



New Community Recovery Officer for Walcha

Walcha Council has been included in the list of 22 local councils to receive funding for a new Community Recovery Officer (CRO). The assistance is being provided through the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements for a period of 12 months.

In the announcement last month, Minister for Emergency Management, David Littleproud, said the Commonwealth Government recognises the unprecedented nature, scale and severity of the fires that have impacted NSW since 31 August 2019.

"Commonwealth and State Governments are continuing to work closely together to roll out funding and support to our impacted communities. The local recruitment and application of these Recovery Officers is more important than ever to ensure affected areas feel they have another method of communicating with Federal and State agencies so they can continue with their recovery." Minister Littleproud said.

In the same announcement, the New South Wales Deputy Premier and Minister for Disaster Recovery John Barilaro said significant progress is being made across the State with the bushfire clean-up well underway and significant support for local businesses and councils.

"To date, the NSW Government has cleared more than 1300 properties and placed more than 8000 people in emergency accommodation, and we're not stopping there. We are helping local businesses get back on their feet by awarding 99% of the clean-up contracts to local and regional contractors." Mr Barilaro said.

The CRO will be embedded as part of the Walcha Council team and will be responsible for supporting our community recovery after the 2019/2020 Bushfires. The CRO will work with the community to identify needs, develop local recovery programs, assist in accessing information and resources and provide leadership and community capacity building.

This position is funded by Resilience NSW to support councils to help coordinate and facilitate community led projects, activities and events that contribute to the community's recovery, resilience and future disaster preparedness. The position will require working with a range of community and organisational stakeholders to achieve broad participation in the recovery process that will build the strengths and capacities of the community.

Walcha Mayor, Cllr Eric Noakes welcomed the announcement saying *"this support comes at a critical time for our community. This new dedicated officer will play an important role assisting us to lead the recovery of our community over the next 12 months."*

The position is a full time position for 12 months and is currently being advertised. Please visit <https://www.walcha.nsw.gov.au/council/positions-vacant.aspx> for all details.

For interviews phone Walcha Mayor Eric Noakes on 0428 774 504

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