantly disrupted.

Recovery across the social domain was facilitated by the supports provided through the Mental Health and Wellbeing Recovery Package over several years. Recovery support provided via other domains, such as financial relief in the form of personal hardship grants and other initiatives through the economic recovery domain also played an indirect but significant role in improving social recovery outcomes.

Mental Health and Wellbeing Recovery Package

In July 2020, \$2.61m was approved over four years for Wellbeing SA to deliver the Bushfire Mental Health Project. The project incorporated community mental health and wellbeing, community connection and a series of resilience activities for bushfire-affected communities.

The project was developed in partnership with impacted community members to deliver specific activities tailored to local needs and priority risk groups. The project aimed to reduce risk factors in the community. It sought to lower the likelihood of post-traumatic stress disorder and depression by increasing social connections. The project also aimed to reduce the risk of depression, anxiety, and suicide by improving mental wellbeing and resilience. Additionally, it focused on enhancing informal support and encouraging timely help-seeking for mental health problems.

The Bushfire Mental Health Project delivered over 53 activities, including more than 161 separate community sessions, with a total attendance of more than 5,600 people.

Case study: accidental counsellor workshops

As part of the project, a number of accidental counsellor workshops were held. Accidental counsellor workshops provide participants with knowledge and skills to recognise, support and refer others who are angry, distressed or

experiencing a challenging time. People can unexpectedly find themselves in a counselling role for friends, family or colleagues, and equipping members of bushfire impacted communities with the skills to support others experiencing an emotional crisis is of particular importance. The face-to-face workshops taught participants

- how to identify signs of people in emotional crisis,
- improve communication and active listening skills to provide support,
- gain awareness of suicide intervention
- discover helpful support options and referrals, and
- explore self-care strategies when in a supporting role.

One session was promoted to local dairy farmers through a partnership with Dairy SA and scheduled to fit between milking and feeding work, to enable farmers who would not usually attend to acquire these skills.

Case study: mental health event tailored for women

'Are You Bugged, Mate?' founder Mary O'Brien specialises in delivering evidence based mental health education to rural men using language and examples that resonate. While in Yorketown for a men's event, SYP Community Hub arranged for Mary to give a presentation for local women. The presentation covered how women could look after their own mental wellbeing, as well as providing information on how to support the men in their lives with mental health and wellbeing challenges. Morning tea was provided and a self-care presentation by an art therapist was implemented to provide further practical insights and tools for the women to use care for their mental health and wellbeing. 36 women attended with survey results showing that 89% of participants reported improved mental wellbeing, 97% improved mental health awareness and literacy, and 89% felt more confident and able to seek appropriate help in the future.



My favourite part was...

How to have meaningful conversations

Examples on what to say to someone in crisis

Videos and examples from real life

Learning some new things about self-care

Taking time to focus on connection and supporting others

Learning about active listening

Knowing what to do to help others

– Quotes from Accidental Counsellor Workshop Participants

including a new toolkit module. The video module was co-designed with 16 fire-affected farmers developing evidence-based, trauma-informed strategies to assist farmers in recovery.

The content was launched in October 2022. Further marketing strategies were implemented, including prominent messaging relating to the module on the ifarmwell website.

Through the co-design process, UniSA compiled an extensive amount of valuable information from fire-affected farmers. The resource provides mental and physical support to help overcome hardship following a disaster, helping to build farmers' resilience ahead of future disasters.



I think it's really fine-tuned now, I love the videos for a personal touch, especially as they talk about different stages of the recovery process. Love the bits where you answer questions, tick boxes and actively re-read things, very clever and helpful. All the resources are great.

– ifarmwell user

Community Recovery Fund

A Community Recovery Fund of \$220,000 was funded for the impacted areas in the Adelaide Hills and Kangaroo Island. The purpose of the fund was to implement community-level programs and activities that supported medium to long term recovery, community development, community resilience and capacity building for the future.

Ifarmwell for Bushfire Impacted Communities

The ifarmwell for Bushfire Impacted Communities was a joint project between the University of South Australia (UniSA) and Wellbeing SA. The project saw the development of new content for the ifarmwell website. Ifarmwell is an online toolkit that supports rural mental health by assisting farmers in coping effectively with life's challenges.

UniSA successfully developed and implemented bushfire-specific content for the ifarmwell website,



I loved the included videos to relate and get a further, more personal insight into bushfire recovery. I love that both testimonials are from different areas and talk about different stages of their recovery, as well as different levels of loss. I think it's really great and important.

– ifarmwell user

Mount Torrens Country Fire Service Historical Mural Project

The Historical Mural Project engaged a local professional artist and longstanding Mount Torrens Country Fire Service (CFS) volunteer to work with the local community to create a series of mosaics. The mosaics represented changes to the CFS after the five significant fires that impacted Mount Torrens since 1939. The mosaics were applied to large tubs used as planters for fruit trees to create a community orchard at the CFS station.

Community workshops were also held, led by the artist, to engage the community in understanding the stories behind each mosaic. Digital interpretative elements accompanied the tubs to reveal the full story behind the image. The CFS Historical Mural Project provided the community with an understanding of learnings and improvements to community-led firefighting techniques after major bushfires.

Brukunga and Harrogate Community Halls Gardening Project

The Mount Barker Community Centre was successful in receiving co-funding from DPC and Wellbeing SA to begin a halls landscape improvement project for the Brukunga and Harrogate Community Halls.

The aim was to design a community garden for each of the community halls in consultation with the community. Today, the gardens provide a space for community events and activities to facilitate connections.

Reflections of Home

The Reflections of Home project was a creative recovery initiative identified by members of the Adelaide Hills community in early 2020. Its purpose was to provide a reflective space to heal for those impacted by the fire. The project involved engaging a local artist to produce a design for a sculpture that represent the loss experienced after the bushfire. Community were engaged in the design process through a series of workshops so that the ideas, recovery experiences and perspectives of community could be reflected in the final design.

The project was halted due to the COVID-19 pandemic and was re-commenced in February 2021 due to the efforts of community members. The sculpture was installed at Lobethal Bushland Park. A second sculpture was designed and created after consultation with community members from the impacted communities

of Harrogate and surrounding areas. A commissioning celebration will be held later this year to acknowledge the installation of this second sculpture.

Junction Kangaroo Island Community Centre

The Junction Kangaroo Island Community Centre (KICC) was awarded three grants under the Community Recovery Fund. Funded projects focused on building the capacity of the local community to recover from the bushfire event and to build resilience ahead of any potential future disasters.

Capacity building communications

The KICC identified opportunities to improve the flow of advice on recovery and resilience information about grants, programs, information, and donations to the community. Some individuals in the process of rebuilding and recovery had limited access to the internet or reduced capacity to verify the multiple streams of information containing recovery advice.

Through the project the KICC produced a monthly newsletter that was sourced, edited, printed, and distributed by KICC volunteers under the guidance of Junction staff. The newsletter was made available in hard copy and online, compiling information relevant to community recovery. The project also served to upskill the KICC volunteers by identifying, gathering, and presenting recovery information.

The communications project fostered and enhanced community connections through community development activities and identified multiple communication channels, ensuring impacted communities had access to programs oriented to their recovery needs.

Community garden volunteers

In the wake of the fires, two community gardens were established on Kangaroo Island initiated by renowned horticulturalist, Sophie Thomson who worked closely with the community. The gardens provided the fire-affected communities with a versatile garden space, encouraging ongoing social connection.

Key volunteers experienced fatigue in the ongoing administrative functions of running a community garden. As a result the Community Garden Volunteers project was created to guide the volunteers to run successful and sustainable community gardens.

The Community Garden Volunteers undertook an excursion to the mainland to visit functioning community gardens and a workshop with community development consultants. Several key elements for wellbeing were covered in the project outputs and the community garden was embraced as a necessary resource on Kangaroo Island's recovery journey.

Equipment support

Due to extensive loss of buildings during the fires, many communities needed to start from scratch to provide an area for community groups to hold meetings and events. After the bushfires the community experienced an increased need for events and meetings that facilitated recovery.

The equipment support project saw the KICC obtain a comprehensive collection of mobile equipment available for hire by the community at no cost. The project also aimed to build event management capabilities in local community groups.

Community development programs

Community Development Officers were appointed to help facilitate a series of community recovery, development, resilience and capacity building programs to support impacted communities. Community development programs undertaken during the recovery program included:

- Anniversary community events
- Build back better community led workshop
- Bushfire expo
- Bushfire Kids Connect – BMX Jam
- Bushfire Kids Connect – Christmas Pageant Trip
- Bushfire Kids Connect – Workshop
- Busy Kids Christmas Craft
- Community engagement recovery surveys
- Community Development 101 Online Workshop
- Community Habitat Restoration Project
- Mental Health Clinicians Workshop
- Mill Road Community Project Forest Revegetation Project
- Regenerate Commemorative Art Exhibition
- Sophie Thomson Garden Recovery Sessions
- Strum and Stroll Lobethal
- Your Hall Your Hub



The generosity and commitment shown by community members and local groups in supporting the recovery effort—during what was, for many, one of the hardest times in their lives—was deeply humbling.

– Miranda Hampton, Community Recovery Officer

School support

The South Australian Government provided a targeted bushfire recovery package for directly affected families, including:

- Waiving school fees for the 2020 school year
- Providing school uniforms free of charge
- Supporting students and families requiring assistance through Department for Education specialist teams in psychology, wellbeing and social work and additional online resources.
- Providing free childcare in the Adelaide Hills – and on Kangaroo Island – to assist parents, or those who need respite.

