

APPENDIX 1: DEPARTMENTAL RESPONSES TO THE FEBRUARY 2009 BUSHFIRES

1. Department of Sustainability and Environment

	Initiative	2008-09 funding provided in the 2009-10 Budget (\$ million)	Expenditure incurred in 2008-09 (\$ million)	Planned outcomes
1.1	Bushfire Emergency Stabilisation Works	5.6	5.8	Immediate stabilisation works to remove risks to life, property and the environment, such as dangerous trees and potential erosion.
1.2	<p>Description of outcomes achieved in 2008-09:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Urgent recovery work to protect threatened species and reseed of burnt forests has been undertaken in State forests and National Parks in the Kilmore-Murrindindi, Bunyip and Dargo areas. Stabilisation of public land damaged during bushfire and fire suppression activities has been completed. Rehabilitation of private land damaged during fire suppression activities has been completed by CFA and the Department including over 1600kms of fire control line rehabilitation and a further 1500kms of control lines on public land. Repair work by Catchment Management Authorities along waterways and catchments to reduce ash and sediment reaching waterways has been undertaken. More than 200 properties have participated in the Stream Frontage Management Program, which is working with private landholders to rehabilitate 150km of bushfire-affected waterway frontages. Financial assistance has been provided to wildlife shelters, veterinarians and wildlife carers – including the Healesville Sanctuary's Australian Wildlife Health Centre – to treat and rehabilitate injured wildlife. Park rangers have been assisted by 3 Green Corp volunteer crews with environmental rehabilitation at Kinglake National Park, Bunyip State Park and Foster in West Gippsland. 			
1.3	Bushfire Impact Research	0.5	0.3	This project represents the largest ever collection and analysis of data undertaken in the aftermath of an Australian bushfire disaster.
1.4	<p>Description of outcomes achieved in 2008-09:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Final Report was received in October 2009. Some additional work on the integrative studies analysis has been requested. This was a joint project between DSE, CFA, OESC and DOJ with a total value of \$1.5 million. The Department's contribution was \$.3m. The Bushfire Research Cooperative Research Centre Ltd was engaged to undertake research in response to the Victorian bushfires on 7 February 2009. This research was intended to provide information on fire behaviour, human behaviour and community safety issues, building and land use and integrative studies of the interactions between these topics. 			
1.5	Bushfire Preparedness	10.0	8.2	Mosaic burns promote ecological balance by breaking up age classes of vegetation and retaining more habitats across a broad area and remove flammable forest fuels.

Initiative	2008-09 funding provided in the 2009-10 Budget (\$ million)	Expenditure incurred in 2008-09 (\$ million)	Planned outcomes
1.6 <p>Description of outcomes achieved in 2008-09:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • During 2008-2009, DSE and PV established a landscape Mosaic Burn Project. Planning procedures were developed, and several burns commenced during Autumn 2009. • An increased number of Landscape Mosaic Burns is being planned for commencement during the 2009-10 burning season. • An important aspect of this project is the establishment of a monitoring and assessment component for these burns. Monitoring tools have been developed for assessment of burn coverage and intensity, and measurement of key flora and fauna components. • Public consultation on the Fire Operations Plan has finished. Twelve State Priority Landscape Mosaic Burns were identified in the approved Fire Operations Plan. A draft LMB program reporting system is currently being trialled. 			
1.7 <p>Fire Suppression</p>	338.1	318.7	Suppression of bushfire on public land.
1.8 <p>Description of outcomes achieved in 2008-09:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Throughout the season, 825 bushfires occurred across public land in Victoria. The area burnt was approximately 437,000 hectares, which is two and a half times the 30 year average. The number of fires across the state peaked at 169 on 9 February 2009 with 90 fires still burning in mid March. • Approximately 3,460 DSE and Networked Emergency Organisation (NEO) staff worked in fire roles this season. This included 680 Project Fire Fighters (PFFs) at the peak of the season. Additional assistance came from approximately 3,400 interstate and overseas staff with a range of skills and experience. In the peak of the season, 57 aircraft were used for fire fighting, including 34 from the state fleet and an additional 23 aircraft that were brought in to respond to the extreme fire danger forecasts. 			

- 1.9** The Department is responsible under the Victorian Emergency Management Arrangements for fire management on public land including National Parks, State Parks and forests. This involves the management of both bushfire and the use of fire to meet land management goals and objectives. In an average bushfire season the Department responds to 652 bushfires and coordinates the recovery and rehabilitation of these areas once the bushfires have been suppressed. The Department's long standing role continues to be reducing the threat and impact of bushfires and as a result, it has in place a number of policies and procedures to manage the response effort required in times of bushfire.
- 1.10** During the 2008-09 bushfire season, the Department, in conjunction with its Networked Emergency Organisation (NEO) Partners which include Parks Victoria, DPI, DPCD, VicForests and Melbourne Water, provided approximately 3,460 people to work on fire roles. The 2008-09 fire season saw a 27 per cent increase in the number of fires to 825 compared with an average season and saw 437,000 hectares of area burnt which is more than two and a half times the average area burnt. The Department's core approach to the bushfires was not altered during 2008-09; however the sheer size of the response required to manage the unprecedented nature of the fires altered.
- 1.11** There are a number of internal and external reporting requirements which the Department adheres to in order to ensure that any supplementary funding received is correctly utilised and reported. During the 2008-09 bushfire season the Department spent an additional \$332 million on the bushfire response.

