

Key information

The NSW Government and the Commonwealth are covering the clean-up cost of insured and uninsured residential properties destroyed by bushfire across NSW, as well as eligible small business and primary production properties.

The NSW Government has appointed Laing O'Rourke to manage the NSW bushfire recovery clean-up, working with Public Works Advisory. Local contractors and local suppliers will be engaged, where possible, to deliver clean-up services in communities.

Delivering these services means impacted property owners will not have to pay for debris, including potentially hazardous materials, to be removed and disposed of.

Impacted property owners who would like their property cleared need to register at [Service NSW](#) or call 13 77 88. Registering helps deploy resources to communities and enables owners to provide consent for crews to undertake work on their property.

Clean-up timeline

We expect **most residential properties will be substantially cleared by 30 June 2020**. It may take longer to clean up isolated properties in remote areas and regions where there is still active fire.

Safety is the number one priority and before any clearing work begins, we need to ensure hazardous materials, such as asbestos, are identified and contained.

Clearing work will begin after properties have been made safe. Work will be undertaken simultaneously on the North Coast, South Coast, Snowy Monaro, Snowy Valleys and other impacted communities across the State.

Laing O'Rourke will begin contacting registered property owners from early February 2020 to begin planning.

We encourage owners of destroyed properties to **register for the clean-up with [Service NSW](#) on 13 77 88** as soon as possible.

Key steps

Step 1: Register at [Service NSW](#) or call 13 77 88

Step 2: Laing O'Rourke will contact registered property owners to discuss damage and assess eligibility

Step 3: Laing O'Rourke will meet property owners on site

Step 4: Owners will approve scope of works

Step 5: Clean-up of agreed work starts

Step 6: Owners confirm completion of agreed scope of works

Clean-up work covered

Work will include;

- Removal of known hazardous materials, including asbestos
- Removal of materials destroyed by bush fire and hazardous trees
- With consent of building owners, removal of concrete slab foundations.

Eligibility

Insured and uninsured owners of properties in NSW used for **residential, small business or primary production** purposes that were destroyed by bush fire after 1 July 2019 are eligible to receive bush fire recovery clean-up assistance.

This clean-up assistance is in addition to the small business and primary producer grants.

Definitions of a [small business](#) and [primary producer](#) used for bushfire grant applications also apply for this program.

Impacted property owners are advised to register with **[Service NSW](#) on 13 77 88** as soon as possible. Laing O'Rourke will contact registered

property owners to discuss damage and assess eligibility.

Clean-up costs for all large and corporate businesses will be met by owners or their insurer. Insurers can choose to opt-in to the clean-up program and reimburse Government.

Where insurance companies have commenced clean-up works for eligible properties, Government will cover the reasonable cost of work already underway or completed.

Property access prior to demolition

Due to occupational health and safety concerns, owners will not be able to access the property during the clean-up process to remove items.

When Laing O'Rourke contacts property owners about access, they will discuss how uncovered personal items are to be managed, as well as which structures will be retained, and which removed. This will be documented in written property access agreements for the property owner's records.

Local subcontractor engagement

Qualified local contractors and suppliers will be engaged, where possible, to deliver clean-up services to ensure the clean-up operation maximises local knowledge and expertise and assists local economic recovery.

Local subcontractors who have already contacted Public Works Advisory, Service NSW and NSW Procurement, or are already prequalified on a relevant State Government scheme, will have their details provided to Laing O'Rourke.

Interested subcontractors are also encouraged to register on the **NSW Government bushfire supplier portal**.

Unlicensed tradespeople

Beware of unlicensed tradespeople offering cheap, quick, cash-only repairs. Only licensed tradespeople can carry out any residential building work valued at more than \$5000 and all specialist work, including asbestos removal, regardless of value.

Also be aware Public Works Advisory and Laing O'Rourke staff will pre-arrange any household

visits and will not turn up unannounced or demand payment.

To check the licence of a NSW tradesperson, please visit <http://bit.ly/NSWLicenceCheck> .

Key contact details

Service NSW – register for the bushfire recovery clean-up program online or call **13 77 88**.

