

**Independent Review of Commonwealth  
Disaster Funding  
Submission**



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## Introduction

One Gippsland welcomes the opportunity to make a submission to the Australian Government's **Independent Review of Commonwealth Disaster Funding**.

In the last two decades, the Gippsland region has experienced an increasing number of disaster events. From 2019 to the present, the region suffered almost 30 disaster events, including bushfires and flooding on a catastrophic scale.

Our members are therefore highly experienced in disaster mitigation, response and rebuilding activities and well-practiced in the associated government funding processes.

Based on this extensive experience, One Gippsland believes the review of Commonwealth Disaster Funding is an important opportunity to identify ways in which the current funding system can be made less onerous and more effective and accessible.

This submission focuses on the following key points:

- Disaster funding process: there is overwhelming consensus that the current system is administratively burdensome, particularly at a time when personnel resources are strained. How can the process be made less complex, more flexible and less resource intensive?
- Disaster funding purpose: as a region experiencing repeated disasters, One Gippsland is concerned funding is currently overly focused on like for like asset replacement, at the expense of risk mitigation and resilience. How can funding programs take a more forward-looking approach, implement "Build Back Better" practices, and achieve better balance between risk management and replacement?
- Community access to disaster funding: When individuals and businesses need disaster funding assistance, they have typically experienced significant trauma and damage (or loss) to their homes, assets and personal resources (including communication and administrative devices and records). They can be unfamiliar with, and ill-equipped to navigate complex processes and eligibility criteria for disaster assistance. How can funding programs provide timelier and more streamlined application processes, case management services and better communication to ensure timely access to support?

## About Gippsland and One Gippsland

Gippsland is a geographically, socially and economically diverse region. At approximately 41,000 km<sup>2</sup>, Gippsland is the largest region in Victoria, encompassing almost one-fifth of the state's area. It is home to more than 270,000 people, 6 Local Governments and produces \$14 billion in Gross Regional Product (GRP) annually.

One Gippsland is the peak advocacy body alliance representing the region, bringing together local government and industry leaders.

It is our aim to connect the dots between government, business and community, while also collectively working together to champion the interests of our region and our people.



One Gippsland members include the Mayor/ Chair and CEO (or equivalent) of the following organisations:

- Bass Coast Shire Council;
- Baw Baw Shire Council;
- East Gippsland Shire Council;
- Gunaikurnai Land and Waters Aboriginal Corporation;
- Federation University – Gippsland Campus;
- Food and Fibre Gippsland;
- Latrobe City Council;
- South Gippsland Shire Council;
- TAFE Gippsland; and
- Wellington Shire Council.

## One Gippsland and Disasters

There have been 66 natural disaster events in the Gippsland region since 2007, including storms, floods, bushfires and an earthquake.

The trend line in the chart below shows that the frequency of disaster events in the region is increasing. In the four years from 2019 to 2022, Gippsland experienced 29 disasters including the catastrophic 2019 bushfires and June 2021 storms and floods.

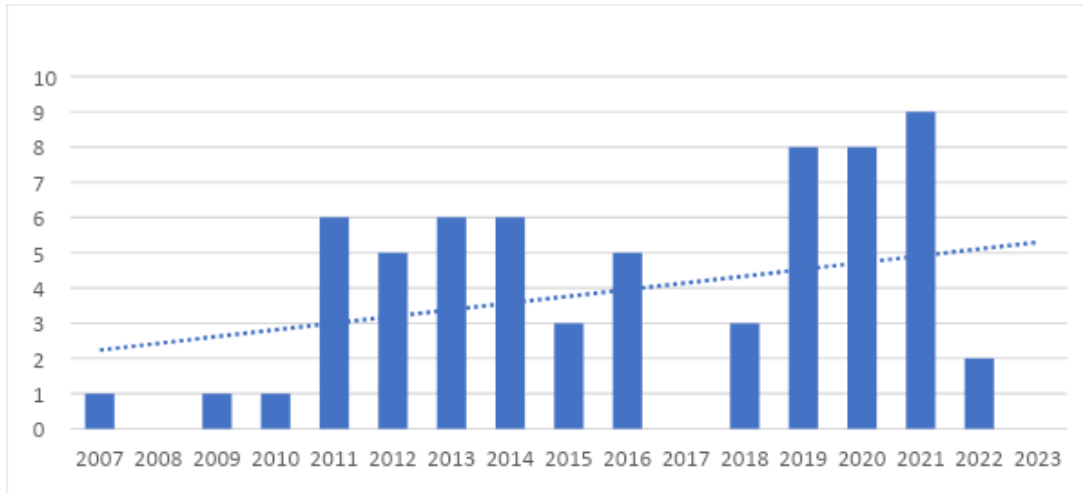
The magnitude of these events and consequential disaster funding requirements varies widely, from low-scale incidents with some damage to public assets, to catastrophic events resulting in loss of life, population evacuation, widespread destruction and damage to property and buildings and ongoing community trauma and hardship.

In managing preparation and response to these disasters, One Gippsland members have worked through existing funding processes repeatedly, from applications for assistance for restoration of damaged public assets to the full suite of assistance including counter-disaster operations, emergency relief assistance, recovery support, assistance for personal hardship and distress, along with removal of debris from private property and restoration of essential public assets.

Our members are highly experienced in all aspects of the disaster management and funding processes; from risk mitigation and preparedness, to response and recovery, and applications for, administration and acquittal of, disaster funding support.

### Fast Facts on One Gippsland and Disasters

- Since 2007, Gippsland has experienced **66** disaster events;
- Events include **19** storms, **18** storm/flood events, **13** floods, **14** bushfires, **1** earthquake and **1** bushfire/storm;
- The trend shows the occurrence of disaster events is increasing; and
- In four years from 2019 to 2022, Gippsland experienced **29** disaster events.



Department of Home Affairs, Australian natural disasters [Australian disasters \(disasterassist.gov.au\)](https://disasterassist.gov.au)

## The review has invited comments on the following questions:

### 1. What experience have you had with Commonwealth disaster funding support?

One Gippsland members are highly experienced in all aspects of the disaster management and funding processes; from risk mitigation and preparedness, to response and recovery, and applications for, administration and acquittal of, disaster funding support.

- A. It is our experience that the specific post-disaster evidentiary requirements:
- Are complex, resource intensive and administratively burdensome;
  - Provide no funding certainty for recovery projects;
  - Assume a familiarity with evidentiary requirements by council staff and contractors; and
  - Focus on the evidentiary requirements more than project outcomes.

For example, a council has reported that there is a real risk that funding can be removed because a metadata-enabled photo was not taken in a specific position before the works commenced.

The timeframes for the submission of evidence remain inflexible, not taking account of the particular scale of the disaster or the area involved.

There will be circumstances where communities may not be able to begin recovery works within the stated time frame due to:

- The extent and severity of the damage;
- Availability of necessary personnel and equipment;
- The discovery of cultural artifacts which require management plans before any work can be undertaken; or
- The presence of, or activities by threatened or protected species under the EPBC Act.

The timeframes for recovery funding and the frequency of progress reporting require greater flexibility to allow communities the time to consider and plan to replace assets in the most resilient and adaptive ways.

- B. The National Disaster Funding arrangements place significant administrative burdens and responsibilities on local governments for:
- Managing the funding application process;
  - Ensuring compliance with reporting requirements; and
  - Navigating complex financial procedures.

With the more frequent incidence and greater impact of recent disasters, these arrangements risk becoming overly complicated, substantially narrowing definitions and increasing the detail of activation criteria.

This administrative workload can divert resources and attention away from crucial recovery activities, potentially slowing down the overall recovery process.

Proscriptive evidentiary requirements make it financially risky to begin reconstruction efforts post disaster – when the emphasis should be on addressing the immediate need of disaster affected communities, with the trust of government.

To reduce red tape and facilitate timelier release of funding and the start of recovery works, all levels of government should determine and agree on the criteria for sound governance in disaster response. Those Councils which are in compliance with these criteria should be able to release funds on the basis of their assessment.

- C. Constraints on Councils utilising their internal staff and resources for response and recovery efforts.

One Gippsland members are concerned that in Victoria, unlike other states, Councils are unable to claim expenses for response and recovery activities if they utilise their own resources.

There should be more flexibility for Councils to choose the best course of action, whether that means utilising internal resources or engaging contractors for response and recovery activities. Each situation is unique, and the Commonwealth funding approach should allow Councils to decide on the most effective allocation of resources, just as it does in other states.

- D. The shared experience of disasters in regional communities adds an additional level of complexity to the disaster funding support process.

Consideration needs to be given to the fact that when a disaster occurs in a regional area, the very workforce on whom the community relies to undertake critical recovery work and restoration operations and to manage complex funding processes, are themselves local residents and also impacted by the disaster event.

This can affect not only the size of the disaster workforce and the emotional health and well-being of essential staff, but also the potential availability of staff with skills and experience critical to funding administration processes and recovery activities.

## **2. How could Commonwealth funding support communities to reduce their disaster risk?**

With the increasing frequency and severity of disasters, funding should be used to reduce the risk and impact of these events, as well as assist in community recovery.

- A. Shifting the purpose of funding from a narrow focus on response and recovery to a wider and more forward-looking emphasis on long-term resilience by:
- Incorporating adaptation measures into recovery programs; and,

- Investing in sustainable risk reduction measures.

The recent Disaster Ready Fund is an excellent example of this type of initiative and both the New South Wales and Queensland governments have established programs in partnership with the Australian Government to “Build Back Better”, by repairing infrastructure to better withstand disasters.

