

East Gippsland's Black Summer

2019-2020



East Gippsland in overview

- **20,931 square kilometres**
- **75% public land**
- **46,818 people (as at 30 June 2018 – profile.id)**
- **Operating income of \$101M**
- **Capital Expenditure / Landfill Rehabilitation Program of \$52M**
- **Infrastructure assets of \$838,833**
- **Economy heavily reliant on retail, tourism and agriculture**

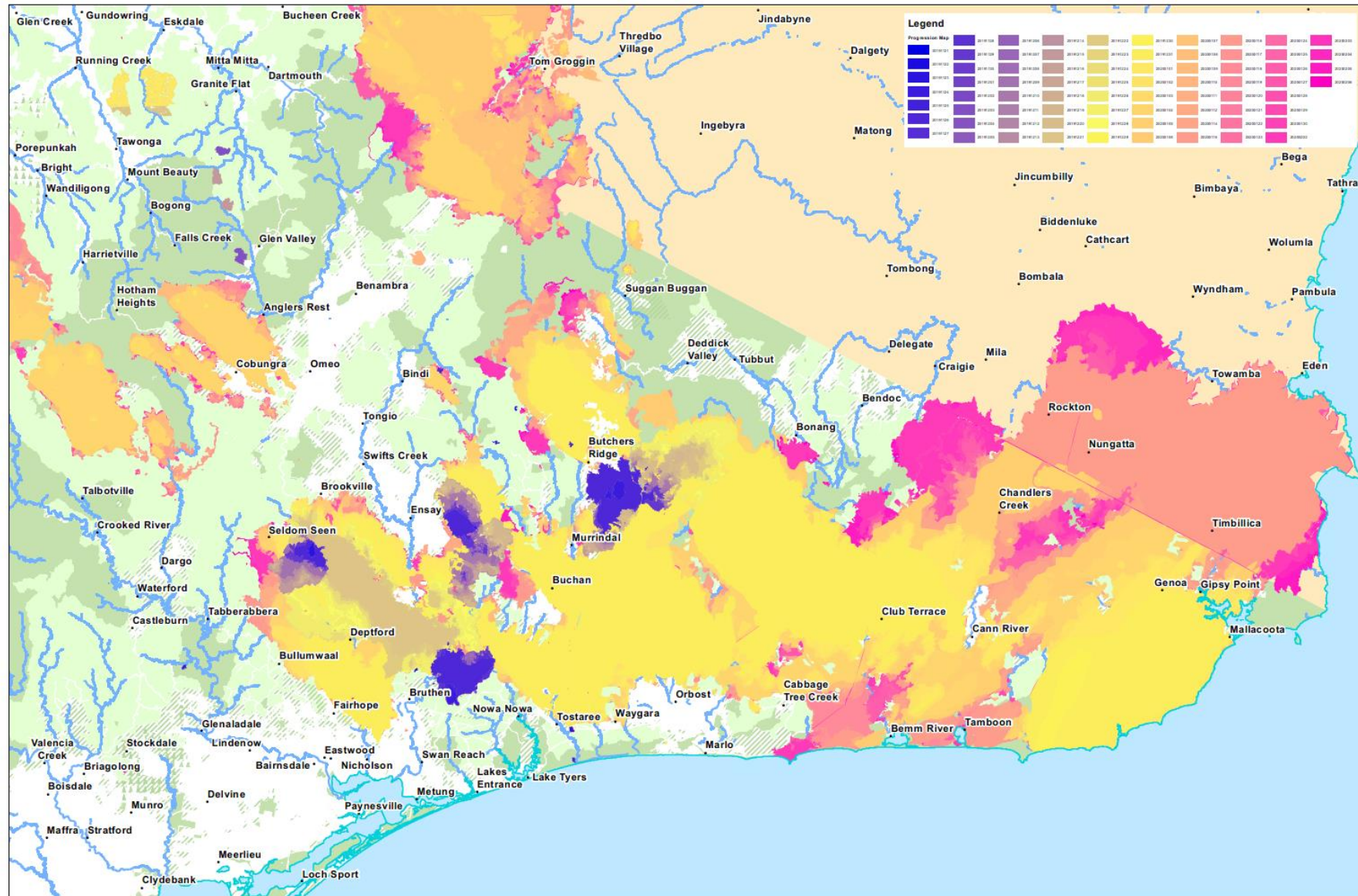


Drought, industry transition, fire, COVID



Footprint of the fire event

East Gippsland Progression Overview Map - 1000hrs 11 Feb - A0L 1:700,000



Disclaimer: This map is a snapshot generated from Victorian Government data. The State of Victoria does not guarantee that the publication is without error or is wholly appropriate for your particular purposes and therefore disclaims all liability for error, loss or damage which may arise from reliance upon it. All persons accessing the information should make appropriate enquiries to assess the currency of the data.





Impact on Council and its communities

No community has been spared in East Gippsland's largest-ever disaster – the 2019-20 East Gippsland Bushfires. It's a summer no one will forget, and an event that has directly or indirectly impacted every one of our 46,000 residents and tens of thousands of visitors. Many of our directly-affected localities are small and isolated. The community-led recovery will be significant and will take time.

The fire

- 1.2 million hectares.
- 21 November – fires first reported.
- Late November – active fires around Bruthen and Great Alpine Road.
- 27 December to 10 January – significant fire activity.
- Late January to early February – significant fire activity.
- 19 February – Tambo District fires contained after 91 days.
- 20 February – Snowy District fires remain going, including 73 ha peat fire near Cape Conran.

