



Bass Coast Energy Resilient Community Hubs

Fusing Infrastructure with Social Capital





Bass Coast Energy Resilient Community Hubs



Fusing Infrastructure

with



Social Capital



Starting Point: Climate Emergency + Emergency Management + Resilience

In 2019, Bass Coast Shire declared a **Climate Emergency**: and immediate action to:

- ▶ Reduce emissions
- ▶ Build a **resilient** Bass Coast community

2023 – existing work program focused on **emissions reduction** and energy efficiency

Strengthening **Resilience** Function within Emergency Management: internal and external partnerships

Climate change mitigation and '**community-led**' increasingly present in doctrine: lack of proven use cases

Significant **social capital** and will in community: need to unlock and leverage

Little integration across '**hard**' **infrastructure** projects and **social** '**software**' building community development

Energy Resilience and distributed relief models key community needs – not serviced under traditional models





Risk and Resilience: First Hubs and Development of Delivery Model

Partnered with Victorian Government to fund first hubs

Over 200 Council-owned buildings... cross-functional working group developed prioritisation matrix:

BAU emissions reduction Disaster risk profile

Co-location of services Inter-operability

Internal partnerships: Emergency Management; Sustainable Environment; Community Development

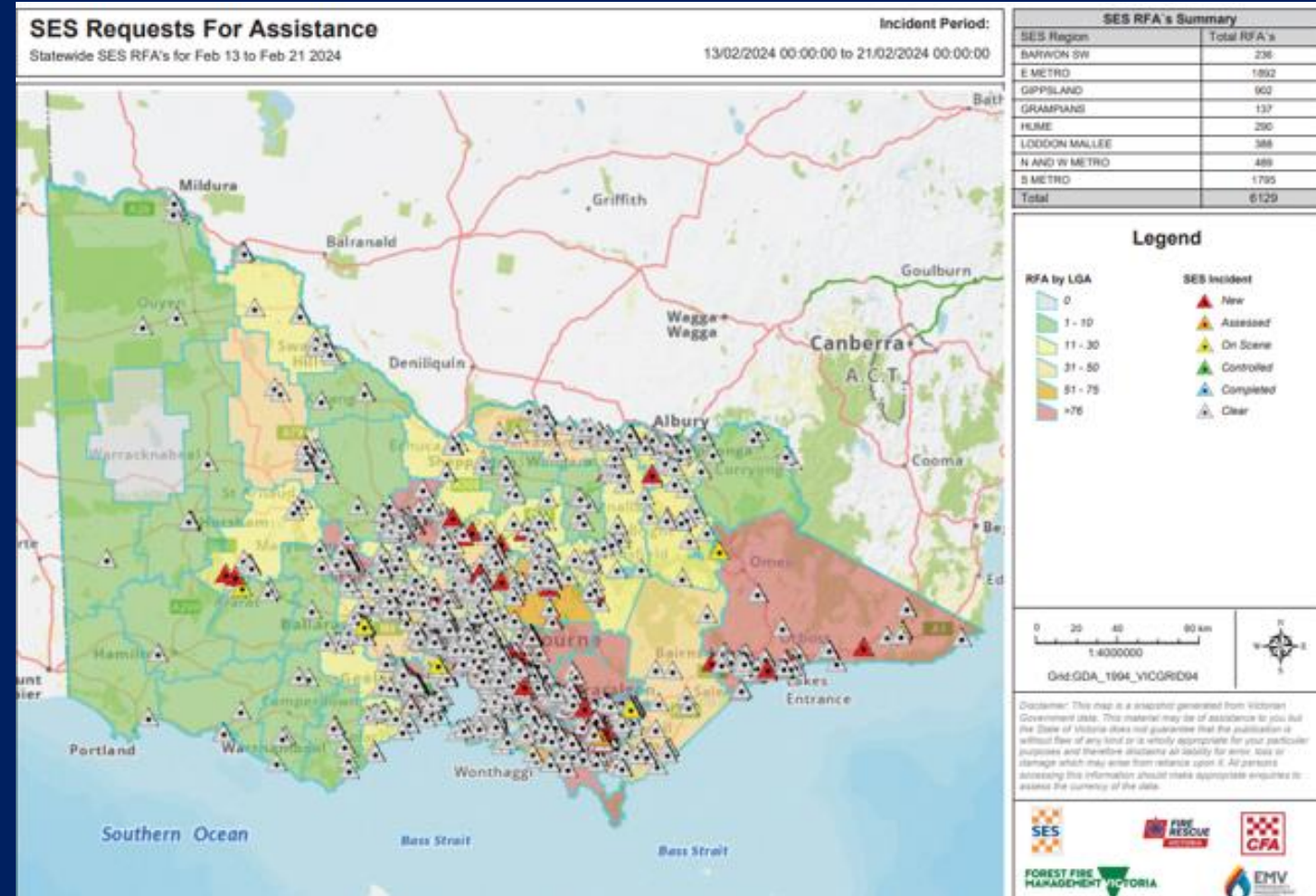
External partnerships: Response agencies, community groups, sustainability stakeholders