- 1.12** The Department is committed to the ongoing recovery to bushfire affected areas. Recovery of natural environment and public land includes regeneration of vegetation, protection of threatened species, protection of water quality and supply, cultural heritage, and built assets on public land. The Department coordinates and directly delivers this recovery function in conjunction with its statutory authorities e.g. Parks Victoria, Water Corporations, and Catchment Management Authorities.
- 1.13** After the 2008-09 bushfires, the Department established a Rehabilitation and Recovery Team within the Land and Fire Management Division. This team has worked closely with the Victorian Bushfire Reconstruction and Recovery Authority (VBRRA) to develop, plan and fund necessary recovery works. Progress reports are also provided at a monthly Project Control Board meeting which comprises of senior management from across the Department and statutory authorities. The Division also reports on a monthly basis to VBRRA. As part of its ongoing recovery role, the Department is also committed to keeping those bushfire affected areas with up to date information on the progress of recovery. This is done via the 'Regrowth' newsletter and via articles in both national and local newspapers.

2. Department of Human Services

	Initiative	2008-09 funding provided in the 2009-10 Budget (\$ million)	Expenditure incurred in 2008-09 (\$ million)	Planned outcomes
2.1	Case Management	15.1	15.1	To provide a level of support necessary to enable individuals to regain control of their lives and function independently.
2.2	Description of outcomes achieved in 2008-09: Provision of an individualised case management service to all Victorians directly impacted by the Feb-March 2009 bushfires.			
2.3	Grants to Individuals and Housing Support	19.7	19.6	To provide a level of financial support necessary to enable individuals to regain control of their lives to function independently and gain access to temporary accommodation.
2.4	Description of outcomes achieved in 2008-09: Provision of financial assistance to people impacted upon by the 2009 Victorian bushfires.			
2.5	Health and Wellbeing	7.6	11.0	To provide emergency health and medical services, including counselling, for example, burns units and ambulances, to support individuals recovering (physically/psychologically) and regaining control of their lives.
2.6	Description of outcomes achieved in 2008-09: Provision of health and medical services (including counselling) for individuals affected by the 2009 Victorian bushfires.			

	Initiative	2008-09 funding provided in the 2009-10 Budget (\$ million)	Expenditure incurred in 2008-09 (\$ million)	Planned outcomes
2.7	State Coordination and Regional Response and Recovery	6.5	6.6	Effective coordination of State and Regional Recovery arrangements.
2.8	Description of outcomes achieved in 2008-09: Capacity increased to enable response to the 2009 bushfire emergency.			

2.9 A Bushfire Psychosocial Recovery team was established to coordinate mental health initiatives.

2.10 Activities where incurred costs are in excess of normally budgeted levels include:

- Coordinated State Recovery for worst natural disaster in Australia's history
- Redeployed over 500 staff typically from already stretched areas of the organisation
- Grants administration – at its peak more than 300 staff were employed to assess and process applications

2.11 Within days of the bushfires, established new services to deal with the unprecedented scale of the event that were outside the Department's emergency management scope:

- Victorian Bushfire Case Management Service (VBCMS)
 - The VBCMS referrals far exceeded expectations. The service had 361 EFT case managers supporting 4,957 families, with new cases still presenting.

2.12 *Community Service Hubs:*

- Ten Hubs were established in fire affected areas to reconnect and support communities by providing face to face support and outreach in the long term.
- The Hubs have staff appointed are building strong relationships with their communities. Up to 700 fire-affected people were visiting the Hubs for a variety of reasons at the end of June.
- The Hubs are pivotal in the provision of a site for service delivery by all parties and both Hubs and VBCMS are important sources of information.

2.13 *Temporary Housing:*

- The government offered accommodation support for people who lost their homes. Many people found their own accommodation solution through private purchase or rental, or with family and friends.
- A number of people sought assistance through the DHS temporary accommodation offer. Of the 1500 people DHS has assessed for housing need, a third have been housed by DHS in a variety of accommodations (including public housing, community housing, caravans and movable units), a third have arranged their own private rental and a third are living with family and friends.

2.14 *Community Development Program:*

- Funding was provided to Councils to employ 17.5 FTE Community Development Officers. Regions have negotiated Memoranda of Understanding with Councils and the Unit is providing state-wide training and support:
 - Field Primary Care Officers to provide basic medical services to affected communities.

2.15 *New psycho-social support model:*

- Supported and led operations in community relief and recovery centres, incident control centres and Municipal and regional emergency coordination roles.
- Provided over 10,000 grants to affected individuals and communities.
- Reduced public health risks.
- Established the Joint Logistics Group to manage the overwhelming offers of assistance received.
- Established the administration and coordination of the Victorian Bushfire Appeal Fund – DHS staffed the Victorian Bushfire Appeal Fund Secretariat and Call centre.

2.16 *Health and medical, including ambulance expenses:*

- Establishment of the Bushfire Recovery Service Unit (BRSU) – the DHS Secretary established the BRSU to enable a consistent approach across fire affected communities and to give capacity to Regions to resume their normal functions and responsibilities as much as possible. BRSU are coordinating the provision of human services in the recovery effort, including Victorian Bushfire Case Management Service, Psychosocial Recovery, Housing, Community Service Hubs and the Community Development Program.