In addition, about 250 Adelaide Hills children affected by the bushfires were gifted free backpacks full of supplies for their return to school and preschool under the Backpacks for Bushfires initiative. This program was supported by community donations.

Economic recovery

The bushfires caused significant impacts to various local industries, including wine, tourism, and agriculture. Economic recovery efforts across the affected regions incorporated support to these industries and businesses in the short, medium and long term.

Economic recovery was supported by various measures including the Local Economic Recovery (LER) Program and the Business Transformation and Growth Program.

The LER Program supported bushfire-affected communities to invest in measures to support their recovery. The completion of these projects across Kangaroo Island and in the Adelaide Hills supported community-endorsed projects to rebuild local industries, and spanned across the social, economic, built and environmental recovery domains.

The Business Transformation and Growth Program led to the establishment of a business hub on Kangaroo Island and a business network throughout the Adelaide Hills to support economic growth across the region.

Local Economic Recovery

After the bushfires, over \$52.8m of joint Commonwealth and State funding was distributed to support the recovery of the Kangaroo Island and Adelaide Hills regions through the LER Program. LER projects were aimed at rebuilding affected areas and local industries. Projects were endorsed by a panel of State Government representatives, with final approval by the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA).

The LER Program helped to create jobs, attract visitors and support key industries.

LER applications by community and small businesses were approved and funded for outcomes such as rebuilding infrastructure, tourism, and social connections. A summary of the jointly funded LER projects is outlined below:

Fabrik Arts and Heritage Hub development

Adelaide Hills Council

The Fabrik Arts and Heritage Hub project developed a new heritage-listed arts and cultural hub at the former

Onkaparinga Woollen Mills at Lobethal. The hub is home to purpose-built galleries, workshop spaces, artist studios and accommodation for an artist in residence.

The arts and cultural hub actively supports creative industries and local tourism, providing opportunities for learning and social connection in the Adelaide Hills. The hub supports artists to develop their creative practice into a viable business, and provides an accessible venue for visitors to enjoy the Adelaide Hills region.

Rebuild Fox Creek Mountain Bike Park

ForestrySA

Before the bushfires, Fox Creek was home to almost 50 kilometres of mountain bike trails, with more than 20,000 people using the trails every year. The fires impacted more than half of the Cudlee Creek Forest, significantly affecting the mountain bike destination.

Under the rebuilding project, the bike park was expanded to include additional capacity and more challenging trails for competitive riders. The project also included the first adaptive mountain bike trail in South Australia.

ForestrySA had the following project goals:

- Develop a business precinct to support existing and new business opportunities (e.g. pop-up café, bike mechanic, shuttle uplift service, riding and walking tours, bike hire, skills coaching and group skills sessions.)
- Increase and improve traffic flow and car park capacity (new upper carpark, redeveloped lower carpark, overflow parking, improved shuttle drop-off point, improved traffic management)
- Develop infrastructure and facilities to support events of different level (public facilities, allocated event spaces)
- Improve day visitor experiences with nature-based infrastructure such as picnic areas, shelters, play areas and interpretation signage
- Assess accommodation opportunities
- Enhance and improve resilience of the natural habitat (landscaping, revegetation, threatened species)
- Improve emergency response and disaster resilience.

ForestrySA worked closely with several local contractors and community groups, including the mountain biking club The Human Projectiles, on the repair and rebuild of the park.

This project has greatly enhanced long term recreation and nature-based tourism business opportunities in the area, establishing Cudlee Creek as one of the premier mountain bike locations in the state.

Lobethal Bushland Park

Adelaide Hills Council

Lobethal Bushland Park was heavily impacted by the bushfires. The playground, picnic and trail infrastructure were either heavily damaged or completely lost, and most of the vegetation was burnt.

The Play Space at Lobethal Bushland Park was officially opened by the Minister for Environment and the Mayor of Adelaide Hills Council at the end of February 2022. The park provides two separate areas specifically designed for children in a natural setting. Play spaces, picnic areas, walking trail infrastructure, and native vegetation lost in the bushfires were restored and upgraded.

The play space continues to be regularly used by the community, and feedback from the community has been overwhelmingly positive. Reinstating the play space at Bushland Park marked a key milestone for the local community on their recovery journey.

Wellness-led Resilience Project

Adelaide Hills Tourism

Adelaide Hills Tourism's aim was to inject significant ongoing economic and social benefits into the region and South Australia via a new wellness-led tourism resilience initiative. This project was underpinned by local and state-wide collaboration, innovation, and new business development around an untapped consumer demand for wellness travel experiences in Australia.

The Wellness Visitor Strategy helped to establish a sustainable planning framework and key actions required for wellness tourism destination development, promotion, industry engagement and product development. The project included:

Industry and Stakeholder Wellness Tourism Conference: The region hosted a wellness tourism incubator business event for tourism businesses and stakeholders primarily

from South Australia with a view to educating and upskilling the industry on wellness tourism experience delivery best practice. The Wellness Tourism Unearthed event provided more than 140 delegates with insights to support them in adapting and enhancing tourism experiences to align with consumer needs. Content was relevant for agritourism and nature-based tourism operators, food and beverage experiences, accommodation providers, retreats, spas, wellness practitioners and suppliers, travel distributors and tourism destinations exploring wellness concepts.

The Adelaide Hills Wellness Wander: This event featured mental, physical, and social wellness experiences and activities that encompassed food, beverages, retail, spa experiences, sustainable and creative experiences, active events in nature, and overnight stays (with a wellness theme) across the Adelaide Hills region. More than 2,500 visitors attended 63 individual events with an average of 82% of tickets sold and nearly \$1 million in economic benefit. The broad marketing and publicity reach along with operator success has firmly positioned the Adelaide Hills region as a global leader in Wellness Tourism sector development.

From Fleece to Woollen Garment

Kangaroo Island Wool Pty Ltd

This project established a small scale fibre mill that is capable of processing raw fibre (mostly wool) into quality yarn and then into finished garments, enabling a paddock-to-plate style concept, all grown and manufactured on Kangaroo Island. The facility is linked to the tourism and education sectors through on-site sales and opportunities for visitors to learn the history of the Kangaroo Island wool industry and see how raw wool becomes a wearable garment.

Collaborative industry rebuilding and resilience

Kangaroo Island Business & Brand Alliance (KIBBA)

These grant funds cover five projects delivered by Kangaroo Island's three industry associations, to build capacity, capability and resilience in the Island's industries and businesses and to grow the farming, tourism, and the general business economy.

The health and sustainability of the Island's economy has a direct impact on the wellbeing of its residents. 85% of the Island's businesses are micro-businesses with fewer than five employees, staffed and run by families. Healthy business has a direct correlation with healthy people and a healthy economy.

Chef's Table: This project involved 10 events at venues across the Island. The first event took place at Kangaroo Island Spirits under the banner 'Kangaroo Island Distillery's Winter Whisky Feast'.

#JustBuyKI: Business familiarity and networking events connecting businesses for greater understanding and to grow the local business to business economy.

Reimagine Kangaroo Island: Extensive community consultation within fire damaged communities. Use of unique stories to develop a comprehensive marketing and activation plan to drive visitors back to communities.

Supporting industry associations: Supporting industry associations to deliver services to members particularly in grant assistance, effective communication, information gathering and skills training.

Website update: Addition of two new pages to the KIBBA website with local job listings and local accommodation options.

Video for employees: Creation of a new video promoting Kangaroo Island to potential job applicants about moving to and living on Kangaroo Island.

Workers accommodation Western Kangaroo Island

Western Kangaroo Island Caravan Park

This project supported the rebuilding and economic recovery efforts at the western end of Kangaroo Island by constructing affordable accommodation at the Western Kangaroo Island Caravan Park suitable for trades personnel, backpackers, and seasonal workers. The project supports ongoing activities at the western end of the Island, enabling visitors and workers to access affordable, base level accommodation while minimising the risk to personnel and wildlife associated with lengthy road travel to more distant accommodation options.

This project facilitated the resumption of economic activity throughout the western region of Kangaroo Island by providing accommodation and other support for the workers who were required for reconstruction tasks. It also provides other necessities that enables the resumption of tourist visitation, research, education and normal economic life for the area.

Kangaroo Island open-access telecommunication infrastructure

SWOOP Telecommunications

This project provided a unified approach to telecommunication infrastructure and increased internet coverage and capacity to Kangaroo Island. This infrastructure enabled other service providers to provide enhanced telecommunications for residents and businesses on Kangaroo Island. By making these telecommunication towers open access, this project enabled other service providers to access the tower infrastructure to support ventures that would not otherwise have been viable, including 'Internet of Things' based applications, Two-Way Radio, Commercial Broadcast, Public Safety (SAGRN) or Mobile Network operators. SWOOP Telecommunications provided internet, 'Internet of Things' gateway infrastructure, and UHF CB Repeaters on the tower infrastructure, attracting other users to provide additional services.

Parndana Early Childhood Education and Child Centre

Parndana Child Care Centre

This project included the construction of a purpose-built Early Childhood Education and Care Centre to cater for up to 30 children from six months to school age in the Kangaroo Island township of Parndana.

Kangaroo Island Desalination Plant

SA Water

In late 2024 SA Water established a new desalination plant at Penneshaw on Kangaroo Island. With a capacity of two megalitres a day, the desalination plant provides mains water to around 700 homes and businesses.