Asset Based Community Development

	Building	Address	Solar Capacity (kW)	Battery Capacity (kWh)	Estimated Upgrades (Solar/Battery)	Estimated System Cost	Business-as Usual Function (ROI/Solar)	Business-as Usual Function (Community Services)	Disaster Risk Profile (ResilientCo Priority Group)	Interoperability	Score
1											
2	PICAL Building	Warley Ave			20kW/20kWh	\$ 45,000	5	5	2	2	14
3	Grantville Transaction Centre	Bass Hwy			20kW/20kWh	\$ 45,000	5	5	3	1	14
4	Inverloch Community Hub	A'Beckett St	30.0		0kW/20kWh	\$ 20,000	5	5	0	2	12
5	Cowes Senior Citizens Centre	Lions Ct	9.9		0kW/10kWh	\$ 15,000	4	3	2	2	11
6	BCAL Wonthaggi	White Rd	15.0		0kW/10kWh	\$ 15,000	5	4	1	1	11
7	Inverloch Senior Citizens Hall	A'Beckett St	15.0		0kW/10kWh	\$ 15,000	4	3	0	2	9
8	Cape Paterson Community Hall	Cape Paterson Rd			15kW/10kWh	\$ 30,000	2	3	1	2	8
9	Corinella Hall	Smythe St			15kW/10kWh	\$ 30,000	3	2	1	2	8
10	Kernot Community Hall	Loch Kernot Rd			15kW/10kWh	\$ 30,000	1	1	4	1	7
11	Wonthaggi Senior Citizens Club	Murray St	13.2		0kW/10kWh	\$ 15,000	2	2	1	2	7
12	Kilcunda Community Hall	Bass Hwy	Maybe		0kW/10kWh	\$ 15,000	2	1	2	2	7
13	Newhaven Hall	Cleeland St			15kW/10kWh	\$ 30,000	3	2	0	1	6
14	Dalyston Football/Netball Club		Yes		0kW/10kWh	\$ 15,000	2	1	0	2	5
15	Dalyston Community Hall	Tulloch St			15kW/10kWh	\$ 30,000	2	2	0	1	5
16	Rhyll Hall	Lock Rd			15kW/10kWh	\$ 30,000	2	1	1	1	5
17	Corinella Community Centre	Smythe St	Yes	Yes							0



Storm: 14 February 2024





Proof of Concept: Corinella

Hub as Central Node For Community Relief and Recovery



Corinella - A self sufficient town amongst the darkness of storms

Published: Monday 26 February 2024

Categories: [Blog](#)

On 13th February 2024, when the heavy storms cast their shadow across the South Gippsland region, townships across the region plunged into darkness and despair.

With no power, reception or communications, Corinella & District Community Centre (CDCC) was a rare beacon of light for the community as it has not only solar panels but a large Tesla Powerwall 2 battery which Bass Coast Shire Council invested in two years ago, alongside funding from Sustainability Victoria and the CDCC. This set up proved to be a model of what all small regional towns should have to ensure residents are not left without vital



Waterline Emergency Network (WEN)

Building and strengthening local resilience networks alongside infrastructure install and activation





AusNet Partnership: Opportunity to Scale True 'Energy Resilience Eco-System'

