

Resilient Response Project to provide equipment and training for volunteers

Local volunteers are invited to take part in free disaster response training and upskilling through Wagga Wagga City Council's Resilient Response Project.

The project, which is to be rolled out in the Wagga Wagga Local Government Area, is providing flood response equipment and volunteer training for local organisations to ensure our community is better prepared and skilled to respond to disaster events.

This includes the purchase of plant and resources to support flood response and recovery in North Wagga, Oura and Uranquinty alongside a six-month free community training program to upskill volunteers.

Community Development Coordinator Alex Osgood stated that this initiative will assist local communities to respond to natural disasters.

"During times of crisis, we know that everyone is keen to lend a helping hand but often lack the skills or confidence to step up, which creates a barrier to volunteering but also can make a situation more unsafe," Alex Osgood said.

"Local volunteers, regardless of their experience, can take advantage of free training through the Resilient Response Project, such as Mental Health First Aid, Provide First Aid and CPR training

"Volunteer coordinators and service managers also have access to workshops based on Lateral Violence and Asset-Based Community Development."

To make the Resilient Response Project possible, Council was successful in obtaining \$96,160.00 through the NSW Government's Supporting Spontaneous Volunteers Program which is part of a recommendation from the 2022 NSW Flood Inquiry to support better coordination of community efforts to save life and property during a disaster.

"The grant has also supported the purchase of a range of equipment including high-pressure hoses, trash pumps and a generator for areas prone to flooding," Alex Osgood said.

"Local community action groups and the State Emergency Service (SES) have been instrumental in ensuring we are delivering the training and resources required to make a positive impact."

“It’s one of the wonderful things about rural and regional communities is that we band together and get the job done. This program will strengthen community responses and help us to take better care of ourselves before, during and after a crisis.”

The training will take place from August to November 2025, and all training is free for volunteers, with local employers able to send their staff for a nominal fee.

Book your spot at the training via **wagga.nsw.gov.au/communitytraining**

For any questions, please contact Council’s Community Development Team via community@wagga.nsw.gov.au or call 1300 292 442.

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Photo attached features:

Uranquinty Community Safety Group Deb Bewick and Brian Mahony, Council Community Development Coordinator Alex Osgood, and SES Deputy Zone Commander - Western Riverina Brett Koschel. Photo courtesy of Wagga Wagga City Council.

Training sessions:

Uranquinty

Mental Health First Aid – Uranquinty

Saturday 23 and Sunday 24 August / 9am to 4pm each day
Uranquinty Community Hall, Baker Street

First Aid Training – Uranquinty

Sunday 12 October / 10am to 3pm
Uranquinty Community Hall, Baker Street

Oura

Mental Health First Aid – Oura

Thursday 9 and Friday 10 October / 9am to 4pm each day
Oura Hall, Barney Street, Oura

First Aid Training – Oura

Saturday 15 November / 10:00am to 3:00pm
Oura Hall, Barney Street, Oura

Wagga Wagga

Lateral Violence Training – Wagga Wagga

Thursday 7 August / 9am to 12:30pm and 1pm to 4:30pm
Wagga Wagga Civic Centre / Council Meeting Room, Baylis Street, Wagga Wagga.

Mental Health First Aid – Wagga Wagga

Thursday 14 and Friday 15 August / 9am to 4pm each day
Tuesday 9 and Wednesday 10 September / 9am to 4pm each day
Saturday 8 and Sunday 9 November / 9:30am to 4:30pm each day
Wagga Wagga Civic Centre / Council Meeting Room, Baylis Street, Wagga Wagga.

First Aid Training – Wagga Wagga

Wednesday 17 September / 9am to 3pm
Tuesday 23 September / 9am to 3pm
Friday 24 October / 9am to 3pm
Tuesday 11 November / 9am to 3pm
Wagga Wagga Civic Centre / Council Meeting Room, Baylis Street, Wagga Wagga.

Participatory Community Building Workshops

Suitable for volunteer coordinators and service managers.
Day 1: Tuesday 19 August / 9:00am to 4:00pm
Day 2: Wednesday 20 August / 9:00am to 1:00pm
Wagga Wagga Civic Centre / Council Meeting Room, Baylis Street, Wagga Wagga

Contact 6926 9190 or media@wagga.nsw.gov.au

About Wagga Wagga City Council

Wagga Wagga City Council serves more than 68,000 residents across an area of 4825 square kilometres with an overall budget of \$240 million.

The organisation manages more than \$2.48 billion in assets, including a 2300km road network, Wagga Wagga Airport, Livestock Marketing Centre, and the Oasis Aquatic Centre.

Council also provides important community facilities such as Wagga Wagga Art Gallery, Wagga Wagga City Library, Museum of the Riverina, and Civic Theatre, as well as maintaining countless parks, playgrounds, and sporting facilities to ensure Wagga maintains its reputation as 'the City of Good Sports'.

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