Drawing seawater through two large underwater pipelines, the plant uses reverse osmosis to remove all salt and impurities before it is cleaned and treated to a high-quality drinking water standard. The drinking water supply is then pumped through a new 50km long underground trunk main to supply the townships of American River, Baudin Beach, Island Beach and Sapphire town with safe and clean mains water for the first time.

The project delivers a new climate independent water source that supports the community and supports opportunities for new tourism developments,

destinations and agriculture enterprises. The project also supports direct and indirect job creation on Kangaroo Island, increased availability of water for agricultural use, unlocks tourism investment and increases confidence and readiness for business growth in the region.

The desalination plant provides a significant boost to the region's long-term drinking water security and bushfire resilience.

PIRSA LER Projects

PIRSA was a key funding recipient of the LER initiative, implementing and coordinating four key programs, each with their own sub-projects, integral to the bushfire recovery:

1. Building Back Better Agriculture and Land Management Project
2. South Australian Apiary Industry Project
3. The Viticulture and Horticulture Rebuild and Resilience Program
4. LER Program Tranche 2 Funding

While economic in nature, these projects also spanned across the social, infrastructure and environmental recovery domains. A summary of these projects and their key recovery outcomes are listed below:

Building Back Better Agriculture and Land Management

This project addressed industry priorities to collectively support landholders through several recovery and resilience building activities.

The Building Back Better Agriculture and Land Management included the following projects:

- Eradication of sheep blowfly (Kangaroo Island)
- Managing the consequences of fire (Kangaroo Island)
- Farm Business Planning (Kangaroo Island)
- Pest Plant and Animal Control (Cudlee Creek)
- Water Quality and Soil Management (Cudlee Creek)
- Courses and workshops (Cudlee Creek)

The outcomes of this project were made possible via partnerships with industry and government agencies, including University of Adelaide, Agriculture Kangaroo Island (AgKI), Hills and Fleurieu Landscape Board, Adelaide Hills and Mount Barker Councils and the South Australian Country Fire Service.

Eradication of sheep blowfly

This project sought to take preliminary steps to eradicate sheep blowflies from Kangaroo Island using the Sterile Insect technique. The goal was to establish and equip a sterile blowfly rearing facility and commence a sheep blowfly eradication program. A modular and transportable rearing facility was established on Kangaroo Island in August 2024, including the recruitment of two full-time equivalent staff.

Managing the consequences of fire

This project focussed on addressing issues known to emerge following bushfire events, including pasture recovery and management, sheep disease management and the management of declared weeds. A key achievement included the management of 75 kilometres of roadsides with declared weeds, with 47 landholders receiving assistance.



The [Cape tulip campaign] was beneficial, it allowed us to focus on other pressing issues within our farm business. Otherwise, the spraying would have taken weeks of work for us to complete.

– Project Participant

Farm Business Planning

PIRSA worked with Livestock SA and AgKI to develop a farm business planning workshop and a training component with a focus on business and risk management, strategic planning, natural resource management, and personal/community resilience. This project was designed to better prepare primary producers for future adverse events.

53 primary producers from 30 businesses participated in the project. 54% of participants took the opportunity to build capability across all four pillars and all participants accessed support in strategic planning, while 84% of participants accessed support in risk management.



The Kangaroo Island Farm Business Management Project arrived for me and my family at just the right time, not that I knew that when I signed up. It sounded like it would probably be useful, so I made time for the first session ... I am now in a position I would never have considered possible on that first day. I have clarity about our future and confidence we will get there. I have accessed a range of support and focused our business decision making to the things that really matter for us. My family and I have benefitted immeasurably. Thank you all.

– Project Participant

Pest Plant and Animal Control

This project facilitated a targeted, tenure blind approach to pest plant and animal control. Over two years, the Hills and Fleurieu Landscape Board coordinated and delivered a diverse set of activities. Achievements include:

- Four rabbit bait giveaway events - resulting in the distribution of 557 bags of baited carrots to 354 properties.
- Fumigation of 61 rabbit warrens on 56 properties.
- Research completed to determine the effectiveness of the rabbit baiting program in the Adelaide Hills.
- Four field days and workshops that built landholder capacity to manage and control priority weeds.
- Weed control of ~897 hectares (ha) of fire driven weeds across 126 properties.
- 243km of roadside weeds were treated within the fire scar and buffer area.
- Distribution of 35 camera traps and 32 fox cage traps on 35 properties.
- Conducted two feral goat aerial shooting operations with follow-up on ground operations – culling 873 goats, 67 feral sheep and eight deer.

Water Quality and Soil Management

This project aimed to:

- Improve on ground management and build community capacity to manage riparian environments in the face of increasing numbers of adverse events.
- Build landholder capacity to care for and improve the quality of pasture groundcover to reduce erosion risk and undertake actions to manage post-fire soil and pasture health and condition, and
- Engage the community in planting local species to replace lost watercourse and shelterbelt vegetation.

The project delivered several key achievements, including 20km of protective fencing, the planting of 3,493 native seedlings, and several well-attended courses ranging from watercourse management to post-fire soil health. Over 38,000 native plants were collected from two plant giveaway events in 2021 and 2022, attended by over 350 people.

Bushfire Resilience Course

The Bushfire Resilience Course aimed to equip landholders with skills in land management, risk management, and community resilience. It included four sessions centred on priorities identified by both the community and industry, fostering networking and enhancing participants' capabilities.

Four courses were delivered between June 2021 and November 2022 engaging with approximately 51 impacted landholders from across the fire scar and surrounds. An opportunity was identified to run an additional session specifically for the Adelaide Hills Wine Region. 10 Adelaide Hills Wine Region members attended the one-off session.

Survey responses advised an increased level of resilience and preparedness to future adverse events. 91% of survey respondents have a bushfire plan - a 34% increase from those who had a bushfire plan prior to completing the course.





South Australian Apiary Industry Project

PIRSA designed this program in partnership with the South Australian Apiarists' Association – the peak industry association for commercial apiarists in South Australia.

Adelaide Hills Pollination Guide

The Adelaide Hills Pollination Guide is designed to increase the prevalence, health, and diversity of pollinators in the landscape by identifying the most appropriate indigenous species suitable for different landscapes.

The Guide is available online and in hard copy. Additionally, PIRSA arranged printing of 1,000 hard copy guides which were distributed within the Adelaide Hills encouraging the community to plant native pollinator friendly species.

Geographic Indicator for Kangaroo Island

A geographical indication (GI) is a designation for products that derive specific qualities or a reputation from their geographic origin.

This project aimed to establish GI protection for Kangaroo Island honey, harvested from Ligurian honeybees, to help safeguard the product and serve as a foundation for marketing efforts.

102 honey samples were collected and analysed, identifying five broad honey groups, as well as the potential to identify a series of boutique honey types.

KI Tourism Alliance – Marketing Kangaroo Island Honey

A marketing strategy was developed and implemented to promote the uniqueness of the sanctuary and bees on Kangaroo Island, creating price improvements for local apiarists, as well as increasing tourism visitation to the Island.

Preliminary Economic Analysis of SA Apiary Industry

Following the bushfires it was difficult to quantify the contribution to the State's apiary industry to the state's economy. It was also identified that to secure funding to build industry capability and capacity, analysis was required to demonstrate the value of the industry to the State. An independent contractor was engaged to work with industry to determine the value of the industry, supported by PIRSA.

Key insights from this economic analysis included:

- The greatest economic contribution to the state economy for the apiary industry is in the provision of pollination services, with more than 23,000 hives required to meet market demand.
- The economic contribution of the apiary industry to the state economy in 2021-22 was estimated to be \$51.4m.
- the total employment contribution of 648 full-time equivalent (FTE) jobs in 2021-22.
- the industry generates an estimated 447 FTE jobs including 434 from beekeeping activities and 13 from capital investment.
- The industry generates an estimated 200 flow-on FTE jobs including 81 FTE production induced, and 119 FTE consumption induced.

Best practice hive management for disease and pest management

Following the bushfires it was recognised that some of the surviving hives were weakened and had increased susceptibility to diseases and pests. Simultaneously, there was an increase in the number of recreational beekeepers seeking to fill the gap caused by the reduction in hive numbers. As a result, this project sought to increase capacity and capability of hive management for beekeepers.

A registered training organisation was engaged to deliver four bee biosecurity courses, exploring topics including the identification of potential pests and diseases, and the implementation of appropriate biosecurity treatment measures.

80% of respondents felt more confident about being able to more effectively manage bee pests and diseases following the course, building their resilience to future adverse events.

Biosecurity Risk Assessment

Industry meetings in January 2020 identified that there was a need to improve biosecurity surveillance of vehicles travelling to Kangaroo Island. A biosecurity risk assessment was designed to help identify a number of key considerations, including the likely consequences of an incursion and the likelihood of pest/disease establishment and spread.

Environmental DNA Varroa Destructor

This project aimed to improve Varroa destructor detection through the development of Environmental

DNA (eDNA) methods and protocols. eDNA is a detection surveillance tool to detect Varroa presence using a cost effective, sensitive and non-invasive species monitoring approach.

Varroa destructor detections were successfully made, with environmental water sample testing demonstrating positive amplification for Varroa destructor using a species-specific assay.

American Foulbrood detection

The University of Western Australia Honeybee Health Research group conducted research into the development of a rapid and non-invasive diagnostic tool to identify American Foulbrood (AFB). Bee hives suffering from AFB emit a foul odour as the infected brood decomposes within the diseased honeycomb cells.