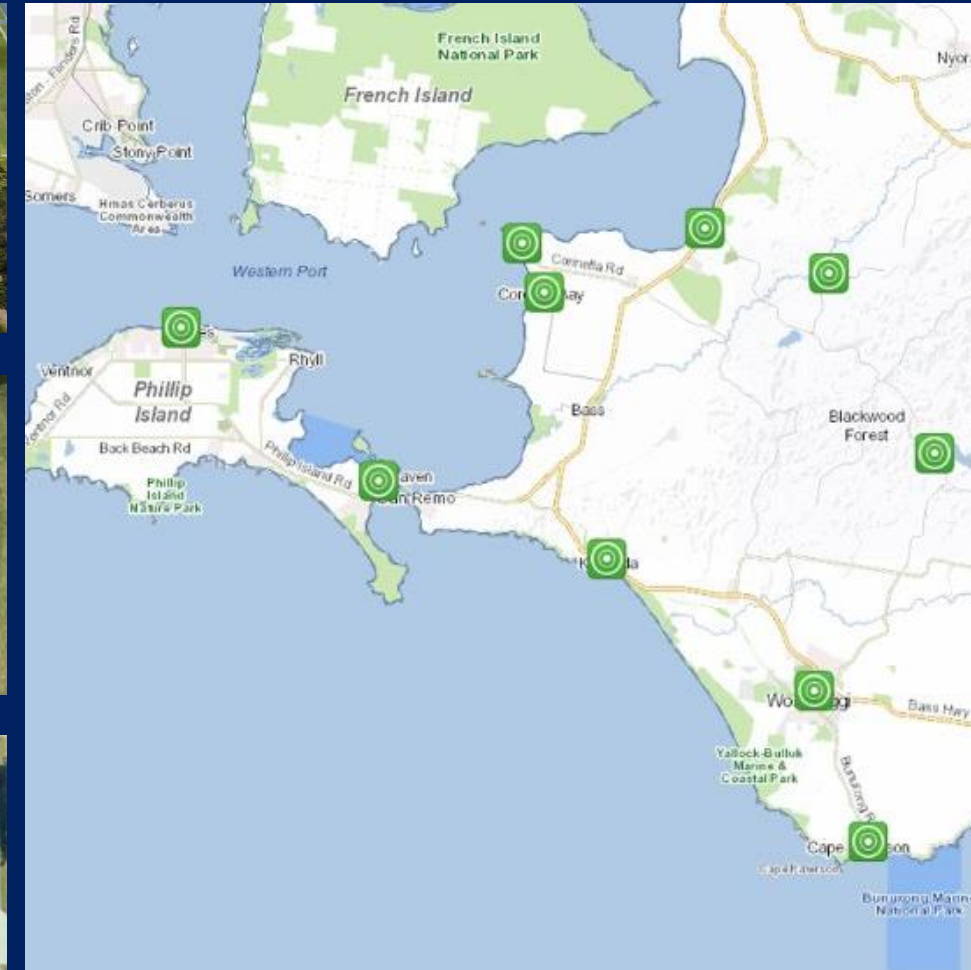
AusNet announced \$10M Energy
Resilience Community Fund

Approached with shovel ready delivery
model as early-stage partner: network
of **10 Energy Resilient Hubs** completed

Supported additional successful applications from
community groups:

*Corinella and District Community Centre,
Mycelia Renewables, Kilcunda Community
Association, Free 3D Hands, Bass Valley
Community Group, Grantville Recreation
Reserve Committee of Management, State
Emergency Service San Remo Unit, Woolamai
Beach Surf Life Saving Club*

In total, over **\$650,000** funding attracted to Bass
Coast through Council's Resilience Road Map