3. Department of Premier and Cabinet

	Initiative	2008-09 funding provided in the 2009-10 Budget (\$ million)	Expenditure incurred in 2008-09 (\$ million)	Planned outcomes
3.1	Bushfire Memorial Service	0.7	0.6	A National Day of Mourning was held in Melbourne on Sunday, 22 February 2009 to honour the victims of Victoria's bushfires and to recognise the efforts of emergency service workers.
3.2	Description of outcomes achieved in 2008-09:			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As per "Planned Outcomes". 			
3.3	Victorian Bushfire Reconstruction and Recovery Authority (VBRRRA)	71.7	71.7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clean up and demolition program Distribution of Donated Goods Housing and Temporary Villages VBRRRA Administration
3.4	Description of outcomes achieved in 2008-09:			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> About 3,000 bushfire-affected properties registered for the clean-up with approximately 95 per cent of these completed by 30 June 2009. 223 property owners who cleared their own properties reimbursed. 21,000 pallets of donated goods received and being distributed. 142 households established/being established in temporary villages in Marysville, Kinglake and Flowerdale. The Community Engagement team within VBRRRA has played a significant role in consulting with communities through meetings forums and workshops. 30 Community Recovery Committees supported. Employment of Regional Community Engagement Coordinators. 			
3.5	Housing and Temporary Villages (Asset Funding)	2.8	1.6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To provide housing for those who lost or needed to leave their homes. Temporary villages are being established in Marysville, Flowerdale and Kinglake. Output and capital funding is being used for the installation of relocation units and caravans on cleared blocks, and the re-establishment of power and village amenities.
3.6	Description of outcomes achieved in 2008-09:			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> One/two bedroom units established/being established to cater for 50 families and 40 singles in each village. Each village has shared amenities, public toilets, shower blocks, laundries and communal kitchen facilities for use by village residents and the local community. 			

	Initiative	2008-09 funding provided in the 2009-10 Budget (\$ million)	Expenditure incurred in 2008-09 (\$ million)	Planned outcomes
3.7	Community Recovery Fund	10.0	0	The State and Commonwealth Governments jointly established a \$10 million Community Recovery Fund to restore social networks, community functioning and community facilities. Expenditure will be aimed at community recovery, community development and community capacity building for the future.
3.8	Description of outcomes achieved in 2008-09: Whilst this funding was initially allocated to DPC (Victorian Government contribution of \$5M) it was subsequently not appropriated to DPC as the initiative was to be administered by DPCD.			
3.9	Victorian Bushfire Appeal Donation	2.0	2.0	On 08 February 2009, the Victorian Government announced that it would provide \$2m to the Red Cross Bushfire Appeal Fund to assist with the recovery process for those affected.
3.10	Description of outcomes achieved in 2008-09: As per "Planned Outcomes".			
3.11	Victorian Bushfire Royal Commission	15.0	7.6	A Royal Commission into Victoria's 2009 bushfires was established by the Government to investigate the causes and responses to the bushfires and to make recommendations on bushfire prevention, response policy and practices. The Government approved \$40 million for the establishment and operation of the Royal Commission. The final report of the Commission is due by 31 July, 2010. The 2009 Victorian Bushfires Royal Commission was established on 16 February 2009. The Royal Commission was to provide an interim report by August 2009 and this timeline was met.

Processes that VBRRRA has employed to meet its Terms of Reference and oversee the bushfire response (in addition to those outlined above) include the following:

- 3.12** Working very closely with the Victorian Bushfire Appeal Fund, to guide and provide advice on the allocation of funding to bushfire-affected people, and administering the \$1 million Community Winter Events Payments, for local communities to hold events over the winter months;
- 3.13** Regional Community Engagement Coordinators have been employed by VBRRRA to provide support to communities at the local level;
- 3.14** Managing an unprecedented volume of high value donations by corporate donors by establishing a database to match goods and services to individuals and communities to ensure equitable and efficient distribution. Over 3,000 donations were made, valued at over \$10 million;
- 3.15** Establishing an interagency taskforce, and an expert reference group, to provide advice and work with VBRRRA on arising issues. These groups comprise of industry bodies, community organisations, Members of Parliament and Victorian and Commonwealth Government officials;
- 3.16** Meeting with insurance companies and peak industry bodies to negotiate insurance issues faced by those affected by the bushfires; and
- 3.17** Working with local councils to find a solution to the disposal of bushfire waste and maintain drinking and waste water services.

4. Department of Justice

	Initiative	2008-09 funding provided in the 2009-10 Budget (\$ million)	Expenditure incurred in 2008-09 (\$ million)	Planned outcomes
4.1	Coronial Hearings and Victim Identification Services	6.5	3.092	To identify the remains of disaster victims in a timely manner for the release of the remains to families. During 2009-10, the Coroners Court of Victoria continues to liaise and support the Victorian Bushfire Recovery and Reconstruction Authority (VBRRRA) and the 2009 Victorian Bushfires Royal Commission (VBRC).

