



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

Australia's summer of bushfires have left a trail of destruction, including the wholesale economic devastation of entire communities.

With some local economies facing ruin, the business community through our BizRebuild initiative is determined to help bushfire affected communities get back on their feet, rebuild and come back stronger than before.

Financial and in-kind assistance from BizRebuild is targeted, practical, on-the-ground and hands-on to ensure small businesses and communities can thrive again – providing jobs, a sense of hope and a road to recovery.

BizRebuild wants to ensure that whatever we do, it is even better than what existed before. This is not just about replace and repair, it is about restore and renew.

Our regions must continue to be great places to live and work with world-class multi-purpose community and sporting facilities that serve as magnets for locals to come together and celebrate a sense of community.

BizRebuild is determined that locals should not have to desert their hometowns but Australians won't stay in fire-affected communities if they don't have access to jobs, facilities and opportunities.

Our mission at BizRebuild is to rebuild communities, restore jobs and help economies recover. We are building a stronger Australia by giving small and local businesses support to recover and help to re-establish vital job creating industries that are the backbone of communities such as tourism and agriculture.

What is BizRebuild?

BizRebuild is a five-year recovery and rebuilding fund run by business.

It is a charitable trust and will have Deductible Gift Recipient status.

The work of BizRebuild is being driven by the needs of communities. We are responding to what communities are telling us they need and where we can make the most difference.

Our work is uniquely focused on directing assistance to small and local businesses to restore jobs and help rebuild economies and communities. We are able to assist individuals and businesses directly because it is part of our community mission.



 **We are building a stronger Australia by giving small and local businesses support to recover...** 



BizRebuild priorities

The BizRebuild team has already begun work in bushfire affected areas.

Work is focused on three priorities – rebuilding businesses and jobs, rebuilding communities and rebuilding industries.

Getting businesses operating again 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 communities by:

- repairing and rebuilding community facilities, such as community halls, and sporting facilities, such as sporting grounds and clubhouses, and
- constructing multi-purpose world-class community and sporting facilities that are better than before to give communities thriving hubs of social and economic activity where they can come together, attract sporting, social and tourism events, and keep locals in town.

Rebuilding industries by:

- coordinating research and long-term places to re-establish industries such as tourism, agriculture, aquaculture, forestry and viticulture,
- collaborating with industry groups to work on branding, marketing and campaigns, and
- encouraging larger businesses to enter procurement deals to purchase fresh produce, goods and services from fire affected regions such as trout from Tumut and rock lobsters from Kangaroo Island.

Rebuilding businesses and jobs by:

- placing workers in jobs as soon as possible,
- matching job seekers with larger businesses that are offering work,
- re-equipping workers and small businesses with tools, laptops, and office equipment so they can get back to work,
- ensuring locals have access to rebuilding work in their communities,
- setting up a ‘flying squad’ of experienced case managers who can triage business needs to work out:
 - the next steps,
 - draw up business cases,
 - put businesses in touch with local accountants and lawyers, and in some cases, financial assistance to help with this,
 - help them fill in forms for government assistance, and
 - help them navigate red tape and other regulations.
- encouraging larger businesses and the broader community to buy fresh produce, goods and services from fire affected small businesses,
- tapping into the expertise of larger businesses for help with marketing, mentoring, support and branding,
- asking larger businesses to hold offsite meetings and conferences in bushfire affected areas,
- having larger businesses commit to paying their bills and invoices ahead of time to help small businesses with cashflow, and
- having larger businesses commit to waiving debts owed by small businesses.

Our work so far

The business community has rallied in support of bushfire affected communities through BizRebuild, providing practical and in-kind assistance.

A snapshot of the help includes airlines continuing to fly to tourist areas, including offering affordable flights to Kangaroo Island to stimulate economic activity.

Energy companies suspending the accounts of affected businesses and families so they don't have to worry about their power bills.

Telecommunications companies offering relief packages to customers including credit for those worst affected.

Supermarket chains helping out fresh produce suppliers by agreeing to buy fruit and vegetables that is out of shape or has some cosmetic damage, and partnering with Foodbank to move goods to communities.

The banks are covering mortgage repayments and offering interest free and discounted loans to bushfire affected consumers and businesses.

Some of the other examples – which are the tip of the iceberg – of on-the-ground help organised by the BizRebuild team include:



The nine tradesmen from Beach House Stairs receiving replacement tools from Bunnings in Batemans Bay.



Beach House Stairs

In Batemans Bay, we matched the owners of carpentry business Beach House Stairs with hardware supplier Bunnings.

Bunnings provided the company with replacement tools within 24 hours, and nine tradesmen were able to get back to work.

As owners Jane and Rob told us, this “practical response to the devastation caused by the bush fires, is exactly the kind of support that small businesses like ours needs”.



Mogo Pop Up Mall

In the small village of Mogo, just outside Batemans Bay, we are organising a Pop Up Mall so local businesses can begin trading again while their premises are rebuilt.

ATCO is providing 13 demountable buildings initially for 12 months. Sydney-based trucking contractor, P&S Haul-Em, will transport them from Sydney to Mogo at a discounted rate. The Mogo Chamber of Commerce and Eurobodalla Shire worked with BizRebuild to establish the Pop Up Mall.

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.

You can also help through the secondment of personnel to the BizRebuild team, especially with experts in financial planning and project management to help with the on-the-ground case management work for small and local businesses.

Having a single business Trust – focused on economic restoration – means assistance can be well-targeted and can also complement the efforts of the 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.

BizRebuild is spending money as it goes, not holding on to capital.

Donate to BizRebuild

If you wish to make a donation, please visit www.eqt.com.au/DisasterResponse

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.

BizRebuild has the best people around the country giving us independent and expert advice. BizRebuild will be transparently held to account about how all funds are spent.

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.

BizRebuild team

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