

Media Release

The Hon Vicki Ward MP

Minister for Emergency Services
Minister for Natural Disaster Recovery
Minister for Equality
Minister for Creative Industries



Monday, 20 July 2026

BACKING LOCALLY LED BUSHFIRE RECOVERY

Labor is continuing to stand with communities affected by January's bushfires with more recovery support.

Minister Ward today announced the Community Recovery Grants program is now open.

Community groups and non-for-profits can apply for grants up to \$75,000 to deliver recovery programs of all sizes.

The program will back locally led projects that help people recover, reconnect and rebuild across bushfire-affected council areas.

It is based on a simple principle: local communities know their recovery needs best.

That's why we are giving local groups the flexibility to design and deliver the projects that matter most to them.

This can include trauma-informed training and psychological first aid.

It can also support community wellbeing events and workshops that bring locals together.

Projects may also include practical preparedness resources such as "Are You Ready?" materials to help households plan for future emergencies.

This builds on more than \$420 million in bushfire recovery support already funded, which we are delivering in partnership with the Commonwealth.

Anyone needing assistance is encouraged to contact the Emergency Recovery Hotline on 1800 560 760 to be connected with relevant support.

Applications are now open and close on 31 August 2026.

For more information and to apply, visit vic.gov.au/community-recovery-grants-2026-bushfires.

Quotes attributable to Minister for Natural Disaster Recovery Vicki Ward

"No two communities recover in the same way. These grants put communities in the driver's seat, giving them the flexibility to deliver the projects that will matter most."

"We'll continue standing alongside bushfire-affected Victorians, backing them with the support they need every step of the way."