Initiative	2008-09 funding provided in the 2009-10 Budget (\$ million)	Expenditure incurred in 2008-09 (\$ million)	Planned outcomes
4.2	<p>Description of outcomes achieved in 2008-09:</p> <p>Victorian Institute for Forensic Medicine (VIFM)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provided examination of victims remains; • Provided victims' identification procedure for preparation of final identification reports for the Coroner chairing the Identification Board; and • Provided 297 pathology, 144 odontology, 67 DNA and 100 anthropology reports for consideration by the State Coroner's Office. <p>State Coroner's Office (SCO)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enabled identification of 173 victims within a period of three months; • Held nine community information sessions on disaster victim identification procedures to inform and update affected communities on the disaster victim identification procedures; • Attended seven community meetings convened by VBRRA to assist with the establishment of support groups for the bereaved; • provided administrative support to the VBRRA and VBRC to facilitate their contact with bereaved families; • provided grief counselling services to bushfire victims; • Briefed and organised counsellors sourced from the Victims Support Agency attending victim identification interviews with the Victoria Police ante mortem teams; and • Maintained manually unidentified victim files updated with information from grieving families, police and other forensic identification intelligence. <p>Expenditure was less than was originally allocated by the Treasurer's Advance, as the identification process was completed faster than anticipated due in part to the resources provided by pathologists from other jurisdictions.</p>		
4.3	Counselling Services	0.9	<p>0.441</p> <p>Victims Support Agency (VSA) to provide grief counselling services both in the field and as part of the Coroner's court counselling team.</p> <p>To provide an additional 13.2 positions over a nine month period to support financial counselling services to communities affected by bushfires.</p>

	Initiative	2008-09 funding provided in the 2009-10 Budget (\$ million)	Expenditure incurred in 2008-09 (\$ million)	Planned outcomes
4.4	Description of outcomes achieved in 2008-09: Grief Counselling <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 42 Staff supported 53 Victoria Police DVI teams daily in bushfire affected regions for 4 weeks in February/March; 2 staff seconded to Coroners court counselling team; 1 staff member seconded to Royal Commission to support set up; Coroners Court Helpline established and diverted into VSA Helpline in February to support Coroners staff; DHS case Management service established and coordinating committee set up (VSA rep); DHS Case Management Helpdesk established and offered Helpline option (for criminal justice issues, coroners matters); and Follow up support offered to families of deceased/missing in April (over 200 persons interviewed by police/VSA staff). Financial Counselling <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recruitment and training of new financial counsellors to meet increased demand of service providers; Financial and Consumer Rights Council (FCRC) compiled an information kit for financial counsellors and for Department of Human Services (DHS) caseworkers to use when working with clients; and Agencies commenced financial counselling on an outreach basis through the recovery centres in coordination with DHS caseworkers. 			
4.5	CFA – funding for operations positions	6.0	6.0*	An additional 25 Operations Officers (* Gross price)
4.6	Description of outcomes achieved in 2008-09: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 25 operations officers recruited. The additional officers used to support volunteers across CFA brigades. 			
4.7	Police Emergency Services	24.4	17.706	To enable Victoria Police to support the communities affected by the fires in a substantial and effective manner.
4.8	Description of outcomes achieved in 2008-09: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Police response activities including overtime, recall, additional rostering, operational equipment (DNA kits, hire vehicles, etc) and Operation Phoenix site accommodation. Further, Victoria Police absorbed costs associated with airfares and accommodation for Federal and inter jurisdictional police (New South Wales and South Australia) who assisted with a range of emergency activities including manning road blocks and securing hazardous sites. 			
4.9	Volunteer Recruitment and Recognition	3.9	0.443	To provide a comprehensive campaign to thank the past and ongoing efforts of Victoria's volunteers

Initiative	2008-09 funding provided in the 2009-10 Budget (\$ million)	Expenditure incurred in 2008-09 (\$ million)	Planned outcomes
4.10	Description of outcomes achieved in 2008-09: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Start-up of development of the “Vital. Valued. Victorians.” campaign for delivery on TV, radio, print and online, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Research to set direction for the campaign ▪ Establishment of a working group ▪ Resourcing to support the campaign 		

Note: Expenditure for bushfire recovery in the 2008-09 period was provided by a Treasurer’s Advance. The funding provided line represents the department’s estimate of what that particular function was going to cost, while the expenditure incurred reflects what the department actually incurred carrying out the described tasks. The estimates were completed very shortly after the 7th February bushfire and reflected expectations at that point in time

- 4.11** From a financial management perspective, a sole identifying financial code was established and communicated to all business units in the Department of Justice financial system to use when charging costs associated with the bushfire response. This enabled the department to track those additional costs associated with the bushfire response and assist in substantiating the additional costs to central agencies when seeking supplementary funding.
- 4.12** A coordination unit was established in the department for full-time management of Royal Commission activities and requests, monitoring of recovery activities and streamlining regular status reporting to cabinet and weekly State Coordination and Management Council bushfires sub-committee meetings.
- 4.13** The department’s Secretary is chairing the weekly State Coordination and Management Council bushfires sub-committee meetings attended by government agencies and emergency services organisations. This sub-committee was formed with a view to providing a full implementation plan in response to the recommendations of the Royal Commission.

5. Department of Treasury and Finance

	Initiative	2008-09 funding provided in the 2009-10 Budget (\$ million)	Expenditure incurred in 2008-09 (\$ million)	Planned outcomes
5.1	Bushfire Funeral Expenses	3.00	1.20	The State Government is contributing for funeral expenses to ensure that all those who perished in the bushfire can be given an appropriate burial.
5.2	Description of outcomes achieved in 2008-09: The State Government has contributed for funeral expenses to ensure that all those who perished in the bushfire can be given an appropriate burial.			
5.3	Business Assistance Package	10.00	10.00	The Business Assistance Package is delivered jointly by the Department of Treasury and Finance and the Department of Innovation, Industry and Regional Development, provides grants up to \$25,000 to farm and non-farm businesses, and the cost of subsidising interest payments on a concessional loan scheme for small business and primary producers. Access to free, independent business advice is also provided, to assist in responding to the impact of the bushfires on their business.
5.4	Description of outcomes achieved in 2008-09: The State Government has contributed \$10.00m to the Business Assistance Package for Bushfires.			
5.5	Natural Disaster Relief Arrangements	16.00	4.60	To support local councils to recover and rebuild communities, funding has been provided to meet eligible costs including the establishment of Municipal Emergency Coordination Centres, Relief Centres and repair and restoration of council infrastructure.
5.6	Description of outcomes achieved in 2008-09: The State Government has contributed \$1.36m to the Community Recovery Fund - Bushfires, \$2.14m for Personal Hardship and Distress and \$1.09m for other claims. It should be noted that bushfire claims covering emergency protection and asset restoration works have been approved during 2009-10 offsetting the remaining balance of \$11.4m.			

