

**WELCOME BACK FOR 2022** and THANK YOU for joining us!

We hope you, your businesses and your families have enjoyed a well-earned break over the festive period.

A New Year feels great until it doesn't. As enthusiastic as we were to see the back of 2021, the new year has arrived with its own sense of adventure.

We can't plan for the unknown, but when problems come, we're often ill-positioned to deal with them. If you've been cleaning up from storm and flood waters or caught by the hard-hitting weather January has shown us, there is support and disaster relief assistance available.

There's also never been a better time to also start planning to be in a better position in the future and #GetReady.

Being in a position to capitalise when times are bad requires doing different things when times are good. This goes against human nature — we don't want to look like an idiot when times are good even if doing so offers an unstoppable advantage when times are tough. La Nina will eventually come to an end. As Warren Buffett says, "Only when the tide goes out do you discover who's been swimming naked."

The main lesson here is to always put yourself in the best position possible no matter the future conditions.

We would like to thank the many residents and businesses who have registered to receive information and referrals to services. We will also continue to make recommendations for immediate response actions to all levels of government to support those impacted by disaster events wherever possible.

Whether you are cautious or optimistic about what lies ahead, we will travel this year together. I hope your best year is yet to come.

Rachel Nicoll - Community Recovery Officer

## CONTACT US FOR MORE INFORMATION

 **Bushfire**  
<https://council.lithgow.com/bushfire-assistance/>

 **Storm and Flood**  
<https://council.lithgow.com/flooding-assistance/>

 [Recovery@Lithgow.nsw.gov.au](mailto:Recovery@Lithgow.nsw.gov.au)

 02 6354 9960



## FREE ART MAKING WORKSHOP 'Regeneration with Fire'

Cast your very own bronze sculptural object at this 'hands on', two hour wax sculpture workshop. You will make a small wax model which will be cast at the Portland Foundry.

All materials are included in this free workshop. Develop your skills and have fun at the same time.

Where:  
Western Sydney University, Malthan Ngurr Ngurra  
Lithgow Transformation Hub  
154 Mort St, Lithgow NSW 2790

Adults Workshop  
10-12pm, Saturday 12th February

Youth Workshops  
Sunday 13th February  
10-12pm: 5yo -12yo  
1-3pm: 13yo -18 yo

RSVP by Friday 4th February with your name, age and phone number to: [studio.harriefasher@gmail.com](mailto:studio.harriefasher@gmail.com)  
Mental health support present at all events



This activity is supported by Nepean Blue Mountains Primary Health Network (NBMPHN), as part of the Australian Government's response to the 2019/20 bushfires. Wentworth Healthcare is the provider of NBMPHN.



A reminder the below grants are open or will be opening in early 2022.

- [Country Shows Support Package - opened this week](#)
- [Regional Events Acceleration Fund \(REAF\) Round Two early 2022](#)
- [Building Better Regions Fund Round 6 - Infrastructure Stream - Closes 10 Feb 2022](#)
- [Building Better Regions Fund Round 6 - Community Investments Stream - Closes 10 Feb 2022](#)
- [FRRR Strengthening Rural Communities](#)
- [NSW Regional Business Event Development Fund](#)
- [Regional Connectivity Program \(RCP\) Round 2](#) - Applications and the Project Noticeboard are both open until 10 Feb 2022.

## FIND OUT HOW YOU CAN ADAPT YOUR HOME FOR BUSHFIRE RESILIENCE

Expressions of interest are now open for Bushfire Retrofit Home Assessments.

The Bushfire Resilience Star Rating program provides households with a tailored list of actions to measurably improve the bushfire resilience of their home.

The Bushfire Building Council of Australia are seeking interest from households around Australia who would like to learn more about upgrading their home for bushfire resilience by completing an assessment of their property's bushfire risk.

To find out more and to register visit: <https://bbca.org.au/resilient-homes>

## FREE DROUGHT PREPAREDNESS COURSE

With the financial support of the Australian Government's [Future Drought Fund](#), Resource Consulting Services (RCS) has created a free online Drought Preparedness program.

Participants will have the opportunity to develop a practical plan to prepare for a drought, manage in a drought and recover from a drought.

Enrol in the RCS Drought Preparedness Course [here](#).