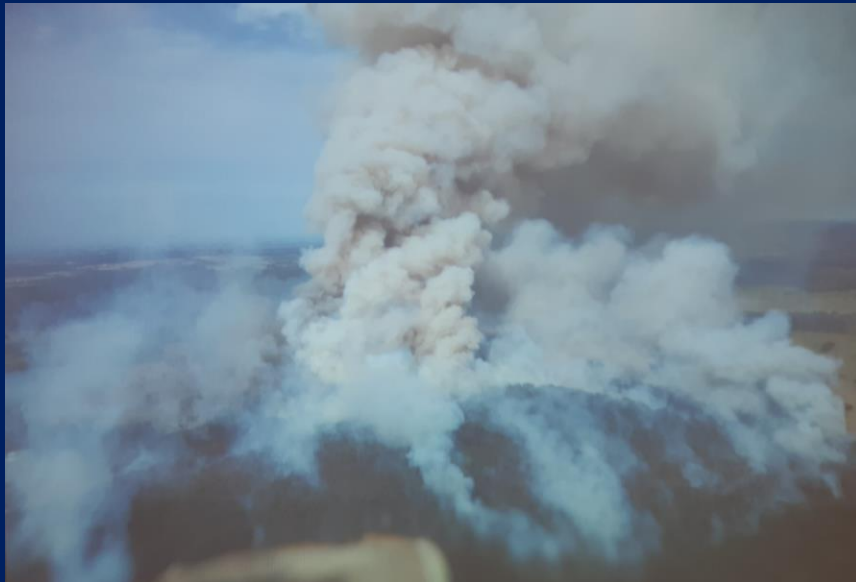
Gurdies Fire - 2025

Significant campaign bushfire in
Waterline communities

Distributed community relief
via ERC Hubs

Community information-
sharing and recovery in
partnership with the WEN

WEN partnered with CFA to
deliver community-led debrief





Strengthening Social Capital

WEN model replicated across the Shire around other hubs

Resilience Networks self-activating in heat events, and receive fobs from Council

WEN produced Waterline Emergency Handbook

Partnered with Anne Leadbeater OAM to deliver resilience workshops across Shire

WATERLINE EMERGENCY HANDBOOK

EDUCATE / PLAN / ACT / RESPOND



**Corinella & District
Community Centre**
48 Snythe Street,
Corinella Victoria 3984



Coronet Bay Hall
39A Gellibrand Street,
Coronet Bay VIC 3984



**Grantville
Transaction Centre**
1504-1510 Bass Hwy,
Grantville, 3984



Grantville Hall
1470 Bass Hwy,
Grantville VIC 3984

Community Emergency Hubs

The Bass Coast Shire Council launched **Energy Resilient Community Hubs** to enhance community resilience and preparedness. These hubs are equipped with solar panels and battery systems to provide power and serve as a central point for community.

These hubs are a place where people can come together, find help, stay connected, and share resources in the aftermath of a storm, fire or other disruption.

These hubs aim to strengthen local resilience and ensure that the community members are informed and ready to respond effectively to emergencies like fire, storms or power outages.

Importantly, these hubs are not relief centres or places of last resort. Instead, they are community-owned spaces designed to support preparedness and recovery. REMEMBER THAT LEAVING EARLY IS YOUR SAFEST OPTION.

	Corinella & District Community Centre	Coronet Bay Community Hall	Grantville Transaction Centre	Grantville Hall
Solar panels & battery	✓	✓	✓	✓
Generator	✓	✓	✓	✓
Portable gas BBQ's	✓	✓	✓	✓
Kitchen	✓	✓	✓	✓
Toilets	✓	✓	✓	✓
Heating & cooling	✓	✓	✓	✓
Recharging points Wi-Fi	✓	✓	✓	✓
Defibrillators	✓	✓	✓	✓
External outdoor water bottle refill station	✓	✓	✓	✓

Who do I call in an emergency?
To report an emergency, call 000
Monitor the Vic Emergency App.
To know if a Community Emergency Hub is open,
call Bass Coast Shire Council – 1300 226 278





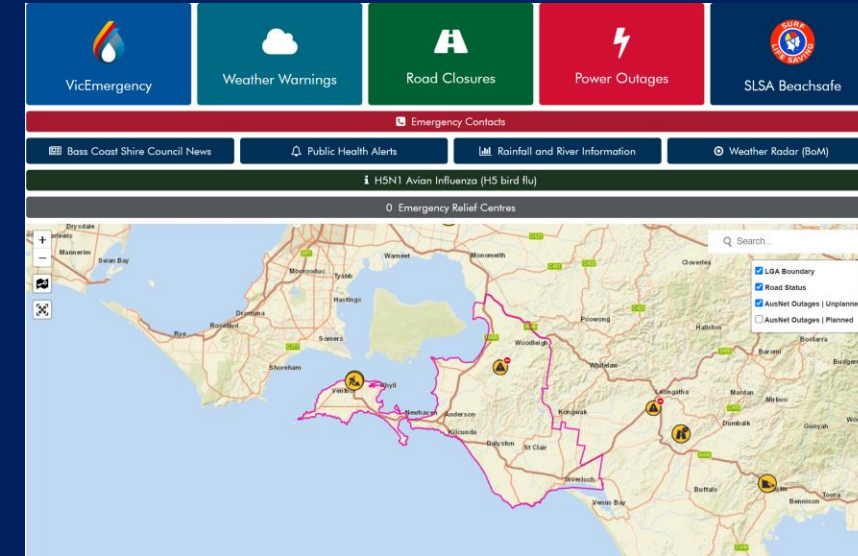
Further Asset Hardening and Digital Integration

