

Adelaide Hills Community Action Bushfire Network

Who we are:

The Adelaide Hills Community Action Bushfire Network (AHCABN) is a group of volunteers from various hills organisations and community groups (e.g., Rotary, Progress Associations etc.) which aims to support and assist communities with preparation for and recovery from bushfires. AHCABN meets quarterly and a secretariat is currently provided by Adelaide Hills Council through the federally funded Towards Community Led Emergency Resilience program.

AHCABN's aims:

1. Understand the role and the resources which can be provided by a wide range of government and non-government organisations.
2. Increase connectivity and collaboration between communities, non-government and emergency agencies.
3. Engage and influence local government disaster planning and responses to a fire event.
4. Assist local township emergency planning and share information learnt from CFS, local organisations, telco providers.
5. Activate during the recovery phase to help affected local communities.

Background:

AHCABN was formed in June 2021 following the Cherry Gardens/Bradbury fire of January 2021. Unlike the Cudlee Creek fire of December 2019, which was declared a major emergency and involved significant recovery effort from all levels of government, the Cherry Gardens/Bradbury fire was smaller and was not 'declared' under the State Emergency Act. As a result, the local community was largely responsible for much of the recovery effort.

Smaller fires like this are likely to occur more frequently and the community believed that there needed to be a greater role for local government in these type of non-declared bushfire events especially in preparedness and recovery.

While initially focussed on sharing experiences and frustrations in recovery, AHCABN now has a stronger focus on educating its members on disaster preparedness and recovery and in lobbying government and other relevant agencies. Speakers from CFS, State Recovery, Telstra, NBN, NEMA, SAVEM and Disaster Resilience Australia amongst others, have shared information with the network to date.

For further information:

If your community would like to explore approaches to community bushfire preparedness, or would like to talk about recovery after bushfire, AHCABN might be able to help.

AHCABN can be contacted at ahcabn@gmail.com

Any advice provided by AHCABN is given in good faith.