## HOW CAN WE ASSIST YOU?

Did you know we're developing a series of workshops to provide individuals, organisations and communities with key tips on how to prepare and submit applications for grant funding?

We can also assist organisations to:

- Identify and review project ideas with funding grants available;
- Match with upcoming funding rounds or opportunities to support; and
- Bring together eligible parties to develop an application for a project.

If you would like to discuss a project or would like to know more information, contact us on (02) 6354 9960 or email [Recovery@Lithgow.nsw.gov.au](mailto:Recovery@Lithgow.nsw.gov.au)



## FINANCIAL PREPAREDNESS

The Salvation Army Moneycare Team is calling on Community groups, Councils, and local Champions to give feedback and ideas on increasing the financial preparedness of those impacted by disaster.

This would include input on tools, support, and education around Financial preparedness for when the next disaster occurs and what would this look like.

Feedback can be provided to Karen Quinn Moneycare Bushfire Recovery Project Officer [karen.quinn@salvationarmy.org.au](mailto:karen.quinn@salvationarmy.org.au)

# STORM & FLOOD

## NATURAL DISASTER DECLARATION - LOANS, TRANSPORT SUBSIDIES AND HARDSHIP ASSISTANCE

A Natural Disaster Declaration is in place for the Lithgow Local Government Area for the severe storm and flash flooding as of 11 January 2022.

Residents affected by the recent severe weather and storms may be eligible for a disaster relief grant <https://www.nsw.gov.au/resilience-nsw/disaster-relief-grant-for-individuals>.

### Disaster Relief Loans

Natural disaster relief loans are available to eligible Primary producers, Small business, Non-profit organisations and Sporting and recreation clubs.

Visit the NSW Rural Assistance Authority website <https://www.raa.nsw.gov.au/disaster-assistance/disaster-recovery-loans> for more information or call 1800 678 593.

For information on personal hardship and distress assistance, contact Service NSW on 13 77 88 or access additional information [here](#).

### Disaster Assistance Finder

Complete the [Service NSW online questionnaire](#) to receive a personalised list of available programs and services.

Information on disaster assistance can be found on the Australian Government's Disaster Assist website at [www.disasterassist.gov.au](http://www.disasterassist.gov.au)

The Australian Banking Association has a list of member banks providing customers with emergency assistance for floods. You can find contact details [here](#).

The [National Debt Helpline](#) is open to provide assistance to those in financial difficulty as a result of the floods. It is a not-for-profit service for people struggling with insurance or other financial matters who need to speak with lawyers and financial counsellors. People can call the helpline for free advice on 1800 007 007, from 9.30am to 4.30pm Monday to Friday.

Flood recovery information and updates from Lithgow Council is available at: <https://council.lithgow.com/lithgow-storm-event-disaster-assistance-update/>



**Small business disaster grant**  
Register to be notified

- small business owner
- suffered direct damage in floods or storms from 9 November

Register at [www.service.nsw.gov.au](http://www.service.nsw.gov.au)  
Storm and flood assistance for business



Did the November - December 2021 storms or flooding do damage to your small business or not-for-profit? You may be eligible for up to \$50,000 to pay for clean-up costs, help with repairs and to keep operating.

Applications OPEN:

<https://www.service.nsw.gov.au/transaction/apply-storms-and-flood-disaster-recovery-small-business-grant>

## BE PREPARED FOR AN EMERGENCY

With fire risk being elevated in parts, heavy rain and storm activity continues to affect many areas.

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](#).

## SMALL BUSINESS INQUIRY INTO PREPAREDNESS FOR NATURAL DISASTERS

The Small Business and Family Enterprise Ombudsman has launched an inquiry into the preparedness and resilience of small businesses in the face of natural disasters. Read the full article [here](#)

**WESTERN SYDNEY**  
UNIVERSITY



**MALDHAN NGURR NGURRA**

Lithgow Transformation Hub presents

**Lithgow Region**

**ART EXHIBITION  
& YOUTH ART COMPETITION**

*‘Transformation’*

**ENTRIES CLOSE 23 February 2022**

**EXHIBITION DATES 5 March—1 April 2022**

**CASH PRIZES for youth entries**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION AND ENTRY FORMS**

**CONTACT [lithgowtransformation@westernsydney.edu.au](mailto:lithgowtransformation@westernsydney.edu.au)**