Both jurisdictions believe that betterment programs achieve substantial cost savings through more resilient infrastructure. New South Wales notes international disaster data research has found that for every dollar invested in risk mitigation, up to ten dollars is saved in recovery.

New South Wales provides betterment funding for Transport, Tourism, Water and Sewerage, and Telecommunications assets against four core values:

- **Resilience** – Reduce the risk of impact to an asset over its lifecycle to better withstand disasters, and improve the ability to respond, recover and adapt after asset disruption;
- **Productivity** – Maintain or improve the level of service and sustainable function that an asset provides;
- **Economic** – Achieve value benefit across the lifecycle that will determine the value proposition and the return on the value of investment; and
- **Social** – Maintain or improve a community’s ability to function during and after a disruption to an asset.

Queensland believes there are many intangible benefits beyond cost savings in repairs, including:

- More connected communities;
- Continuity of telecommunications, road networks and other essential services;
- Increased consumer confidence and business activity; and
- Reduced impacts on the environment by avoiding erosion and runoff into creek beds and other waterways.

One Gippsland endorses the key feature of Queensland’s program, which is the empowerment of local governments to assess, plan and implement disaster resilience at a grass-roots level. This enables work to begin as soon as possible following a disaster, and helps to mitigate the impact on local communities.

- B. Amending funding criteria to include upgrades of critical public infrastructure during response and reconstruction activities by:
- Recognising that many essential public assets are legacy assets not built to the current engineering standards; and
  - Incorporating modern safety treatment in asset restoration.

Without adding modern resilience treatment to these assets, they will most likely fail again in the future.

- C. Amending funding to allow for the relocation of public infrastructure assets away from locations currently vulnerable to the effects of climate change. For example, the relocation of roads plagued by landslips or relocation of roads and bridges repeatedly subject to flooding.

This is not allowed under the current funding criteria.

- D. Better harnessing the efforts of community groups and private landowners by allowing disaster funding to be used to replace homes, businesses and other structures with buildings that incorporate the most up-to-date resilience and adaptation features to enable greater capacity to withstand future disaster events.

### **3. Please describe your understanding of Commonwealth disaster funding processes.**

The experience of One Gippsland members is that the processes involved in accessing Commonwealth disaster funding are complex, resource intensive and time-consuming.

Members find the current evidentiary requirements an impediment to the reconstruction works and claims process, and onerous when compared to other funding streams.

The administrative burden of paperwork and documentation can be challenging and often requires significant personnel resources.

The funding processes require comprehensive data collection, including:

- Financial documentation;
- Photographs;
- Cost estimates; and
- Damage assessments.

In some cases, meeting claim submission deadlines is dependent on timely submission of invoices from contractors, which is not in the control of Councils.

Improved communication between local government and Commonwealth emergency management representatives to clarify the eligibility criteria for different funding categories is vital to the process.

To assist local governments to access disaster funding, state and federal governments should:

- Work together to streamline the application process by:
  - Creating a single application form;
  - Providing clear guidelines about the eligibility criteria for different funding categories; and
  - Creating a single portal where information and forms can be accessed.
- Provide pre-disaster training regarding the funding application process and the information required for council staff and the contractors they are likely to use;
- Facilitate greater access to emergency management representatives by sending dedicated, expert teams to affected areas to facilitate successful access to disaster funding; and
- Post disaster, provide equipment or resource grants to local governments to support both the completion of council application processes and their provision of assistance to community and business members gathering the necessary evidence for their applications.

### **4. Are the funding roles of the Commonwealth, states and territories, and local government, during disaster events clear?**

There is widespread consensus on the lack of clarity about the funding roles of Commonwealth, state, and local governments due to:

- Multiple changes to rules and guidelines;
- Multiple application processes;
- Multiple government information websites;
- Uncertainty about eligibility and funding rules and their assessment by levels of government;
- Confusion about funding sources and reporting methods; and
- Similar but not identical information required by different state and federal agencies and departments.



These issues have led to confusion and additional work for councils.

These issues can be addressed by better coordination between all levels of government to ensure:

- Clearer, universal funding guidelines;
- The creation of a single application form to avoid multiple reports requiring similar, but not identical information;
- A single, inter-government information and application portal; and
- The provision of expertise, assistance and equipment both before and during disaster responses, to build community and local government capacity and facilitate more-timely on the ground responses.

Further, disaster funding responses should be reflective of the scale and nature of the event, to allow flexibility in how the immediate and ongoing needs of the community are met.

## 5. Is there any further information you would like to provide?

One Gippsland appreciates the opportunity to provide the following additional information:

- Funding programs need to recognise that disasters do not fall neatly into Local Government Areas. Programs should take account of the geographical extent of the disaster and allow collaboration between neighbouring LGAs to reduce administrative burden and duplication, and facilitate more effective disaster responses.
- To encourage and facilitate adaptation to and reduce the impact of disasters, the Federal Government should create an agency or utilise Infrastructure Australia to:
  - Identify legacy public assets in need of upgrade or relocation because of vulnerability to disasters; and
  - Provide dedicated funding for this purpose, open to cost sharing by other levels of government and private sector participation.
- It should be recognised that broad eligibility criteria for grants, such as the percentage of small businesses affected or the average loss threshold, potentially rule out businesses that have suffered losses in excess of these criteria, but are located in areas that do not meet the general criteria.
- It is important that funding and guidelines are fit for purpose, depending on the nature and scale of the disaster event. This includes the timely deployment of fit for purpose funding streams to enable a community led recovery.
- Data sharing of the impact across agencies, while recognising personal privacy constraints, would be beneficial.
- There is a lack of understanding at the Commonwealth and State levels regarding the time and effort required to compile a claim that meets assessor's requirements for full reimbursement. During emergencies, the focus on community safety should take precedence over the importance of collecting data for future claims.
- System updates are needed to include fields for essential information to streamline reporting and eliminate manual data compilation, as the effort moves from disaster response to reconstruction.
- In high-risk regions, Federal and State Governments should enhance capacity of communities and local government to access disaster funding by initiating in-person and web-based training for local government staff, community and business members on:
  - The completion of application forms, including evidentiary requirements;
  - The gathering and the storage of the data required; and
  - Funding acquittal processes.

- Following a disaster event, Federal and State Governments should assist communities and local government to access disaster funding through the provision of:
  - Case management services;
  - On-ground dedicated expert teams to assist individuals and small businesses complete funding applications; and
  - The provision of necessary equipment such as computers and telephones to enable the applications to be completed.
- Disaster funding authorities must also recognise that the complex application processes required to obtain funding following a disaster are expected from people and businesses that are:
  - Facing the destruction of their properties and livelihoods;
  - Emotionally traumatised by the disaster;
  - Potentially lacking in detailed up to date experience in navigating the complex application processes; and
  - Deprived of the records and the tools needed to complete the applications.
- In small and tight-knit regional communities, the local government staff who do critical work in recovery and restoration operations and assist residents and businesses to complete funding applications and comply with the state and federal government requirements, may themselves have been impacted by the disaster.

## For Further Information

Ms Rachael Sweeney  
Secretariat Services  
One Gippsland  
P: 0422 067 858  
E: [gippsland@collectiveposition.com](mailto:gippsland@collectiveposition.com)

## Appendix A

### Disasters Impacting One Gippsland (Source – Department of Home Affairs, Australian disasters [Australian disasters \(disasterassist.gov.au\)](https://disasterassist.gov.au))

No.	Start Date	End Date	State	Disaster Type	Name of Disaster	One Gippsland Members impacted & assistance details	AGRN
1.	Aug 2022	--	Victoria	Storm	<a href="#">South East Victorian storms: commencing 13 August 2022</a>	<p>One Gippsland LGAs: Bass Coast, Baw Baw, Latrobe, South Gippsland, Wellington</p> <p>For the South East Victoria storms, commencing 13 August 2022, the available assistance measures may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• emergency relief assistance (targeted properties in South Gippsland only)</li> <li>• removal of debris from residential properties</li> <li>• restoration of damaged essential public assets.</li> <li>• counter disaster operations</li> </ul>	1029
2.	Jun 2022	--	Victoria	Storm	<a href="#">South East Victorian Storms (commencing 6 June 2022)</a>	<p>One Gippsland LGAs: South Gippsland, Wellington</p> <p>For the South East Victorian storms, commencing 6 June 2022, the available assistance measures may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• restoration of damaged essential public assets.</li> </ul>	1022
3.	Apr 2022	--	Victoria	Flood, Storm	<a href="#">Victorian Floods and Storms: commencing 2 April 2022</a>	<p>One Gippsland LGAs: East Gippsland</p> <p>For the Victorian Floods and Storms which occurred from 2 April 2022, the available assistance measures may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• personal hardship and distress</li> <li>• removal of debris from residential properties</li> <li>• counter disaster operations</li> <li>• restoration of damaged essential public assets.</li> </ul>	1016

