

Expression of Interest Background Information – Halls Gap Community Recovery Committee & Working Groups

Working together to support Halls Gap's recovery, resilience, and community connection

Background

Halls Gap is small but resilient. When bushfires surrounded us last summer, we acted quickly, forming the volunteer community-led Halls Gap Recovery Kitchen Cabinet (the Kitchen Cabinet) focused on health, wellbeing, and community wide recovery. With minimal resources and strong community spirit, we supported one another through an extremely challenging time.

Now, we're entering a new phase — one focused on long-term recovery, preparedness, and building a stronger, more connected community. We're evolving our informal committee into a more enduring Community Recovery Committee to guide efforts over the next 2–3 years.

The purpose of this document is to outline what members could expect in participating in the Community Recovery Committee and / or associated Working Groups. The committee will determine for itself how it operates and its associated working groups. This document is not prescriptive, but provides information based on the Kitchen Cabinet's experience.

Purpose of the Committee

The aim of the Community Recovery Committee is to:

- Lead the coordination of community-led projects and events via dedicated working groups
- Work to strengthen community connection, communication, wellbeing, and resilience
- Support recovery through the five pillars of community-led recovery: people & wellbeing, Aboriginal culture & healing, environment & biodiversity, business & economy, buildings & infrastructure
- Build community preparedness for future emergencies

Importantly, the new committee will also be responsible for:

- Shaping its name, identity, and aims
- Developing the shared values and ways of operating that guide its work through terms of reference, a charter, or similar
- Creating a 2–3 year community-led recovery and resilience plan, in part informed by community feedback collected over the past seven months

This isn't about individual agendas — it's about working together to understand and respond to the needs and aspirations of the whole community.

What's Involved

We're seeking at least 12 community members to serve on the committee. This is a volunteer role, but one that plays a meaningful part in shaping our collective future.

If more than 12 expressions of interest are received, a fair and transparent selection process will be used.

Anticipated Roles and Responsibilities

Based on the Kitchen Cabinet's experience, the new committee should follow good governance practices aligned with community leadership standards.

Committee members will likely be expected to:

- Attend regular meetings (monthly or more frequently as needed with at least 75% of meetings attended)
- Beyond attending monthly meetings, volunteer time to support community events or activities, or contribute behind the scenes
- Undertake training, for example in committee governance, emergency preparedness, and trauma-informed community work
- Engage respectfully with other members and the wider community
- Uphold shared values
- Declare any conflicts of interest that may arise
- Respect confidentiality, where appropriate
- Support transparent and fair decision-making processes by consensus in the interests of the whole community

Ways of Working

Based on the Kitchen Cabinet's experience, shared values could include:

- Inclusivity: Embracing diverse voices and perspectives
- Transparency: Making decisions openly and clearly
- Accountability: Taking responsibility for actions
- Respect: Engaging with civility and goodwill
- Collaboration: Working together respectfully and constructively as a team
- Community-first focus: Acting in the best interests of Halls Gap as a whole

Being part of the committee will entail the ability to have robust, honest, and respectful discussions. If issues arise, the committee will follow due process to manage conflict. Conflict resolution will encourage respectful dialogue, with a simple process in place to resolve disagreements when they arise.

Getting Involved

We welcome expressions of interest from anyone passionate about supporting Halls Gap's recovery, connection, and preparedness. We're looking for a committee that reflects the diversity of our community – anyone with a commitment to working collaboratively is welcome.

Thank you for your interest in being part of this important work. Together, we can ensure our community not only recovers – but thrives!

Questions? Please contact HGKitchenCabinet@gmail.com for more information.