	Initiative	2008-09 funding provided in the 2009-10 Budget (\$ million)	Expenditure incurred in 2008-09 (\$ million)	Planned outcomes
5.7	VicForests Salvage Harvesting	4.00	1.46	Funding is being provided to VicForests to commence salvage operations in the burnt and damaged central highlands forest estate. Works include assessing the damage salvaging stock and replanting.
5.8	<p>Description of outcomes achieved in 2008-09:</p> <p>VicForests has concentrated its initial salvage operations on exceptionally higher quality coupes which has resulted in harvest and haul cost efficiencies when compared to budget. Conversely, total indirect costs were greater than budget. This was driven primarily by roading and log storage, which exceeded plan as a result of the additional work undertaken in May and June following favourable weather conditions.</p>			

- 5.9** Bushfire Funeral Expenses: The Department and the Transport Accident Commission had a Memorandum of Understanding for the funding and administration for funeral expenses.
- 5.10** Business Assistance Package: The claims received by The Department are independently assessed by the Rural Finance Corporation.
- 5.11** Natural Disaster Relief Arrangements: The claims received by the Department are independently assessed by VicRoads and the Office of Emergency Services Commissioner in accordance with prescribed guidelines.
- 5.12** VicForests Salvage Harvesting: VicForests is to provide the Department of Treasury and Finance with a quarterly report that:
- captures the past quarter and year to date salvage performance and expenditure against plan;
 - provide forecast of the upcoming quarterly activity and financial implications of salvage; and
 - measure the program against projected benefits.
- 5.13** VicForests will also provide annual independently audited accounts to the Department attesting its performance under the salvage program.

6. Department of Primary Industries

	Initiative	2008-09 funding provided in the 2009-10 Budget (\$ million)	Expenditure incurred in 2008-09 (\$ million)	Planned outcomes
6.1	Animal Welfare and Emergency Fodder	4.0	4.0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Victorian Farmers Federation (VFF) Coordinators engaged for donated fodder distribution. Transport costs for delivery of bulk supplies paid via VFF. Rural properties (with livestock) visited to verify animal welfare. Loss and damage assessment completed on rural properties.
6.2	Description of outcomes achieved in 2008-09: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coordinators engaged and fodder distribution undertaken for 4 weeks after fire. Animal welfare assessments completed within 2 weeks of fires. Loss and damage assessment on almost 5000 properties completed by end of March 2009 			
6.3	Bushfire Suppression and Recovery	5.9	3.9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DPI provided support to DSE in fire suppression. Bushfire Program Manager for Priority response. Rural Financial Counsellors provide advice to fire victims. Field Days, media coverage and farm walks for small landholders. Community Recovery Committees supported. Bushfire recovery booklet and brochures published and promoted Replacement of damaged National Livestock Identification System (NLIS) tags. Funding of insurance excess for crown boundary fencing.

Initiative	2008-09 funding provided in the 2009-10 Budget (\$ million)	Expenditure incurred in 2008-09 (\$ million)	Planned outcomes
6.4 Description of outcomes achieved in 2008-09: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More than 300 DPI staff were deployed to fire suppression during summer • Priority response manager seconded until end of September 2009 • Referrals made to financial counsellors – DPI or DHS case managers • More than 30 Field Days conducted throughout the fire affected areas • Community Liaison Officers deployed during the priority response • More than 4000 copies of recovery booklet distributed • Tags replaced on request • 132 claims paid to victims 			
6.5 Soil Conservation Program	0.1	0.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DPI support for development of Stock Containment areas.
6.6 Description of outcomes achieved in 2008-09: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 141 stock containment areas approved for construction • Funding provided for on ground works through Catchment Management Authorities (CMAs) 			
6.7 Support for Replacement of Fences by Volunteers	1.0	1.0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • VFF coordinators engaged to coordinate volunteers for fencing repairs. • Contractors employed and equipment hired to enable efficient use of volunteers in fencing repair program.
6.8 Description of outcomes achieved in 2008-09: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordination of volunteers continues to 4 December 2009 • Contractors engaged in all areas to support volunteer program 			

6.9 The Executive Director of Farm Services Victoria has been responsible for the response and recovery activities undertaken by DPI. Staff from all Divisions across the Department were deployed to the initial response (until end of March 2009) and staff from Farm Services Victoria managed a priority response until end of September 2009.

6.10 As detailed in *Rebuilding Together – A Statewide Plan for Bushfire Reconstruction and Recovery*, launched in October 2009, additional funding has now been allocated from the Commonwealth Community Jobs Fund to undertake some longer term recovery projects. State funding has also been directed towards some medium to longer term requirements as part of this package.