No.	Start Date	End Date	State	Disaster Type	Name of Disaster	One Gippsland Members impacted & assistance details	AGRN
4.	Jan 2022	--	Victoria	Flood, Storm	<a href="#">Victorian Floods and Storms: commencing 26 January 2022</a>	<p>One Gippsland LGAs: Wellington</p> <p>For the Victorian Floods and Storms which occurred from 26 January 2022, the available assistance measures may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• removal of debris from residential properties in the ten (10) local government areas of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Wellington</li> </ul> </li> <li>• counter disaster operations in the ten (10) local government areas of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Wellington</li> </ul> </li> <li>• restoration of damaged essential public assets in the ten (10) local government areas of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Wellington</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	1007
5.	Dec 2021	--	Victoria	Storm	<a href="#">Baw Baw Storms: commencing 2 December 2021</a>	<p>One Gippsland LGAs: Baw Baw</p> <p>For the Baw Baw Storms which commenced on 2 December 2021, the available assistance measures may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• restoration of damaged essential public assets</li> </ul>	997
6.	Nov 2021	--	Victoria	Storm	<a href="#">East Victorian Storms: commencing 12 November 2021</a>	<p>One Gippsland LGAs: Baw Baw, East Gippsland, Wellington</p> <p>For the East Victorian Storms which commenced on 12 November 2021, the available assistance measures may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• personal hardship &amp; distress</li> <li>• counter disaster operations</li> <li>• removal of debris from residential properties</li> <li>• restoration of damaged essential public assets.</li> </ul>	988
7.	Oct 2021	Oct 2021	Victoria	Storm	<a href="#">Victoria Storms: commencing 29 October 2021</a>	<p>One Gippsland LGAs: Bass Coast, Baw Baw, East Gippsland, Latrobe, South Gippsland, Wellington</p> <p>For the Victoria Storms which commenced on 29 October 2021, the available assistance measures <b>may</b> include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• personal hardship and distress</li> <li>• removal of debris from residential properties</li> </ul>	983

No.	Start Date	End Date	State	Disaster Type	Name of Disaster	One Gippsland Members impacted & assistance details	AGRN
						<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>prolonged power outage payment for individuals</li> <li>counter disaster operations</li> <li>restoration of damaged essential public assets.</li> </ul>	
8.	Oct 2021	--	Victoria	Storm	<a href="#">South East Victorian Storms: commencing 15 October 2021</a>	<p>One Gippsland LGAs: Baw Baw</p> <p>For the South East Victorian Storms which commenced on 15 October 2021, the available assistance measures may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>counter disaster operations</li> <li>restoration of damaged essential public assets.</li> </ul>	991
9.	Sep 2021	--	Victoria	Storm, Flood	<a href="#">South East Victorian Storms: commencing 30 September 2021</a>	<p>One Gippsland LGAs: Baw Baw, South Gippsland</p> <p>For the South East Victorian Storms which commenced on 30 September 2021, the available assistance measures may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>counter disaster operations</li> <li>removal of debris from residential properties</li> <li>restoration of damaged essential public assets.</li> </ul>	985
10.	Sep 2021	--	Victoria	Earthquake	<a href="#">Victorian Earthquake: commencing 22 September 2021</a>	<p>One Gippsland LGAs: Wellington</p> <p>For the earthquake which commenced on 22 September 2021, the available assistance measures may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>restoration of damaged essential public assets.</li> </ul>	999
11.	Sep 2021	--	Victoria	Flood	<a href="#">Eastern Victoria Floods: commencing 3 September 2021</a>	<p>One Gippsland LGAs: East Gippsland, South Gippsland</p> <p>For the Eastern Victoria Floods which commenced on 3 September 2021, the available assistance measures may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Counter disaster operations</li> <li>Restoration of essential public assets</li> </ul>	977
12.	Jun 2021	--	Victoria	Storm, Flood	<a href="#">Victorian floods and storms: commencing 9 June 2021</a>	<p>One Gippsland LGAs: Bass Coast, Baw Baw, East Gippsland, Latrobe, South Gippsland, Wellington</p> <p>For the storms and floods which impacted central and eastern Victoria, the available assistance measures may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>personal hardship and distress</li> </ul>	969

No.	Start Date	End Date	State	Disaster Type	Name of Disaster	One Gippsland Members impacted & assistance details	AGRN
						<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>recovery support package</li> <li>prolonged power outage payment for individuals</li> <li>personal and financial counselling</li> <li>counter disaster operations</li> <li>removal of debris from residential properties</li> <li>restoration of damaged essential public assets.</li> </ul> Additional assistance measure <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Prolonged power outage payment for businesses</li> <li>\$25,000 recovery grants for primary producers</li> <li>Community Recovery Fund</li> </ul>	
13.	Mar 2021	--	Victoria	Flood, Storm	<a href="#">Wellington Storms and Floods: commencing 23 March 2021</a>	One Gippsland LGAs: Wellington  For the storms which impacted Wellington, the available assistance measures include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>counter disaster operations</li> <li>removal of debris from residential properties</li> <li>restoration of damaged essential public assets.</li> </ul>	966
14.	Nov 2020	Nov 2020	Victoria	Storm	<a href="#">Central-East Victoria Storms: 15 November 2020 onwards</a>	One Gippsland LGAs: Baw Baw  For the storms which impacted Baw Baw, Nillumbik and the Yarra Ranges, the available assistance measures include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>counter disaster operations</li> <li>removal of debris from residential properties</li> <li>restoration of damaged essential public assets.</li> </ul>	942
15.	Oct 2020	Oct 2020	Victoria	Flood, Storm	<a href="#">Victoria Floods and Storms: commencing 7 October 2020</a>	One Gippsland LGAs: Baw Baw  Counter disaster operations, removal of debris, and restoration of essential public assets in the five (5) local government areas of Baw Baw, Corangamite, Moyne, Southern Grampians and Warrnambool.	939
16.	Aug 2020	--	Victoria	Storm	<a href="#">Victoria Storms Event commencing 27 August 2020</a>	One Gippsland LGAs: Bass Coast, Baw Baw, East Gippsland, South Gippsland, Wellington  Counter disaster operations, removal of debris, and restoration of essential public assets in the twelve (12) local government areas of Bass Coast, Baw Baw,	934

No.	Start Date	End Date	State	Disaster Type	Name of Disaster	One Gippsland Members impacted & assistance details	AGRN
						Cardinia, East Gippsland, Macedon, Maroondah, City of Monash, Mornington Peninsula, Nillumbik, South Gippsland, Wellington and the Yarra Ranges Shire.	
17.	Apr 2020	May 2020	Victoria	Storm, Flood	<a href="#">East Victoria Storms: commencing 29 April 2020</a>	One Gippsland LGAs: Baw Baw  For the storms in Victoria which commenced on 29 April 2020, the available assistance measures include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Counter disaster operations, and</li> <li>• Restoration of essential public assets.</li> </ul>	915
18.	Mar 2020	Mar 2020	Victoria	Flood	<a href="#">Eastern Victoria Storms and Floods, commencing 4 March 2020</a>	One Gippsland LGAs: East Gippsland  For the storms and floods in Eastern Victoria which commenced on 4 March 2020, the available assistance measures include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Counter disaster operations</li> <li>• Restoration of essential public assets</li> </ul>	924
19.	Feb 2020	--	Victoria	Flood, Storm	<a href="#">Eastern Victoria Storms and Floods: commencing 14 February 2020</a>	One Gippsland LGAs: Baw Baw, East Gippsland  For the storms and floods in Victoria which commenced on 14 February 2020, the available assistance measures include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Counter disaster operations, and</li> <li>• Restoration of essential public assets.</li> </ul>	906
20.	Feb 2020	--	Victoria	Flood, Storm	<a href="#">Eastern Victoria Storms and Floods: commencing 1 February 2020</a>	One Gippsland LGAs: East Gippsland  For the storms and floods in Victoria which commenced on 1 February 2020, the available assistance measures include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Counter disaster operations, and</li> <li>• Restoration of essential public assets.</li> </ul>	901
21.	Jan 2020	--	Victoria	Flood, Storm	<a href="#">Victoria Storms and Floods: commencing 15-20 January 2020</a>	One Gippsland LGAs: East Gippsland  For the storms and floods in Victoria which commenced on 15 January 2020, the available assistance measures include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Counter disaster operations, and</li> <li>• Restoration of essential public assets.</li> </ul>	902

No.	Start Date	End Date	State	Disaster Type	Name of Disaster	One Gippsland Members impacted & assistance details	AGRN
22.	Nov 2019	--	Victoria	Bushfire	<a href="#">Victorian Bushfires: 21 November 2019 onwards</a>	<p>One Gippsland LGAs: East Gippsland, Wellington</p> <p>Australian Government Disaster Recovery Payment The Australian Government Disaster Recovery Payment (AGDRP) provides one-off financial assistance to eligible Australians adversely affected by the bushfires. The rate of AGDRP is \$1000 per eligible adult and \$400 per eligible child. Claims for this payment can be lodged with the <a href="#">Services Australia</a> for a period up to six months. AGDRP is available for people who have been seriously injured, have lost their homes or whose homes have been directly damaged, or are the immediate family members of a person who has died, as a direct result of the bushfires. You have until 4 August 2020 to lodge a claim for AGDRP in the local government areas of Alpine, East Gippsland and Towong.</p> <p>New Zealand ex-gratia disaster recovery payment An ex-gratia payment is being provided to eligible New Zealand 'non-protected' special category visa (SCV) (subclass 444) holders who have been adversely affected by the bushfires. The payment rate is \$1000 per eligible adult, \$1,000 per partner or dependent adult and \$400 per eligible child. Claims for this payment can be lodged with the <a href="#">Services Australia</a> for a period of six months. The payment is available for SCV holders who have been seriously injured, have lost their homes or whose homes have been directly damaged, or are the immediate family members of a person who has died, as a direct result of the bushfires. You have until 4 August 2020 to lodge a claim for the ex-gratia disaster recovery payment in the local government areas of Alpine, East Gippsland and Towong.</p> <p>Disaster Recovery Allowance</p>	882