This project aimed to support on ground extension of this work, including field testing for continuous refinement of the sensor. Kangaroo Island beekeepers were involved in testing of new approaches to early identification of AFB and gained access to the first prototype for their use, ultimately building apiarist preparedness and capacity to respond to future events and opportunities for early detection.

Vita test kits

Following the Kangaroo Island fire there was an outbreak of AFB, the most economically and biologically devastating bacterial disease of honeybees across Australia.

The Vita AFB Diagnostic Test Kit enables beekeepers and bee inspectors to test for AFB in honeybee larvae and to obtain the results immediately and easily in the apiary.

Approximately 1,000 Vita test kits were purchased to use for early detection of AFB.

Governance and Leadership for South Australian Apiary Association

The SA Apiary Association is the peak industry body for commercial beekeepers in South Australia. Members of the Executive Council (which are elected at an annual AGM) represent the SA apiary industry on key state and national bodies, government policy taskforces and advisory groups.

Following the bushfires, this project worked to develop a stronger, more unified leadership team equipped

with the skills required to grow the impacted industry, including from the bushfires and preparedness for future events.

Strengthening the Kangaroo Island apiary industry: Community of Practice

After engagement with beekeepers following the fires it was identified that a Community of Practice would enhance capability and capacity of the sector.

Two forums were held to build connections and hear from invited speakers, enabling shared understanding of key industry issues and improved industry networks. A field trip was also held focused on topics of interest including bee biosecurity, working in an apiary and use of technology – providing increased opportunities for industry connections, capacity building and networking opportunities.

Viticulture and Horticulture Rebuild and Resilience Program

Whilst PIRSA was the funding recipient and had overarching responsibility for project delivery, the initiatives would not have been possible without industry partnerships, particularly the Adelaide Hills Wine Region (AHWR).

Viticulture Rebuild and Recovery Grant Program

In consultation with AHWR, a co-contribution grant program was developed to support impacted communities and industries. The aim of the program was to directly assist bushfire-impacted wine grape growers to undertake activities to accelerate vineyard recovery to pre-bushfire productivity levels.

Applicants were able to apply for funding of up to \$400,000 per property, up to \$7,500 for rejuvenation activities, and up to \$15,000 per hectare for replanting activities with an equivalent co-contribution.

The grant program received 39 applications, with 36 being approved.



A brilliant scheme that was perfectly tailored to helping us to accelerate recovery from the bushfire.

– Grant Recipient

Key grant outcomes included:

- 52% of grant recipients undertook varietal crop changes to a more preferred variety, with 12 people indicating that this was the biggest benefit to their business.
- 40% of grant recipients indicated full confidence in recovering and returning to full production in a shortened timeframe.
- On average, grant recipients feel that the funding enabled them to return to full production just under three years earlier than without grant funding.



The grant was great, it enabled me to undertake rejuvenation and replanting works in a timely and sensible business manner rather than cutting corners and compromising for the sake of cash flow. The end result will be a more sustainable standalone business which can continue to thrive into the future, based on making long term sensible business decisions.

– Grant Recipient

Horticulture Rebuild and Recovery Grant Program

The Horticulture Rebuild and Recovery Grant Program directly assisted bushfire-impacted cherry and olive growers to undertake activities that accelerated recovery to pre-bushfire productivity levels.

Cherry growers could apply for up to \$30,000 per hectare dependent on remediation works, while olive growers could apply for up to \$15,000 per hectare dependent on remediation works.

The grant program received four applications, all of which were approved. Three applications related to replanting and rejuvenation of cherry orchards, whilst the remaining application was for replanting and rejuvenation of an olive grove. Collectively, 16.4 hectares of cherry orchards and olive groves were remediated.

Vineyard Business Resilience

This project, designed in partnership with AHWR and PIRSA, supported vineyard businesses in the Adelaide Hills to increase business acumen and skills, whilst building business resilience to better cope with future

events. This was achieved by subsidising a suite of training and development courses that supported different sectors within the industry, including cellar door front-of-house staff, wine-grape growers, winemakers, and wine business executives.

The AHWR coordinated the delivery of 19 subsidised courses to nearly 230 participants from 2021 to 2024. Key outcomes included:

- 70% of Wine Service Skills participants indicated they were more likely to continue working within the AHWR because of attending the course.
- Advanced Viticulture Course attendees reported a 31% increase in their confidence in the sustainability and resilience of their vineyards to future events.
- 56% (15) of Wine Service Skills attendees indicated that a key benefit of the workshops was the ability to build networks with likeminded people, workshop ideas and problem solve.



It was a simple but visionary approach to recovery.

– Alex Trescowthick, President, AHWR

Fire Recovery Case Studies Project

Following the bushfire the Government and affected communities worked together to determine how to best manage damaged vines following a fire.

This project addressed key knowledge gaps in the market to understand best practice pruning methods for wine grape growers to return to full production in the shortest timeframe possible. This project provided an opportunity for South Australia to become a world-leader in best practice methods for fire recovery of vineyards. Other global regions, including the Napa Valley in the United States, have subsequently contacted PIRSA to access this research after they have experienced similar events.

As a result of this research, suggestions for vineyards exposed to fire include:

- It is essential to restore irrigation infrastructure to support the recovery of stressed and damaged vines. As vines are resilient, and their recovery depends on the level of damage, the best strategy

is to then wait, monitor and observe to inform the best recovery treatment.

- Where vineyards have minor and moderate fire damage, continuing with spur pruning is a reasonable economic option.
- Conversion to cane pruning or trunk replacement are only necessary where there are other advantages, such as the influence on grape quality (e.g., bunch architecture). In vineyards where cordon decline and trunk disease are impacting production, trunk replacement after a fire is justified, particularly as the crop in the following season has already been impacted.

LER Program – Tranche 2

An additional tranche of recovery support measures were implemented under the LER program to provide further support to local economies, communities and industries impacted by the bushfires.

Cudlee Creek Small Plantation clean-up and return to agriculture subsidy

In consultation with Forestry SA a co-contribution grant program was designed to support private plantation owners remove damaged and fallen wood.

Applicants were able to apply for funding of up to \$150,000 per property and up to \$2,000 per hectare with an at least equivalent co-contribution.

Given the varying scale of plantations in the Cudlee Creek fire scar, two funding streams were available – one for landholders with plantations of less than five hectares and one for landholders with plantations more than five hectares in size.

The subsidy received 14 applications, with 12 being approved. Nine were approved for plantations of less than five hectares, with three approved for plantations more than five hectares in size.



The grant helped supplement the cost to recovery.

– Grant Recipient

The plantation subsidies enabled 48.5 hectares of damaged plantations to be removed, enabled producers to generate income from livestock agistment while reassessing and adjusting their business model/ planning, and contributed to infrastructure support by supplying a range of tools and equipment – including internal fencing and the purchase of water infrastructure for livestock.



The most efficient use of the impacted land was to return it to pasture to be able to increase carrying capacity of livestock.

– Grant Recipient

Kangaroo Island Bluegum Plantation Clean Up and Return to Agriculture Grant Program

This grant assisted bushfire-impacted private plantation owners recoup costs associated with the clean-up of bluegum plantations where they intended to convert the land to productive agriculture.

Applicants were able to apply for a maximum of \$200,000 and up to \$1,000 per hectare with an at least equivalent co-contribution.



... It [funding from PIRSA] renewed my focus and gave me the strength to keep going, knowing I had the funding to help cover some of the costs.

– Grant Recipient

The grant program received four applications, all of which were approved. The funding enabled 547 hectares of damaged plantations to be removed from Kangaroo Island, enabled producers to generate income from livestock agistment while reassessing and adjusting their business model/planning, and contributed to infrastructure support by supplying a range of tools and equipment – including internal fencing and the purchase of water infrastructure for livestock.



Without the funding from PIRSA this would never have happened [plantation clean-up]. I spent a lot of time researching how and who could do the reversion for me and that process nearly broke me. The support from PIRSA really helped.

– Grant Recipient

Tasmanian Bluegum Wildling Control

Bluegum wildling seedlings were considered the most significant post-fire weed issue on Kangaroo Island. These wildlings represent one of the greatest direct threats to biodiversity on Kangaroo Island and are estimated to have invaded more than 5,000 hectares of native vegetation.

This project was designed to help efforts in controlling the seedlings. This initiative focussed on control activities in remote and hard to access areas of the Island and areas of native vegetation, including areas containing high value and threatened species.

PIRSA worked in partnership with Kangaroo Island Landscape Board to undertake proactive management of these seedlings, with key activities including education, engagement and on ground control.

Over two years (2022-23 and 2023-24) PIRSA worked in partnership with Kangaroo Island Landscape Board to refine mapping, prioritise areas for control, and coordinate control works. Overall, more than 2,140 hectares of Bluegum wildlings were controlled on Kangaroo Island over this two year period. More than 50 landholders and 11 contractors were engaged throughout this project.

Thermal Aerial Assisted Control for Eradication of Feral Pigs on Kangaroo Island

Feral pigs are known to be extremely damaging to natural ecosystems, threatening the recovery of native fauna and flora. Their activities not only contribute significantly to environmental degradation but also pose a major risk to agricultural productivity by damaging crops and infrastructure.

The Kangaroo Island bushfire provided a unique opportunity to eradicate feral pigs from the Island. The feral pig population was decimated by the bushfires, however the population had strong potential for recovery.

This project enabled eradication of all known feral pigs on the Island. This funding helped ongoing control and eradication efforts to focus on the remote and densely revegetated areas in a timely and cost-effective manner.

