

Media Release

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Grants to build resilient communities across Blue Mountains

corporate2community (C2C), a leader in business community disaster resilience, has won two grants in collaboration with BusinessBM, the region's new business network, to build resilient business communities across the 26 towns of the Blue Mountains.

The grants total more than \$600,000 and have been awarded separately through the joint-funded NSW and Commonwealth Government Bushfire Local Economic Recovery (BLER) Fund, and the NSW Bushfire Community Recovery and Resilience Fund (BCRRF).

"Disasters are here to stay – the bushfire, pandemic, drought and flood events of the past 18 months have shown us there are big gaps in business community preparedness in the Blue Mountains and right across the country," corporate2community Director Renae Hanvin said.

"It doesn't matter how big or small your business is, owners, operators and employees need to start building new vital capabilities in disaster preparedness and resilience. One of the best ways to do this is to get businesses working together and sharing their knowledge to support place-based resilience outcomes."

BusinessBM spokesman and local Bartons Real Estate Principal Mark Barton said Blue Mountains businesses had suffered as a result of the 2019-20 bushfires and the Covid-19 pandemic, which had severely impacted tourism and the ability to trade as usual.

"We know that together we're stronger, and by better connecting businesses we can bring everyone along on the journey and create a more resilient local economy," Mr Barton said.

"This is about keeping the business community in business. We want to engage with every town across the Blue Mountains, and we're inviting and welcoming every business owner, operator and employee – there will be benefits for everyone."

The first grant, worth \$284,900, will underpin the creation of a free business community resilience hub to support self-sufficiency and long-term resilience by sharing knowledge and developing resilience-focused learning programs for local businesses.

The second grant, worth up to \$331,000, will fund a pilot to identify and build a learning program that will position the Blue Mountains business community as a national leader in facilitating and educating businesses about disaster preparedness and resilience outcomes.

Ms Hanvin said C2C had already engaged a local consultant to help drive engagement for the first project, and would be employing two additional people to work across the second project.

"Employing local people and tapping into local expertise and services is central to every project we undertake," Ms Hanvin said. "We're delighted to have appointed local corporate communications specialist Rebecca Lang, who will be working on our stakeholder engagement and reaching out to local business groups."

About:

C2C in collaboration with BusinessBM have been awarded two business resilience grants. The first, a joint-funded grant of \$284,900, by the NSW and Commonwealth Government NSW Bushfire Community Recovery and Resilience Fund (BCRRF) to deliver programs to increase business resilience capabilities, connections and wellbeing in the Blue Mountains.

This is a Bushfire Community Recovery and Resilience Fund project through the joint Commonwealth/State Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements. Although funding for this product has been provided by both the Australian and NSW Governments, the material contained herein does not necessarily represent the views of either government.



Australian Government



The second, up to \$331,000 through the joint-funded NSW and Commonwealth Government Bushfire Local Economic Recovery (BLER) Fund, to establish the Blue Mountains business community as a leader in educating business about disaster preparedness and resilience outcomes.

Notes:

Deputy Premier and Minister responsible for Disaster Recovery John Barilaro said the diverse nature of projects funded under the Bushfire Community Recovery and Resilience Fund and the Bushfire Local Economic Recovery Fund were driven by the specific recovery needs of each community and guided by locally led applications.

“One year has passed since we cleared 3,600 properties damaged or destroyed by the Black Summer bushfires and we are continuing to deliver the support that the Blue Mountains needs to keep moving forward in recovery,” Mr Barilaro said. “People are rebuilding their lives and we are backing projects that will bring communities together, support tourism, provide improved or new social amenities, and increase preparedness for future bushfires.”

The Bushfire Local Economic Recovery Package and Bushfire Community Recovery and Resilience Fund are part of the \$4.5 billion overarching bushfire support program co-funded by the Australian and NSW Governments for bushfire recovery, response and preparedness in NSW.

corporate2community (C2C) is a certified social enterprise and leader in business community disaster resilience, focused on building resilient businesses, leading collaborations and helping communities thrive. C2C builds long-term relationships with Government, Industry, SMEs and micro businesses and communities across Australia and around the world.

BusinessBM is a regional business network committed to building connections, community and a common voice while strengthening social capital through the business community. BusinessBM recognises that businesses are vital to the social and economic viability of a thriving Blue Mountains community and is committed to connecting, engaging and supporting local enterprises.

MORE INFORMATION:

Contact C2C Stakeholder Engagement – Blue Mountains consultant:
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PHOTO AND CAPTION: Headshots of: BBM members Lawrence Atkinson, Mark Barton, Mike Bowler and C2C Director Renae Hanvin.