No.	Start Date	End Date	State	Disaster Type	Name of Disaster	One Gippsland Members impacted & assistance details	AGRN
						<p>The Disaster Recovery Allowance (DRA) provides income support payments to employees, primary producers and sole traders who can demonstrate they have experienced a loss of income as a direct result of the bushfires. DRA provides fortnightly payments for up to 13 weeks up to the applicable rate of Newstart or Youth Allowance, depending on the person's circumstances. You have until 4 August 2020 to lodge a claim for DRA in the local government areas of Ararat, Alpine, Ballarat, East Gippsland, Glenelg, Golden Plains, Greater Bendigo, Indigo, Mansfield, Moyne, Northern Grampians, Pyrenees, Southern Grampians, Strathbogie, Towong, Wangaratta, Wellington, Wodonga and in the alpine resort areas of Falls Creek, Mount Buller, Mount Hotham and Mount Stirling.</p> <p>New Zealand ex-gratia income support allowance An ex-gratia income support allowance is available to eligible New Zealand 'non-protected' special category visa (SCV) (subclass 444) holders who can demonstrate they have experienced a loss of income as a direct result of the bushfires. East Gippsland and Wellington</p> <p>Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements The joint Australian, state and territory government <i>Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements</i> (DRFA) provide a range of financial assistance to the natural disaster-declared areas in each state or territory. For the Victorian bushfires which commenced on 21 November 2019 onwards, the available assistance measures include: Emergency relief assistance, in the eighteen (18) local government areas of: Alpine, Ararat, Ballarat, East Gippsland, Glenelg, Golden Plains, Greater Bendigo, Indigo, Mansfield, Moyne, Northern Grampians, Pyrenees, Southern Grampians, Strathbogie, Towong,</p>	

No.	Start Date	End Date	State	Disaster Type	Name of Disaster	One Gippsland Members impacted & assistance details	AGRN
						<p>Wangaratta, Wellington, Wodonga and in the four (4) alpine resort areas of Falls Creek, Mount Buller, Mount Hotham and Mount Stirling.</p> <p>Community Recovery Fund and Recovery Grants A Community Recovery Fund (CRF) has been activated to further assist bushfire affected communities. Funding is available for a range of measures including targeted community projects and mental health support. Recovery grants of up to \$75,000 are available for eligible primary producers and up to \$50,000 for eligible small businesses and non-profit organisations. The CRF and recovery grants are available in the eighteen (18) local government areas of Alpine, Ararat, Ballarat, East Gippsland, Glenelg, Golden Plains, Greater Bendigo, Indigo, Mansfield, Moyne, Northern Grampians, Pyrenees, Southern Grampians, Strathbogie, Towong, Wangaratta, Wellington, Wodonga and in the four (4) alpine resort areas of Falls Creek, Mount Buller, Mount Hotham and Mount Stirling.</p>	
23.	Aug 2019	--	Victoria	Storm, Flood	<a href="#">Eastern Victoria Storms and Floods: commencing 8 August 2019</a>	<p>One Gippsland LGAs: Bass Coast, Baw Baw, Latrobe, South Gippsland</p> <p>For the storms and floods in Victoria which commenced on 8 August 2019, the available assistance measures include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Counter disaster operations in the three (3) local government areas of Bass Coast, Baw Baw, South Gippsland</li> <li>○ Restoration of essential public assets in the five (5) local government areas of: Bass Coast, Baw Baw, Latrobe, Mornington Peninsula, South Gippsland</li> </ul>	873
24.	Jul 2019	Jul 2019	Victoria	Storm	<a href="#">Eastern Victoria Storms: commencing 10 July 2019</a>	<p>One Gippsland LGAs: Baw Baw</p> <p>For the storms in Victoria which commenced on 10 July 2019, the available assistance measures include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Counter disaster operations, and</li> </ul>	874

No.	Start Date	End Date	State	Disaster Type	Name of Disaster	One Gippsland Members impacted & assistance details	AGRN
25.	Feb 2019	--	Victoria	Bushfire	<a href="#">Victorian Bushfires (previously known as the South East Victoria Bushfires): 28 February 2019 onwards.</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Restoration of essential public assets.</li> </ul> <p>One Gippsland LGAs: Baw Baw, East Gippsland, Latrobe, South Gippsland, Wellington</p> <p>Australian Government Disaster Recovery Payment The Australian Government Disaster Recovery Payment (AGDRP) provides one-off financial assistance to eligible Australians adversely affected by the bushfires. The rate of AGDRP is \$1000 per eligible adult and \$400 per eligible child. Claims for this payment can be lodged with the <u>Department of Human Services</u> for a period up to six months. AGDRP is available for people who have been seriously injured, have lost their homes or whose homes have been directly damaged, or are the immediate family members of a person who has died, as a direct result of the bushfires. You have until 4 June 2020 to lodge a claim for AGDRP in the local government areas of Baw Baw, Cardinia and Latrobe.</p> <p>New Zealand ex-gratia disaster recovery payment An ex-gratia payment is being provided to eligible New Zealand 'non-protected' special category visa (SCV) (subclass 444) holders who have been adversely affected by the bushfires. The payment rate is \$1000 per eligible adult, \$1,000 per partner or dependent adult and \$400 per eligible child. Claims for this payment can be lodged with the <u>Department of Human Services</u> for a period of six months. The payment is available for SCV holders who have been seriously injured, have lost their homes or whose homes have been directly damaged, or are the immediate family members of a person who has died, as a direct result of the bushfires.</p>	846

No.	Start Date	End Date	State	Disaster Type	Name of Disaster	One Gippsland Members impacted & assistance details	AGRN
						<p>You have until 4 June 2020 to lodge a claim for the ex-gratia disaster recovery payment in the local government areas of Baw Baw, Cardinia and Latrobe.</p> <p><b>Disaster Recovery Allowance</b>            The Disaster Recovery Allowance (DRA) provides income support payments to employees, primary producers and sole traders who can demonstrate they have experienced a loss of income as a direct result of the bushfires. DRA provides fortnightly payments for up to 13 weeks up to the applicable rate of Newstart or Youth Allowance, depending on the person's circumstances. DRA is available to Australian residents who are sixteen years and older. DRA is not available to those already receiving another income support payment or pension such as the Age Pension, Newstart Allowance or Service Pension.</p> <p>You have until 4 June 2020 to lodge a claim for DRA in the local government areas of Alpine, Baw Baw, Benalla, Campaspe, Cardinia, East Gippsland, Indigo, Latrobe, Macedon Ranges, Mansfield, Mitchell, Murrindindi, South Gippsland, Towong, Wangaratta, Wellington and Yarra Ranges.</p> <p><b>New Zealand ex-gratia income support allowance</b>            An ex-gratia income support allowance is available to eligible New Zealand 'non-protected' special category visa (SCV) (subclass 444) holders who can demonstrate they have experienced a loss of income as a direct result of the bushfires. The income support allowance provides fortnightly payments for up to 13 weeks up to the applicable rate of Newstart or Youth Allowance, depending on the person's circumstances. The allowance is available to SCV holders who are sixteen years and older.</p>	

No.	Start Date	End Date	State	Disaster Type	Name of Disaster	One Gippsland Members impacted & assistance details	AGRN
						<p>You have until 4 June 2020 to lodge a claim for the ex-gratia income support allowance in the local government areas Alpine, Baw Baw, Benalla, Campaspe, Cardinia, East Gippsland, Indigo, Latrobe, Macedon Ranges, Mansfield, Mitchell, Murrindindi, South Gippsland, Towong, Wangaratta, Wellington and Yarra Ranges.</p> <p><b>Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements</b>            The joint Australian, state and territory governments' Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA) provide a range of financial assistance to the natural disaster-declared areas in each state or territory. For the Victorian bushfires which commenced on 28 February 2019, the available assistance measures include:</p> <p>Emergency relief assistance, in the five (5) local government areas of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Baw Baw</li> <li>● Cardinia</li> <li>● Latrobe</li> <li>● South Gippsland</li> <li>● Wellington</li> </ul> <p>Personal and financial counselling, counter disaster operations and restoration of essential public assets, in the fifteen (15) local government areas of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Alpine</li> <li>● Baw Baw</li> <li>● Benalla</li> <li>● Cardinia</li> <li>● East Gippsland</li> <li>● Indigo</li> <li>● Latrobe</li> <li>● Mansfield</li> <li>● Mitchell</li> <li>● Murrindindi</li> <li>● South Gippsland</li> </ul>	

No.	Start Date	End Date	State	Disaster Type	Name of Disaster	One Gippsland Members impacted & assistance details	AGRN
						<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Towong</li> <li>• Wangaratta</li> <li>• Wellington</li> <li>• Yarra Ranges</li> </ul> <p>Concessional interest rate loans for small businesses, primary producers and non-profit organisations, in the three (3) local government areas of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Baw Baw</li> <li>• Cardinia</li> <li>• Latrobe</li> </ul> <p><b>Category C Assistance</b></p> <p>A Community Recovery Fund (CRF) has been activated to further assist bushfire affected communities. Funding is available for a range of measures including the employment of Community Development Officers, funding for a community mental health program, community led recovery and connection program and clean-up and restoration of community assets. The CRF is available in the five (5) local government areas of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Baw Baw</li> <li>• Cardinia</li> <li>• East Gippsland</li> <li>• Latrobe</li> <li>• Wellington</li> </ul> <p>Recovery grants of up to \$10,000 are available for eligible primary producers in the three (3) local government areas of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Baw Baw</li> <li>• Cardinia</li> <li>• Latrobe.</li> </ul>	
26.	Jan 2019	--	Victoria	Bushfire, Storm	<a href="#">Victoria Bushfires and Storms: 30 January 2019</a>	<p>One Gippsland LGAs: Baw Baw, Latrobe, South Gippsland, Wellington</p> <p>For the Victoria bushfires and storms which commenced on 30 January 2019, the available assistance measures include:</p>	859

