

RECOVERY & RESILIENCE



THANK YOU for joining us for your monthly update, and for our new sign ups WELCOME!
We're so glad you're here and have lots of great content to share with you!

With the end of 2021 comes a time of reflection with many mixed feelings - pride, achievement, relief and a sense of excitement for what the new year will bring.

We know that the disruption and the challenges of the last 2 years has been tough for many. Through these challenges, we have continued to adapt, innovate and support one other through the ups and the downs. Significant milestones have been marked and many successes celebrated. We are truly grateful for all your support and the difference you make by helping yourself and others in doing the **smallest thing to make the biggest difference** - this is at the heart of what we do.

I hope that 2022 will bring you a successful, safe and healthy year to remember. Stay safe, enjoy the holiday season and share your strengths with those that are close to you. Your resilience, hard work, passion, and efforts don't go unnoticed!

This Wednesday will be the last day before taking some time with family! But, never fear, services will be available with emails checked and messages returned when possible. Please read on for full details of services and supports over the holiday period.

Wishing you all a safe and happy Christmas and I look forward to working with you again in the new year.

Rachel Nicoll - Community Recovery Officer

Top Left: Dargan's Book Library @ Dargan Bus Shelter

Top Right: Cullen Bullen RFS Family Fun Day



Left: Quilts for Australia @ Dargan
Right: Association of Bell Clarence and Dargan Healing Ceremony

Give the Gift of Conversation to someone in your life who...



Has lost a loved one



Can't get home



Has had a tough year



Doesn't feel safe
at home



Is struggling
financially



Is working
over Christmas



Is unwell
this Christmas



Has challenging
family relationships



Is spending
Christmas alone

Find your conversation gift guide at ruok.org.au



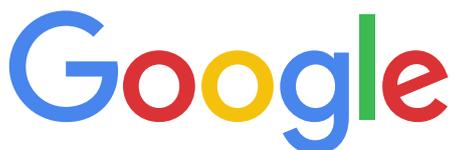
HEALTH AND WELLBEING

We know there is significant uncertainty, stress and concern when people and communities are impacted by the fires of 2019/2020 and have faced the challenges of storms, floods and Covid.

The recovery journey is different for everyone. There is no right or wrong.

Christmas and New year can bring additional stress at the best of times and we encourage you to ensure that your safety, health and wellbeing are a priority for you and your families.

If you need support, don't forget that a range of services are available and you can find out more [here](#)



NEW 'BUSHFIRES NEAR ME' GOOGLE MAPS FEATURE LAUNCHED IN AUSTRALIA

Google Maps will now include a new bushfire layer for Australians to access current and official information to allow them to make informed and potentially lifesaving decisions during times of emergency.

This new bushfire layer will offer up-to-date details about multiple fires at once and crisis response alerts on search, maps and Android devices.

The new bushfire layer will make it easier to get current details about any nearby bushfires to make it easier to monitor the situation, see the level of severity and to see recommended actions.

To turn on, tap the layers symbol on Maps and then on the 'Bushfires' icon to see important info about active fires. To look into details on a particular bushfire, tap on a fire on the map to see the latest updates, location, level of severity, recommended actions and other important information.

Read more [here](#)

BE PREPARED FOR AN EMERGENCY

With fire risk being elevated in parts, storm activity continues to affect many areas with crews responding to storm damage and trees down.

For assistance in floods and storms call the NSW SES on 132 500.

If it is an emergency or if someone's life is in danger, call 000.

The [ABC Emergency](#) website provides useful tips and enables you to find up to date information on incidents near you. Learn [how to make an emergency plan](#) and prepare for [storms](#), [floods](#), [cyclones](#), [bushfires](#), and [heatwaves](#).

Also, stay connected and prepare together with your community using the ABC and Australian Red Cross [#ReadyTogether Toolkit](#).

STORM & FLOOD

NATURAL DISASTER DECLARATIONS - LOANS, TRANSPORT SUBSIDIES AND HARDSHIP ASSISTANCE

A Natural Disaster Declaration is in place for the Lithgow Local Government Area. The [DRFA Category B Assistance](#) provides eligible:

Primary producers:

- Concessional loans up to \$130,000
- Transport subsidies up to \$15,000

Small business:

- Concessional loans up to \$130,000

Not-for-profit organisations:

- Concessional loans up to \$25,000

Sporting clubs:

- Concessional loans up to \$10,000

Information on loans is available [here](#) and transport subsidies can be applied for [here](#).

There is also financial assistance available, including Australian Government disaster payments, for people whose homes or belongings have been damaged (eligibility criteria apply). For information on personal hardship and distress assistance, contact Service NSW on 13 77 88 or access additional information [here](#).

RURAL LANDHOLDER GRANT

To support NSW communities affected by the February and March 2021 storms and floods, recovery funds are now available to rural landholders who do not qualify for other funding. Landholders in the Lithgow LGA with at least 10ha and who receive at least \$20,000 in income from primary production per annum are eligible for up to \$10,000.

Applications close on **28 January 2022**. Click [here](#).

Keep a look out for these grants that are open or will be opening in early 2022!