7. Department of Transport

	Initiative	2008-09 funding provided in the 2009-10 Budget (\$ million)	Expenditure incurred in 2008-09 (\$ million)	Planned outcomes
7.1	Public Transport Services	5.8	6.2	Metropolitan and regional infrastructure repairs: stations, bridges, tracks and signals. Provision of shuttle buses in bushfire-affected communities; re-routed bus and school bus services; and V/Line buses to replace some regional train services to enable travel as usual.
7.2	<p>Description of outcomes achieved in 2008-09:</p> <p>All fire-damaged infrastructure was repaired, except Wandong Station, which is still under construction. Usual service on the Belgrave line resumed within 16 hours. Removal of infrastructure and vegetation including closed heritage rail locations.</p> <p>Bushfire-affected communities provided with alternative transport services whilst usual services were out of action; V/Line buses replaced usual train services during fires and reconstruction; and many school bus services were suspended or re-routed.</p> <p>Bushfire-affected citizens provided with free public transport to 31.10.09. Supported attendances for CBD memorial service and AFL NAB Cup Round 1 match.</p>			
7.3	Road Repairs and Services	9.3	11.7	Reinstatement of pavements, roadside furniture and structures to pre-bushfire condition, removal of unsafe trees and debris.
7.4	<p>Description of outcomes achieved in 2008-09:</p> <p>Repaired or replaced:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 400 kilometres of road affected by bushfires; • Over 35 kilometres of damaged guardrail; • 4,000 signs and 17,000 guideposts. <p>Cleared approximately 16,000 trees in the worst-hit areas.</p>			

DOT and VicRoads led and supported the restoration and recovery by the following:

- 7.5** Various heritage railway lines were disrupted and two sustained damage during the fires. Assessments were conducted to identify damaged trees and infrastructure with their subsequent removal.
- 7.6** DOT led a multi-agency team to fire-affected areas to assess the immediate impact on transport services. Assessments led to the establishment of a joint logistics model for provision of material aid to fire-affected areas.
- 7.7** DOT and DEECD worked to manage school bus services during an imminent or actual emergency with subsequent development of a protocol which can culminate in the cancellation of DOT-contracted school bus services in advance of Code Red (catastrophic) fire days.

- 7.8** VicRoads and DOT coordinated management of the bushfire response and recovery of transport through the Victorian Bushfire Response and Recovery Authority.
- 7.9** Aside from regular updates to the Minister and the VicRoads Corporate Management Group, VicRoads is also represented on the Victorian Bushfire Response and Recovery Authority. Updates are supplied to this body on VicRoads contribution to the implementation of the state wide plan.
- 7.10** As part of its normal role, the Department of Transport (DOT) performs emergency management duties. The processes by which DOT and public transport operators manage this include:
- the activation of DOT’s Incident Room to coordinate response activities, including that for transport operations and to collate information for whole-of-portfolio reporting to government .
 - the requirement for public transport operators to have their own Fire Disaster Recovery Plan.

8. Department of Education and Early Childhood Development

	Initiative	2008-09 funding provided in the 2009-10 Budget (\$ million)	Expenditure incurred in 2008-09 (\$ million)	Planned outcomes
8.1	Kindergarten Services and Clean-Up	0.6	0.6	The outcomes planned for kindergartens were primarily: assistance for affected incomes; extension of fee subsidy; clean-up of affected buildings; activity program, and enhanced Maternal and Child Health capacity.
8.2	<p>Description of outcomes achieved in 2008-09:</p> <p>The outcomes achieved were in accordance with the plan, including;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • assistance for kindergartens affected incomes • extension of kindergarten fee subsidy • clean-up of 27 affected kindergartens • activity program • enhanced Maternal and Child Health capacity. 			
8.3	Student Wellbeing and Support	2.5	2.5	Debriefing sessions for psychologists and social workers; holiday programs; resources to support affected teachers, parents and carers; Student Support Services Officers (SSSOs); and teaching, welfare and teacher aide support.

Initiative	2008-09 funding provided in the 2009-10 Budget (\$ million)	Expenditure incurred in 2008-09 (\$ million)	Planned outcomes
8.4 Description of outcomes achieved in 2008-09: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There was SSSO support and assistance provided to bushfire affected school and early childhood communities including: • debriefing sessions for psychologists and social workers in Northern, Eastern, Hume, Gippsland and Southern regions • holiday programs during the term break, with 497 students participating • development and distribution of resources to support teachers working with bushfire affected students • development and distribution of resources to assist affected parents and carers to support their children during the school holidays • contracted 10 SSSOs to support Bushfire Case Managers Service, managed by DHS • provided additional teaching, welfare and teacher aide support to bushfire affected schools • appointed a Manager, Bushfire Psychosocial Response and Recovery who worked closely with regional offices to coordinate psychosocial support for children, young people and families in bushfire affected areas. 			
8.5 Support to schools	1.7	2.0	Funding dual enrolled students in bushfire affected schools; secondments to Victorian bushfire relief organisations; IT equipment to relief centres; extra buses; specific communications with stakeholders, public and staff; teacher relief costs; and regional sessions.
8.6 Description of outcomes achieved in 2008-09: <p>The outcomes achieved were in accordance with the plan, including;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • funding dual enrolled students in 15 bushfire affected schools • providing IT equipment to 13 relief centres • providing extra buses, and buses that needed to be redirected due to bushfires • specific communications with stakeholders, public and staff; teacher relief costs; and regional sessions. 			