Achieving eradication of all known feral pigs from Kangaroo Island has reduced the financial impact on primary production - prior to the 2019-20 Kangaroo Island bushfire it is estimated that feral pigs cost primary producers and their communities \$1 million annually. Eradication of feral pigs also continues to assist native ecosystems recover and provide critical habitat for a range of endangered species.



South Australian Disaster Small Business Transformation and Growth Program

Over \$1.8 million of joint Commonwealth and State funding was distributed through the South Australian Disaster Small Business Transformation and Growth Program. The program supported the recovery and business growth of businesses on Kangaroo Island and Adelaide Hills affected by the bushfires and COVID-19 through a range of initiatives, including:

- A business hub on Kangaroo Island
- A dedicated Business Hub Coordinator on Kangaroo Island
- The establishment of a collaborative business network in the Adelaide Hills
- Small business financial counsellors
- Events and workshops with a focus on resilience, digital capability, financial planning, marketing, export and investment and other topics as determined by the community
- Supporting collaborative partnerships with other government and non-government agencies to identify learning and development opportunities for businesses.

The program was established in 2020 and delivered by the Department of State Development (DSD).

Kangaroo Island Business Hub

The program established the Kangaroo Island Business Hub. The hub provides a support service for local businesses, entrepreneurs, primary producers and professionals. The hub provides access to government information and resources, meeting rooms, and training and event spaces. One-on-one support is also available through a Small Business Support Officer.

The hub has provided a range of free and subsidised support services, including training, coaching and events to help businesses grow, innovate and add to community prosperity. The hub offers free meeting and training rooms, event spaces, video conferencing facilities, laptops, and co-working spaces.

The hub hosted several events and programs to support recovery from the bushfires and the COVID-19 pandemic. Notable events and programs facilitated at the business hub include:

- Kangaroo Island Women in Business “Big Day In” Workshop

- Business Start-Up Program Workshops
- Kangaroo Island Everything Employment Expo
- Kangaroo Island Annual Employment Awards
- Cultivate Kangaroo Island Workshop and Mentoring Program
- Resilient Ready Kangaroo Island ‘Business Climate’ Roadmap Project

Personalised business support

In the Adelaide Hills, a dedicated Business Recovery Officer provided case management support to over 160 Adelaide Hills businesses until June 2022.

A dedicated Business Hub Coordinator was also available on Kangaroo Island to provide one-on-one business support. These positions helped small business owners navigate, and make connections, with government and other supports and services, to support their sustainable growth.

Financial Counsellors offered financial counselling services to businesses recovering from the bushfires. Their services focused on businesses finances, and included advice on:

- Pre-disaster and current financial position
- Understanding the financial goals and aspirations of business owners and their priorities in the rebuilding of their business
- The possibility and financial options available to businesses to (re)develop, improve their operations or diversify their business.
- Financial mitigation and risk reduction activities to reduce business exposure to future adverse events (continuity and risk planning)
- Incorporating a step-by-step financial plan for the business’s recovery.
- Ongoing financial case management and advice as required.
- Closing down your business and other support you can seek in re-skilling or opening up a new business.

In addition, Business SA provided Strengthening Business Facilitators to act as expert advisers for impacted businesses. These facilitators assisted in working with those impacted to develop their individual roadmap to recovery, considering all aspects of the business from strategy, operations, systems and planning considerations.

#BookThemOut tourism support

Tourism businesses on Kangaroo Island and in the Adelaide Hills were significantly impacted or destroyed by the bushfires.

Before the fires, over a million domestic day trips were taken by tourists annually in the Adelaide Hills. The tourism sector contributed approximately \$168m to the Adelaide Hills region, directly employing 1,200 people at the time of the fires.

Similarly, tourism expenditure on Kangaroo Island was annually worth approximately \$144m during the time of the fires. With most of the tourism businesses on Kangaroo Island's western side damaged or destroyed, combined with the tourism impacts in the Adelaide Hills, support for the tourism sector was identified as a key priority early in the recovery phase.

In January 2020 the South Australian Tourism Commission (SATC) launched a tourism recovery campaign for the regions impacted by the bushfires in South Australia. The "Help them out, #BookThemOut" campaign focused on encouraging tourists to visit the Adelaide Hills and Kangaroo Island to increase bookings and reinvigorate the local economies by visiting the regions affected.

The campaign was designed to encourage people to travel to the Adelaide Hills and Kangaroo Island for a holiday, short stay or experience. The "Help them out, #BookThemOut" campaign was well received by the public upon launch, with key outputs including:

- The online tourism database – which provided free listings for operators to connect them with consumers – reported that leads for Kangaroo Island increased by over 150% (compared to the same time the previous year) and leads for the Adelaide Hills increased by 200% for the same period.
- The southaustralia.com website generated almost 8,000 leads to travel partners including airlines, car hire, accommodation and online travel agents from 12-23 January, 2020.
- SATC's social video advertisements reached over 600,000 South Australians across Facebook and Instagram in the campaign's first week.
- SATC's social media channels had a combined organic reach of over four million people, including more than 2.2 million people reached through Facebook and more than 1.8 million people reached through Instagram.

- Ferry companies Sealink and Kangaroo Island Connect both experienced significant traffic increases.

Primary producer and fodder support

The South Australian Government, working closely with Livestock SA, provided fodder support in the form of more than 2,000 tonnes of hay to bushfire affected livestock producers across Kangaroo Island and Cudlee Creek.

\$180,000 was provided by the South Australian Government to pay the cost of transporting donated fodder on the Kangaroo Island ferry from the drop off point at Cape Jervis to Penneshaw. An additional \$672,268 was also provided to Livestock SA, Potatoes SA and the Wine Grape Council of SA.

The Australian Defence Force played an important role in aiding the distribution of fodder across Kangaroo Island. Family and Business (FaB) support case managers were also made available to assist farmers and regional businesses on Kangaroo Island, connecting those impacted with recovery support. FaB mentors initially worked with more than 200 primary production businesses in their initial recovery journey, with ongoing support to more than 130 businesses. Support included assistance with filling out grant applications, referrals to mental health support and financial counselling. The case managers worked closely with government agencies and other service providers to share recovery information and provide a joined up service to the Island.

Bushfire financial relief measures

Tax relief measures and the waiving of fees and charges for people affected by bushfires in South Australia.

Tax relief measures included:

- Ex-gratia tax relief for the stamp duty payable on the purchase of replacement properties and motor vehicles
- Ex-gratia relief for 2019-20 and 2020-21 land tax liabilities for those directly impacted by bushfires in South Australia
- Putting on hold debt collection of Emergency Services Levy (ESL) debts.

Waived fees and charges included:

- Service SA waiving the Administration Fee for replacement drivers licences for people whose licences were lost or destroyed as a result of the bushfires
- Owners of registered vehicles destroyed in the bushfires can apply for a refund of unexpired registration as well as other components of registration including the CTP premium, Lifetime Support Scheme Levy and Emergency Services Levy
- The Registrar of motor vehicles also has the ability to waive the Administration Fee on the registration of replacement motor vehicles
- Fees associated with purchasing replacement copies of births, deaths and marriages certificates for those who have had these lost or destroyed in the bushfires

Grant assistance

A suite of grant assistance measures was made available to impacted communities to directly aid their recovery.

Personal Hardship Grants

Personal hardship grants were made available for residents affected by the bushfires. Personal hardship grants included payments of \$280 per adult, \$140 per child, and up to \$700 per family, designed to help people with their immediate emergency relief needs such as purchasing essential items including food, clothing and medical supplies.

Re-establishment Grants

Those impacted by the bushfires who were uninsured and had their principal residence damaged by the bushfires were offered re-establishment grants of up to \$10,000 to help them re-establish their homes.

Grants of up to \$10,000 was made available for eligible home owners and tenants to replace essential items. In addition, grants of up to \$10,000 was available to eligible home owners to assist with repairs.



The grant money has gone towards rebuilding my house which was partially damaged.

– Jonny Gloyne, Kangaroo Island Resident

Temporary Accommodation Grants

Temporary accommodation grants were also made available to those impacted by the bushfires with no alternative accommodation. These grants paid for short term emergency accommodation for individuals and families who were unable to return to their homes.

Small Business Loss of Income Grants

The Small Business Support Grant was a \$10,000 grant made available to small businesses significantly affected by the South Australian bushfires.

Small businesses who experienced a revenue drop of 40 per cent or more over a three month period as a direct or indirect result of the bushfires were eligible for the grant support.

The Small Business Support Grant enabled small businesses to cover costs associated with recovery and rebuilding, as well as to enable them to continue to pay employees and cover other expenses.

Small Business Recovery Grants

Small businesses were also provided recovery grants to assist with their clean-up and reinstatement of assets. Up to \$50,000 per business was provided via this grant.

SA Export Accelerator Bushfire Response Grants

Part of the SA Disaster Small Business Transformation and Growth Program, the SA Export Accelerator Bushfire Response Grants, assisted exporting businesses that were impacted by the bushfires to maintain their export markets or to find new trade opportunities.

The grant program focused on getting businesses who suffered economic impact from the fires up and running again, reconnecting with export markets, international commercial connections and achieving sustainable revenues and employment.

Three grants were available under the program:

- **Emerging Exporter Grants** provided up to \$5,000 to businesses that were new to exports and were attending their first business connection, trade show or business mission.
- **Export Accelerator Grants** provided up to \$30,000 to small and medium sized businesses to access global markets through marketing and export development opportunities.

- **New Market Entry Grants** provided up to \$15,000 per new international market to small and medium-sized businesses.