No.	Start Date	End Date	State	Disaster Type	Name of Disaster	One Gippsland Members impacted & assistance details	AGRN
						<p>Emergency relief assistance in the three (3) local government areas of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Baw Baw</li> <li>● Campaspe</li> <li>● Mitchell</li> </ul> <p>Demolition or rebuilding, personal and financial counselling and the engagement of a community recovery officer, for the three (3) local government areas of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Baw Baw</li> <li>● Latrobe</li> <li>● Wellington</li> </ul> <p>Counter disaster operations and restoration of essential public assets, in the eight (8) local government areas of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Baw Baw</li> <li>● Campaspe</li> <li>● Cardinia</li> <li>● Latrobe</li> <li>● Macedon Ranges</li> <li>● Mitchell</li> <li>● South Gippsland</li> <li>● Wellington</li> </ul>	
27.	Jan 2019	--	Victoria	Bushfire	<a href="#">Thomson Catchment Bushfires: commencing 25 January 2019</a>	<p>One Gippsland LGAs: Baw Baw, Latrobe, Wellington</p> <p><b>Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements</b>  The joint Australian, state and territory governments' Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA) provide a range of financial assistance to the natural disaster-declared areas in each state or territory. For the bushfires in Victoria which commenced on 25 January 2019, the available assistance measures include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● personal and financial counselling</li> <li>● counter disaster operations, and</li> <li>● restoration of essential public assets.</li> </ul> <p>For information on available recovery assistance, visit the <a href="#">VIC Emergency</a> website.  For further information on recovery arrangements, visit the <a href="#">Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements</a> page.</p>	854

No.	Start Date	End Date	State	Disaster Type	Name of Disaster	One Gippsland Members impacted & assistance details	AGRN
						<p>The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade will replace passports that have been lost or damaged in declared natural disasters free of charge, visit the <a href="#">Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade</a> website.</p> <p><b>The above assistance may be available in the following local government area(s)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Baw Baw</li> <li>• Latrobe</li> <li>• Wellington</li> </ul>	
28.	Jan 2019	--	Victoria	Bushfire	<a href="#">Timbarra bushfires: commencing 16 January 2019</a>	<p>One Gippsland LGAs: East Gippsland</p> <p><b>Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements</b> The joint Australian, state and territory governments' Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA) provide a range of financial assistance to the natural disaster-declared areas in each state or territory. For the bushfires in Victoria which commenced on 16 January 2019, the available assistance measures include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• personal and financial counselling</li> <li>• counter disaster operations, and</li> <li>• restoration of essential public assets</li> </ul>	852
29.	Jan 2019	--	Victoria	Bushfire	<a href="#">Rosedale Bushfire: commencing 4 January 2019</a>	<p>One Gippsland LGAs: Wellington</p> <p>The joint Australian, state and territory governments' Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA) provide a range of financial assistance to the natural disaster-declared areas in each state or territory. For the bushfire in Victoria which commenced on 4 January 2019, the available assistance measures for state agencies and local councils include counter disaster operations and restoration of essential public assets, in the one (1) local government area of: Wellington.</p>	837
30.	Jul 2018	Jul 2018	Victoria	Storm	<a href="#">Central Victoria Storms: 17 July 2018</a>	<p>One Gippsland LGAs: Baw Baw, South Gippsland</p> <p>For the storms which commenced on 17 July 2018, the available assistance measures include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Removal of debris from residential properties</li> </ul>	825



No.	Start Date	End Date	State	Disaster Type	Name of Disaster	One Gippsland Members impacted & assistance details	AGRN
						<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Counter disaster operations</li> <li>Restoration of essential public assets</li> </ul>	
31.	Mar 2018	--	Victoria	Bushfire	<a href="#">Victoria Storms and Bushfires: commencing 17 March 2018</a>	<p>One Gippsland LGAs: Baw Baw, South Gippsland</p> <p>Personal and financial counselling, removal of debris from residential properties to make them safe and habitable, demolition or rebuilding to restore housing to a habitable condition, counter disaster operations and restoration of essential public assets in the eight (8) local government areas of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Baw Baw</li> <li>Colac-Otway</li> <li>Corangamite</li> <li>Mornington</li> <li>Moyne</li> <li>South Gippsland</li> <li>Southern Grampians</li> <li>Warrnambool</li> </ul>	797
32.	Feb 2018	--	Victoria	Storm	<a href="#">Central Victorian Storms: commencing 19 February 2018</a>	<p>One Gippsland LGAs: Baw Baw</p> <p>For the storms which commenced on 19 February 2018, the available assistance measures include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Removal of debris from residential properties</li> <li>Counter disaster operations</li> <li>Restoration of essential public assets</li> </ul>	812
33.	Sep 2016	--	Victoria	Flood, Storm	<a href="#">Victorian Floods and Storms: September / October 2016</a>	<p>One Gippsland LGAs: Baw Baw</p> <p>For the floods which commenced on 9 September 2016, the available assistance measures include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>personal hardship and distress assistance</li> <li>personal and financial counselling</li> <li>counter disaster operations</li> <li>restoration of essential public assets</li> </ul>	728
34.	Jul 2016	Jul 2016	Victoria	Storm	<a href="#">Eastern Victoria Storms: 12 to 13 July 2016</a>	<p>One Gippsland LGAs: Bass Coast, East Gippsland, South Gippsland</p>	724

No.	Start Date	End Date	State	Disaster Type	Name of Disaster	One Gippsland Members impacted & assistance details	AGRN
						For the storms which occurred from 12-13 July 2016, the available assistance measures include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• counter disaster operations</li> <li>• restoration of essential public assets</li> </ul>	
35.	Jul 2016	--	Victoria	Flood	<a href="#">Gippsland Floods: July 2016</a>	One Gippsland LGAs: Bass Coast, East Gippsland, South Gippsland, Wellington  For the floods which occurred on 5 July 2016, the available assistance measures include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• restoration of essential public assets</li> <li>• counter disaster operations</li> </ul>	721
36.	May 2016	--	Victoria	Storm	<a href="#">Eastern Victoria Storms: 3 May 2016</a>	One Gippsland LGAs: South Gippsland  For the Storms which occurred on 3 May 2016, the available assistance measures include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• restoration of essential public assets</li> <li>• counter disaster operations</li> </ul>	713
37.	Apr 2016	--	Victoria	Storm	<a href="#">Central and Eastern Victoria Storms: 30 April 2016</a>	One Gippsland LGAs: Baw Baw, South Gippsland  For the Storms which occurred on 30 April 2016, the available assistance measures include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• restoration of essential public assets</li> <li>• counter disaster operations</li> </ul> <p>In addition to this, personal hardship and distress assistance has been made available in the LGA of Baw Baw.</p>	712
38.	Dec 2015	Dec 2015	Victoria	Bushfire	<a href="#">Victorian Bushfires: 19 to 25 December 2015</a>	One Gippsland LGAs: Bass Coast, East Gippsland  For the bushfires which occurred on 19-25 December 2015, the available assistance measures include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• personal and financial counselling</li> <li>• restoration of essential public assets</li> <li>• counter disaster operations</li> </ul> in the affected local government areas (LGAs) including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• East Gippsland (activated for the East Gippsland cluster bushfire)</li> </ul>	689

No.	Start Date	End Date	State	Disaster Type	Name of Disaster	One Gippsland Members impacted & assistance details	AGRN
39.	Dec 2015	Dec 2015	Victoria	Flood, Storm	<a href="#">Eastern Victoria Storms and Floods: 8-9 December 2015</a>	<p>One Gippsland LGAs: Wellington</p> <p>For the storms and floods which occurred on 8-9 December 2015, the available assistance measures include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>restoration of essential public assets</li> <li>counter disaster operations</li> </ul>	690
40.	Aug 2015	--	Victoria	Flood	<a href="#">South Eastern Floods: 27 August 2015</a>	<p>One Gippsland LGAs: Baw Baw, Latrobe, South Gippsland, Wellington</p> <p>For the floods which occurred on 27 August 2015, the available assistance measures include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>counter disaster operations</li> <li>restoration of essential public assets</li> </ul>	674
41.	Dec 2014	--	Victoria	Flood	<a href="#">Gippsland flooding: 6 December 2014</a>	<p>One Gippsland LGAs: East Gippsland, Wellington</p> <p>For the flooding which commenced on 6 December 2014, available assistance measures include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>counter disaster operations</li> <li>restoration of essential public assets.</li> </ul>	645
42.	Sep 2014	--	Victoria	Flood, Storm	<a href="#">Storms and floods: 8 September 2014</a>	<p>One Gippsland LGAs: Baw Baw</p> <p>For the Victoria storms and floods which commenced on 8 September 2014, available assistance measures include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>counter disaster operations</li> <li>restoration of essential public assets.</li> </ul>	638
43.	Jul 2014	--	Victoria	Storm	<a href="#">Storms: July 2014</a>	<p>One Gippsland LGAs: Baw Baw, East Gippsland, Latrobe, South Gippsland, Wellington</p> <p>For the Victoria Storms which commenced on 30 July 2014, the following assistance measure was made available in the local government areas of Latrobe and Wellington:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>personal hardship and distress assistance.</li> </ul>	637

