



19 March 2026

Mr Ryan Batchelor  
Chair, Legislative Council Environment And Planning Committee  
Spring Street  
EAST MELBOURNE VIC 3002

Via: Parliament of Victoria Website

Dear Mr Batchelor,

### **Inquiry into the 2026 Summer Fires Across Victoria**

We welcome the Parliamentary Inquiry into the 2026 Summer Fires Across Victoria and thank you for the opportunity to provide this submission.

Strathbogie Shire Council is a small rural Council in Victoria, with a limited rate base and modest administrative capacity, that is located approximately two hours north of the Melbourne CBD, and borders with seven other Victorian municipalities.

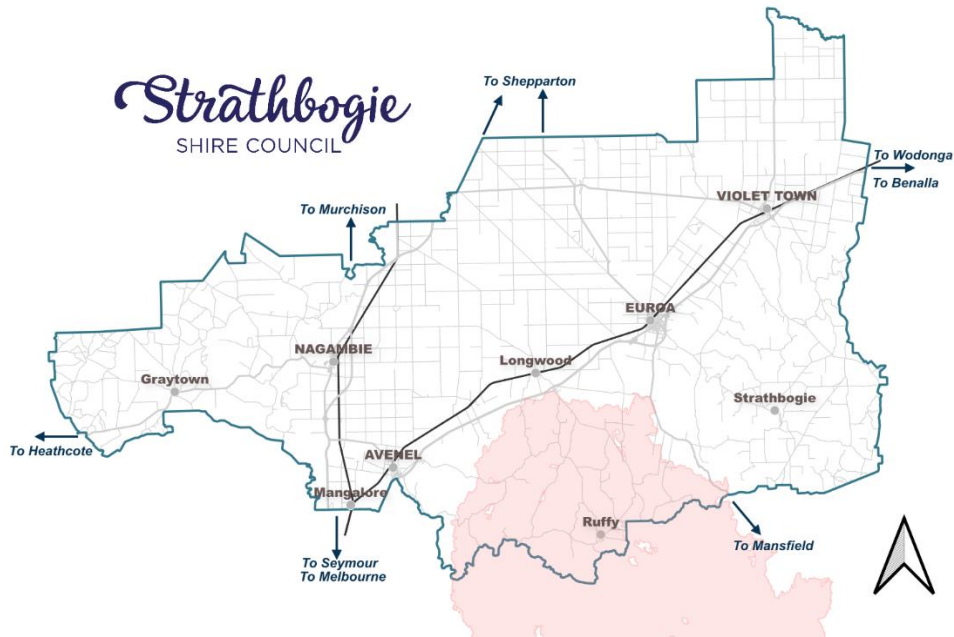
It has a municipal area of 3,303 sq km, a population of just over 11,500 people (2021 census), and a road network of over 2,200 kms. As a comparison, Kingston City Council has a municipal area of 91 sq km, a population of 167,228 and a road network of 619 kms. We have 3.6 times more roads than Kingston and less than half the budget to maintain.

The January 2026 Longwood Berrys Lane Fire, which commenced on 7 January 2026 in our municipality, caused widespread and significant loss and damage across our community.

The event has and will continue to have profound, far-reaching, and enduring impacts on individuals, families, and communities, as well as on livelihoods, natural and agricultural landscapes, significant loss of cultural sites, critical infrastructure, and local and regional economies.

Beyond the immediate destruction, the effects of the fire have disrupted social, environmental, and economic systems that underpin community wellbeing. The consequences of this disaster will continue to be felt for many years, where recovery can be inherently complex, multi-staged, and resource-intensive, requiring sustained effort, coordination, and long-term commitment from all levels of government and the community.

While the full devastation of the event is still to be realised, the initial impact assessments indicate that at least 520 properties (equating to approximately 12% of our municipal area) within the Strathbogie Shire Council area have been impacted.



