

Our infrastructure recovery plan

Work continues across the Blue Mountains to recover from the natural disaster in March.

We have had more than 1 million square metres of roads damaged in the City. The Council has redirected funding to emergency road repairs, called on contractors to assist and approved weekend work, but it will take time.

And it's not just roads. We have had multiple landslips, extensive damage to natural areas, as well as facilities.

Our City is experiencing the effects of climate change now and we are committed to recovering from these latest challenges as quickly as possible, as well as ensuring our City is prepared for the predicted challenges that are still ahead. We understand that this is frustrating and we appreciate your understanding.

Mayor, Cr Mark Greenhill OAM



Council's new Revenue Taskforce is investigating ways of generating income to make our City more resilient. We need our City to be more 'Fit for the Future' – as Council faces significant financial challenges going forward, particularly relating to the impact of increasing natural disasters.

Council has made significant improvement to its financial position over the last 10 years, but given the challenges going forward, the Revenue Taskforce is looking at ways to relieve funding pressures to 'build back better' and provide other income streams for the City **without burdening our ratepayers.**

I am pleased to say that with the support of Councillors, we are already looking at various options for this. I am confident we will be able to find solutions that will help build capacity within our organisation, and across our Services.

CEO, Dr Rosemary Dillon



Emergency works following natural disaster

The natural disaster, in March 2022, has left an extraordinary damage bill for Blue Mountains City in the order of \$375 million.

We are currently recovering from:

- One third of our road network being damaged
- 26 landslips
- Damage to more than 50 Council buildings
- Extensive damage to walking tracks.

This latest natural disaster follows a particularly challenging few years for our City – that has included bushfires, flooding events and the global COVID-19 pandemic. These multiple crises have significantly impacted our organisation, like all other businesses, and the delivery of our Services.

We have allocated an initial \$8 million to emergency works, and continue to seek Federal and State Government assistance, but recovery will take time. It is imperative that we also find funding to 'build back better' to ensure our City can withstand future natural disasters.

We are currently monitoring landslips and actively working on significant sites such as Kanimbla Drive at Blackheath, Megalong Road, Glenview Street at Katoomba and Falls Road at Wentworth Falls. We have also embarked on an escalated road works program (*see over page for more details*).

Given the record-breaking wet weather over two years for the entire state, these projects in Blue Mountains City will continue to take time. Emergency works, and the weather, also continue to impact the delivery of all Council's current major projects.

We encourage you to continue to report any infrastructure issues to Council and we thank you for your patience.

Go to bmcc.nsw.gov.au/report-an-issue



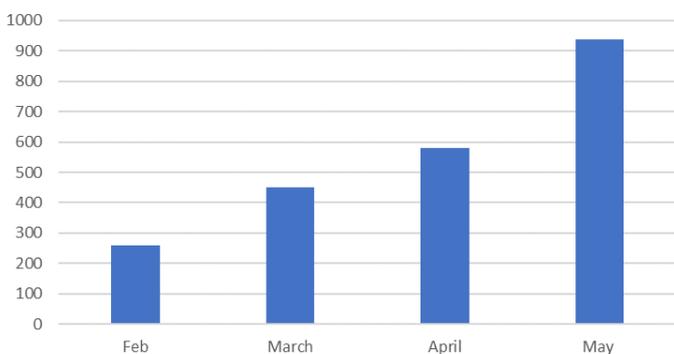
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Road Recovery Program

Council has again embarked on an escalated road works program across the City, following the third flooding event in three years.

Council currently has more than 1200 sites that are listed for repair. Given the ongoing wet winter weather, and condition of the roads, many areas can only be patched initially. As conditions improve, more permanent resurfacing works will be conducted. We are rolling out 4 waves of patching and resurfacing works (that is already funded) and have been escalating works since February.

Pothole repair (sqm) Feb to May 2022



1ST WAVE OF WORKS

- June 2022
- \$250,000 emergency heavy patching program
- Work now occurring simultaneously across the City (upper, mid and lower mountains)

2ND WAVE OF WORKS

- June - August 2022
- \$3 million emergency heavy patching program (funded by NSW Govt)
- Panel of contractors have commenced. This work requires detailed marking of areas with photos to qualify for funding.

3RD WAVE OF WORKS

- August - September 2022
- \$1 million grant program
- This work will commence as soon as the second wave is complete.

4TH WAVE OF WORKS

- July 2022 - to June 2023
- \$3.85 million - BMCC Asset Works Program
- After failed areas are patched - high priority roads will be resurfaced to prevent further damage.



Over the coming months you may see Council road crews, or our contractors, visiting some sites multiple times to do road repairs.

This does not mean Council is doing a poor job! It just means that we are working to the current conditions - and fixing areas as best we can for now. As the weather improves, we will be implementing more permanent resurfacing works.

Stay up to date on where roadworks are occurring, and potholes are being fixed, at bmcc.nsw.gov.au/roadworks