

Bushfire Survivors for Climate Action



Community Organiser

Position Description

TITLE	COMMUNITY ORGANISER
REPORTS TO	President
LOCATION	Work from home - While living in or near any of the relevant electorates would be an advantage it is not essential. You must however have the capacity to travel as required to arrange and participate in activities, meetings, events etc.
SALARY	\$65,000 - \$75,000 per annum, plus superannuation depending on experience
FTE	Full-time (or 0.8 FTE for the right candidate)
TERM	5 month contract
	Applications close Midnight Sunday February 13th 2022

About the role

Ahead of the upcoming federal election Bushfire Survivors for Climate Action is launching a targeted campaign across three key fire-affected NSW electorates educating voters, candidates and MPs on the escalating bushfire and other extreme climate threats and advocating for a faster transition to clean, renewable energy. **Our goal is to make climate action a top-three issue for voters in Macquarie, Eden-Monaro and Gilmore** by illustrating the immediacy of the climate crisis through survivors' stories.

Campaigning tactics will be adapted to the particular localities, so you'll have a large degree of autonomy to work with the volunteers and local community members on what works best. You'll also have the support of BSCA's core national team and our wide network of partners.

We're looking for people to start as early as possible in 2022 to get a running start for whenever the election may be called for.

Key Responsibilities

- Building community and growing membership in key the **NSW electorates of Macquarie, Gilmore, and Eden-Monaro**
- Developing and coordinating campaign strategy, materials
- Recruiting new spokespeople and supporting them to share their stories of bushfire and survival, and how we can create a safer future

About BSCA

We have a vision for a renewables-led economy where all Australians can live safely from climate-fuelled bushfires.

As bushfire-impacted people we use our lived experience to highlight the links between climate change and increasingly dangerous bushfires. We demand an urgent and just transition to renewable energy.

Our community spokespeople build relationships with decision-makers that ensure bushfire survivors are perceived as authentic, non-partisan representatives of people impacted by climate change. We use our credibility and personal stories of loss and trauma to ensure that the cost to ordinary Australians, of unabated greenhouse gas emissions, is understood, acknowledged, and centered in all decision-making about climate action. We focus particularly on elected representatives in the federal government, but also seek to influence state and local government members, business leaders and other climate, economy and community stakeholders.

Our wide supporter/member base reflects community diversity as we are linked only by the lived experience of climate damage. This and the very personal and affecting nature of our stories of bushfire allow us to sidestep toxic political debates and focus on real people and the climate impacts we all face.

Our team

We are a rapidly expanding group of people who've been impacted by bushfires and are speaking out to demand urgent action on climate-damaging emissions. We are students, nurses, teachers, retired people, fire fighters, parents, artists, and more.

We live in rural, remote, urban and town communities. We are united by our lived experience of bushfires, whether we fought the flames, breathed the smoke, evacuated our homes or saw loved ones go through bushfire trauma and loss. And we are dedicated to preventing the even hotter and more frequent fires that are forecast because of unchecked climate heating.

Our superpower is storytelling. We tell stories about our experiences that cut through the politics of climate change and put the impacts on ordinary people front and centre. This means we're not your average NGO but a very broad range of people determined to hold political leaders to account for their action on climate.

Our achievements

- We recently won a groundbreaking case in the NSW Land and Environment Court compelling the NSW EPA to develop specific policies on climate damage.
- We attended Glasgow's COP26, addressed the Loss and Damage session, met with the Australian Ambassador for the Environment, and exposed the Morrison Government's shameful climate record to a global audience
- We have met with federal and state politicians to demand stronger targets for emissions reductions, and have gained support and agreement

- We have met with energy, insurance and investment industry executives to bring the very personal cost of bushfires into the discussion about the 'costs of climate action'
- We've addressed company AGMs and shamed inaction on divestment from polluting industries

Selection Criteria

Skills and attributes:

- Passion to work on climate and make a difference
- Empathy and ability to centre other people's experience in the work you do
- Strategic thinker, solution and goal-focused
- Lived experience - how you identify as bushfire-affected may range from having fought fires or lost a home to breathing smoke for days to feeling anxious when the wind is hot and dry. Or you may not identify as bushfire-impacted. We don't judge anyone's experience and choice to identify as being impacted

Core competencies:

- **Relationship building** - You're a 'people person' with a genuine passion for building relationships with new people. You are comfortable engaging with new people face to face (when possible!), over the phone and via email. You're able to coach and support volunteers to do hard things, because they know you genuinely care about them and will help them succeed.
- **Resilience** - You are resilient and if someone says 'no' or disagrees with you, you don't take it personally but can bounce back and move onto the next call. While tackling climate change is a huge task, you are optimistic that it can be done.
- **Persuasiveness** - You feel confident asking people to join a cause and can support people to move beyond their comfort zone. You have high emotional intelligence and empathy and know when to push, and when to move on.
- **Organised and efficient** - You have experience working in environments with lots of moving pieces and can calmly and efficiently get things done. Even when the task feels overwhelming, you can break it down into pieces and find a way forward. You meet deadlines and solve problems when they arise.
- **Critical thinking** - You have strategic skills in campaigning, organising,
- **Campaigning** - Experience managing projects and/or campaigns

Why work with BSCA?

Because we know how urgent action on climate is, and we know how to change the conversation, avoid the toxic politics, and put the human cost of inaction at the centre of all considerations. Our voices are powerful. Your work with BSCA will make a difference!

We are focussed on making change happen quickly but knowing it must be done by bringing community with us. Our people-centered approach is based on caring about all humans and other beings who are harmed by climate damage. We work turning trauma and rage into compassionate action because we've lived through some hugely traumatic events and know how much healing and change comes through action. Bringing our whole selves to this work is very rewarding.

While our mission is critical we also know you have to stop and smell the roses. Our work is demanding but we are flexible and we care about each other.

At BSCA we know when it's time to have a break, go for a walk, sing, laugh, and feel supported if you need it - because climate work is hard work. We know you can only make real change happen by living it.

- **BSCA is strictly non-partisan and an equal opportunity employer**
- **BSCA staff are required to operate in a manner consistent with organisational policies**
- **After hours and weekend work will/may be required. This will be agreed in advance and TOIL or flexi time utilised as appropriate.**

HOW TO APPLY

To apply for this position please submit the following:

- **A short cover letter explaining your interest in the role**
- **A current CV, including names and contact details of two referees**
- **Responses to each of the selection criteria (max 4 pages)**
- **Please email your application, along with CV and cover letter to president@bushfiresurvivors.org**

Applications close Sunday February 13th midnight

We strongly encourage applications from Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander people, people of colour, women, people with disability and members of the LGBTIQ+ Community.

For more information about Bushfire Survivors for Climate Action visit our website:
<https://www.bushfiresurvivors.org>

For more information about the position, contact President, Jo Dodds
president@bushfiresurvivors.org
0428 399 871