Source: Near Real-Time Bushfire Extents: © Commonwealth of Australia (Geoscience Australia) Map created 02/02/2026

More than 100 dwellings have been destroyed and damage to 294 other structures. Agriculture Victoria also notes the following losses to date:

- 29,593 hectares of land impacted
- 165 hectares of grape vines lost
- 25,177 hectares of grazing pasture impacted
- 88 hectares of private business impacted
- 11,821 tonnes hay/silage lost
- 2.21 tonnes stored grain lost
- Upwards of 2,291 kilometres of fencing destroyed
- Significant livestock lost including sheep, cattle, pigs, goats, horses, chickens and other domestic animals.

Sources: Fire Rescue Victoria and Agriculture Victoria

The devastation experienced by affected communities has been significant and deeply felt.

Homes, businesses, farms, and treasured landscapes were lost or damaged, and many residents continue to face significant emotional, social, and economic hardship that will last for years.

The Longwood Berrys Lane bushfire has profoundly and enduringly changed the landscape and communities of Creighton's Creek, Gooram, Longwood East, Ruffy, Tarcombe, and Upton Hill.

We mourn the loss of life, homes, properties, businesses, and livestock, as well as the wider impact on our community and local economy during what should have been a peak tourism period. Economic impacts include immediate direct losses and long-term disruption to supply chains, particularly in an economy underpinned by agriculture and visitation.

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Strathbogie Shire Council provides the following responses to the eleven areas as detailed in the terms of reference:

- (1) the preparation and planning by government, emergency services agencies and the community ahead of the fire season, including management of public and private land and roadsides

Council manages approximately 4,500 kilometres of roadsides double the length of the road network representing a significant and ongoing operational responsibility. This work, along with management of Crown land, requires substantial investment in personnel, contractors, equipment, training, and funding.

Key challenges and considerations include:

- Balancing bushfire risk and biodiversity: Roadsides serve as transport corridors and vital ecological reserves. Over 50% of Council-managed roadsides have High or Very High conservation value, limiting vegetation removal, while almost the entire municipality falls under a Bushfire Management Overlay.
- Scale and funding constraints: The Shire's size and bushfire risk far exceed its rateable base, making State and Federal funding essential. Current funding supports boom spraying along 900 km of roadsides and provides \$67,000 annually for roadside weed and pest control, which can also reduce fire fuel loads, but overall resources remain limited.
- Early warning system limitations: Effective bushfire preparedness depends on reliable telecommunications, power supply, and generator fuel, particularly in rural areas. Without these, warnings are less effective.
- Emergency coordination: The Municipal Emergency Management Plan proved invaluable for supporting cross-sector agency coordination across mitigation, response, and recovery.
- Legislative review needed: State and federal legislation should be reviewed to better balance human life protection with habitat and biodiversity conservation.

**Recommendation: A commitment from the Government to:**

- 1. Provide Local Governments, as existing Crown Land Managers, an initial \$1million per annum over the next four years to:**
  - **Revegetate and manage weed infestation in burnt areas**
  - **Map and manage local roadside vegetation and reserves**
  - **Manage Crown Reserves, including the management of fire affected and hazardous trees and risks to public safety associated with bushfire impacts.**
- 2. Funding for pest plant and pest animal management to be significantly increased and an ongoing commitment made to the funding to enable proactive weed and pest management to reduce future fuel loads and biodiversity issues**
- 3. Funding for State agencies to better manage their land responsibilities - an example is the extreme risks present within the Shire from Hume Highway corridor fires where build-up of fuel loads exacerbate fires starting.**

- (2) the causes and circumstances of the bushfires, including climate change and the adequacy of the Government's climate policies and actions, forecasts, warnings and public education on bushfire threats

Current climate conditions including drought, declining rainfall, and increasing extreme heat days are driving more intense bushfires. While the fire began on Wednesday, 7 January, catastrophic conditions on Friday, 9 January, greatly intensified its behaviour and rate of spread.

