

Helen Macpherson Smith Trust

Victorian Bushfires – Briefing Note V 1.1

1. Background

Key statistics: 173 confirmed deaths, 500 injured, 72 hospitalised, 2029 homes destroyed, 78 individual townships affected, 450,000ha and 7,500 people homeless, 61 businesses, 5 schools and kindergartens and 3 sporting clubs, 9,450 insurance claims totaling \$1.2B.¹



Key affected areas (# deaths ()):

Kinglake Area: Kinglake (38), Kinglake West (7), Strathewen (27) and Flowerdale (8), Eaglehawk, Steels Creek (10), Humevale (7), Wandong, Whittlesea (2), St Andrews (12), Toolangi (2), Stath Creek (2), Heathcote Junction (1), Mittons Bridge (1), Reedy Creek (1), Upper Plenty (1), Yarra Glen (1),

Maryville Area: Marysville (34), Narbethong (4), Cambarville (1) Callignee (4), Koornalla (4), Churchill (2), Jeeralang Junction (1)

Beechworth Area: Mudgegonga (Beechworth) – (2)

Bendigo: Eaglehawk – (1)

Other fires:

Delburn, Bunyip State Park, Horsham, , Redesdale, Wilsons Promontory, O'Shannassy & Armstrong Creek, Healesville, Upway, Daylesford, Otways, Traralgon, Narre Warren, Horsham, Coleraine & Weerite.

¹ www.wikipedia.org/wiki/2009_Victorian_bushfires

2. Assistance Available for Communities
– Non emergency/immediate needs & not individual household focus

Agency	Amounts	Description
Vic Bushfire Relief Fund (Via red Cross) Appeal Closed 17 April	\$331M raised \$240M allocated (as of 28 April)	16 grants so far to support to individuals affected by the bushfires ie housing, serious injury etc \$158M – Rebuilding and recovery payment @\$50,000 + additional \$40,000 + \$15,000 based on hardship; \$16,000 repair & Tenants \$15,000 \$2.3M Compassion & bereavement payment @\$10,000 \$30M initial Home Dislocation Payment @\$10,000 \$8M Tools of Trade Payment @\$5,000 \$2M Rural Properties Recovery Payment @\$5,000 \$8M Local Heroes Payment – individuals/small business @\$8,000
Vic Bushfire Reconstruction & Recovery Authority	Details TBA Up to \$9M to Councils (allocated from the Victorian Bushfire Relief Fund)	Local rebuilding plans to be developed – economic, infrastructure, transport, environmental, health & wellbeing. Due by end of June approx Murrindindi/Authority –Committee and 6 Advisory Groups to be set up + reps DHS & DPCD. The Committee’s primary role will be to focus on long term strategic management of the rebuilding process and ensure each community’s economy, infrastructure and transport, environmental, and health and wellbeing requirements are determined and met. Local Government payments to deliver disaster-related services that directly benefit residents
Government Agencies	Up to \$400 insurance excess	Fencing repairs etc
DSE	\$350,000 grants	Assist wildlife rehabilitation
Federal & State Community Recovery Fund	\$10M allocated: -\$4.5M	Community Recovery Fund – to protect community history, create recreation & entertainment activities for young people, produce community information, regenerate community spaces (meetings & gathering places), community recovery initiatives and community development officers to work with councils on community recovery plans
	- \$3M – has allocated \$200,000 to Marysville Golf & Bowling Club	Community Sports Recovery Fund
	- \$2.5M	Creation of Memorials

Agency	Amounts	Description
DPCD	Up to \$20,000	Emergency Volunteer Support Grants - For community organisations to provide volunteers to work in fire-affected communities
		Vic Volunteer Small Grants – Bushfire Relief
	Up to \$3,000	Bushfire Community Events grants
	Up to \$10,000	Special grants to neighborhood Houses
Regional Arts Victoria	\$50,000 – grants up to \$2,500	To support arts and cultural activities in bushfire affected communities
	\$35,000	Murrindindi – to fund an Arts Recovery Project Officer
FRRR	Not available – taking calls only	Long-term community recovery (not emergency relief) and working with PA
Lord Mayor's Charitable Foundation	\$500,000 + its own matching appeal	\$640,000 has been allocated to: Anglicare \$20,000 Baptcare \$50,000 Berry Street \$20,000 Connections Uniting Care \$50,000 Fareshare \$20,000 Gippsland Emergency Relief Fund \$50,000 Healesville Interchurch Community Care \$50,000 Kildonan Child and Family Services \$50,000 Kilmany Uniting Care \$20,000 Red Cross \$100,000 Salvation Army \$50,000 Second Bite \$50,000 State Schools Relief Committee \$20,000 VicRelief+Foodbank \$20,000 Whittlesea Community Connections \$50,000 Wimmera Uniting Care \$20,000
VECCI	Grants of up to \$5,000	Short-term emergency relief for businesses suffering substantial loss of trade as a result of the bushfires (Less than 100 FT employees with a priority for those <20EFT)
Victorian Farmers Federation	Grants of up to \$5,000	VFF Disaster Relief Fund Eligible expenditure is broad, e.g. household expenses, fencing, watering systems, feeding systems and machinery repair and replacement. VFF Fending Volunteers & teams
Rural Finance – via Business Victoria	Grants of \$5,000 to \$25,000	Emergency assistance grants for Primary producers (holding an ABN) to assist with fencing materials, tools and other requirements.

Agency	Amounts	Description
Commonwealth Bank (Foundation)	\$1.1M \$18.9M	Donation to Vic Bushfire Relief Fund Raised to rebuild communities affected – no further details available
Community Enterprise Foundation (Bendigo Bank)	\$4M fund + appeal Grants of up to \$300,000 – for local council & community projects (Unclear regarding the other \$7M raised by Bendigo Bank)	Joint program with Government - \$2M each to help rebuild community infrastructure and provide jobs For projects which: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - replaced lost or damaged or improve existing community infrastructure - contributed to economic development - demonstrated wide community use and benefit The Government's \$2M would be provided over 2 years through Regional development's Living Regions Living Suburbs program

3. Royal Commission

Submissions close Monday 18 May 2009

Hearings are being held for 8 weeks commencing 11 May

An interim report is required by 17 August – focusing on immediate actions that can be taken prior to the 2009/2010 bushfire season

A final report by 31 July 2010 – or later if required/approved

Chris Wootton
Grants Executive