No.	Start Date	End Date	State	Disaster Type	Name of Disaster	One Gippsland Members impacted & assistance details	AGRN
44.	Jun 2014	--	Victoria	Flood	<a href="#">East Gippsland floods: 14 June 2014</a>	<p>One Gippsland LGAs: East Gippsland</p> <p>Under the NDRRA the following assistance is available for the floods which occurred on 14 June 2014, the available assistance measures include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● counter disaster operations</li> <li>● restoration of essential public assets.</li> </ul>	633
45.	Feb 2014	--	Victoria	Bushfire	<a href="#">Bushfires: 7 February 2014</a>	<p>One Gippsland LGAs: Baw Baw, East Gippsland, Latrobe, Wellington</p> <p>Under the NDRRA the following assistance is available:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● personal hardship and distress assistance, through: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ emergency relief grants, to assist with emergency accommodation, food, clothing and personal items</li> <li>○ emergency reestablishment grants, to assist in the removal of debris, emergency accommodation, repairs, rebuilding and replacement of damaged household contents.</li> </ul> </li> <li>● personal and financial counselling</li> <li>● counter disaster operations</li> <li>● restoration of essential public assets</li> <li>● concessional interest rate loans for small businesses, primary producers and voluntary not-for-profit organisations,</li> </ul> <p>New concessional Loans of up to \$100,000 are also available for eligible small businesses, primary producers and voluntary not-for-profit bodies that have suffered loss of income as a result of the bushfires in the following One Gippsland LGAs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● East Gippsland</li> <li>● Hume</li> <li>● Macedon Ranges</li> <li>● Mitchell</li> <li>● Wellington.</li> </ul>	608

No.	Start Date	End Date	State	Disaster Type	Name of Disaster	One Gippsland Members impacted & assistance details	AGRN
						Hazelwood Mine Fire—Morwell Relocation payments of up to \$1250 per week are available to assist eligible local residents in Morwell South to temporarily relocate to avoid exposure to smoke and ash from the fires currently burning. Residents seeking assistance are advised to contact the Department of Human Services (DHS) hotline on 1800 006 468. New concessional loans of up to \$100,000 are available to assist eligible small businesses, primary producers and not-for-profit organisations in the Morwell area that have suffered a significant loss of income as a consequence Hazelwood Mine Fire.	
46.	Jan 2014	--	Victoria	Bushfire	<a href="#">Bushfires: 15 January 2014</a>	One Gippsland LGAs: East Gippsland  Under the NDRRA the following assistance is available: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>personal hardship and distress, through: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>emergency relief grants to assist with emergency accommodation, food and clothing</li> <li>emergency reestablishment grants to assist in the removal of debris, repairs, rebuilding and replacement of essential household contents</li> </ul> </li> <li>personal and financial counselling</li> <li>counter disaster operations</li> <li>restoration of essential public assets</li> </ul>	602
47.	Sep 2013	--	Victoria	Storm	<a href="#">Storms: 26 September 2013</a>	One Gippsland LGAs: Baw Baw, Latrobe, South Gippsland  For the storms which occurred on 26 September 2013, the available assistance measures include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>counter disaster operations</li> <li>restoration of essential public assets</li> </ul>	584
48.	Aug 2013	--	Victoria	Flood, Storm	<a href="#">Storms and floods: 13 August 2013</a>	One Gippsland LGAs: Baw Baw, South Gippsland  The available funding includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>counter disaster operations</li> <li>restoration of essential public assets.</li> </ul>	581

No.	Start Date	End Date	State	Disaster Type	Name of Disaster	One Gippsland Members impacted & assistance details	AGRN
49.	Jun 2013	--	Victoria	Flood	<a href="#">Floods: 12 June 2013</a>	<p>One Gippsland LGAs: Bass Coast, East Gippsland, Latrobe, South Gippsland, Wellington</p> <p>For the floods which occurred on 12 June 2013, the available assistance measures include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• personal hardship and distress assistance</li> <li>• counter disaster operations</li> <li>• restoration of essential public assets</li> </ul>	575
50.	Mar 2013	--	Victoria	Bushfire	<a href="#">Bushfires: 27 March 2013</a>	<p>One Gippsland LGAs: South Gippsland</p> <p>For the bushfires which occurred in March 2013, the available assistance measures include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• personal hardship and distress assistance</li> <li>• personal and financial counselling</li> <li>• counter disaster operations</li> <li>• restoration of essential public assets</li> </ul>	557
51.	Feb 2013	Feb 2013	Victoria	Bushfire	<a href="#">Bushfires: February 2013</a>	<p>One Gippsland LGAs: Baw Baw, Wellington</p> <p>For the bushfires which occurred in February 2013, the available assistance measures include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• personal hardship and distress assistance</li> <li>• personal and financial counselling</li> <li>• counter disaster operations</li> <li>• restoration of essential public assets</li> </ul>	550
52.	Jan 2013	--	Victoria	Bushfire	<a href="#">Eastern bushfires: 17 January 2013</a>	<p>One Gippsland LGAs: Baw Baw, East Gippsland, Latrobe, Wellington</p> <p>For the bushfires which occurred in January 2013, the available assistance measures include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• personal hardship and distress assistance</li> <li>• personal and financial counselling</li> <li>• counter disaster operations</li> <li>• restoration of essential public assets</li> <li>• concessional interest rate loans for small businesses, primary producers and voluntary not-for-profit organisations</li> </ul>	540

No.	Start Date	End Date	State	Disaster Type	Name of Disaster	One Gippsland Members impacted & assistance details	AGRN
53.	Oct 2012	Oct 2012	Victoria	Bushfire	<a href="#">Hippo Track bushfire: October 2012</a>	<p>One Gippsland LGAs: East Gippsland</p> <p>For the bushfires which occurred in October 2012, the available assistance measures include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• counter disaster operations</li> <li>• restoration of essential public assets</li> </ul>	551
54.	Sep 2012	Sep 2012	Victoria	Storm	<a href="#">Severe storms: 5 to 8 September 2012</a>	<p>One Gippsland LGAs: Bass Coast, Baw Baw, East Gippsland, Latrobe, South Gippsland, Wellington</p> <p>For the severe storms which occurred on 5-8 September 2012, the available assistance measures include: personal hardship and distress assistance counter disaster operations restoration of essential public assets in the affected local government areas of: Bass Coast Baw Baw Cardinia East Gippsland Latrobe South Gippsland Wellington Yarra Ranges.</p>	503
55.	Jun 2012	Jun 2012	Victoria	Flood	<a href="#">Victoria floods: 22 to 24 June 2012</a>	<p>One Gippsland LGAs: Bass Coast, Baw Baw, Latrobe, South Gippsland</p> <p>Funding available (for all LGAs) includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• personal hardship and distress assistance</li> <li>• restoration of essential public assets</li> <li>• certain counter disaster operations.</li> </ul>	497
56.	Jun 2012	--	Victoria	Flood, Storm	<a href="#">Victoria storms and flooding: 4 June 2012</a>	<p>One Gippsland LGAs: Baw Baw, Bass Coast, East Gippsland, Latrobe, South Gippsland, Wellington</p> <p>Assistance is being made available under the NDRRA in response to the storms and flooding that commenced on 4 June 2012.</p> <p>Assistance is available to people who have suffered personal hardship and distress. If you <u>need assistance</u> you should contact your local <u>Victorian Department of Human Services</u> branch for more information.</p> <p>Concessional interest rate loans are also available for primary producers, small businesses and not-for-profit organisations. <u>Information and application forms for the</u></p>	494

No.	Start Date	End Date	State	Disaster Type	Name of Disaster	One Gippsland Members impacted & assistance details	AGRN
						<p>low-interest loans are available from the Rural Finance Corporation of Victoria.</p> <p>NDRRA Category C clean-up and restoration grants of up to \$10 000 are also available for eligible primary producers in targeted areas within the local government areas of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• East Gippsland</li> <li>• Latrobe</li> <li>• South Gippsland</li> <li>• Wellington</li> </ul>	
57.	May 2012	May 2012	Victoria	Flood, Storm	<a href="#">Victoria storms and flooding: 25 to 27 May 2012</a>	<p>One Gippsland LGAs: Bass Coast, Baw Baw, East Gippsland, Latrobe, South Gippsland, Wellington</p> <p>Joint Commonwealth/State assistance made available under NDRRA includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Certain counter disaster operations, and</li> <li>• Restoration of essential public assets</li> </ul>	495
58.	Nov 2011	Nov 2011	Victoria	Storm	<a href="#">Victoria storms: 9 to 10 November 2011</a>	<p>One Gippsland LGAs: Baw Baw</p> <p>NDRRA assistance includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Personal hardship and distress assistance</li> </ul>	461
59.	Jul 2011	Aug 2011	Victoria	Flood	<a href="#">Gippsland flood: July to August 2011</a>	<p>One Gippsland LGAs: Wellington</p> <p>NDRRA assistance is available in the Local Government Area (LGA) of Wellington.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• certain counter disaster operations, and</li> <li>• restoration of essential public assets.</li> </ul>	456
60.	Jun 2011	--	Victoria	Flood	<a href="#">Victoria South Gippsland flood: 21 June 2011</a>	<p>One Gippsland LGAs: South Gippsland</p> <p>For the flood which occurred on 21 June 2011, the assistance measures available include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• certain counter disaster operations</li> <li>• restoration of essential public assets</li> </ul>	506
61.	Mar 2011	Mar 2011	Victoria	Flood	<a href="#">Victoria floods: 22 to 23 March 2011</a>	<p>One Gippsland LGAs: Baw Baw, Latrobe, South Gippsland</p>	443