Key points:

- Forecasting and warnings:
  - Council relies on CFA and Bureau of Meteorology fire weather warnings; forecasting has improved significantly since 2009
  - Community access strengthened via VicEmergency app/website, broadcasts, text alerts, and social media.
- Community understanding gaps:
  - Confusion persists around Bushfire Places of Last Resort and Emergency Relief Centres, including their purpose, available support, and decision-making for relocations
  - Statewide messaging requires clearer communication; improved in-app VicEmergency messaging and consistent event/warning colour coding are needed.
- Long-term planning and preparedness:
  - Regular climate risk and fuel load assessments could strengthen forecasting, with additional funding required
  - Better access to satellite data would improve planning and preparedness
  - More comprehensive community education programs needed to address knowledge gaps and clarify emergency processes
  - Planning, location, and communication of Emergency Relief Centres require greater attention to support communities effectively.
- Infrastructure vulnerabilities:
  - Widespread power outages caused gaps in emergency warnings due to concurrent loss of telecommunications.
  - The increased hazards identified from the endless lengths of wire rope and guardrail barriers erected to save lives but instead increases difficulty in firefighting capability
  - The installation of the cabling has resulted in significant financial loss to individuals, governments, community agencies, and service providers, as it limited efforts to fight the fire and contributed to the resulting damage.

Recommendation:

1. **A commitment from the Government to improve in-app messaging through VicEmergency to enable safe access to Emergency Relief Centres, specifying safe detour routes**
2. **Reviewing location of wire rope and guardrail installations subject to a risk assessment that considers the impact that the wire rope and guardrails had on the inability to effectively access to fight the fire.**

- (3) funding, equipment and appliances for the Country Fire Authority (CFA), Fire Rescue Victoria and Forest Fire Management Victoria, and recruitment and retention of CFA volunteers

Ongoing feedback highlights concerns about a disconnect between volunteer and career personnel within the Country Fire Authority (CFA) and Fire Rescue Victoria, particularly around respect for the chain of command. Clear leadership and strong collaboration are essential to an effective response.

Volunteers play a vital and highly valued role in supporting operations, and maintaining strong working relationships is essential. Broader concerns have been raised about gaps in coordination, resourcing and ongoing engagement across volunteer agencies. There has also been consistent feedback from CFA volunteers about challenges with resource allocation, including requests for resources not being met.

Feedback from CFA Group Officers indicates limited access to community leadership and capability-building programs, as well as ongoing equipment and resource shortfalls. Collectively, these issues highlight the need for clearer communication, stronger support pathways, and greater investment in volunteer capability and community leadership development.

**Recommendation:**

**That the appropriate ranks within the Country Fire Authority and Fire Rescue Victoria ensure a clear chain of command is maintained, consistent with relevant operating procedures, Acts and legislation, to support authorised and coordinated communication with local government during the response phase of an incident.**

- (4) the emergency responses to control and contain the fires, including adequacy of resources and communications

Concerns have been raised regarding vegetation management along the Hume Highway and other major roads. With north winds and approximately 13,000 vehicles travelling through the region each day, unmanaged fuel loads present a significant fire risk. The current freeway safety barriers also restrict CFA access, limiting both firefighting efforts and the ability to undertake preventative works. Additional crossovers and breaks in the barriers are needed to enable effective fire response and fuel management.

There are also concerns about interagency coordination, including inefficiencies in communication and a lack of integration of local knowledge when the Incident Control Centre (ICC) was established. Reports indicate that a local community member attempted to call 000 between 20 and 30 times without success, raising serious concerns about emergency call access.

Further issues include limitations in redeploying resources from other areas and an apparent lack of understanding of the differing behaviour and response requirements of fires on flat terrain compared to those in the hills.

Concerns have been raised by the Country Fire Authority and other emergency services about understanding Council's emergency management responsibilities and how they align with the statutory roles of emergency response agencies. Council plays a key role in preparedness, relief and recovery, including resilience building, municipal emergency management planning, relief coordination and multi-agency arrangements. Where these roles are not clearly understood by volunteers, emergency personnel or community stakeholders, duplication of effort and service gaps can occur during emergency events.

