



Recovery Newsletter - May 2026

MESSAGE FROM RECOVERY TEAM

Can you believe its almost June! The landscape continues to change, paddocks that had started to go green have returned to brown as sowing has happening and soon we hope will be that lush green of crops. The clean up of properties is ongoing and the free waste disposal program has been extended until end of June.

Natimuk Recovery hub remains open Tuesday and Wednesday. We are no longer operating the Quantong hub on Mondays but if any resident has a question please call or email and we are happy to come out and visit.

We will be holding Community Update sessions over the coming month. Natimuk Friday 12th June and Quantong Friday 26th June. These evenings will be an opportunity to come together, share a meal and some music, hear about the progress so far with recovery and what still needs to happen and what people would like to see happen.

recovery@hrcc.vic.gov.au.

Rhonda

FREE WASTE DISPOSAL EXTENDED

 **Ends Tuesday 30th June 2026**

Free waste disposal program has been extended until 30th June 2026, see locations below.

Natimuk Waste Facility / Stack Site Lake Ave

Scrap metal - place on the current scrap metal pile.

Green waste – Green waste bin

All other fire affected materials – Bushfire waste skip

Quantong Transfer Station 497 Lanes Avenue

Wednesday 1pm-5pm, Saturday 9am-1pm

Scrap metal -place on current metal pile

Green waste – Green waste skip

All other fire affected materials – Bushfire waste skip

RECOVERY HUB CONTACTS

Call the Community Recovery Team

 **0472 704 674**



Send us an email at

recovery@hrcc.vic.gov.au

COMMUNITY EVENINGS

As the seasons change a time for everyone to come together and share a meal and stories. An update of the recovery program so far and an opportunity to provide input and ideas into what people would like to have included in the next 6 months.

Natimuk

 **Friday 12th June 7pm**

Soldiers Memorial Hall

Quantong

 **Friday 26th June 7pm**

Community Centre

RURAL REVEGETATION PROGRAM 2026

The HRCC Rural Revegetation Program is running again this year from 1st June to 3rd July 2026 and is your chance to replant a large number of trees for only \$0.50 each! See <https://www.hrcc.vic.gov.au/> to place your order but get in quick before they are all sold out.

RECOVERY HUB

NC² Building - 62 Main Street Natimuk

- Tuesdays 2pm -6pm
- Wednesday 10am-4pm



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STARTING THE REBUILDING PROCESS

Rebuilding Process

Council understands that community members of Natimuk and the surrounding areas who have been affected by the Grass Flat bushfires in January may be ready to start thinking about the process of rebuilding or seeking advice as to better understand the process.

Navigating the planning and building legislative requirements can be complex and require advice from professionals to support you through the process. The State Government have prepared comprehensive guides to assist with the process:

<https://www.vic.gov.au/sites/default/files/2025-09/Guidelines-Rebuilding-after-bushfire-A-guide-to-planning-your-rebuild-Residential-rebuild.pdf>

The planning and building team at Horsham Rural City Council are also available to assist you and to discuss your unique circumstances and timing of rebuilding.

Below are some of the general questions and answers based on what we have heard from the broader community.

Do we need to construct to a Bushfire Attach Level (BAL)?

Yes, the rural areas around Natimuk and Quantong are within designated Bushfire Prone Area, they are not in Bushfire Management Overlay which only applies to areas of extreme fire risk. The BAL requires any new dwellings to meet a minimum BAL rating of 12.5. This is the standard construction level for rural areas and generally triggers only minor additional requirements or costs.

The major component of fire protection in this landscape is more in ensuring annual fire preparedness activities around your home, in which Council will be running workshops on during Spring.

Will I be able to rebuild on the same site?

Rebuilding dwellings or businesses - if these buildings were:

- Existing on the site for more than 15 years;
- Contain existing planning permit approval; or
- Are exempt from the requirements of the Horsham Planning Scheme.

The rebuild can proceed without obtaining a planning permit. Should a planning permit be required, we encourage you to contact the planning and building team for more information or support in this process.

How will the proposed Heritage Overlay affect rebuilding?

As part of Planning Scheme Amendment C85hors, a Heritage Overlay has been proposed for Natimuk, including two precincts: the Natimuk Township Precinct and the Natimuk Residential Precinct.

The purpose of the Heritage Overlay is to recognise and protect the significant history and heritage values within the township of Natimuk.

Some properties impacted by the Grass Flat fire were originally identified for inclusion in the proposed overlay. However, as the amendment process is still underway, changes have been required to reflect recent building losses. This includes removing or revising the heritage classification of affected properties.

It is important to note that the proposed Heritage Overlay has not yet been formally incorporated into the Horsham Planning Scheme. As such, it is not currently a statutory requirement and will not affect any proposed rebuilding at this stage.

For further information please contact the HRCC Planning and Building Team at planning@hrcc.vic.gov.au or 03 5382 9777 or call in to the recovery hub.

LEGAL SUPPORT

It is unfortunate but when dealing with legal issues and in particular insurance companies regarding policies things can become difficult. Allied Justice is available to anyone affected by this event to provide assistance on a range of legal issues.

We held a successful drop in session last week If anyone is having challenges with insurance please call allied justice or pop in to the recovery hub.

Allied Justice 91b Wilson Street Horsham

Call Allied Justice on

 **03 5331 5999 or 1800 466 488**



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KEY CONTACTS

Grampians Community Health – Personal support



03 5358 7400 and ask for Mel, Tegan or Bec

AGRICULTURAL BUSINESSES SUPPORT

Rural Financial Counselling Service



1300 735 578



GRANTS

VERF Funds

Bushfire Recovery Grant – up to \$75,000 close Oct 2026

Reestablishment grants



UPCOMING DATES

VOLUNTEERS DEBRIEF SESSIONS

Wednesday 18th June NC² 2pm and 7pm

This will be a facilitated workshop to learn from everyone's experience and looks at ways to share with others for the future.

COMMUNITY EVENINGS

Friday 12th June – Natimuk

Friday 26th June – Quantong

SMALL BUSINESS BUS

Wednesday 24th June – Nc2 – Natimuk