Following the devastating Victorian bushfires in February 2009, the Department Secretary established a governance structure to coordinate and effectively manage the response to the needs of fire-affected communities:

8.7 A cross-departmental team – Department Bushfire Recovery Co-ordination Group – was established to manage the immediate response and recovery challenges of the emergency including the provision of temporary school facilities, fee subsidy for children’s services, deployment of additional support staff and IT enabled communications

8.8 A Department Bushfire Reconstruction Taskforce was also established to develop a consultation and engagement process for the reconstruction of schools and early childhood facilities destroyed in the bushfires in the Northern Metropolitan and Hume Regions.

- 8.9** School Community Reference Teams (SCRT) were established and authorised to canvas the views of the broader community around early childhood and education provision and rebuild options, for the reconstruction of Strathewen, Marysville and Middle Kinglake primary schools, kindergartens and early childhood facilities, and Flowerdale kindergarten and early childhood facilities, including liaison with the reconstruction process of Victorian Bushfire Reconstruction and Recovery (VBRRA).
- 8.10** More recently a DEECD Bushfire Management Steering Committee has been established to oversee three broad streams of activity including the reconstruction effort, psychosocial service provision and preparations for the bushfire season that forms part of the cross-Government effort in bushfire affected communities.

9. Department of Innovation, Industry and Regional Development

	Initiative	2008-09 funding provided in the 2009-10 Budget (\$ million)	Expenditure incurred in 2008-09 (\$ million)	Planned outcomes
9.1	Business Assistance Package (BP3)	0.4	0.06	Information and support for small business, to continue in 2009-10.
9.2	Description of outcomes achieved in 2008-09:			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information and support for Small Business • Staffing of relief and recovery centres 			
9.3	Improving information to regional areas	0.2		Increased access to information for small businesses
9.4	Description of outcomes achieved in 2008-09:			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Significant additional resources were provided to ensure businesses had immediate access to information. 			
9.5	Support for Regional Redevelopment (BP3)	1.2	0.24	Support for communities impacted by bushfires to continue in 2009-10
9.6	Description of outcomes achieved in 2008-09:			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordination of Bushfire Business Roundtables • Support for the Wine Industry • Murrindindi Business Recovery Officer • Support to Victorian Bushfire Reconstruction and Recovery Agency (VBRRA) 			
9.7	Tourism Bushfire Recovery Package (BP3)	2.0		Provides for targeted marketing campaigns, visitor facilitates and to bring forward cancelled events.

	Initiative	2008-09 funding provided in the 2009-10 Budget (\$ million)	Expenditure incurred in 2008-09 (\$ million)	Planned outcomes
9.8	Description of outcomes achieved in 2008-09: Implementation continues until June 2011			
9.9	Bushfire Community Events program	0.202	0.152	Support events in communities impacted by the bushfires to continue in 2009-10
9.10	Description of outcomes achieved in 2008-09: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supported events in communities impacted by the bushfires • Memorial Services 			
9.11	Assistance to bush-fire affected businesses and farms.			Delivered by Rural Finance Corporation
9.12	Sponsorship of the Traralgon bushfire recovery concert			Included in Bushfire Community Events program
9.13	Sponsorship of the 'Bendigo Says Thanks' concert			Included in Bushfire Community Events
9.14	Multi-purpose facility at Kinglake West memorial reserve	\$0	\$0	Announced in 2008/09: funding commences in 2009-10
9.15	Description of outcomes achieved in 2008-09: Announced in 2008/09: funding commences in 2009/10			
9.16	RDV/Bendigo Bank Bushfire Recovery Infrastructure Program	\$0	\$0	Announced in 2008/09: \$4.0m funding commences in 2009-10
9.17	Description of outcomes achieved in 2008-09: Announced in 2008-09: \$4.0 million funding commences in 2009-10			
9.18	Yarra Glen's Monthly Farmers market			Included in Bushfire Community Events program
9.19	Coordination of Bushfire Business Roundtables.			Included in Bushfire Community Events program
9.20	VECCI Business Support Fund	\$0	\$0	Announced in 2008/09: \$0.5m funding commences in 2009-10
9.21	Description of outcomes achieved in 2008-09: Announced in 2008-09: \$0.5 million funding commences in 2009-10			

9.22 The Department worked closely with the Commonwealth Government and other Victorian Government agencies to develop the Victorian Government's initial package of assistance for communities directly affected by the bushfires. The Department administered the contract for the cleanup and disposal of bushfire waste; contributed to the organisation of the national Day of Mourning and provided direct assistance to communities and businesses. Information Victoria activated its rapid response plan providing up-to-date, comprehensive bushfire-related links and information via the Victoria Online website and the Information Victoria call centre.

10. Department of Planning and Community Development

	Initiative	2008-09 funding provided in the 2009-10 Budget (\$ million)	Expenditure incurred in 2008-09 (\$ million)	Planned outcomes
10.1	Bushfire Memorial Service	0.4	0.4	Provide opportunities and transport for people directly affected by the bushfires to attend memorial events hosted in their local community or the Memorial Service held at Rod Laver Arena, Melbourne.
10.2	Description of outcomes achieved in 2008-09: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fourteen community events held across the State in bushfire affected communities. Communities provided with transport to attend either local or the Melbourne Memorial Service. Funding for morning teas and BBQs provided for local events. 			
10.3	Community Building and Neighbourhood Houses	0.9	0.9	Provide additional recovery support to local governments and communities affected by the bushfires, and extra activities provided through Neighbourhood Houses as pivotal points for re-establishing community networks.
10.4	Description of outcomes achieved in 2008-09: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nineteen local councils, including eight Community Building Initiative (CBI) projects received grants of \$30,000. Employment of community recovery officers to support local people and help development of local solutions to recovery. Extension of working hours for CBI facilitators to provide recovery support in CBI bushfire affected communities. Community strengthening activities centred on Neighbourhood Houses, including community gardening days, assembling emergency relief packs, singing groups, community BBQs and counselling sessions. 			
10.5	Grants to volunteers	1.7	1.324 ^(a)	Enhanced strategic coordination of local volunteering activities in 10 fire-affected LGAs, to support longer term community recovery and enhance preparedness for future emergencies.
10.6	Description of outcomes achieved in 2008-09: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 104 grants to local government and community organisations. Staging of local bushfire volunteer thank-you events. Reimbursement of out-of-pocket expenses for bushfire volunteers. Provision of training, counselling and personal support for bushfire volunteers. Recruitment of 10 Local Government Volunteer Coordinators. 			

