

Media Release

Jaclyn Symes MLC

Leader of the Government in the Legislative Council

Attorney-General

Minister for Emergency Services



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HELPING BUSHFIRE AFFECTED COMMUNITIES KEEP RECOVERING

Victorian community organisations in bushfire-affected areas will get support to build, upgrade or repair important local facilities that everyone can enjoy, thanks to grants from the Andrews Labor Government.

Minister for Emergency Services Jaclyn Symes today announced the 25 successful grant recipients in round nine of the Bushfire Recovery Grants for Community Facilities.

In Victoria's North East, the Whitfield Recreation Reserve Committee of Management has been awarded \$45,000 to upgrade playgrounds at the Edi Upper Hall and the Whitfield Recreation Reserve.

The Whitfield Recreation Reserve and Edi Upper Hall facilities provide an important connection for locals and visitors to the King Valley area, hosting events, meetings, sports, celebrations, as well as an emergency relief centre during the 2019-20 bushfires.

In East Gippsland, the Tamboon Inlet Community Association Incorporation has been awarded \$50,000 to build a dedicated bushfire storage facility to house firefighting and fire prevention equipment.

As a remote community, the bushfire shed will provide important access to fire-fighting equipment in the event of a bushfire. Community members will receive training and support to use equipment, improving local bushfire response capability.

Other recipients of the Bushfire Recovery Grants for Community Facilities include Corryong Opportunity Shop Inc which will use its \$50,000 grant for building renovations, Chiltern Rodeo Club Committee which will construct an arena and stockyards with more than \$45,000, and the Scout Association of Australia Victorian Branch which will upgrade toilets and showers to be accessible with nearly \$50,000 from the program.

The Government has invested \$5 million in the Bushfire Recovery Grants for Community Facilities in response to the impact of the 2019-20 bushfires.

For the full list of grant recipients or for more information about funding in disaster-affected areas, visit the [Bushfire Recovery Victoria website](#) or call 1800 560 760.

Bushfire affected communities can still apply for funding until 30 June 2022.

Quotes attributable to Minister for Emergency Services Jaclyn Symes

"We've always said that locals are best placed to tell government what they need to recover and rebuild – these grants help communities achieve those much-needed projects."

"These projects will make community facilities safer, better and more welcoming to everyone – I encourage more groups to apply to the program."