## OFFICER'S REPORT - PART A - FOR DETERMINATION

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### **GOVERNANCE**

## 1. BUSHFIRE COMMUNITY RESILIENCE AND ECONOMIC RECOVERY FUND

Report prepared by General Manager – Steven Pinnuck

### **REASON FOR REPORT**

For Council to consider an update on projects to form part of an application for funding under the Bushfire Community Resilience and Economic Recovery Fund (BCRERF).

#### REFERENCE TO DELIVERY PLAN ACTIONS

Nil

#### **DISCUSSION**

Further to the report included in the March Agenda, further discussions have been had with the Lankeys Creek Hall Committee and another activity is planned to assist landowners impacted by the Green Valley fire.

The Lankeys Creek Hall Committee has advised that in addition to updating the hall kitchen that other issue during the recent fire event was the lack of air conditioning in the kitchen which resulted in unsatisfactory working conditions for volunteers. It is recommended that Council increase the allocation to the Lankeys Creek Hall by \$2,000 and reduce the community events funding by the same amount.

In addition, Council's Executive Assistant – Governance and Economic Development has been developing a workshop on renewable energy initiatives for farming enterprises. The cost of the workshop will be limited to venue hire and catering. It is recommended that an amount of \$2,000 be included and the Resilience and Wellness Programs project be reduced by \$2,000.

The Author has consulted significantly with the Jingellic Local Recovery Committee which has representatives from Jingellic, Ournie, Talmalmo and Lankeys Creek.

Following these consultations the amended projects/programs have been identified for Council's consideration.

# BUSHFIRE COMMUNITY RESILIENCE AND ECONOMIC RECOVERY FUND [CONT'D]

Project	\$	Comments
Community Events (3)	\$18,000	Planned Events: Saturday 2 <sup>nd</sup> May Thank you to firies Saturday 15 <sup>th (TBC)</sup> August Upper Murray Beef Producers Dinner Saturday 10 <sup>th</sup> October Jamming@jingellic  The funds will be used to expand existing events held in the area in preference to staging new events. This will enable the hiring of marquees etc. to increase participation, fund entertainment/speakers and keep ticket prices down.
Thank you event	\$10,000	Thank you event at Holbrook for firefighters and other volunteers.
Portable Coolroom for Jingellic Hub	\$5,000	Remainder of funding to be provided from other sources.
Improvements to the Lankeys Creek Hall	\$12,000	The Committee is aiming to update the kitchen, including air conditioning at the Hall. The hall is used by the community for regular events (including happy hour) and the RFS during incidents.
Trees and tree planting program for farmers	\$30,000	Could be Jointly funded from SVC/GHC BCRERF.  Based on conversations at meeting would probably need to include access to native and non-native trees.  Proposed to use a voucher system. Amount would depend on how many impacted landowners nominated for assistance
Holbrook Landcare	\$10,000	On farm advice tree planting, erosion control, etc.  I have had some initial discussions with Holbrook Landcare and expect to receive a proposal by Friday 6 March.
Resilience and Wellness Programs	\$13,000	Actual form of programs to be developed
Future energy forum workshop – 17 April	\$2,000	Workshop outlining options to farming enterprises for renewal energy; solar & solar pumps, batteries and micro grids
TOTAL	\$100,000	

## **BUDGET IMPLICATIONS**

It is anticipated that the projects will be cost neutral to Council.

### BUSHFIRE COMMUNITY RESILIENCE AND ECONOMIC RECOVERY FUND [CONT'D]

#### CONCLUSION

It was reported to the February meeting that Council had received correspondence from Deputy Premier, The Hon. John Barilaro MP announcing the Phase 1 of the Bushfire Community Resilience and Economic Recovery Funds (BCRERF). Under this program Council will receive \$100,000 to develop programs for the immediate recovery needs of local communities. Applications must be lodged by 31 March with projects to be completed by 30 June 2020 or at the very least programs must be identified and in place by 30 June 2020.

The Author has consulted significantly with the Jingellic Local Recovery Committee which has representatives from Jingellic, Ournie, Talmalmo and Lankeys Creek.

It is recommended that the projects/program outlined in the report be supported by Council.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

### That

1. the projects/programs listed in the table below be included in an application for funding under the Bushfire Community Resilience and Economic Recovery Fund.

Project	\$	Comments
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## BUSHFIRE COMMUNITY RESILIENCE AND ECONOMIC RECOVERY FUND [CONT'D]

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for farmers		Based on conversations at meeting would probably need to include access to native and non-native trees.
		Proposed to use a voucher system. Amount would depend on how many impacted landowners nominated for assistance
Holbrook Landcare	\$10,000	On farm advice tree planting, erosion control etc.
		I have had some initial discussions with Holbrook Landcare and expect to receive a proposal by Friday 6 March.
Resilience and Wellness Programs	\$13,000	Actual form of programs to be developed
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TOTAL	\$100,000	

2. Three councillors be nominated to a working group along with the General Manager to finalise initiatives.