Discussions with the Country Fire Authority indicate that available plant, equipment, crews and firefighting units were insufficient to contain the incident. The scale and intensity exceeded resources, limiting timely response and placing significant pressure on crews. This highlights the need for greater surge capacity, improved resource allocation, and stronger volunteer recruitment and retention to support future emergencies.

It is understood that there were instances where established command structures and operational protocols were not followed. In some cases, personnel and equipment were deployed outside agreed inter-agency arrangements, creating potential safety risks. Strict adherence to command and deployment procedures is essential for safety and operational effectiveness.

Overall resources were insufficient to support the response, with greater access to heavy plant such as bulldozers, graders and water tankers needed to strengthen containment and enhance operational capability during major fires.

Council has heard concerns from Group Officers about the CFA's internal communication, including inconsistent information sharing, debriefing and capture of operational lessons, limiting continuous improvement opportunities and contributing to misunderstandings across teams and brigades.

Issues were identified during the bushfires with VicEmergency and VicTraffic road closure information and Google Maps updates. Delays in updating official road closure data meant information was not always current, and Google Maps did not reflect changes in a timely way. As a result, some drivers were redirected away from the Shire when it was safe to return.

These discrepancies between verified emergency information and third-party navigation platforms created confusion and, at times, potential safety risks. Automated data sharing between agencies and mapping services is needed to ensure the public receives accurate, real-time road information during emergencies.

#### **Recommendation:**

**The Government should review freeway safety barriers to provide additional crossovers and access points, enabling effective firefighting operations and the implementation of fire prevention measures.**

- (5) resilience of critical services and infrastructure such as electricity, water and telecommunications during and after the fires

Power supply to the area is inadequate, and the BN11 line (Benalla to Locksley) is in urgent need of upgrade to improve reliability and capacity. The community experienced widespread power outages, resulting in a gap in emergency warnings due to the concurrent loss of telecommunications. During the fire event, water infrastructure in some locations was

compromised, resulting in a loss of water supply where assets had been damaged or destroyed. In addition, mobile telephone facilities were unavailable, as they had been impacted by the fire.

Key gaps in essential services and infrastructure threaten emergency resilience:

- Many Telecom towers lack backup power, leaving communities vulnerable
- Critical infrastructure shows limited resilience amid increasingly severe weather
- Investment in power upgrades, redundancy, and resilient essential services is needed to protect community safety.

Strathbogie Shire Council continues to advocate strongly to state and federal governments, energy providers, and telecommunications operators for urgent upgrades to the BN11 line, improved network resilience, and the installation of reliable backup power at critical sites.

As part of this work, Council has also provided formal advocacy to the Australian Energy Regulator (AER) in support of the proposed \$41 million investment to upgrade the BN11 line, ensuring the project is prioritised and funded. Council's continued advocacy aims to ensure that communities across the municipality are better protected, better connected, and more resilient in the face of future emergencies.

**Recommendation:**

- 1. Victorian Government advocate to the Australian Energy Regulator in support of the proposed \$41million investment to upgrade BN11 (powerline that supplies from Benalla- Locksley) and constructs the alternate BN11 Express Feeder**
- 2. Telecommunications providers ensure emergency power supply through adequate battery and generator capacity is available to safeguard essential telecommunication functions that protect our community, investment in this should be prioritised in line with the level of emergency risk for rural communities.**

(6) the impact on the community, business and agriculture and efforts to aid in recovery

**Community**

Volunteers are the heartbeat of Strathbogie Shire, and faced with significant devastation, the community mobilised quickly and with remarkable generosity. People stepped into both formal and informal volunteer structures, providing meals, organising donations, supporting clean-up efforts, and checking in on neighbours. This immediate and compassionate response demonstrated the strength and resilience of our community spirit.

Internally displaced people following the bushfires face significant, long-term impacts that include (but not limited to):

- severe psychological distress
- economic strain
- social isolation
- complex rebuilding challenges.

