

Media Release



12 August 2022

Funding for emergency preparedness and resilience

Adelaide Hills Council has successfully secured funding through two different grants from the Federal National Recovery and Resilience Agency to assist communities to become more resilient and prepared for future emergencies, including but not limited to bushfires.

The Black Summer Bushfire Recovery grant has awarded \$250,000 to Adelaide Hills Council for their Recovery Ready Infrastructure Program. Council has also been granted \$1,028,800.00 over three years for the Towards Community Resilience Project. This funding came from the Preparing Australian Communities Program.

Adelaide Hills Mayor Jan-Claire Wisdom says this funding is critical to our community and we must remember that recovery can take a long time.

“We have always said that disaster recovery is a marathon, not a sprint, and there is still much work to do.”

“It has taken a lot of advocacy and time to secure these grants so I’m thrilled we can continue to implement our community bushfire preparedness programs.”

The Recovery Ready Infrastructure program will seek to offer funding for local community facilities to prepare them to support communities in the immediate recovery period following a bushfire or emergency. This can include offering clean water, shelter, power, food, communication capacity and social connection in the immediate and short term periods following a bushfire. Initiatives can also look at how communities can better prepare themselves for emergencies such as offering community information sessions about bushfire preparedness or other activities that assist communities to connect and prepare.

Council will now develop the process that will guide successful funding distribution to the community.

The Towards Community Resilience project builds on a recently completed pilot that has been funded for 18 months by Country South Australia Primary Health Network - the Community Readiness and Resilience Program. The evaluation of this pilot will assist the development of activities and initiatives throughout the next three years of funding.

Other initiatives that facilitate preparedness and help build resilience in our community are funded through the Preparing Australian Communities Program and include funding several part time Community Resilience Officer positions who will support the following initiatives:

CLER workshops (Community Led Emergency Resilience workshops), facilitated by the Australian Red Cross and designed to support individual townships to identify the unique needs of their communities and

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strategies that they think will better prepare them for future emergencies. Council officers work with the communities through the process to assist them to implement their plans.

Community Education – including workshops designed for parents and caregivers about how to prepare children for future emergencies in an age-appropriate way.

AHCABN – the establishment and support of a community network (Adelaide Hills Community Action bushfire network), that shares information about preparedness and recovery and works with agencies and councils to improve emergency response, relief, recovery and readiness, ensuring that lessons learnt from recent bushfires are taken into account.

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