



MEDIA RELEASE

7 October 2019

Bushfire Ready: the Huon Valley prepares for a safer summer

Huon Valley Council is working closely with the Tasmania Fire Service (TFS) and the community to raise awareness of the need to get bushfire-ready as we head into the warmer months.

Keeping our community safe from bushfire threat requires everyone to do their bit to remove fire hazards from their property and put a household disaster plan in place. The TFS has a range of free bushfire preparation resources on preparing your property and putting together a [Bushfire Survival Plan](#) for your household, whether you plan to leave early or stay and defend. Bushfire Ready Neighbourhoods also has a helpful [video series](#) exploring eight key aspects to preparing your property.

Huon Valley Council Mayor Bec Enders encourages residents to check in on each other on how their bushfire preparations are going.

“Bushfire preparedness is a community effort which requires everyone to do their bit,” said Cr Enders. “We can all help protect our towns by taking responsibility for cleaning up our properties and supporting our neighbours to do the same.

“Inaction puts your home, your neighbours and our fire fighters at risk, but by preparing your property you will be helping keep everyone in our community safe. We expect so much from our volunteer fire fighters who have loved ones that they need to leave when we have a bushfire. Let’s do the right thing together to keep them safe so they get home to their loved ones.”

Council has extensive roadside slashing and vegetation management programmes on Council-owned roads and land to reduce bushfire risk in our towns, and also issues [fire abatement notices](#) to properties that are deemed to present an immediate risk to life or property on adjoining land.

Council is also supporting the delivery of free workshops in the Huon relating to bushfire recovery and preparation, aimed at local residents who were affected by the early 2019 bushfires. A number of Red Cross workshops took place during August focusing on the ways we can support friends, family and work mates to recover from a disaster event. On 31

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August the well-attended Giddy Up Get Ready Huon workshop in Ranelagh was the first in a series of TFS-run workshops to take place throughout the Huon, and looked at emergency planning for animals.

More TFS Bushfire Awareness sessions will be happening this October, November and December, with the following open for bookings with Lesley King via (03) 6166 5606:

- 12 October – Mountain River/Crabtree bushfire survival plan workshop
- 30 November – Judbury/Upper Huon bushfire-ready mural painting workshop
- 7 December – Southport Community Protection Plan launch

You can also book in for a Bushfire Recovery and Preparedness workshop taking place at Huonville Town Hall at 40 Main Street, Huonville, on 31 October 2019 by contacting Council on 6264 0300 or via hvc@huonvalley.tas.gov.au. This session will include a presentation on psychological preparedness from Dr Rob Gordon, who has many years of experience in providing disaster-related mental health support in Tasmania.

“Our community is still recovering from bushfire disaster, so our preparation approach this year focuses not only on reducing bushfire risk, but also the need to look after the mental wellbeing of ourselves and those around us,” said Cr Enders. “The full impacts of disasters can be felt months and years after the event, so it’s important to look for signs that our family and friends might not be okay.

“As was the case during the bushfires, we have individuals, community groups, and local and state service providers coming together to support the community in getting prepared, which is appreciated and really goes a long way.”

Keep an eye on the Huon Valley Council events page at huonvalley.tas.gov.au/events for more fire awareness workshops to come. Also look out on social media for bushfire awareness sessions being run by our local volunteer fire brigades.

“I would encourage everyone to head along to the workshops and get expert help on preparing your home and keeping well mentally,” said Cr Enders.

The Bushfire Survival Plan can be found on the TFS website at fire.tas.gov.au or by calling 1800 000 699. You can also visit the Council’s website at huonvalley.tas.gov.au for more information and follow the Huon Valley Council and Tasmania Fire Service Facebook pages for bushfire preparedness tips and advice.

If you are in distress please call Lifeline on 13 11 14 or Beyond Blue on 1300 22 4636.

For more information: Mayor Bec Enders (03) 6264 0300

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