Community Fire Recovery

To some the November bushfires that swept through our region may seem like a distant memory, but to others the recovery continues. Community recovery is an important part of the recovery process, and just as it is with individuals, it is important to recognise that every community is unique.

The Local Recovery Committee have released the Recovery Newsletter in digital format, so you can now subscribe and keep up to date with recovery news delivered directly to your email inbox. A logo has been designed to be a visual representation of our community’s recovery journey.

The logo depicts a eucalyptus tree sprouting from the ashes which is symbolic of the regrowth and new growth that our community will experience.

The Ashes are the beginning of our journey, the sprout is our Community now as it moves through the recovery process and in the future our community will stand tall and strong again, having risen from adversity but remembering where our roots started.

If you’d like to subscribe and keep up to date with fire recovery news go to the new Shire website www.esperance.wa.gov.au

Message from the Shire President

Esperance’s parks, playgrounds and beautifully landscaped open spaces are something we take great pride in. That’s why the Playgrounds and Public Open Space Strategic Plan is a focus for Council. While it costs to maintain public open space, it also adds beauty, function and tourism value to our town, which is supported by the continuing positive feedback we hear from visitors and locals.

The Plan will help us to manage, upgrade and develop playgrounds and public open space within the Shire of Esperance for the next ten years. Esperance was identified as having double the amount of public open space and parks per population than the average in Western Australia, which means our community is well serviced in this area. Community engagement about our playgrounds and open spaces revealed that the community would prefer fewer, better quality playgrounds.

Recently, concerns have been raised at seeing playground equipment removed from local playgrounds. The playground equipment that has been removed has exceeded its lifespan, and has been done for the safety of children. Some of these playgrounds are earmarked for better replacement equipment, while others will be left as open space for recreation and leisure activities. Concerns have also been raised about what the Shire intends to do with the playgrounds that are not receiving replacement equipment.

The community can be assured that no decisions other than those pertaining to public safety will be made without community consultation. Any suggestion that we have plans at this stage other than what is publicly available is wrong. If you’re wondering what is happening to the playground near your home, have a read of the Shire’s Playgrounds and Public Open Space Strategic Plan.

The Public Open Space Strategic Plan lists all the playground and open space areas in the Shire of Esperance, and what is being planned. The Shire has been recognised for its innovation and awarded for the quality of our playgrounds on the waterfront. This recognition highlights that we are delivering a high quality service which is clearly being frequently used and appreciated by many within the community and those visiting Esperance.

The Playground and Public Open Space Strategy will ensure Esperance has high quality playgrounds located so that everyone in the community has a safe and well maintained playground within a reasonable distance. If you’d like to read the Shire’s Playgrounds and Public Open Space Strategic Plan, head to the Shire website www.esperance.wa.gov.au or call us on 9071 0666.