

# Media Release

**Jaclyn Symes MLC**

Leader of the Government in the Legislative Council

Attorney-General

Minister for Emergency Services



Thursday, 8 September 2022

## IMPROVING COMMUNITY FACILITIES IN BUSHFIRE AFFECTED AREAS

Seventeen community organisations across Victoria will share in grants to build, upgrade or repair important local facilities thanks to support from the Andrews Labor Government.

Minister for Emergency Services Jaclyn Symes joined Member for Eastern Victoria Tom McIntosh today to announce the latest recipients to share in more than \$660,000 in Bushfire Recovery Grants for Community Facilities, delivered by Bushfire Recovery Victoria.

The successful projects will improve facilities at community halls and encourage community connection through new and improved sporting areas and gardens.

In East Gippsland, the Bruthen Mechanics Institute Committee of Management will get \$47,000 to upgrade the kitchen facilities at the Bruthen Mechanics Hall.

Built in 1883, the historic building is an important part of the community, providing a place for people to come together. The project will remove the existing, dated kitchen and replace it with an industrial-style kitchen and upgraded restroom facilities.

In Victoria's North East, the volunteer-run Upper Murray Community Radio Inc will receive \$29,000 to co-locate the community radio station with the local community hall.

Community radio stations play a vital role broadcasting emergency information and connecting communities before, during and after emergencies. The project includes refurbishment works at the Walwa Memorial Hall and expanding coverage across the district.

Other projects include Tawonga Riding Club who will use their \$38,000 to construct an outdoor riding arena, Myrree Recreation Reserve Committee Inc who will upgrade their tennis courts with their \$28,000 and Buchan Bush Nursing Association for an outdoor area with the \$50,000 they received from the program.

Since opening in June 2020, the Bushfire Recovery Grants for Community Facilities have delivered important projects including renovations and new facilities for community organisations, trail walks and mountain bike parks, playgrounds and sporting facilities.

For a full list of grant recipients or more information about funding available to individuals, businesses and communities, visit [vic.gov.au/recovery-grants](https://vic.gov.au/recovery-grants).

### Quotes attributable to Minister for Emergency Services Jaclyn Symes

*"Local facilities are so much more than buildings. They are often the heart and soul of a small community and a critical meeting place in the event of an emergency."*

*"We have listened to local communities about projects that are important to them, and we are investing in communities so they can build resilience for future emergencies."*

### Quote attributable to Member for Eastern Victoria Tom McIntosh

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*“Recovery is a long journey, bushfire-affected communities in East Gippsland are still on that journey, and we’re supporting them every step of the way.”*