Roads

- Extended closures of major roads: Princes Highway, Great Alpine Road, Monaro Highway and Genoa-Mallacoota Road.
- Significant impacts on secondary access roads and National Parks and State Reserves roads and tracks (some remain closed or have restricted access).
- Ongoing intermittent closures due to landslips
- Over 1600 guideposts and 70 curve alignment signs damaged.
- 663 kilometres of Council roads impacted.

Princes Highway East – closed 37 days

- Bairnsdale to Genoa closed 30 December
- Bairnsdale to Orbost reopened 5 January; Orbost to NSW remained closed. Progressively reopened between Orbost and Cann River.

- Orbost to Manorina reopened 12 January.
- Manorina to Cann River reopened 1 February.
- Cann River to Genoa reopened 4 February.
- Genoa to NSW border closed 31 December and reopened 4 February.

Mallacoota Road – closed 39 days

- Genoa to Mallacoota closed 30 December and reopened 6 February.

Monaro Highway – closed 35 days

- Cann River to NSW border closed on 29 December and reopened 1 February.

Great Alpine Road – closed 25 days

- Bairnsdale to Doctors Flat/Ensay closed 31 December and reopened 24 January.
- Doctors Flat/Ensay to Cobungra closed 14 January and reopened 24 January.

Great Alpine Road dates exclude November fire activity, and February landslides.

Bonang Road – closed 85 days

- Various degrees of closure from 25 November before being fully re-opened 18 February.

Natural environment

- Burn footprint: 11,786 km² – 56% of the total municipal area (20,940 km²).
- Waterways impacted: Upper Mitchell, Nicholson, Snowy, Brodribb, Bemm, Cann, Thurra, Wingan and Genoa rivers; Hospital Creek.
- Council roadsides: 1,310 km (conservation value: high 615 km; medium 196 km; low 196 km; unclassified 319 km).



