



The Global Foundation
Together, we strive for the global common good



You are invited



The Bega Valley Roundtable, Monday 10 August, 2020

2:00pm to 5:30pm
On-line Zoom Conference

**You are invited to attend The Bega Valley Roundtable online
(but you must register in advance!)**

'Resilience & recovery, for a sustainable future'
After trauma - lessons from the Bega Valley of South Eastern Australia.

The **Bega Valley Roundtable** will be the next in a series of ongoing roundtable discussions about Australia's national strategy and policies for the future, in a global context.

The Roundtable is convened by the non-profit citizens' organisation, the **Global Foundation** and will be hosted by the **Bega Valley Shire**. It follows on from earlier roundtable discussions convened by the Foundation in Melbourne and Sydney over the past year, alongside its ongoing global roundtable discussions, such as in London and Paris in 2019 and in Rome this coming November.

In all instances, these informal and non-binding meetings bring together cross-sections of people of goodwill, who have demonstrated leadership in their respective roles in society, so that they can freely exchange ideas and build collaboration.

It is anticipated that about there will be about 50 virtual participants in the Bega Valley Roundtable discussion, which will be opened with a message from the Governor General of Australia, who is also Patron in Chief of the Global Foundation. Participation is free of charge, however prior registration will be necessary and a final confirmation will be sent in advance.



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Why Bega Valley?

The beautiful Bega Valley is located in Australia's South-Eastern corner, flanked by mountains, forests and the sea, roughly equidistant by coastal highway between Sydney and Melbourne. It is an area of remarkable natural beauty.



Merimbula coastal resort town in the Bega Valley Shire.

The region was the epicentre of the bushfires that tore through Australia over the past Summer. In the Bega Valley and surrounds, the fires were of such ferocity, they were beyond the scope of human memory and capacity to cope.

All access roads were cut, for days. They lost lives, animals, properties and bio-diversity and they experienced the failure of basic support systems that are meant to protect communities at times of crisis. The Bega Valley has in fact endured several natural disasters over many years: previous bushfires, floods, droughts, these summer fires and now - as with the rest of the planet - the coronavirus.

Yet, in the face of these traumas, the people of the region have shown a remarkable resilience and will, not only recover, but to rebuild forwards, to what they now expect and want for the future, for a 'new normal', that is not just a replica of the past.

They are regaining their poise. They want to dream and look beyond, to create a future for the places and people that they love, in the region where they have chosen to live and stay. To achieve this, they want to connect with Australia and the world. Their vision is one built from the ground up. This striving should serve as an example and an inspiration to communities elsewhere facing challenges about their future prosperity and well-being, including coping with and looking beyond COVID-19.

This positive intention was strongly expressed by the then Mayor of Bega Valley Shire, since elected as the Federal member for Eden-Monaro, Ms Kristy McBain, who addressed the Foundation's [**Sydney Roundtable**](#) meeting at the Governor General's residence in March 2020. As a consequence, in follow-up discussions with the leadership of the Bega Valley Shire, it was agreed that the Global Foundation would stage a unique, regional roundtable discussion via Zoom on Monday 10 August, blending local, national and global participation.



It is the ambition of the Global Foundation that the Bega Valley Roundtable will serve two purposes:

- To bring to bear the talents of figures of national and global influence to understand, support and, where possible, enable Bega Valley to fulfil its future potential;
- To ensure that the experience of trauma, resilience and recovery in the Bega Valley is able to influence wider thinking about a forward national strategy for Australia, in a global context.



How the Bega Valley Roundtable will be conducted

For those able to attend in person, there will be suitable seating in the Civic Centre, with screens and connections available to all others who may be able to join by Zoom, whether locally, nationally or globally based. The meeting will be conducted on an 'on the record' basis.

There will an official opening, involving an Acknowledgement of Country; the Governor General (by video message); the Mayor of the Shire of Bega, Cr Sharon Tapscott; the Chairman of the Global Foundation, Ms Louise Watson; and other dignitaries.

The majority of the meeting, to be held over 3 hours, will involve a series of speakers on panels, in moderated discussions, around the key themes that have been determined in advance consultations. Each speaker contribution is intended to stimulate discussion between all participants and will include these topics:

- *What are the lessons about resilience and recovery in the face of trauma that Bega Valley can teach those from outside the region?*
- *Knowing who we are as a people is vital to knowing what Australia can become. Fully engaging with First Australians is a pivotal step.*
- *Australia's national potential requires more empowered local communities. Can future Australia be driven from the ground up, not just from the top down?*
- *A green recovery is a universal opportunity and a necessity.*
- *What opportunities could be mobilised for sustainable economic growth and future jobs, particularly those that link Bega Valley with Australia and the world? Adequate physical and digital connectivity are surely basic requirements.*



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What happens after?

A short, public report of the roundtable discussions will be produced and made widely available.

The outcomes of the discussions will feed into the overall Australian national strategy project of the Global Foundation, bringing to bear a regional perspective based around Bega Valley.

Those involved from the Bega Valley region may choose to continue to pursue initiatives and collaborations emerging from the roundtable discussions.

How do I register, to attend online?

To register to attend online, simply click on the TryBooking link below to register your details. Please RSVP by Monday 27 July, 2020.

[Register online here](#)

For further information or questions, please email to donna.portland@globalfoundation.org.au

The Global Foundation acknowledges the ongoing support of the following:

Our Key Partners:



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A special thanks to the Bega Valley Shire for hosting this roundtable event

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