

Planning changes to help communities recover from NSW bushfires

The NSW Government has been working in partnership with bushfire-affected councils to develop new planning provisions to help people recover from and rebuild after the recent bushfires.

The government is continuing to work with councils and state agencies to determine what else is needed to support the recovery and rebuilding effort.

The first set of changes expands the current exemptions policy to ensure more people affected by the bushfires can clean up and make their property safe without the need for planning approvals. People will also be able to store their belongings on site, for example in shipping containers, while they rebuild.

There are also new provisions that will allow people to establish temporary accommodation, such as caravans, without the need for council approval.

The NSW Government has also waived BASIX Certificate and Planning Reform fees for people needing to repair and rebuild their bushfire-affected homes.

Recent changes include the following:

Fee waiver

- BASIX Certificate and the Planning Reform Fund fees have been waived on all development applications related to homes damaged or destroyed in the recent bushfires. The Planning Reform Fund fee is collected by councils when you lodge a development application.
- Affected property owners can contact the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment to arrange for a BASIX Certificate to be issued free of charge. Councils can refer applicants to the dedicated BASIX bushfire recovery hotline: 1300 054 464.

Building works to be carried out without council approval

- Demolition of bushfire-affected buildings
- Temporary repairs and non-structural permanent repairs
- Temporary installation of a shipping container for storage purposes for up to two years.

Development standards will ensure that the development is low impact. Works will need to comply with the relevant Australian Standards. The demolition of a heritage item or in a heritage conservation area will still require a development application to the relevant local council.

Appropriate consideration of asbestos removal will also be required. For more information visit:

www.epa.nsw.gov.au/your-environment/waste/industrial-waste/asbestos-waste

Temporary accommodation options for people affected by bushfires

- Extended stays in a caravan park or camping ground for up to two years.
- Installation of a moveable dwelling—such as a caravan—on land for up to two years.

We have also made changes to allow councils to modify conditions for basic camping grounds.

For more information about these changes visit:

www.planning.nsw.gov.au/bushfirerecovery

Useful links and resources

- **Service NSW: Assistance for bushfire-affected communities**
The NSW Government is delivering bushfire recovery assistance to help people and businesses affected by bushfires. The Service NSW bushfire customer care service has specialists to help guide you every step of the way.
www.service.nsw.gov.au/campaign/bushfire-customer-care-service
- **NSW Bushfire Clean-Up Register**
The NSW Government and the Australian Government are covering the full cost of cleaning up for eligible NSW properties that have been destroyed by bushfires since 1 July 2019. Register online
www.service.nsw.gov.au/campaign/bushfire-customer-care-service
- **Bushfire response information from the Department of Planning, Industry and Environment**
www.dpie.nsw.gov.au/bushfire-response-information
- **Bushfire Housing Assistance Service**
The NSW Government has established the Bushfire Housing Assistance Service to support people who are temporarily or permanently displaced as a result of the NSW bushfires.
www.dcj.nsw.gov.au/families-and-communities/bushfire-housing-assistance-service
- **NSW Disaster Recovery Facebook page**
The Office of Emergency Management page is for disaster-impacted communities to access information, services and updates to help with their recovery.
www.facebook.com/NSWDisasterRecovery/

