



Recovery update for those affected by the Pigeon Valley Fire

7 May 2019

Please note: this is the last newsletter we'll put out as the intensity of the recovery phase has tapered off. We'll be in touch if we have news to share, or otherwise you can always contact us. We'll continue to work through Mayoral Disaster Relief Fund applications.

Funding

There is \$463,000 in the Mayoral Disaster Relief Fund from donations from the public and government. Applications close on 12 May 2019.

The following funding streams administered by the Mayoral Disaster Relief Fund have been established and are open to applications;

- 1) \$1,038,129 from the Lotteries Grants Board to fund land remediation and applications from not-for-profit organisations. The land remediation includes the cost to repair the damage caused by fighting and containing the fire. It does not cover what was burnt by the fire. The not-for-profit funding is for not-for-profit agencies that incurred costs during the response and recovery phases of the event.
- 2) \$50,000 funding from Ministry of Primary Industries to subsidise the freight of feed to drought affected areas.
- 3) \$754,000 from Lotteries Grants Board for soil stabilisation in the areas that were burnt.

Mayoral Disaster Relief Fund (MDRF) closing date

Applications to the Mayoral disaster Relief Fund will close on 12 May. The fund that was set up following the Pigeon Valley and related fires has received \$463,000 in donations.

The fund is open to Tasman District and Nelson City residents, ratepayers or business owners, and not-for-profit organisations, who have suffered financial or emotional hardship as a result of the fire event that began on 5 February 2019.

Since opening for applications in March the fund has approved 33 applications in part or in full, totalling \$80,000 with another 60 applications currently being processed.

Please bear with us as we continue to work through applications to assess the varying needs of the community. So far payments from the Mayoral Disaster Relief Fund have been made for accommodation, loss of income, remediation works and financial hardship.

To find out whether you can apply to the fund and application forms go to <https://www.tasman.govt.nz/my-community/grants-and-funding/available-grants-and-funding/mayoral-disaster-relief-fund/>

Healthcare

Free GP visits for fire-related stress or anxiety: Free GP visits will continue to be offered for people seeking support for stress or anxiety relating to the fires.

Coping with stress and anxiety: Anxiety is a normal response to a very stressful situation. Talking to people and helping others can be both therapeutic and useful.

If you need further support for yourself or for others:

- free-phone or text 1737 to talk to a trained counsellor
- call your general practice, after-hours GP practice or Healthline on 0800 611 116
- in an emergency, call 111

Te Putahitanga o Te Waipounamu Whanau Ora Commissioning Agency based in Christchurch and Te Hauora o Ngati Rarua Ltd based in Blenheim have provided ongoing immense support throughout the State of Emergency and post Tasman Fires with huge thanks to local Wakefield based Navigator Tane Whaanga.

Other Iwi Whanau Wellness Services are also provided by:

- Te Piki Oranga Wellness Services: based at 281 Queen Street Richmond and also operate from Te Awhina Marae in Motueka and Whakatu Marae in Nelson phone: 543 7016 email admin@tpo.org.nz
- Whakatu Marae 99 Atawhai Drive Nelson
Phone: 5469097
Email: kaiawhina@whakatumarae.co.nz
Provide: Whanau Ora Services which extend across Nelson, Richmond, Wakefield, Tapawera and Motueka districts

The Ministry of Social Development can advise on financial support: 0800 779 997

The Ministry of Primary Industries can advise on animal welfare concerns: 0800 008 333 (option 4)

Sharing this update

Civil Defence is here to help, if you think there are other topics we need to cover in this newsletter let us know.

If you have family or friends that cannot access a computer, please share this information with them.

Remember, it is ok to ask for help. If you need help and you're not sure who to ask, call Tasman District Council on **03 543 8400 (24 Hours)**.