No.	Start Date	End Date	State	Disaster Type	Name of Disaster	One Gippsland Members impacted & assistance details	AGRN
						<p>For the floods which occurred between 22 and 23 March 2011, the available assistance measures include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• personal hardship and distress assistance</li> <li>• restoration of essential public assets</li> <li>• counter disaster operations</li> <li>• concessional loans for small businesses and primary producers.</li> </ul>	
62.	Mar 2011	--	Victoria	Flood	<a href="#">Flood: 22 March 2011</a>	<p>One Gippsland LGAs: Baw Baw, Latrobe, South Gippsland</p> <p>For the flood which commenced on 22 March 2011, the available assistance measures include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Personal hardship and distress assistance</li> <li>• Counter disaster operations</li> <li>• Restoration of essential public assets</li> </ul> <p>Category C Recovery Grants for Primary Producers and Small Business available in Baw Baw, Latrobe City, Mildura and South Gippsland.</p>	447
63.	Feb 2011	Feb 2011	Victoria	Flood	<a href="#">Victoria floods: 6 to 8 February 2011</a>	<p>One Gippsland LGAs: Bass Coast, Baw Baw, East Gippsland, Latrobe, South Gippsland, Wellington</p> <p>The joint Australian, state and territory governments' Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements (NDRRA) provide a range of financial assistance to the natural disaster-declared areas in each state or territory. For the floods which occurred between 4 and 6 February 2011, the available assistance measures include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• personal hardship and distress assistance</li> <li>• restoration on essential public assets</li> <li>• concessional loans for small businesses and primary producers.</li> </ul> <p>On 11 June 2011 the Prime Minister agreed to contribute financial support under Category D of the NDRRA for extended concessional loans to businesses, primary producers and not-for-profit organisations. Concessional loans are available for up to \$650,000 over 10 years, with</p>	429

No.	Start Date	End Date	State	Disaster Type	Name of Disaster	One Gippsland Members impacted & assistance details	AGRN
						<p>a grant component capped at \$50,000, for eligible weather events between January 2011 and March 2011. For more information about grants and assistance people should contact their local council, emergency relief centres or the Storm and Flood Information Line on 1300 842 737. Residents seeking advice about how to apply for the grants can phone 1300 650 172 or visit the Victorian Department of Human Services website. On 11 June 2011 the Prime Minister agreed to contribute financial support under Category D of the NDRRA for extended concessional loans to businesses, primary producers and not-for-profit organisations. Concessional loans are available for up to \$650,000 over 10 years, with a grant component capped at \$50,000, for eligible weather events between January 2011 and March 2011.</p>	
64.	Mar 2010	Mar 2010	Victoria	Storm	<a href="#">Victorian storms: 6 to 7 March 2010</a>	<p>One Gippsland LGAs: Baw Baw, Latrobe</p> <p>The Australian Government Disaster Recovery Payment (AGDRP) was provided to eligible people adversely affected by the severe storms that hit Melbourne over the Victorian Labour Day holiday weekend in March 2010. The payment was to provide immediate, one-off financial assistance to eligible Australians adversely affected by the disaster.</p> <p>Commonwealth assistance was also provided to the Victorian Government through the Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements and applied to 39 local government areas throughout the State.</p> <p>The following personal hardship and distress assistance was made available to people whose principal place of residence was affected by the storms:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• emergency grants to provide assistance to meet immediate basic needs such as clothing, food, personal items, appropriate shelter and specific one-off transport costs;</li> </ul>	383

No.	Start Date	End Date	State	Disaster Type	Name of Disaster	One Gippsland Members impacted & assistance details	AGRN
						<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>temporary living expense grants to assist households with the cost of temporary accommodation and living expenses; and</li> <li>re-establishment grants to assist with the re-establishment of a householder's principal place of residence</li> </ul> <p>The Australian Government Disaster Recovery Payment (AGDRP) was provided to eligible people adversely affected by the severe storms that hit Melbourne over the Victorian Labour Day holiday weekend in March 2010. The payment was to provide immediate, one-off financial assistance to eligible Australians adversely affected by the disaster. Commonwealth assistance was also provided to the Victorian Government through the Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements and applied to 39 local government areas throughout the State. The following personal hardship and distress assistance was made available to people whose principal place of residence was affected by the storms:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>emergency grants to provide assistance to meet immediate basic needs such as clothing, food, personal items, appropriate shelter and specific one-off transport costs;</li> <li>temporary living expense grants to assist households with the cost of temporary accommodation and living expenses; and</li> <li>re-establishment grants to assist with the re-establishment of a householder's principal place of residence</li> </ul>	
65.	Jan 2009	Feb 2009	Victoria	Bushfire	<a href="#">Victorian bushfires: January to February 2009</a>	<p>One Gippsland LGAs: Baw Baw, Latrobe, South Gippsland, Wellington</p> <p>Under the NDRRA, the Victorian Department of Human Services delivered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>temporary living and re-establishment grants depending on the size of a household.</li> </ul>	322

No.	Start Date	End Date	State	Disaster Type	Name of Disaster	One Gippsland Members impacted & assistance details	AGRN
						<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• temporary Living Expense grants up to a maximum of \$8650.</li> <li>• re-establishment grants with two components:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ a maximum payment of up to \$8650 for repairs to structural damage to a residence, and</li> <li>○ a maximum payment of up to \$8650 to replace essential household contents such as furnishings and electrical goods.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>Individual assistance Financial Assistance More than \$82 million in direct financial assistance was provided to more than 63,000 adversely affected individuals through the Australian Government Disaster Recovery Payment (AGDRP), the Income Recovery Subsidy and Funeral/Memorial Assistance.</p> <p>Australian Government Disaster Recovery Payment The AGDRP was available through Centrelink to people who were adversely affected by the Victorian bushfires. The AGDRP provided a one-off, immediate payment of \$1000 per eligible adult and \$400 per child. AGDRP was available for people who had been seriously injured, who had lost their homes or whose homes had been directly damaged or were an immediate family member of a person who had been killed by the Victorian bushfires.</p> <p>This <b>payment closed</b> on 7 August 2009.</p> <p>Income Recovery Subsidy The Income Recovery Subsidy provided assistance to employees, small business operators and farmers who lost income as a result of the bushfires. This Subsidy provided fortnightly payments equivalent to the maximum rate of Newstart allowance depending on the person's circumstances.</p> <p>It was available to Australian residents or eligible foreign nationals who were 16 years of age, or older. Eligible foreign nationals included people who were on permanent visas (but who had not yet met the residency waiting</p>	

No.	Start Date	End Date	State	Disaster Type	Name of Disaster	One Gippsland Members impacted & assistance details	AGRN
						<p>period) and people who were on temporary skills or temporary family visas.</p> <p>The Income Recovery Subsidy was announced on 10 February 2009, for an initial period of 13 weeks, and was extended for a further 13 weeks on 26 March 2009. A further extension of 13 weeks to 10 November 2009 was made to ensure employees, small businesses and farmers who continued to experience a loss of income as a result of the bushfires were financially supported and had ample time to transition to other longer term arrangements.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><a href="#">Back to top of page</a></p> <p><b>Assistance for Funeral/Memorial and Related Costs</b>  The Australian Government acknowledges the hardship faced by those families who lost loved ones. Assistance for funerals/memorials and related costs was made available to the immediate family member of an Australian or eligible foreign national who died or was declared missing as a direct result of the Victorian bushfires in January and February 2009.</p> <p>Eligible foreign national included an individual on a permanent, temporary skills or temporary family visa who died or was declared missing as a direct result of the Victorian bushfires.</p> <p>The assistance provided \$5000 to one immediate family member for each deceased individual for funeral/memorial and other related costs. Centrelink worked with families to determine the most appropriate family member to receive this assistance.</p> <p><b>Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements</b>  The Australian Government helped to facilitate early assistance to disaster affected communities by supporting the Victorian Government under the Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements (NDRRA).  Under the NDRRA, the Victorian Department of Human Services delivered:</p>	

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						<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• temporary living and re-establishment grants depending on the size of a household.</li> <li>• temporary Living Expense grants up to a maximum of \$8650.</li> <li>• re-establishment grants with two components:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ a maximum payment of up to \$8650 for repairs to structural damage to a residence, and</li> <li>○ a maximum payment of up to \$8650 to replace essential household contents such as furnishings and electrical goods.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>Other assistance for individuals Case management The Victorian Bushfire Case Management Service was established to support people affected by the bushfires, helping with accommodation, finance, employment, education, counselling, health and legal services, and other personal assistance. It was delivered through a partnership arrangement with Australian Government agencies, state agencies, local government and funded not-for-profit organisations. This service operated for two years and closed in March 2011</p> <p>Counselling support The Australian Government provided \$7.5 million of funding for mental health support to individuals and communities. This assistance built on services being provided through Centrelink social workers, psychologists and case managers.</p> <p>To help affected communities reconnect and recover from the impact of the trauma:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• additional telephone-based counselling services were available;</li> <li>• additional counselling services were provided through a \$200,000 boost to five community organisations that delivered the Australian Government's Family Relationship Services Program: Centacare Sandhurst, Goulburn Valley Family Day Care, Eastern</li> </ul>	