The fire's impact has been profound. In our municipality, over 100 homes were destroyed and tens of thousands of hectares, mostly agricultural land were burnt, with the full effects still unfolding. For many families, these properties represent generations of farming, hard work, and personal history. For some, the loss may mean they cannot return or rebuild, with lasting consequences for livelihoods and family legacies. The destruction was widespread, affecting intergenerational homes, second dwellings, and vital community facilities central to local identity and connection.

Concerns also exist over divisions between insured, underinsured, and uninsured residents, causing unequal access to services and community tension.

### **Agriculture (incorporating business)**

Agriculture, the region's primary industry, has been hardest hit. Losses of productive land, livestock, fencing, equipment, and infrastructure have immediate financial impacts on farmers and agribusinesses, with broader flow-on effects across the local economy, supply chains, contractors, retailers, and service providers. Reduced tourism due to perceptions that visitors should avoid the region has further compounded the economic strain.

Focusing on livestock welfare and survival immediately after a bushfire is critical for affected landholders because it directly impacts the humanitarian, economic, and emotional recovery of the farming business. Beyond minimising the suffering of animals, this focus is crucial for:

- preventing long-term productivity losses and protecting livelihoods
- maintaining biosecurity
- providing psychological hope to farmers who have lost infrastructure and land

Recovery programs will provide important support; however, there is a strong sentiment within the community that initial processes have been too slow, with people seeking more timely and visible action. Agriculture Victoria's Advisory Service was stood up too late with farmers having to undertake the heartbreaking task of destroying their livestock without support or clear guidelines on how to undertake safely to minimise biosecurity risks. This process has caused significant trauma for our farming communities and support to undertake euthanising or disposing of stock needs to be delivered early in the response phase.

Escorts from emergency services to take Agricultural Victoria personnel safely on to properties to enable farmers to administer timely animal welfare support would have assisted in reducing stock losses and prolonged biosecurity risks.

### **Housing and Accommodation**

Delays in securing temporary and long-term housing highlights the need for more temporary accommodation options. While flexible emergency programs are valued, slow case management, clean-up, and on-ground support have adversely affected health and wellbeing. Timely, coordinated recovery support is critical for long-term community resilience.

## Economy/Business

Spendmapp data for January 2026 shows total local spend in Strathbogie Shire was \$13.2 million, a 3.96% decrease compared to January 2025. This year-on-year decline coincided with the January 2026 bushfires, which disrupted travel, business operations and consumer confidence during what is typically a peak visitor period.

Visitor Local Spend fell by 6.85% year-on-year to \$9.8 million, reflecting reduced visitation and shortened stays as a result of road closures, smoke impacts, emergency warnings and cancellations. This decline in visitor expenditure was the primary contributor to the overall reduction in total local spend. An economic impact assessment will be undertaken in due course to understand the impacts further.

The Catastrophic Fire Danger rating saw accommodation providers evacuate, and then subsequently townships, due to increased risk. This included the township of Euroa, which is traditionally a busy holiday destination in the second week of January. Visitation was also impacted in Nagambie by association, and as it falls within the Strathbogie Shire whilst the Hume Freeway was closed for an extended period of time.

Prolonged and repeated power outages during this time also impacted the economy of the Shire with significant losses reported by traders and reimbursement claims made to AusNet.

### **Recommendation: That the Government commit to:**

- 1. Expanding funding allocations to address the unique costs faced by rural local governments, including emergency response, relief efforts, and rebuilding essential community assets such as roads, water infrastructure, and public facilities.**
  - 2. Funding and claims processes focused on enhancing long-term community resilience, including opportunities for betterment and improvements to infrastructure to withstand future disasters and reducing long term costs to State and Federal Government.**
  - 3. A streamlined, evidence-based claims process tailored for small rural councils, reducing administrative burden and supporting communities with limited resources while ensuring access to timely and effective relief.**
  - 4. Escorts from emergency services to take Agricultural Victoria personnel safely on to properties to enable farmers to administer timely animal welfare support.**
- (7) the impact on the environment, including native wildlife, and any measures to better protect native forests, including technology for early detection and firefighting in remote locations

Satellite technology can enhance bushfire management by tracking and monitoring vegetation fuel loads and moisture. Improving access to this data would better inform local decision-making and risk mitigation.

