

# Buchan District Recovery Update

OCTOBER 2021



## Buchan Streetscape Project

The Buchan Main Street and Linkages Project will boost the tourist economy by improving access to Buchan's town centre and enhancing its appeal, encouraging people to stop, stay and spend. It will also increase accessibility for the local community to move around town more safely and instinctively.

We have secured \$2.8 million in funding for this project from the Victorian Government's Local Economic Recovery Program which is jointly funded by the Australian and Victorian Governments. The Imagine Buchan – Community Streetscape and Beautification Workshop has been rescheduled for Tuesday 16 November. Keep an eye out for upcoming communications and on the project Your Say page (link below) closer to the day for confirmation or postponement advice should restrictions change.

To learn more, read progress updates and have your say on the project, visit <https://yoursay.eastgippsland.vic.gov.au/buchan-streetscape>.

## Buchan Recreation Reserve

In partnership with the Buchan Recreation Reserve Committee of Management, we have lodged a funding application to Black Summer Bushfire Recovery Grants Program to redevelop the Buchan Recreation Reserve.

If successful this project will transform the existing recreation reserve to lessen the impact of flooding on infrastructure, modernise and make compliant the pavilion, change room and play facilities. The upgrade intends to

incorporate future resilience into the design, function and construction, in order to meet the needs of the community during future times of emergency.

Stay tuned for updates on the application and project.

The Buchan Recreation Reserve has also been identified as one of the key facilities in the municipality to have a Wi-Fi service installed, specifically for use during emergencies.

This Wi-Fi service has already been installed onsite in the pavilion and is funded through the Australian Government's Strengthening Telecommunications against Natural Disaster (STAND) program.

Further upgrades being completed by Council include installation of upgraded air conditioning units, an onsite generator and hose reels.

## Community Resilience and Development Program

Our work on the Community Resilience and Development Program continues across the region. Funded by the Local Economic Recovery Program (LER) the program seeks to ensure the resilience and capacity of community facilities across East Gippsland.

Facilities in the Buchan District included in the program are the Wulgulmerang Sports Ground, Buchan Recreation Reserve and Buchan Hall. The program contains several elements including BAL (Bushfire Attack Level) assessments and upgrades to ember protection AV (audio/visual) and electrical switchboards.

Contractors have completed BAL assessment and reporting works, and

this has informed the scope of works now underway for the ember protection upgrades. Contracts have also been awarded for electrical switchboard and AV upgrade works.

For more information contact Paul Oakes, Senior Project Officer or Suzie Healy on (03) 5153 9500.

## Gelantipy bore upgrade

We recently completed upgrade works to the Gelantipy bore opposite the Gelantipy CFA and Bush Nursing Centre. The project was funded through drought funding.

Included in the works is an increased storage capacity of 100,000 litres, new standpipe, upgraded plumbing and pipes, pump upgrade and pump house. It is now available to use as a stock and domestic bore and during fire emergencies.

## Private powerlines scheme

The Victorian Government's Private Overhead Electric Line (POEL) Scheme is now open and accepting applications across all high-risk bushfire areas of East Gippsland.

The \$5 million POEL Scheme fully funds the replacement of eligible overhead uninsulated ('bare-wire') electric lines on private properties in areas that were most impacted by bushfires in the summer of 2019-20.

To learn more or to apply, visit: <https://www.energy.vic.gov.au/electricity/powerline-replacement> or contact the POEL Scheme project team on (03) 9918 7315 or [safer.powerlines@delwp.vic.gov.au](mailto:safer.powerlines@delwp.vic.gov.au).

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## Buchan bore and storage

A new bore has been drilled at the Bluff Reserve through a drought program funded by the Victorian Government.

Ancillary to the bore will be installation of a 100,000-litre storage tank, standpipe and solar system. The system will be a standalone system that can be accessed for stock and domestic purposes and will also be accessible for future emergency response activities.

The project is being delivered by Southern Rural Water in partnership with Council and is scheduled to be finalised by the end of January 2022.

## Project support for community facilities

We are working with several local Committees of Management to support the delivery of projects funded through various forms of bushfire recovery funding.

Included in this work are upgrades to the Wulgulmerang Sports Ground amenities block, Gelantipy Hall amenities and Buchan Hall kitchen, and Buchan Hall re-stumping.

## Fencing waste stockpile sites

Council and DELWP have arranged for fire impacted fencing waste left at approved locations across the region to be periodically collected and disposed of appropriately.

The location for Buchan is the Old Sawmill site, 2286 Bruthen-Buchan Road.

## Buchan RV dump point

The Buchan RV dump point is a priority project for Council. To date there have

been several challenges, some of which remain unresolved, around access to water, cultural heritage, land ownership and land subject to inundation.

Currently the preferred location for the dump point is at the Bluff Reserve, however this is still subject to several approvals. We hope to provide a more comprehensive update soon.

## GIVIT reaches a milestone

Following the 2019/20 fires, GIVIT, a free and easy to use national not-for-profit online donation platform, has supported those impacted by managing the distribution of donated goods to affected communities.

In the coming weeks, GIVIT will tick over a milestone in its work towards bushfire recovery across Victoria and will have assisted 51 families and individuals furnish their new accommodation with household essentials, whitegoods, appliances, bedding and furniture.

GIVIT has remained involved over the past 12 months assisting bushfire support workers in identifying needs and aligning donors to help temporary houses become homes for impacted residents while waiting to rebuild.

GIVIT has also partnered with RACV to launch the COVID-19 Relief Program to assist people in need dealing with the pandemic on top of existing challenges, including recovering from natural disasters such as the Black Summer bushfires, and severe storms and flooding.

For more information about GIVIT visit <http://www.givit.org.au/>

## Small business support

East Gippslanders who have a

business, or are thinking about starting one, can access free, flexible, confidential and tailored support from Council's Business Concierge.

The service is highly tailored to your business, and our concierge will work alongside you to achieve your business goals and provide information that is relevant to you and your circumstances.

For more information, contact Business Concierge Mali Bromley at [Economic.Development@egipps.vic.gov.au](mailto:Economic.Development@egipps.vic.gov.au) or call (03) 5153 9500 and ask for Mali.

Further support can also be accessed by utilising the Victorian Government's Business Recovery Advisory Service. This service is available to any business owner/operator in East Gippsland experiencing hardship, recovering from disaster, or needing special assistance. The free, ongoing program offers sessions with a Business Recovery Adviser for tailored support in all aspects of business operations, recovery planning and resilience building strategies.

For more information, visit <https://business.vic.gov.au/grants-and-programs/business-recovery-advisory-service>

## Rebuilding after bushfires

Our Rebuild Support Service (RSS) is available to support you with rebuilding after fires.

If you're thinking about rebuilding or have any questions, visit our bushfire rebuilding webpage at [www.eastgippsland.vic.gov.au/community/bushfire-rebuilding](http://www.eastgippsland.vic.gov.au/community/bushfire-rebuilding) or contact the RSS on [BRSS@egipps.vic.gov.au](mailto:BRSS@egipps.vic.gov.au) or (03) 5153 9500.

To learn more about Council projects, decisions and news read our monthly **My Council My Community** newsletter on our website.