Primary Producer Grants

Primary producers directly affected by the South Australian bushfires were offered primary producer grants of up to \$75,000 to assist with costs associated with immediate recovery activities needed to rebuild their primary production enterprises.



The PIRSA grants and a couple of smaller grants have really helped us out. It went towards hiveware, all the hardware, buying the boxes, frames. We have people over from the Beekeepers Association of South Australia to help us build all this equipment and they're putting together hundreds of boxes and thousands of frames.

– Grantley Johnson, Kangaroo Island Beekeeper

Back to Business Grants for Apple Growers

Back to business grants of up to \$120,000 per hectare to eligible apple growers impacted by the bushfires, funded by the Commonwealth.

Back to Business Grants for Wine Producers

Grants of up to \$10,000 for eligible wine grape producers who had smoke impacted vineyards.

State Recovery Grants for NGOs

In April 2020 the Department of the Premier and Cabinet opened State Recovery Grants valued up to \$10,000 for NGOs that assisted in the recovery phase of the bushfires.

These grants supported community organisations who worked directly in the affected communities after an emergency event to achieve one or more of the following outcomes:

- Affected properties are visited and improved – including debris clearing, fence removal and re-building, internal cleaning, landscaping, and tree removal.
- Affected property owners, householders, large and small business and affected individuals are given emotional or practical help in the recovery phase.
- Community members have enhanced wellbeing and connection with the community.

To be eligible, NGOs and not-for-profit organisations were required to deliver services directly in the geographical footprint of the bushfires, or work with those directly affected as assessed through impact assessment data.

DPC received 12 applications for funding under the State Recovery Grant program. All 12 applicants were successful in applying for funding, each receiving \$10,000. A list of the successful applicants is outlined below:

- Adventist Development and Relief Agency Australia
- Apple and Pear Growers Association of South Australia
- Habitat for Humanity
- The Horse Federation of South Australia
- Light Church
- Lions Club International
- Livestock SA
- SAVEM / Post Bushfire Building Advisers Group
- St Vincent De Paul
- Schools Ministry Group
- Disaster Relief Australia
- Workskil Australia

State Emergency Relief Fund

On 24 December 2019, the South Australian Government established the South Australian Emergency Relief Fund (SERF). The South Australian Government pledged \$2 million to the SA Bushfire Appeal, the primary appeal for South Australia's emergency relief and recovery effort which raised money for SERF. Funds raised went directly to people affected by the bushfires in the Adelaide Hills and on Kangaroo Island.

Recovery payments were approved for those most significantly impacted by the disaster, including to the family of people of those who were lost in the fires, to individuals seriously injured in the fires, and to each household that lost their home, with additional payments provided per child in each household.

\$7.06 million was raised by the general public, with the total appeal raising \$9.06 million. \$7.94 million was gifted to 1,062 individuals, families and businesses, with a further \$1.12 million gifted to 39 community groups and organisations.

Volunteer Firefighting Grants

Volunteer firefighting support grants were available for volunteer firefighters who volunteered for more than 10 days and were either self-employed, or employed by a small or medium-sized business. Volunteers were eligible to claim lost net income of up to \$200 per day (without evidence) or \$300 a day (with evidence), to a maximum of \$6,000.

Concessional loans

Concessional loans were made available for small businesses, primary producers and NGOs for the restoration and replacement of business assets that were significantly damaged or destroyed, and/or to cover working capital expenses where a business suffered a significant loss of income as a result of the bushfires.

Businesses accessing these concessional loans were required to re-establish or continue their business in the same location or same local government area. Concessional loans were available in the following two categories:

- Bushfire Working Capital - Loans of up to \$50,000 (five year term).
- Bushfire Recovery Loans - of up to \$500,000 (10 year term).

Bushfire Recovery Grants

The Office for Recreation, Sport and Racing provided Bushfire Recovery Grants of up to \$10,000 for incorporated sporting clubs affected by the bushfire to assist their recovery. The grant program was open to any incorporated sporting organisation affected by the fires. The Office for Recreation, Sport and Racing approved Bushfire Recovery Grants for the following sporting organisations:

- Kenton Valley Pistol and Shooting Club
- The Adelaide Mountain Bike Club
- Port Lincoln Pony Club
- Human Projectile MTB Club
- Adelaide Polocrosse Club
- Bicycle South Australia
- Gravity Enduro South Australia

- Port Lincoln Sporting Car Club
- Stokes Bay Community Hall
- Port Lincoln Go Kart Club
- Maitland Rifle Club
- Western Districts Memorial Community and Sports Centre

Built environment recovery

Recovery in the built environment often intersects with the social, economic and natural environment recovery domains. Projects facilitated through the LER Program, the Disaster Rebuilding and Resilience Package, the Community Recovery Fund and the dedicated clean-up program all led to the establishment or restoration of impacted infrastructure.

Construction of new infrastructure assists community recovery by providing jobs for community members and supports long-term economic growth across regions. Re-establishment of damaged infrastructure gives communities spaces to come together which supports social recovery.

Clean-up

Over 250,000 hectares of land was burnt during the 2019-2020 bushfires in South Australia, creating significant demand for disaster waste clean-up services. The State Disaster Waste Management Capability Plan was implemented for the first time for operational support, with the State and Commonwealth Governments agreeing to jointly fund \$15.2 million worth of debris clean up. The bushfire debris clean-up program was extended in late 2020 to include the management of potentially dangerous trees on public road verges within the bushfire affected areas of the Adelaide Hills and Kangaroo Island. These additional works were fully funded by the State Government, with costs totalling approximately \$3.2 million.

Green Industries SA (GISA) managed the waste and resource recovery from 243 destroyed houses, 504 outbuildings and over 48,000 tonnes of debris. Clean-up works were awarded to South Australian companies, with preference given where possible to local contractors. Additionally, GISA worked with DPC to support the reimbursement of 56 properties that were cleaned-up privately.

The scope of the clean-up program included:

- Demolition, removal and disposal of debris associated with residential properties identified within the fire scar;
- Demolition and clean-up of a small number of commercial properties and community buildings;
- Clean-up, removal and disposal of affected trees and vegetation that pose a danger to public roadways or electricity lines; and

- Clean-up of buildings for impacted property owners (regardless of insurance or primary place of residence status or intention to rebuild).



Clean up made a big difference.
Once you get cleaned up you can see
the future.

– Fiona Jago, Western KI Caravan Park and
Wildlife Reserve

Clean-up process

1. Assessment

During the response phase of the event, assessments were undertaken by Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) and South Australian Police (SAPOL). USAR collected information on hazard assessment, while SAPOL collected field information on property damage.

2. Hazard Control

Across the impacted areas, 106 properties were assessed as having asbestos-containing materials, which were sprayed by specialist contractors to contain the asbestos. Copper chrome arsenic (CCA) ash was contained and collected by a specialist contractor across 416 properties.

3. Registration

A clean-up registration form was provided to impacted communities to collect information on contact details, owner-identified waste types, severity of damage, insurance status and permission for a GISA representative to conduct a site assessment. The registration form was available online or in-person at the Recovery Centres. Staff in the Recovery Centres assisted property owners to fill in the clean-up registration forms, and also provided referrals to relevant agencies and support services.

4. Site assessments

With prior permission from property owners, site assessments were completed by on-ground contractors

for each property. Information about the damage at each property was collected, such as a description of the damage, pictures of the site, waste materials requiring clean-up, and any site access issues.

5. Clean-up activities

In total, 547 properties, including 243 houses, were cleared of bushfire-affected materials during the clean-up program.

Cleaned-up properties by GISA	
Adelaide Hills	299
Kangaroo Island	235
Yorke Peninsula	10
South East	3
Total	547



Psychologically I think having a clear block was like having a clear slate, you know, we knew that eventually something really lovely would be there. For us that was probably the first visible sign of progress.

– Nell Ward, Lobethal Resident

Some properties were identified as only having a limited amount of damage. For these properties, GISA worked with the local councils to provide free waste drop-off vouchers to relevant property owners.

Clean-up works were also undertaken in relation to fencing wire and CCA treated timber, irrigation and polypipe, plastic orchard nettings, hazardous waste, and bushfire-affected trees and green waste.

6. Disposal and resource recovery

Scrap metals, construction and demolition materials were recovered from the debris clean-up. 60% of material was recovered in the Adelaide Hills, with 15% of materials recovered on Kangaroo Island. Many of the destroyed houses on Kangaroo Island were built using asbestos which limited the potential for recycling.

Of the over 48,000 tonnes of waste generated by the bushfire event, the state recovered over 15,000 tonnes.

Solar batteries

In an effort to lower electricity costs and increase resilience against electricity network failures or outages, the South Australian Government offered a free home battery to those rebuilding their homes after the bushfires, in an agreement with local manufacturer Sonnen.

188 families who lost homes in the fires were eligible for a free battery under the program, provided their properties included rooftop solar panels in their redevelopment.

Planning assessments and rebuilds

In response to the bushfires, DIT worked with the State Planning Commission, CFS, other agencies and councils to support communities through their recovery and rebuilds. DIT established a Planning and Building Assessment Recovery Unit. The free professional advisory service assisted with preparing and lodging development applications as well as navigating the assessment process from start to finish.