Council conducts periodic Roadside Assessment Valuation studies, most recently in 2017-2018, with an update due within 12 months. About 4,500 km of roadside were assessed, 55% of which have High or Very High Conservation Value. Roadside management must comply with the *Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988*, requiring consideration of native flora, fauna, and habitats. At the same time, the Victorian Planning Scheme allows exemptions for bushfire mitigation on all roads and enabling risk reduction including those with high-conservation value.

Council considers bushfire risk in roadside management but must also maintain awareness of endangered wildlife. It relies on the Statewide Integrated Flora and Fauna Team (SWIFT) and the Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority for updates on threatened species. Funding should be allocated to support a dedicated Sustainability Officer to embed environmental considerations in Council strategy and operations.

Post-bushfire roadside management is challenging. Fallen timber can aid wildlife habitat recovery, but clear guidelines are lacking. Council has received support from local environmental groups for clean-up and habitat restoration, yet community awareness of wildlife recovery remains limited.

Council is drafting a Roadside Vegetation Management Plan to assist in managing vegetation along roadside reserves. Council also runs a periodic Habitat Inspection Program and offers a rate incentive program with Trust for Nature to encourage permanent habitat protection on private land. These initiatives aim to balance bushfire risk and biodiversity conservation and long-term environmental resilience.

#### **Recommendation:**

**That the Government commit to funding technology improvements to enhance bushfire management by tracking and monitoring vegetation fuel loads and moisture.**

- (8) the impacts of climate change on the natural environment, which has resulted in more frequent and intense bushfires occurring in Victoria

The intensity of the Longwood Berrys Lane fire was compounded by:

- Fuel loads across Victoria remain unacceptably high, despite the clear recommendations of the Black Saturday Fire Royal Commission.
- Inconsistent prescribed burning and poor roadside and boundary vegetation management increase bushfire intensity and threaten communities and key evacuation routes.
- Roads and corridors with unmanaged roadside vegetation fuelling fires, undermining prevention and endangering public safety
- Lack of funding for Local Governments to manage fuel reduction, post-fire recovery, and noxious vegetation and pests
- Some in the community feel biodiversity is prioritised over human life. Further work is needed to achieve a balanced approach.
- Late seasonal conditions created a lot of dry, combustible fuel
- With likely ongoing impact from continuing climate change there are heightened risks relating to increased road surfacing costs i.e. increased road sealing due to bituminous deterioration due to more extreme temperatures.

In 2025–26, Council, in partnership with the Goulburn Murray Climate Alliance, was unsuccessful in obtaining funding through the Emergency Management Victoria's Disaster Ready Fund to support regional risk reduction initiatives.

To strengthen climate resilience across the region, the following actions are required:

- Dedicated funding for comprehensive climate change risk assessments and initiatives that build community resilience
- Amendments to Victorian Planning Schemes to embed stronger sustainability and climate resilience outcomes within the built environment across the state.

Expanding prescribed burning, targeted roadside fuel reduction, stronger inter-agency coordination, and secure long-term funding are proven ways to reduce bushfire intensity and save lives, and while we cannot control drought or extreme heat, managing fuel loads, preparedness, and resourcing can lower preventable risks, protect communities, and limit the devastating long-term impacts of catastrophic fires. Alongside these measures, considering both adaptation and emissions reduction actions can support long-term resilience to increasingly hot and dry conditions.

**Recommendation:**

**The Government to commit to the continuation of the Disaster Ready Fund.**

(9) the prevalence and impact of misinformation leading into and during the fire season

While community visits from elected officials were appreciated, some residents felt they brought little tangible support, and sometimes causing frustration.

Although the information shared was generally considered clear and helpful, concerns were also raised about uncoordinated entry onto private property and that organisational presence or media attention sometimes distracted from urgent recovery needs.