- [Country Shows Support Package](#)
- [Regional Events Acceleration Fund \(REAF\) Round Two early 2022](#)
- [Building Better Regions Fund Round 6 – Infrastructure Stream](#)
- [Building Better Regions Fund Round 6 - Community Investments Stream](#)
- [FRRR Strengthening Rural Communities](#)
- [NSW Regional Business Event Development Fund](#)
- [Regional Connectivity Program \(RCP\) Round 2](#)



GRANTS

SUPPLY CHAIN SUPPORT GRANT NSW STORMS & FLOODS FEBRUARY & MARCH 2021

The Storm and Flood Industry Recovery Program is for primary producers impacted by storms and floods that occurred in March/April 2021. The Rural Assistance Authority has opened applications for grants by primary producers who face replacement and repair costs as a result of the storms and flooding in early 2021.

Eligible primary producers are required to have accessed the full \$75,000 Special Disaster Grant before accessing funds through the Supply Chain Support Grant.

Applications can be made online via the RAA and are open until 2pm, 3 March 2022.

Further information is available [here](#).

EXPANDED SMALL BUSINESS FEES AND CHARGES REBATE

The small business fees and charges rebate has increased from \$1,500 to \$2,000. Eligible businesses can now also claim road tolls for business use.

If you are a sole trader, the owner of a small business or a not-for-profit organisation in NSW, you may be eligible for a small business fees and charges rebate.

If you have already signed up for the rebate you do not need to apply again. Your rebate will automatically increase from \$1,500 to \$2,000. Click [here](#) to apply.



MERRY CHRISTMAS

Recovery Services During the December/January Period

Lithgow City Council Closed 22 December 2021 – 10 January 2022.

If you have an urgent recovery matter you can email Rachel indicating if the matter is urgent, with your contact details and an explanation of the matter to Rachel.Nicoll@Lithgow.nsw.gov.au

Lithgow Information Neighbourhood Centre:

Closed Midday Friday 24 December, 2021, reopening 9am Tuesday 4 January, 2022. Telephone Number – (02) 6352 2077

Email – linc@linc.org.au

Catholic Care Social Services: Providing community-based services and emergency Support. Phone: Celia 0433 628 438 or email celia.vagg@ccss.org.au.

Winmalee Neighbourhood Centre Disaster Recovery: Providing practical and financial assistance (includes vouchers, assistance with utilities and No Interest Loans). Phone: 02 4754 4050 – leave a message or email wincentre@tpg.com.au
Closed between Christmas and New Year.

Salvation Army National Bushfire Recovery Services : Assistance with practical needs and goods. Phone: 1300 662 217 or visit salvationarmy.org.au

Australian Red Cross Community Recovery: Supporting communities to increase their capacity in preparedness, response and recovery. Phone: Kristy 0406 255 853 and Terrie 0409 796 682 or Mark McMullens – Ph: 0428 922 617
nswemergencyservices@redcross.org.au
Closed 17 December 2021 – 3 January 2022.

Department of Primary Industries (DPI) :. DPI Recovery Support for Primary Producers: Jamie 0407 910 221 or email jamie.perry-meijer@dpi.nsw.gov.au.
Closed from 25 December 2021 – 7 January 2022.



Rural Financial Counselling Service – Closed 23 December 2021 – 4 January 2022
The main office number 1800 319 458 will be monitored over that period.

Rural Counsellor NBMLHD: Phone: Michael 4560 4100. Closed over Christmas and New year public holidays. Return 4 January 2022.

Nepean Blue Mountains Primary Health Network | Bushfire Psychological Therapy Services: Up to 10 free sessions with a professional are available for people affected by disasters. Talk to your GP or visit www.nbmphn.com.au.

NSW Health Bushfire and COVID 19 Trauma Recovery Team: Supporting your emotional wellbeing. Phone: Greg 0428 481 412 or email Gregory.Wurth@health.nsw.gov.au. Closed 27 – 31 December 2021 – Please contact Lithgow Community Mental Health Ph: 6350 2555 during this time.

Disaster Response Legal Aid Service: Hotline – Ph: 1800 801 529 – Open 9am – 5pm Monday to Friday (excluding public holidays)

Step by Step Bush Fire Recovery Services | Wellbeing Counsellor Nicole 0409 670 682. Step by Step Support Worker Karen 0407 855 305. Providing practical, emotional and holistic support for the whole family. stepbystep@gatewayfamilyservices.org.au
Closed over Christmas and New Year public holidays. Return January 4 2022.

Service NSW Hotline 137 788 and www.service.nsw.gov.au/campaign/bushfire-customer-care-service or disasterassistance.service.nsw.gov.au

Lifeline Central West | Office closed from 22 December – 4 January 2022.

Lifeline's Crisis support services, the 13 11 14 and 13 HELP (Bushfire support) lines will operate 24/7 as usual.

Lifeline's message as always is that you are not alone. Support is available at all times, with a friendly empathetic ear to support you and keep people safe through difficult times which can sometimes be heightened during these holiday times.

Relationship difficulties, loneliness and isolation, regular supports being harder to access, problems with alcohol or gambling and domestic and family violence can all be heighten at this time.

Depression and Anxiety can also be exacerbated as people are confronted by images of family, happiness, material items and social events that they may feel ill equipped to deal with. People are still impacted from events of the past few years so please look out for one another and reach in to those that may not have support.

Where else:

For Mental Health Support 24 hours / 7 days you can call: Lifeline on 13 11 14 or Beyond Blue on 1300 224 636 or the NSW Mental Health Line on 1800 011 511.

For further resources visit: <https://council.lithgow.com/download/31528/>