

Mallacoota District Recovery Update

DECEMBER 2021



'Coota Be Ready Day

The 'Coota Be Ready Day was held by MADRA on 28 November with a great turnout from all emergency services. In attendance were local and regional services and agencies, with the SES, CFA, Coast Guard and the Department of Environment Land Water and Planning (DELWP) bringing along trucks, boats and 'toys' for everyone to have a look at.

The Emergency Management Team from Council was on hand to assist in building household emergency plans and share information on the Mallacoota Local Incident Management Plan (LIMP).

Ambulance Victoria provided demonstrations while Envite and Friends of Mallacoota had helpful hints on native plants and bush regeneration. The Fuel Management Working Group was also in attendance to answer questions on fuel management, while the kids enjoyed a jump on the bouncing castle in the warm weather.

Others in attendance were Gippsland Community Legal Services, Gippsland Lakes Complete Health, Disaster Relief Australia, Mallacoota Fundraising Group, Mallacoota Sustainable Energy Group, Gippsland Water and Bushfire Recovery Victoria. We would like to extend a special thank you to all who attended on the day.



STAND Program announced

Thirty-five East Gippsland communities will receive telecommunications systems to help ensure resilient communications are available during emergency events. The rollout across shire, which started on 29 November 2021, is part of the national Strengthening Telecommunications Against Natural Disasters (STAND) program after our successful nomination of locations in the second round of the program.

Genoa Hall is one of the 35 sites, with work tipped for completion by July 2022.

The program will boost internet

connectivity resilience and help locals in disaster-prone areas stay connected to emergency and support services.

The community facilities to receive the infrastructure investments are halls, reserves and fire stations across the length and breadth of the shire. The upgrades will include satellite-linked Wi-Fi, and, for most community facilities, a Smart TV and meeting system capability is provided to support communities to remain connected through emergency events.

The Commonwealth has committed to fund satellite service costs for the first three years.

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Mayor Cr Mark Reeves said the 2019-20 bushfires taught us that we need to make networks more resilient if we're going to ensure that our towns are connected when it matters most.

"These upgrades will provide communities with more resilient satellite internet and AV connections in times of disaster," Cr Reeves said.

"This is new infrastructure that helps some of our most remote and isolated communities be more resilient by providing another option at a community facility when the mobile telecommunication system fails. That is great progress and a proactive response to the 2019-20 Black Summer fires."

There are currently eight existing municipal and district-level STAND sites across the shire at Bairnsdale City Oval, Buchan Recreation Reserve, Cann River Recreation Reserve, Mallacoota Main Hall, Omeo Recreation Reserve, Orbost Recreation Reserve (cricket club oval) and Paynesville Recreation Reserve.

"We successfully nominated an additional 35 sites to support alignment with work to be undertaken as part of the Community Resilience and Development Program," Cr Reeves said.

"In partnership with NBN and representatives of each committee of management we are working to confirm installation dates."

Local contractors are being used where possible, with contractors from East Gippsland and the wider Gippsland region already engaged to work on the rollout.

Council and community emergency management coordinators will integrate new operational processes into municipal emergency planning and procedures.

Find out more by contacting your local Place Manager or Paul Oakes, Senior Project Officer on (03) 5153 9500.

Skate park detailed design

The detailed design for the Mallacoota Skate Park (pictured below) is progressing and there are great images available on the Your Say East Gippsland project page at <https://bit.ly/3e4IdEt>

This project has evolved with significant input from the local youth and skating community, feeding into a skilled and specialist skate park design team.

Project construction updates will continue to be provided through the Mallacoota and District Place Update and via the project's Your Say page.

Streetscape upgrade

We recently started consultation seeking initial feedback on a range of ideas for improvement to the streetscape in Maurice Avenue. We thank the

community for the 102 survey responses and additional feedback received through this first opportunity to inform the project.

