



## The enormous task of rebuilding bushfire affected communities is still ahead of us

Bushfire devastated regions will need substantial help over the long-term to get back on their feet and bring their communities together.

This means we need to ensure local businesses are able to operate again, providing jobs, a sense of hope and a road to recovery as Australians in bushfire affected communities start to reclaim their lives.

We need to rebuild improved community facilities, such as world class community halls and public infrastructure, so communities can rebound and thrive.

We need to rebuild improved sporting facilities to keep locals, especially young people, in their home towns and give communities places to come together.

We need to re-establish vital job-creating industries that are the lifeblood of many bushfire affected communities, particularly tourism and agriculture.

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## What is the Community Rebuilding Initiative?

The Community Rebuilding Initiative is a five-year recovery and rebuilding fund run by business.

It has been specifically designed to focus on rebuilding bushfire affected communities so they can come back stronger than before. This involves ensuring locals have jobs, can return to work, businesses and industries can re-open, and community facilities can be rebuilt.

These are the key planks of bringing communities back together and rekindling a sense of hope for the future. Australians won't stay in fire-affected communities if they don't have access to jobs, world class facilities and opportunities.

### Our initiative aims to:

- Get people back into work as soon as possible and businesses operating again.
- Match people with jobs, providing them with tools and other equipment
- Ensure locals have access to rebuilding work in their communities
- Re-establish businesses so local economies can recovery
- Rebuild a sense of community pride and spirit by rebuilding state-of-the-art community facilities, including community halls, and sporting facilities, such as sporting clubs and grounds.

Our initiative is unique because it will be able to give assistance directly to businesses.

We believe that getting businesses back on their feet and local economies firing at the same time we rebuild world class community and sporting facilities is the best way of revitalising local communities and getting them back on track.

# REBUILDING FOR A STRONGER AUSTRALIA



## Who is running the initiative?

### **General the Honourable Sir Peter Cosgrove (Retd)**

who has firsthand experience in recovery efforts in Australia and overseas is the chair of the initiative.

**Lisa Paul AO PSM**, who coordinated the federal government's domestic response to the Bali bombings, is coordinating the committee's work.

The advisory committee includes **John Anderson AO, Rebecca Frizelle, Danny Gilbert AM, Richard Goyder AO, Katie Page, Tim Reed, Tony Shepherd AO, Yvonne von Hartel AM, and Jennifer Westacott AO.**

Equity Trustees will perform the role of trustee for the Community Rebuilding Trust. Equity Trustees will work closely with the Committee to administer and manage the trust, including conducting the annual audit and reporting publicly as required.

## Our work so far

The BizRebuild team have already been on the ground in bushfire affected areas.

Working with the local Chambers of Commerce we are identifying high priority needs and ways to rapidly get businesses back working.

BizRebuild has already begun matching BCA member contributions with worthy recipients, including Bunnings retooling the tradesman of a Batemans Bay stair manufacturing business 'Beach House Stairs'.

Quick wins show what we can do as a business community by working together, and we need your help.

## What can you do?

We need to raise substantial funds and in-kind assistance from businesses and others to support the rebuilding of communities, and we are taking a long-term approach.

Our initiative has been specifically designed to help businesses recover so local economies and communities can rebuild.

Having a single business Trust – focused on economic restoration – means assistance can be well-targeted and can also complement the efforts of the government's National Bushfire Recovery Agency and charities.

It is important that assistance from business is consolidated and coordinated in one fund, especially during the rebuilding phase to prevent resources being fragmented.

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