	Initiative	2008-09 funding provided in the 2009-10 Budget (\$ million)	Expenditure incurred in 2008-09 (\$ million)	Planned outcomes
10.7	Bushfire Building Standards	1.0	1.01	<p>Communication of public information relevant to building issues arising as a result of the bushfires.</p> <p>Development and implementation of new bushfire building standards to ensure that residents rebuild to a higher standard of protection.</p> <p>Facilitation of the bushfire rebuild through information, education and volunteer programs.</p>
10.8	<p>Description of outcomes achieved in 2008-09:</p> <p>All outcomes were achieved and the objectives of the Building Commission's response to the bushfires were met.</p> <p>Outcomes included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information booklets and brochures were distributed. • Public information seminars were conducted. • Bushfire Building Advice Information Line was established. • Bushfire Community Hubs were established. • Building and Plumbing Industry Volunteer database was developed. • Strategic communications advice was provided. 			

Note:

- (a) *The \$1.7m funding budget was an upper estimate only, established on the basis of the expected number of grant applications which may be received. The amount expended was reprioritised from other grants programs (Victorian Volunteer Small Grants 2008-11 and the Emergency Volunteer Support Grants), and was expended according to applications received. Of the original estimated budget, the actual expenditure for grants requested from the community came to \$1.324m for 2008-09 and an additional \$0.164k was spent in 2009-10.*

- 10.9** DPCD was engaged in the immediate aftermath of the February 2009 bushfires, taking a lead role in the coordination of three streams of donations, including offers of volunteer assistance, financial support and material goods with a specific responsibility for corporate donations. This was coordinated via the establishment of a team of staff to receive donations and offers via phone and email, and to coordinate the complex task of recording and matching the donations with requests for assistance from the bushfire affected communities.
- 10.10** DPCD led a team of representatives from agencies including Victoria Police, the Country Fire Authority and State Emergency Service, as well as other Victorian government departments and agencies including the Department of Human Services and the Essential Services Commission to establish a coordinated response to ensure effective logistical management of the storage, transport and distribution of much-needed goods and services to meet immediate community needs. Of critical importance was the registration of offers and provision of feedback to donors, and the development of appropriate donor recognition processes.

- 10.11** A key role was played by DPCD in taking responsibility for the management of initial communications with the newly established Victorian Bushfire Reconstruction and Recovery Authority (VBRRA). DPCD established communication systems to enable appropriately informed decisions about distribution of philanthropic grants with minimal duplication.
- 10.12** DPCD's regional teams have worked closely with communities affected by the bushfires, throughout the immediate response stages, the commencement of rebuilding activities, and as an ongoing support service. DPCD worked with the Building and Plumbing Commissions to link skilled built environment volunteers in the bushfire response projects.
- 10.13** Through the Bushfire Volunteer Hotline, DPCD coordinated the referral of over 12,000 people wanting to volunteer in the bushfire relief and recovery effort. Referrals were made to State Government agencies, local government and 15 major volunteering agencies including RSPCA, St Vincent de Paul, Anglicare Victoria, VicRelief Foodbank and Lifeline.
- 10.14** Subsequent to the above involvement, DPCD has led the implementation of the bushfire-related recovery initiatives highlighted in question (a) above, and assumed the secretariat role for the Community Recovery Fund (CRF) appropriated through the DPC 2008-09 budget.
- 10.15** The \$10 million CRF was established in February 2009 by the Victorian and Australian Governments, with each level of government contributing \$5 million.
- 10.16** To date, the following CRF allocations have been made:
- \$1.75 million to local councils via the Department of Human Services for the employment of bushfire community development officers to work within councils and with communities in the delivery of recovery services, community development programs and the development of community recovery plans.
 - \$3 million to community sports clubs to help rebuild or replace facilities and equipment.
 - \$2.5 million to local councils in affected areas to support the creation of memorials and commemorative events.
 - \$2.75 million for community grants to support local projects and activities identified through the established community-led recovery and planning activities. The grants help in the regeneration of community spaces, the recording of bushfire history within communities, delivery of activities for young people, and provision of community information.
- 10.17** The CRF is administered through the Department's Community Investment Branch. Through ongoing cooperation with VBRRA and other stakeholders, investments through the CRF are coordinated with other funding available to strategically address local reconstruction and recovery needs that have been identified and prioritised through community recovery planning activity.
- 10.18** The CRF operates in line with the Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements and is designed to assist in community recovery, aid community development and strengthen community capacity building for the future.

10.19 A Panel (comprising membership from the Commonwealth and State governments and the Municipal Association of Victoria) has been established to oversee the allocation of funding, with approval of allocations delegated to the Minister for Community Development.