

Cann Valley Recovery Update

MARCH 2022



It was great to join the Tamboon community for the opening of their 'Tamboon Fireguard' shed on Thursday 3 March. The much-needed facility is a credit to all involved, from fundraising, lobbying government and other agencies, sourcing materials to working together to support the community. Council is proud to be involved with this project, and the Tamboon community more broadly, as it bounces back from the fire event and plans for a more resilient future.

A message from your Place Manager

As we all know, COVID-19 (including lockdowns and border closures) has certainly played havoc with organising community gatherings and slowed the recovery processes over the past two years. However, we are all hoping that 2022 will bring a much easier pathway to move forward.

The year has started well for Cann Valley District with the announcement of multiple successful grant applications for projects as a result of significant local efforts and the support of Council. Further to this, the Cann Valley District Recovery Group was successful in obtaining the lease for the old Noorinbee Winery, so let's hope that this will be an indication of what other great things lie ahead.

Grants announced

We were pleased to be informed of the multi-million-dollar boost for bushfire-

impacted communities across the region by the Federal Government. Nearly \$30 million has been pledged to support recovery and resilience activities in East Gippsland as part of Black Summer Bushfire Recovery Grants Program.

To address a broad range of priority community needs, we made several applications on behalf of community groups or addressing priorities identified by communities. For the Cann Valley District, we successfully applied on behalf of the community for the Mick Baum Park Skate Park Redevelopment (\$561,000), and the Club Terrace Community Facility Project (\$751,250). We were also really pleased to hear of the following successful applications in the Cann Valley District; Healthy and Resilient Communities / Emergency Preparedness (\$448,912) and Emergency Telecommunications Installation in Tamboon (\$209,195). We will continue to work closely

with those communities who were unsuccessful in their applications, identify and seek funding for local recovery priorities and advocate for funding to support resilience and renewal across the regions..

For full details on successful projects lodged, read more on our website.

Cann Valley Waste Transfer Station

Thank you to the community members who participated in the recent review of the proposal for the Cann Valley Waste Transfer Station and those who attended the information sessions held on 6 October 2021.

We have taken into consideration the concerns raised about the development of the transfer station at Gauge Track off Tamboon Road and as a result we investigated several alternative sites proposed by a community working group committee established to advise Council.

These site investigations have revealed that the costs associated with removing existing vegetation and levelling off the land is more than can be justified making these other sites unviable. We will proceed with the only viable option available at the Gauge Track Site and will start seeking all necessary approvals shortly.

This decision was made using a comprehensive process that took into consideration the need to proceed as the existing landfill at Cann River is reaching its end of life as well as the views presented by the working group. We are committed to a smooth transition to the new site and service, ensuring the community has the required waste disposal infrastructure necessary to function efficiently.

You can follow the progress of the project on our website: <https://yoursay.eastgippsland.vic.gov.au/cann-river->

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Strengthening disaster telecommunications

We have collaborated with the Department of Jobs Precincts and Roads (DJPR) and NBN on the completion of thirty-seven Strengthening Telecommunications Against Natural Disasters (STAND) satellite communication systems on community facilities, complementing the existing eight systems currently installed in our LGA.

The Cann River Public Community Hall, Tamboon fireguard shed, Combiobar Community Hall and Club Terrace Recreation Reserve have the STAND system installed, with nearby STAND facilities surrounding the Cann Valley District in Genoa, Mallacoota, Bemm River and Orbost.

Audio Visual (AV) equipment was installed at Combiobar Hall early December 2021 and an AV is ready to be installed in Club Terrace once the power has been transferred from the old school to an appropriate site. Work on these initiatives will also assist the efforts currently being undertaken by CVDRG in developing a resilience profile and disaster preparedness measures for future events.

To keep informed of Council's major projects, visit the Major Projects Dashboard on our website.

Tourism consultation - 29 March

Tourism has been identified as a priority within the Cann Valley district and as a result is one of three districts selected across East Gippsland to participate in the development of Tourism Opportunity Plans (TOPs). Errinundra to Snowy and

Buchan were also selected.

The TOPs aim to provide local communities, partners, and Council with a better understanding of existing tourism assets. They will also identify tourism opportunities to support recovery at district level.

We have engaged consultants who are working in collaboration with a TOPs working group (consisting of community members within the Cann Valley district) to develop a draft plan.

This plan will be presented at a Public Consultation on Tuesday 29 March from 5.00 pm – 7.30 pm at the Cann River Bush Nursing Centre.

Further supporting tourism interests, we have applied for grant funding through the current Enabling Tourism Fund to complete a tourism master plan for Cann River. This master plan will look at Cann River's significant role as a visitor gateway into East Gippsland, investigating innovative solutions and initiatives to improve the overall destination performance and optimise the opportunities to promote the region's natural assets and greater tourism offerings.

The plan will review the large number of visitors travelling through the Cann Valley and the potential for them to linger longer and increase their spend by showcasing East Gippsland's natural assets, world class produce, arts and cultural storytelling.

This is important to increase the visitor spend and plays a critical part of a larger plan supporting the disaster recovery efforts in East Gippsland.

The completion of the master plan is dependent on the successful outcome of the application only.

Grant opportunities

The following grant opportunities are currently open to further support your local recovery:

BRV LER Round 3

The final round of Local Community Projects Grants, funded under the Local Economic Recovery (LER) Program, is now open. The program closes Monday 11 April 2022 11.59 pm.

For more information or to apply, visit <https://www.vic.gov.au/bushfire-recovery-local-community-projects-grants-fund>

Strengthening Rural Communities

Foundation for Rural & Regional Renewal (FRRR) have grant funds of up to \$25,000 available to not-for-profit organisations and community groups for projects that support communities in remote, rural or regional Australia with fewer than 15,000 people. This program is always open for applications. Round 13 is currently open. For more information or to apply, visit <https://frrr.org.au/funding/place/strengthening-rural-communities/>

Community Bushfire Recovery Grants

Grants up to \$75,000 are available to support local projects that strengthen community-led recovery. This is the second grant round for East Gippsland Community Foundation, which formed in 2021 to support the region's long-term recovery from the 2019-2020 Victorian bushfires.

For more information visit www.givetoeastgippsland.org.au.

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