Greater clarity and education are needed on key emergency terms, including Bushfire Places of Last Resort, Emergency Relief Centres, and Evacuation Warnings versus Orders as highlighted above.

**Recommendation:**

**Continuation of community education materials**

(10) the interjurisdictional support into and out of Victoria leading into and during the fire season, including interstate and international deployments, Commonwealth support and relief efforts

The community raised concerns about the level of recovery support and long-term assistance following the bushfires:

- ADF support: lack of Australian Defence Force deployment to assist during clean-up, particularly for removing and burying deceased livestock, delaying hazard reduction and increasing biosecurity risks
- Regulatory confusion: Uncertainty around compliance requirements and potential prosecutions added stress during recovery
- Mental health impacts: Long-term bushfire recovery significantly affects community wellbeing, yet government support typically lasts only two–three years
- Need for sustained funding: Victorian and Australian governments should fund recovery and mental health services for at least five years, or provide permanent support where needed, to strengthen long-term resilience.

Many people have found themselves ineligible for Commonwealth and State funding due to strict, narrow eligibility criteria that focus on immediate, direct, and severe impacts, such as the total destruction of a primary residence and weighed heavily to the uninsured or underinsured.

The primary reasons for ineligibility include:

- **Evacuation Requirements:** For the Victorian Government's Personal Hardship Assistance Program (PHAP), eligibility often required residents to have evacuated. Those who stayed to defend their properties have reported being deemed ineligible for relief payments, leading to significant frustration.
- **"Principal Place of Residence" Rule:** Support, particularly the Emergency Re-establishment Payment and access to the state clean up program, is generally restricted to an individual's main home. This excludes holiday homes, sheds, or secondary properties, even if they were destroyed.
- **Definition of "Major Damage":** To qualify for the Australian Government Disaster Recovery Payment (AGDRP), homes must have sustained "major damage" (e.g., structural failure, interior exposed to elements) or become uninhabitable. Minor damage or loss of amenity often does not qualify.
- **Insurance Status:** Many, but not all, grants are targeted at uninsured or underinsured individuals. If a person has comprehensive insurance, they are often ineligible for government assistance, even if the insurance payout is slow or insufficient to cover all costs.
- **Specific Location Requirements:** Disaster assistance is activated only for specific Local Government Areas that meet damage thresholds. People outside these designated areas may not be eligible, even if they are close by and impacted.
- **Asset Value Thresholds:** For some assistance, damage to assets must meet a high combined market value threshold (e.g., \$20,000) to be considered.

#### Recommendation:

**That the Government commit to a review of the available funding and ensure that it is accessible to all.**

- (11) lessons from and progress on the implementation of recommendations from previous inquiries, reports and Royal Commissions

There are practical and financial limits to implementing some Royal Commission recommendations locally. Large-scale vegetation clearing is often unaffordable and inappropriate in high-conservation areas. More funding is needed for planned and controlled burns, as current resources don't allow enough fuel reduction. There is also an opportunity to partner more closely with Traditional Owners to expand cultural (cool) burning in environmentally sensitive ways.

Several key lessons have been identified to strengthen future preparedness and response:

- Communication was generally clear, but delays in operational response and decision-making hindered recovery
- Early recognition of agricultural impacts was limited, prolonging risks to livestock, landholders, and the environment
- Early and ongoing local representation (utilising local community knowledge) in the Incident Control Centre will improve coordination, response, and recovery
- Greater community education on emergency messaging and terminology is needed.
- Increased investment in local government emergency management is essential; current funding is insufficient and disproportionately lower (for rural councils) than metropolitan councils
- Despite challenges and lack of immediate external support, the community showed strong resilience, initiative, and collaboration, with landholders, volunteers, and locals actively supporting response and recovery.

Once again, thank you for the opportunity to provide a submission. We welcome the opportunity to verbally present to the Committee.

Yours sincerely



Councillor Scott Jeffery  
Mayor  
Strathbogie Shire Council