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						<p>Access Community Health, Upper Hume Community Health and Centacare Melbourne;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• two free DVDs on post-traumatic stress disorder and acute stress disorder were produced and distributed by the Australian Centre for Posttraumatic Mental Health and the Rural Health Education Foundation;</li> <li>• grants of \$1000 were provided to General Practitioner practices to enable immediate infrastructure modification to accommodate additional mental health staff and functions;</li> <li>• the Rural Workforce Agency Victoria coordinated volunteer health professionals in affected areas, and administered assistance provided to doctors and nurses for travel and accommodation costs; and</li> <li>• generalist financial counselling services, funded by both Australian and Victorian Governments, were also available for people affected by the Bushfires.</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: right;"><a href="#">Back to top of page</a></p> <p><b>Clean-up and demolition</b> The Australian and Victorian Governments provided support to help communities rebuild through a program for site clean-up and demolition. Grocon was contracted to deliver this assistance, which was voluntary and offered free of charge.</p> <p><b>Relaxation of Newstart requirements</b> Job seekers who volunteered to help with clean-up and recovery efforts, or who lived in locations where job opportunities had effectively been eliminated, were shown leniency and were not asked to look for work for an initial period of 13 weeks.</p> <p>Job seekers who were personally impacted by the bushfires (including, but not limited to, damage to housing and loss of loved ones) may also have been subject to a waiver of compliance obligations for a period.</p> <p><b>Recovering your Proof of Identity</b> Working together, Medicare, Centrelink and the Victorian Government helped affected individuals re-establish their</p>	

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						<p>identity, to ensure payments were delivered to people efficiently during this difficult time.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><a href="#">Back to top of page</a></p> <p><b>Support for Older Australians</b>            The Australian Government increased its support for older Victorians affected by the bushfires by providing an additional \$1.5 million in emergency funding to help cover costs of emergency nursing home care and mechanical aids/personal care items lost in the bushfires. As a part of this funding, the Australian Government provided up to \$500,000 to the Victorian Government to provide additional Home and Community Care services. In a one-off measure, the Australian Government removed the need for aged care assessments for older Victorians affected by the bushfires so they could access a short-term or temporary nursing home or community care as quickly as possible.</p> <p><b>Legal advice</b>            The Australian Government provided \$220,000 for Victorian community legal centres to help Victorians affected by the bushfires. For more information visit <a href="#">Disaster Legal Help</a> or call Disaster Legal Help Victoria on 1800 113 432.</p> <p><b>Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements (NDRRA)</b>  <b>Small businesses and primary producers</b>            The Australian and Victorian Governments provided support to those small businesses and primary producers directly affected by the Victorian bushfires through a \$51 million joint package. These payments closed on 18 August 2009. The available assistance included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• a one-off grant of \$5000 for immediate repair and restoration costs, with additional funds available up to a maximum total of \$25,000 for eligible small businesses or primary producers with significant damage</li> </ul>	



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						<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• free access to professional business advice and counselling service</li> <li>• a concessional interest rate loans scheme, allowing borrowing of up to \$200,000 at 3.2 per cent interest over five years</li> <li>• a one-off special circumstances bushfire relief grant of \$5000 for small businesses and farmers that missed out on a business recovery grant provided the business earned less than \$100,000 a year from other sources.</li> </ul> <p>The grants to primary producers and small businesses were administered by Rural Finance.</p> <p>Community Recovery Fund</p> <p>The Australian and Victorian Governments established a \$10 million Community Recovery Fund following the bushfires. The Fund addressed longer-term recovery and covered a range of projects to restore community infrastructure, improve community preparedness and build resilience.</p> <p>In recognition of the importance of sporting facilities in regional and rural communities, \$3 million from the Community Recovery Fund was set aside for rebuilding and reparation works for sports clubs in bushfire affected areas.</p> <p>To help with the healing process, \$2.5 million from the Community Recovery Fund was set aside for memorials.</p> <p>The Government provided \$1.75 million for Community Development Officers to work with individual local councils and communities to assist with the delivery of recovery services, community development programs and the development of community recovery plans.</p> <p>Community grants funding of \$2.75 million was allocated to local councils to support: regeneration of community spaces</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• recording bushfire history within communities</li> <li>• activities for young people</li> <li>• community information activities</li> </ul>	

No.	Start Date	End Date	State	Disaster Type	Name of Disaster	One Gippsland Members impacted & assistance details	AGRN
						<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• additional community projects.</li> </ul> <p>Tourism Industry Support Package The Australian and Victorian Governments supported regional tourism operators affected economically by the bushfires through a \$10 million Tourism Industry Support Package. The Package rolled out between March 2009 and June 2011 provided:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• \$6 million towards a cooperative marketing and brand rebuilding program to promote tourism in economically-affected areas</li> <li>• \$1 million to bring forward postponed events</li> <li>• \$3 million to assist with enhancing and redeveloping of tourism and visitor facility infrastructure in national, state and regional parks adjoining bushfire-affected areas.</li> </ul> <p>Emergency relief The Australian Government announced an additional \$80.4 million over three years in Emergency Relief Funding. The Australian Government provided an additional \$6 million of immediate assistance for families affected by the bushfires.</p> <p>Social housing The Australian Government provided \$2.4 million, under the pre-existing \$6.4 billion Social Housing Initiative, towards building 11 affordable housing units in Marysville and Kinglake.</p> <p>Local government The Australian Government provided councils in the natural disaster affected areas of Victoria with the opportunity to reprioritise their projects under its \$250 million Regional and Local Community Infrastructure Program. This enabled councils to better support of locals affected by this natural disaster.</p>	

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						<p>All Victorian councils had their local government Financial Assistance Grants brought forward from 15 May 2009 to 23 February 2009.</p> <p>Education</p> <p>Bushfire affected areas were given priority access to draw on Victoria's share of the Australian Government's \$14.7 billion Building the Education Revolution Program. A total of \$1.85 million was directly allocated to reconstruct facilities in three bushfire affected schools (Marysville Primary School, Middle King Lake, and Strathewen Primary School).</p> <p>Families affected by the Victorian Bushfires were able to access the Special Child Care Benefit to help cover the full fees of an approved child care service for up to 13 weeks.</p> <p>Caring for our Country Bushfire Recovery Program</p> <p>The Australian Government provided \$10.8 million to the Caring for our Country Bushfire Recovery Program so landholders and community, local government and non-government organisations could undertake targeted natural resource management bushfire recovery activities in eligible fire affected regions of Victoria.</p> <p>Victorian Bushfire Reconstruction and Recovery Authority</p> <p>The Victorian Bushfire Reconstruction and Recovery Authority was established by the Victorian Government in partnership with the Australian Government to oversee and coordinate the immediate recovery and rebuilding program.</p> <p>The 'Rebuilding Together Plan' committed \$193 million to deliver hundreds of projects with \$117 million from the Australian and Victorian Governments, \$56 million from the Victorian Bushfire Appeal Fund and \$20 million in philanthropic and corporate donations.</p> <p>The Fire Recovery Unit, established on 1 July 2011, is now the key point of contact for individuals and communities affected by the 2009 Victorian bushfires.</p>	

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						<p>Further information on the Fire Recovery Unit can be found on the <a href="#">Regional Development Victoria</a> website.</p> <p>2009 Victorian Bushfires Appeal Fund            The 2009 Victorian Bushfire Appeal Fund, set up by the Victorian Government in partnership with the Australian Government and the Australian Red Cross, closed on 17 April 2009, raising \$389 million. The Australian and Victorian Governments each committed \$2 million to the Fund. An independent panel of community leaders chaired by the Hon Pat J McNamara oversaw the operation of the Appeal Fund. Some of the payments and grants available included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Compassionate Bereavement Payments</li> <li>• Initial Home Dislocation Payments</li> <li>• Severe Injury Payments</li> <li>• Water and Smoke Damage Repair Grants</li> <li>• Tools of the Trade Grants</li> <li>• Rebuilding and Recovery Grants</li> <li>• Grants to small businesses and individuals who provided support to communities in the aftermath of the bushfires and experienced hardship themselves</li> <li>• Rural Properties Recovery Assistance payments for individual landowners with five or more hectares</li> <li>• Severely Injured Victims assistance to aid in transition from hospital to home</li> <li>• Needs based grants for homeowners whose principal place of residence was destroyed or damaged</li> <li>• Assistance packages to local councils for community-based initiatives counselling.</li> </ul>	
66.	Jun 2007	--	Victoria	Flood, Storm	<a href="#">Gippsland storms and floods: 26 June 2007</a>	<p>One Gippsland LGAs: Gippsland Region</p> <p>Given the extensive damage caused by the storms and associated flooding in the Gippsland region of Victoria in June 2007, the Australian Government Disaster Recovery</p>	278

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						<p>Payment was activated to assist those who had been adversely affected as a direct result of this disaster.</p> <p>Assistance</p> <p>Australian Government assistance was available to people who were seriously injured or whose principal place of residence has been destroyed, or rendered uninhabitable in the recent storms and associated flooding in the Gippsland region of Victoria.</p> <p>A \$1 million Community Recovery Fund was jointly established by the Australian and Victorian Governments to assist communities recover from the effects of the June 2007 storms and associated flooding.</p>	