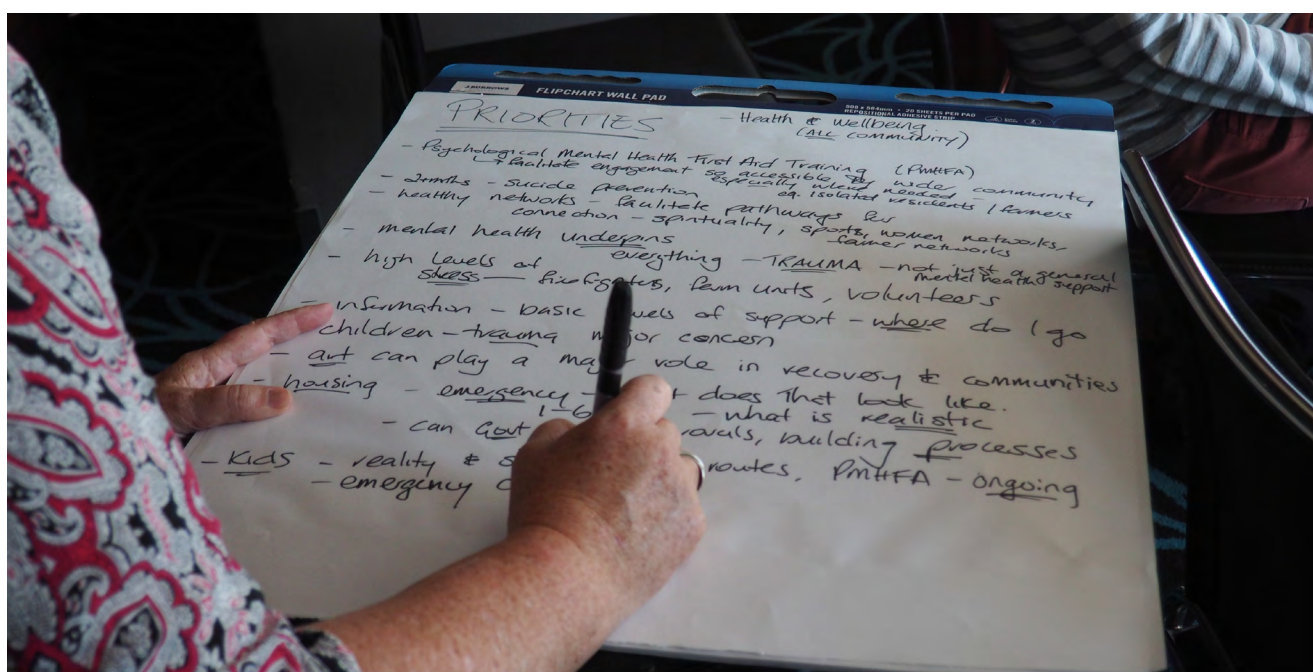
As outlined in the 2019-20 Bushfire Recovery Interim Report, 194 homes were destroyed or damaged by the bushfires in the Adelaide Hills and on Kangaroo Island. As of January 2025, analysis from the Department for Housing and Urban Development, in collaboration with impacted councils, indicate that approximately 78 of these properties have been rebuilt based on available development approval data.

Table: Rebuilt dwellings per local government area (As at January 2025)

Local Government Area	Homes destroyed	Replacement Dwelling Built
Adelaide Hills Council	81	36
Mount Barker District Council	17	9
Yorke Peninsula Council	8	3

Local Government Area	Homes destroyed	Replacement Dwelling Built
Kingston District Council	1	1
Kangaroo Island Council	87	29
Total	194	78*

*Not inclusive of Recovery Pods, non-residential buildings, temporary accommodation approvals and dwellings that have been approved pending completion at the time of the report's publication.



Natural environment recovery

The impacts across the natural environment were significant, with more than 40 state and nationally threatened species having more than half of their habitats destroyed on Kangaroo Island, and dozens of other threatened species affected in the Adelaide Hills.

Recovery in the natural environment was largely supported through the Wildlife Recovery Fund and the PIRSA-specific LER Projects. These projects were designed to support the long term recovery of the natural environment, and to enhance the natural resilience of the impacted areas.

Wildlife Recovery Fund

Following the bushfires, the Wildlife Recovery Fund was created in partnership with DEW and the Nature Foundation. The fund was designed to assist with the recovery and restoration of flora and fauna in fire-damaged regions.

The Wildlife Recovery Fund, delivered by DEW, supported 21 projects with a total funding pool of \$476,569. The value of funding awarded varied from up to \$5,000 for smaller projects on individual properties and up to \$50,000 for larger-scale projects. Projects ranged from post-bushfire monitoring of threatened species through to weed control activities, feral cat control and habitat restoration activities.

One project received \$25,000 to establish a monitoring program of 5,000 hectares of unburnt bushland following the bushfires on Kangaroo Island. Ecological surveys detected seven threatened fauna species, including the endangered KI Dunnart. Approximately 95% of the KI Dunnarts known range was within the fire zone, highlighting the importance of protecting the remaining unburnt habitat and the animals remaining within it. The grant supported camera trap monitoring, and threat abatement activities such as control of feral cats which are known predators of the KI Dunnart. Approximately 25 KI Dunnarts were recorded across a 12-month period, providing valuable baseline data for monitoring the recovery of this species.

Adelaide Hills Woodland Bird Resilience Program

The Cudlee Creek bushfire burnt over 22,000 hectares of the Adelaide Hills. This led to significant losses of

mature remnant trees in the landscape, contributing to the decline of habitat quality for grassy woodland birds.

The Adelaide Hills Woodland Bird Resilience Program was designed to improve the resilience of woodland bird populations by planting and protecting new native trees. The program also aimed to analyse the extent to which the loss of tree cover was impacted by the bushfire. This information will assist future habitat restoration efforts following future bushfires.

Paddock tree replacement

In partnership with Landscape South Australia Hills and Fleurieu and Trees for Life, 5,217 paddock trees were planted on commercial grazing properties. Guards were installed to prevent grazing by sheep and cattle, and the trees were planted at a density that facilitates on-going commercial operations while providing open grassy woodland habitat for ground-foraging birds. The plantings occurred across 13 private properties, now managed by the landholders. Monitoring of the planted trees has shown a survival rate of 97%.

Paddock tree loss assessment

In partnership with Landscape South Australia Hills and Fleurieu and DEW, an assessment of tree cover change across the region was delivered, including the area within the Cudlee Creek fire location. Maps and summary statistics have been compiled at a range of different scales (from regional to landscape scales), with variable trends detected across different parts of the region.

Dynamic Fire and Biodiversity tool

The Dynamic Fire and Biodiversity (DFaB) tool was developed and implemented across Kangaroo Island and the Adelaide Hills. This tool provides guidance on the location, scale and scheduling of future burns in fire-dependent habitats to improve their value for wildlife (including threatened species). It also provides insights on inappropriate fire scheduling so that negative impacts on biodiversity can be avoided. Outputs from DFaB were incorporated in strategic and operational fire planning.

DFaB was co-designed with DEW. As a dynamic tool, DFaB can be re-run in the future to provide updated priorities as circumstances change (such as new data becoming available or accounting for the impact of future bushfires).

National Parks

17 national parks were impacted by the bushfires across the Adelaide Hills and on Kangaroo Island.

The western end of Kangaroo Island, home to the internationally renowned Flinders Chase National Park, was heavily affected by the bushfires. 96 per cent of Flinders Chase National Park and the adjoining Ravine des Casoars Wilderness Protection Area was burnt, as well as 98 per cent of the nearby Kelly Hill Conservation Park and Cape Bouguer Wilderness Protection Area. The Rocky River visitor precinct in Flinders Chase was also destroyed, including the visitor centre, campground facilities and picnic areas. The boardwalk and the toilet facilities at the iconic Remarkable Rocks were also impacted.

National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) undertook works to help affected parks and reserves recover. This included supporting native wildlife recovery, rebuilding visitor facilities and creating a process to reimagine nature-based tourism in these special places. Essential infrastructure was rebuilt to make parks accessible for visitors, and the recovery of affected wildlife was supported with activities ranging from rapid assessment surveys and native animal relocations, to feral cat and pig management.

Funding was committed to reimagine, renew and rebuild bushfire-affected parks and visitor facilities. Due to the extent of the impact and the required rebuild on the western end of Kangaroo Island, unaffected parks on the eastern end were initially invested in to provide enhanced visitor facilities. Recovery initiatives included:

- a new \$20 million visitor hub adjacent to the Flinders Chase National Park entrance
- rebuilding Remarkable Rocks boardwalk and facilities, May's Homestead and Postman's Cottage and the Kangaroo Island Wilderness Trail
- upgrading campgrounds, day-visitor facilities and a pedestrian bridge at Antechamber Bay in Lashmar Conservation Park
- upgrading visitor facilities at Murray Lagoon in Cape Gantheaume Conservation Park
- creating a new camping experience at D'Estrees Bay in Cape Gantheaume Conservation Park
- enhancing visitor experiences in Cape Willoughby Conservation Park.

Wildlife Food Drops

The South Australian Government funded food drops to help Kangaroo Island's starving wildlife in the immediate aftermath of the fire event. The food drops were delivered by a combination of land based measures and the National Parks and Wildlife Service SA aeroplane, with most appropriate food sources available being provided, such as kangaroo pellets.

Land-based food drops on Kangaroo Island were coordinated in collaboration with the RSPCA.

Non-government organisations

Several non-government organisations (NGOs) played critical roles in South Australia's recovery program. A summary of efforts undertaken by some participating NGOs is outlined below:

BlazeAid

The bushfires led to significant community need to pull down and replace burnt fencing in the Adelaide Hills and on Kangaroo Island. In response, the State Government provided funding support to BlazeAid, a volunteer-based organisation that works with families and individuals in rural Australia after natural disasters, to undertake this important recovery work.

