A Message From The Mayor, Cr David Wortmann

“While some of our residents and businesses in the Upper Murray continue to rebuild their lives, the last thing they need to worry about is paying their Council rates and fees. We hope the Relief Package alleviates that immediate concern.

Council also recognises that it is not just those in the direct impact zone who need a hand. Our entire Shire has been impacted and the package provides some relief for all ratepayers.

I would like to acknowledge the significant contribution from Bushfire Recovery Victoria which has made the Bushfire Rates Relief Package possible.”

“David Wortmann
Cr David Wortmann, Mayor

Connect With Us

Tallangatta Customer Service Centre
Monday - Friday 8.30am - 5pm
T: (02) 6071 5100
E: info@towong.vic.gov.au

Corryong Customer Service Centre
Monday - Friday 9am - 4.30pm
T: (02) 6076 2160
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Bushfire Recovery
Monday - Friday 9am - 4.30pm
T: 1800 518 222
E: recovery@towong.vic.gov.au
W: towong.vic.gov.au/bushfirerecovery

Website
www.towong.vic.gov.au

Facebook
www.facebook.com/towong.shire.council/

May 2020
Bushfire Rates Relief Package

Towong Shire Council has received $3.2M from Bushfire Recovery Victoria through the Victorian Government’s Council Assistance Fund. The funding will support our communities in the wake of the Upper Murray 2020 Bushfires.

The funds will be used by Council to credit part of the 2019/20 and 2020/21 rates and business registration fees, as well as fees related to rebuilding of private assets in fire-affected areas.

The relief is intended to help alleviate some of the financial hardship experienced by Towong Shire residents and businesses who have been impacted by the bushfires.

In determining the allocation of rate relief, Council has carefully considered the varying levels of impact resulting from the fires; from direct and severely impacted properties and lives, through to indirect social and economic impacts.

The Bushfire Rates Relief Package is comprised of three components:

1. Relief for Residents
2. Relief for Businesses
3. Support for Rebuilding and Development

Council is confident the Package will go a little way towards easing the financial pressures for Towong Shire residents and businesses.

1. Relief for Residents

Ratepayer accounts will be automatically credited based on the classifications below and this will be reflected on individual rate notices.

All credited amounts will be the equivalent of rates and fees in the 2019/20 Financial Year.

Tier 1: Severe Direct Impact
Loss of Residence and/or Infrastructure (burnt)
Automatic once-off credit of rates equivalent to four (4) instalments.

Tier 2: Direct Impact
Properties within the Fire Zone (burnt)
Automatic once-off credit of rates equivalent to three (3) instalments.

Tier 3: Indirectly Impacted
Properties in the Upper Murray
Upper Murray properties that are not included in Tier 1 and 2 will receive a once-off credit of $350.

Tier 4: Indirectly Impacted
All Properties in Towong Shire
No rate increase will be applied for the 2020/21 Financial Year. Council will not be passing on the approved 5.55% rate increase to ratepayers in the 2020/21 Financial Year, thereby providing relief for all ratepayers.

Three sets of data have been used to develop the Tiers of impact and support:
- Mapping of the Fire Impact Zone by DELWP;
- Certified Valuations (Post Bushfire) by Valuer-General Victoria; and
- Property Impact Assessments

2. Relief for Businesses

Business Rates
Automatic once-off credit of rates equivalent to four (4) instalments.

Business Registration Fees
Businesses that are classed as Food, Accommodation and Health Act Premises, will have their business registration renewal fees waived throughout 2020 and 2021. New businesses will also not pay a registration fee. While the fees are waived, Businesses do still need to renew their registration.

3. Support for Rebuilding and Development

While permits are still required, all Building, Planning and Septic Tank Permit fees will be waived in bushfire-affected areas throughout 2020 and 2021.

Further Support or Queries

Residents who are continuing to face financial hardship are encouraged to contact Council’s Property and Rates Team to discuss alternative arrangements, including interest free deferment of rates and instalment plans.

If residents believe the extent of damage their property has sustained has been recorded incorrectly, please contact Council’s Property and Rates Team on 02 6071 5100.