Sunny Point



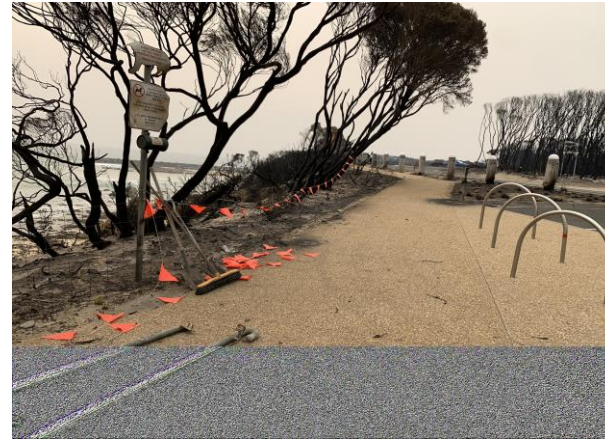
Mallacoota Boardwalk



Wairewa Truss Bridge

Impact

Sunny Point Bridge, Buchan



Bastion Point,
Mallacoota



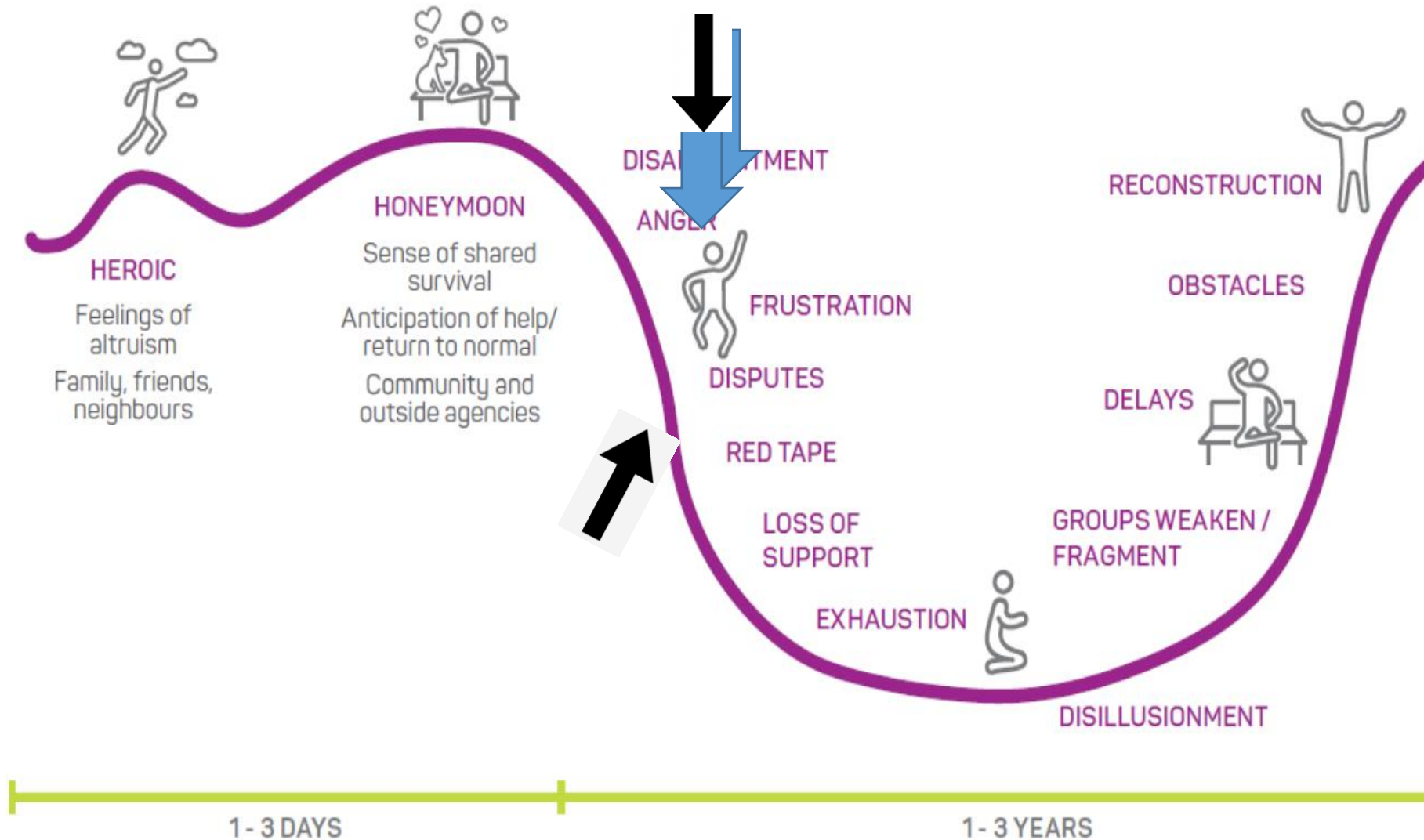
Timbarra Road, Buchan



Sarsfield



•Where we are in the journey



Graphic courtesy of Australian Institute for Disaster Resilience 2018



Community-led Recovery