A detailed summary of that feedback is now available on the Your Say East Gippsland page at <https://bit.ly/3GZaQiA>

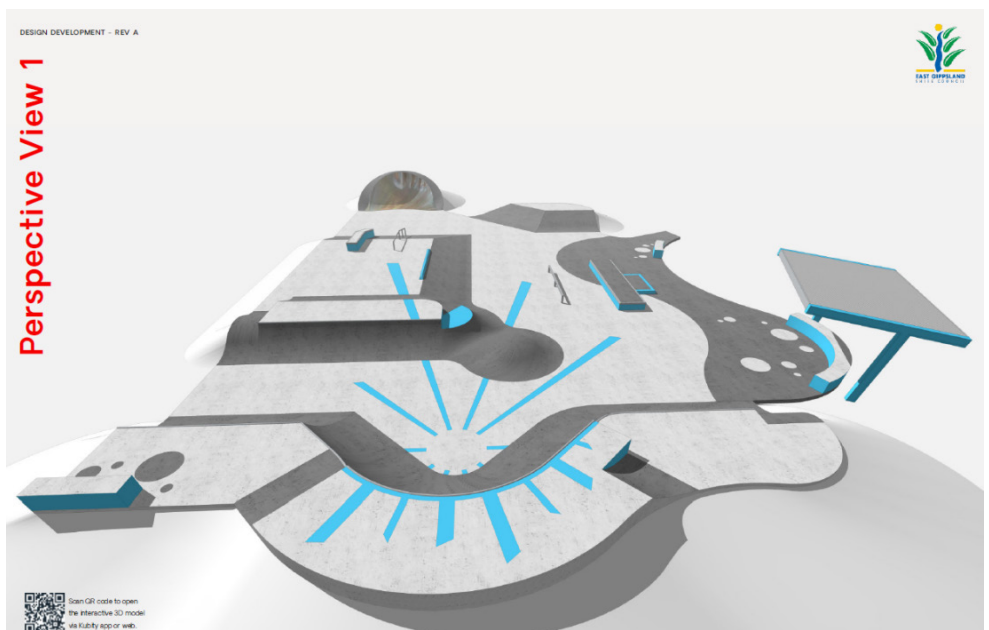
It is clear from feedback that the community values the natural features within the existing streetscape, and any design needs to maintain and build on this character.

The next stage of the project will include development of a more detailed concept plan based on the feedback received to date, followed by further community engagement in early 2022.

Betka Beach seawall

As DELWP concludes the replacement of the Betka Beach seawall, we are eager to understand the community's interest in any further changes at the site.

Through a consultative process in the first half of 2022, we will seek feedback



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regarding any desire for changes or improvements to the open space area, landscaping, paths and accessibility, facilities and parking, as examples.

This initial consultation will provide a foundation to inform whether further planning, design and engagement activities are needed at this time.

Keep informed via Your Say

Did you know you can subscribe for updates on all major projects being delivered by East Gippsland Shire Council?

Visit the Your Say East Gippsland website - <https://yoursay.eastgippsland.vic.gov.au/> - browse the projects, and subscribe to projects of interest to receive a notification following major updates to the project.

Emergency management update

Our Emergency Management Team caught up with quite a few of the local

community at the 'Coota Be Ready Day. A lot of feedback was received by the team on the day, and this has been brought back into Council to be acted upon.

With fire inspections due commence in the Mallacoota and Cann River areas the week of 13 December, property owners should be cleaning up their properties by mowing long grass, removing trees and shrubs against the house, cleaning gutters and moving wood heaps away from the house.

Residents with wood piles, boats and vehicles out on easements near bushland should be moving these objects back on to their own properties as these objects could be creating risks to their property as well as their neighbours.

Our contractors also started roadside slashing in these areas the week of 6 December. We acknowledge the exceptional growth of vegetation everyone is experiencing this year and

are making every effort to catch up with the slashing program. Another slash is also programmed for early in the New Year.

New community grants program

Our Community Infrastructure Grant Program provides funding opportunities for East Gippsland based community groups and organisations. Through this program, we will support a wide range of infrastructure projects that provide a high level of benefit to the community. Applications close Wednesday 26 January 2022.

The projects for which funds are being applied for must start after 1 April 2022 and be completed by 1 June 2023. Applications need to be submitted and acquitted through SmartyGrants, an online grants management program. More information online: eastgippsland.vic.gov.au/community/grants

A festive green banner with white confetti, stars, and Christmas decorations like gift boxes and Santa hats. The text is centered in white.

East Gippsland Shire Council
wishes all members of
the community a
Merry Christmas and a
safe and happy 2022