Accessed federal funding to install STAND at
Hubs: **Communications Resilience**

Integration into Bass Coast Emergency
Dashboard

Incorporating Hubs and Resilience Road Map
into **community-facing Climate Change Action
Portal**

Strengthening protocols for **self-activation**



COMMUNITY WI-FI POWERED BY NBN® SKY MUSTER®

STEPS TO CONNECT

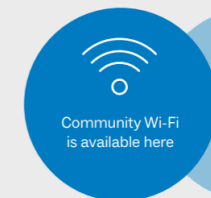
To connect to the internet, follow these steps below:

- 1 Open the Wi-Fi settings on your device and select the network 'Community Wi-Fi'
- 2 A welcome page will appear, select 'Get Online'
- 3 Read and accept the service provider Terms & Conditions, select 'Continue' - you should now be connected to the internet.



LOGIN HERE

Scan the QR Code
to connect now



Need technical support?

Please call the Community Wi-Fi Support Team
on **1300 197 865**

This Community Wi-Fi service is provided over the nbn network by a phone and internet service provider and funded by the Australian Government through the Strengthening Telecommunications Against Natural Disasters (STAND) program.

© 2026 nbn co ltd. 'nbn', 'Sky Muster' and nbn logos are trademarks or registered trademarks of nbn co ltd | ABN 86 136 533 741





Next Steps and Implications

Genuine **Shared Responsibility** and platform for continued community-led collaboration at scale

Mobile Energy Resilience Asset: **Resilient Bass Coast vehicle** fund – for November launch

Embedding Energy Resilience Hubs in Municipal Emergency Management Plan, Emergency Management Dashboard and Climate Change Action Portal

Ongoing **joint exercising** with community and agency partners and engagement with ICs through seasonal briefings and incident debriefs

Communities increasingly requiring **distributed relief and recovery model** in the face of novel/compounding hazards: how to achieve consistency and systems alignment across LGAs?

Social Network Analysis to bring together ‘hard’ and ‘soft’ asset mapping in holistic program logic for relief and recovery provision across the shire

Funding-agnostic delivery models – **future-proofing** and support scale within challenging recovery funding environment

Hubs as loci for ongoing community leadership development and disaster resilience planning: **Infrastructure → Social Capital** as recursive process building community and government capability



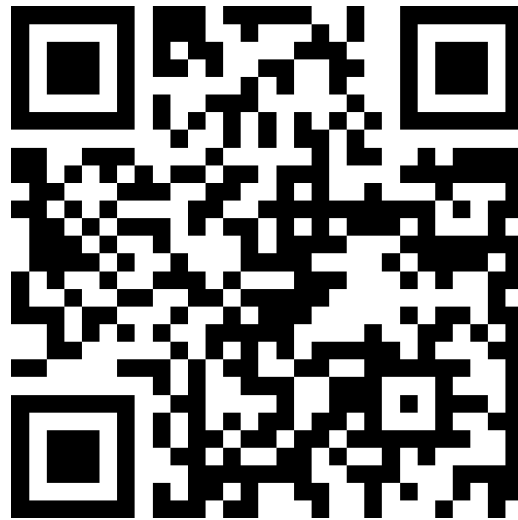
Thank You

Nick Grant-Collins: nick.grant-collins@mornpen.vic.gov.au

Justin Murray: justin.murray@basscoast.vic.gov.au



Use Slido for Q&A



Slido.com | #ADRC26



Sunflower Room

ADRC26 is an exciting and noisy place.

The Sunflower Room is a sensory-friendly space at the conference, offering delegates with hidden disabilities a place to help rest, regulate and reset.

Please see a staff member at the registration desk if you need assistance finding it.





Thank you to the Australian Disaster Resilience Conference 2026
Industry Partner Sponsor



and Resilience Lane Sponsor



A Help
Company