In the Adelaide Hills, BlazeAid established a re-fencing camp at Edithburgh, located at the Light Church. 255 BlazeAid volunteers worked on 25 properties, removed 253 kilometres of burnt fencing, erected 162 kilometres of new fencing, equating to a total of 130 days of work. BlazeAid volunteers also carted out more than 100,000 tonnes of stones from old stone fencing.

The State Government subsidised ferry fares from Kangaroo Island for BlazeAid volunteers who completed at least five days of service, in order to minimise the additional travel costs incurred compared to the mainland.

Under the initiative, BlazeAid volunteers were eligible for a free ferry fare back to Cape Jervis, making volunteering for the cause more accessible. BlazeAid held a re-fencing camp on Kangaroo Island from 6 January 2019 to 29 November 2019. 788 volunteers participated in the camp for a total of 9,469 volunteer days. BlazeAid volunteers worked on 180 Kangaroo Island properties, clearing 1,227 kilometres of damaged or destroyed fencing and rebuilding 784 kilometres of new fencing.

Habitat for Humanity

During the recovery phase, Habitat for Humanity assisted fire-impacted communities in Cudlee Creek from February 2020. With the support of nearly 300 volunteers, Habitat for Humanity completed 197 recovery days and assisted 147 property owners by the end of 2020.

The number of recovery days peaked in July 2020 as Habitat for Humanity responded to multiple

requests for assistance. Tasks completed by Habitat for Humanity volunteers included planting, garden restoration, removal of damaged structures, general debris clearance, weeding, relocation of timber, clearing damaged vegetation, and removal of damaged fences.

Habitat for Humanity modified activities and team size to meet safety requirements amid the COVID-19 pandemic, with only seven days postponed due to changing circumstances.

Habitat for Humanity worked across the fire escarpment from Cudlee Creek, Gumeracha and Birdwood in the north to Brunkunga and Harrogate in the south.



It would have taken me several months to achieve what was done in just one day.

I felt like a weight had been lifted and I could move forward and make decisions.

Having looked at the devastation surrounding us for nearly six months, the removal of the blackened/dead trees and shrubs now halts our constant daily remembering of what occurred. A step to coping more easily.

– Quotes from bushfire-impacted individuals supported by Habitat for Humanity

Disaster Relief Australia

Volunteer organisation Disaster Relief Australia utilises military and emergency services veterans to rapidly deploy volunteer emergency teams in the wake of natural disasters. Following the 2019/20 bushfires in South Australia, Disaster Relief Australia undertook a range of clean-up services for over 200 impacted property owners, including:

- Felling of bushfire-impacted trees
- Sifting through ash and debris for personal belongings
- Chainsaw operations

- Dismantling of infrastructure (sheds, etc.)
- Flooring removal
- Fenceline clearing
- Debris clean-up and removal

St Vincent de Paul Society South Australia

The St Vincent de Paul Society South Australia, an international lay Catholic organisation, provided support to bushfire-affected South Australian communities. The organisation offered financial assistance and provided gift vouchers to shop in St Vincent de Paul Society stores. The St Vincent de Paul Society also provided a Disaster Recovery Assistance program for people affected by the bushfires who suffered loss of property, damage to outbuildings/sheds, or lost vehicles, machinery or stock. A drought relief fund was also made available to assist farmers, farm workers or farm suppliers/contractors struggling due to the drought. The organisation also coordinated and managed donated goods following the bushfires, ensuring those impacted received the resources they needed during their recovery journey.

Tzu Chi

The Buddhist Compassion Relief Tzu Chi Foundation, an NGO humanitarian organisation, provided a Tzu Chi Relief Grant of up to \$1,600 for people whose primary residence was destroyed or suffered major damage in the Cudlee Creek fire. Tzu Chi volunteers created and distributed relief aid packs to those impacted. Supplies contained in these packages included eco-blankets and gift cards. The Tzu Chi Foundation paid out over \$100,000 in cash gift cards to bushfire affected families.

Australian Red Cross

The Australian Red Cross provided several bushfire recovery cash grants to those impacted by the bushfires in South Australia. Grants made available included an emergency grant for people who lost their homes, an injury grant for people who were hospitalised due to the fires, and a primary residence repair grant for homeowners whose homes have been structurally damaged and require repair to make them safe and habitable.

The Australian Red Cross provided psychological support at Relief Centres, and helped conduct outreach services to affected community members. The Australian Red Cross also provided assistance to community members to complete grant applications

and contributed funding for clinical psychologist Dr Rob Gordon to speak at community events regarding trauma, grief, recovery and resilience.

The Wyatt Trust

The Wyatt Trust administers a charitable trust to assist South Australians in financial hardship to purchase essential services and equipment. The Wyatt Trust offered grants to households impacted by the bushfires in South Australia. Grants were made available to assist in replacing essential equipment lost in the fires, or assistance for essential goods and services.

Rotary SA

Rotary International established a National Bushfire Relief Fund. South Australia was allocated a portion of this fund. The key purpose of the fund was to provide items required for recovery from the bushfires. Projects funded by Rotary included shoes for students at the Parndana School (purchased locally on Kangaroo Island), and funding for a Rotary Club to undertake fencing work.

Rotary also worked alongside BlazeAid in undertaking refencing work for impacted individuals and communities in the Cudlee Creek and Bradbury fire areas. Rotary contributed to clearing damaged or destroyed fence lines, building new fences, clearing debris, and cutting down and removing burnt trees from properties.

Lions Australia

Lions Australia played an important supporting role to the Relief Centres. The organisation provided catering at all Relief Centres, for all three incidents, for the duration they were opened.

Conclusion

The impacts of the 2019/2020 bushfires on the communities of Kangaroo Island, the Adelaide Hills and surrounding areas were profound and wide reaching.

The South Australian Government worked closely with those impacted, tailoring the recovery program to meet local needs on the ground. The State-led recovery program, with support provided by the Commonwealth Government, provided immediate relief and longer term recovery support to those who needed it most.

Five years on, many of the recovery projects continue to strengthen the resilience of impacted communities. Kangaroo Island's new multi-million dollar desalination plant now provides mains water to hundreds of homes and businesses for the first time, helping to protect the area from future bushfires. The launch of the Fabrik Arts and Heritage site in Lobethal is a testament to the sense of community in the Adelaide Hills, and an acknowledgement and celebration of the First Nations cultures and traditions.

Smaller-scale projects also achieved local recovery outcomes, with NGOs going above and beyond to provide financial aid, re-fencing, tree clearing, debris clean-up and other individual supports. The establishment of a business hub on Kangaroo Island and a business network in the Adelaide Hills provided vital support to help build and grow sustainable businesses.

Today, bushfire-impacted individuals and families continue to work together, rebuilding what was lost and forging a new future for their communities. Despite the time that has passed since the 2019/2020 bushfires, recovery has continued over the years, and many are still returning to a 'new normal' depending on their individual circumstances.

The recovery vision outlined a need to restore and improve the lives and livelihoods of the communities affected by the bushfires, along with their economic, physical, social, cultural and environmental assets. The many efforts outlined in this report provided much-needed assistance to those who needed it most, ensuring affected communities can continue to strive to achieve this shared vision of recovery.



I'm just looking forward
to the future.

– Jack Young, *Bike About
Mountain Bike Tours and Hire*



Glossary

AFB	American Foulbrood
AGKI	Agriculture Kangaroo Island
AGM	Annual General Meeting
AHWR	Adelaide Hills Wine Region
AI	Artificial Intelligence
BMX	Bicycle Motocross
CCA	Copper chrome arsenic
CFS	Country Fire Service
CMG	Consequence Management Group
CTP	Compulsory third party
CVA	Conservation Volunteers Australia
DEW	Department for Environment and Water
DFaB	Dynamic Fire and Biodiversity
DHS	Department of Human Services
DIT	Department for Infrastructure and Transport
DPC	Department of the Premier and Cabinet
DRFA	Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements
DRR	Disaster Rebuilding and Resilience
DRRP	Disaster Rebuilding and Resilience Program
DSD	Department of State Development
eDNA	Environmental DNA
EPA	Environment Protection Authority
ESL	Emergency Services Levy
FaB	Family and Business
FTE	Full-time equivalent
GI	Geographical Indication

GISA	Green Industries SA
GST	Goods and Services Tax
HA	Hectares
KI	Kangaroo Island
KIBBA	Kangaroo Island Business and Brand Alliance
KICC	Kangaroo Island Community Centre
KM	Kilometre
KVA	Kilovolt-amps
LER	Local Economic Recovery
MFS	Metropolitan Fire Service
MTB	Mountain Bike
NEMA	National Emergency Management Agency
NGO	Non-government organisation
NPWS	National Parks and Wildlife Service
PIRSA	Department of Primary Industries and Regions
RSPCA	The Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals
SA	South Australia
SAFECOM	South Australian Fire and Emergency Services Commission
SAGRN	South Australia Government Radio Network
SAHT	South Australian Housing Trust
SAPOL	South Australia Police
SATC	South Australian Tourism Commission
SAVEM	South Australian Veterinary Emergency Management
SERF	State Emergency Relief Fund
SERM	Security, Emergency and Recovery Management
SES	State Emergency Service
SRCG	State Recovery Coordination Group
SROG	State Recovery Operations Group

SYP	Southern Yorke Peninsula
UniSA	University of South Australia
USAR	Urban Search and Rescue

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For more information on recovery in South Australia, and to access the online version of this report, visit www.recovery.sa.gov.au



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of South Australia