

Upper Murray Community Recovery

Upper Murray Weekly Recovery Update - 30th April 2020
www.towong.vic.gov.au/bushfirerecovery

Building and Planning Advice.

Fees have been waived - permits are still required.

As more residents move forward in recovery and rebuilding, Council is offering some advice to help guide planning and building applications. While planning and building approval costs for bushfire affected applications have been waived, permits are still required on all structures to comply with State Government legislation.

Building approvals cover structural integrity and may include pool fencing, sheds, possibly even cubby houses. Planning approvals concern land use and the impact on the surrounding environment. Both approvals are needed, even if you are rebuilding a shed.

Terry Coysh lost his machinery shed in the fires and also sells sheds as part of Mildren and Coysh. Early on Terry experienced confusion around permits first-hand, saying people were unclear about whether permits were actually required.

Terry and brother Greg met with Council Planner Elke Cummins who they say helped to clarify requirements and the process, saying the support "made things a lot better".

After a couple of site inspections, Terry and his wife Sherree have the ok to go ahead and rebuild their shed.

Residents are reminded that all sheds require a planning permit, even if they are simply replacing an old shed. All sheds need to be looked at as new builds and State Government legislation requires a planning permit. You may not get insurance if it's not done properly, and it could become a headache when you sell.

Rebuilding is exempt from advertising, as long as conditions are met.

Council is working to streamline building and planning fire recovery applications and site inspections. However residents are asked to keep in mind that some aspects may take longer including flooding overlays or land inundation overlays.

Planning and building approval costs for bushfire affected applications have been waived though there may still be some costs for those using private consultants.

In most cases a planning permit is not needed for water tanks and fees have been waived for installation of septic tanks.

The Victorian Government is paying consultants to undertake land capability assessments for septic tanks.

Further information is available at www.towong.vic.gov.au/bushfirerecovery or to discuss your planning or building application requirements with a Council Planner, call 1800 518 222 or email recovery@towong.vic.gov.au.

ADF ANZAC Day Message

The soldiers part of Task Group 646.7 who supported our region following the bushfires had planned to return to take part in local ANZAC Day celebrations.

While COVID-19 changed those plans, this didn't stop them sending some encouraging words of support. It is clear that the warmth, gratitude and resilience of our communities has left a lasting impression.

May their encouraging words of support remain with us all as we continue our journey to recovery.

Watch the video at www.facebook.com/towong.shire.council



Commanding Officer Lieutenant Colonel Colin Lingo and comrades send a special ANZAC message.

Log Trucks - Shelley/Walwa

Residents should be aware of increased log truck activity around Shelley/Walwa areas as fire affected trees are being removed.

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Recovery Contacts

- **Towong Shire Council Recovery Helpline:** 1800 518 222 or email recovery@towong.vic.gov.au
- **Bushfire Recovery Victoria - Case Support Coordinators:** 1800 560 760 or email connect@brv.vic.gov.au
- **Register for the Bushfire Clean-Up Program:** 1800 560 760 or visit vic.gov.au/bushfire-clean-up-program
- **Resources and Updates:** Visit www.towong.vic.gov.au/bushfirerecovery or www.vic.gov.au/bushfire-recovery-victoria