

## CHAPTER 9: VICTORIAN GOVERNMENT RESPONSE TO THE FEBRUARY 2009 BUSHFIRES

### Key findings of the Committee:

- 9.1** With regard to the February 2009 bushfires, a wide range of response and recovery activities were implemented by the Government and other parties to deal with the worst bushfires in Australia's history.
- 9.2** In conducting its inquiry, the Committee does not wish to pre-empt the findings of the Royal Commission which is due to deliver its final report on 31 July 2010. As such, the Committee has not analysed from a critical perspective the broad processes described by departments and related agencies that were applied in managing the response and recovery procedures for the February 2009 bushfires, nor asked for additional more comprehensive material to be supplied. The material outlined in this chapter is therefore offered for information purposes only.
- 9.3** Section 9.3 of this chapter provides a consolidated summary across departments of the activities funded by Government in 2008-09 according to the output funding outlined in the 2009-10 State Budget. This section should be read in conjunction with Appendix 1, which reproduces the material provided to the Committee by departments. The Committee believes that this chapter provides value as a reference tool for interested parties.

### 9.1. Background

#### 9.1.1 Severity of the 2009 bushfires

In terms of leading into this chapter by bringing to the forefront the severity of the bushfires of 7 February 2009, the Committee wishes to draw on the following findings of the 2009 Victorian Bushfires Royal Commission which was established on 16 February 2009:<sup>208</sup>

*...7 February 2009 was a day of unprecedented tragedy in the State. One hundred and seventy-three people died in one of the worst bushfires in Australian history. About 430,000 hectares of land were burnt, along with 2,000 properties and 61 businesses. Entire towns were destroyed and around 78 communities were affected...*

#### 9.1.2 Role of the Royal Commission

The Committee notes that the Victorian Government established a Royal Commission only nine days after the events that occurred on or around 7 February 2009, subsequently referred to as 'Black Saturday'.

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208 2009 Victorian Bushfires Royal Commission, *Interim Report*, August 2009, p.v

The purpose of the Royal Commission in broad terms is to inquire into, and report on, the fires that burned in late January and February 2009 and recommend on policies for preparation and response to bushfire. Essentially the Royal Commission was established to ascertain what happened and determine, as far as possible, what needs to be done to reduce the likelihood of such loss of life again.<sup>209</sup>

In terms of timeliness of reporting given the 2009-10 fire season, it is significant that in setting up the Royal Commission, an interim report focusing on immediate actions that can be taken prior to the impending fire season was required to be furnished by 17 August 2009. The Committee also notes that an Interim Report 2 titled *Priorities for Building in Bushfire Prone Areas* was completed in November 2009 and the Commission's final report covering the full scope of the Commission's terms of reference is due on 31 July 2010.<sup>210</sup>

### **9.1.3 Continued interest by the Committee**

Prior to the advent of the fires that burned in late January and February 2009, the Committee has shown a continued interest in the way in which Government has prepared for bushfires (fire prevention), responded to bushfires (fire suppression) and implemented recovery procedures. For example in earlier times, the Committee has inquired into:

- the Government's \$70.6 million four year Bushfire Recovery Program that was established following the 2002-03 wildfires;<sup>211</sup>
- the capital component (\$31.8 million) of the Bushfire Recovery Program;<sup>212</sup>
- fuel reduction burns;<sup>213</sup>
- the financial details of the bushfire recovery activities of the Government to June 2005.<sup>214</sup>

The Committee, in its *Report on the 2006-07 Financial and Performance Outcomes*, made reference to the 2006-07 summer bushfires in terms of the extent of burnt areas, fire fighting efforts, additional funding provided by Government, sources of other finance available to farmers and the importance of Government minimising the risk of adverse consequences for the State's financial condition that may flow from unplanned climatic events such as bushfires.<sup>215</sup>

In the Committee's most recent report on financial and performance outcomes of May 2009, the Committee commented on the bushfire topic in the following context:

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209 *ibid.*, p.3

210 *ibid.*, p.ix

211 Public Accounts and Estimates Committee, *Report on the 2003-04 Budget Outcomes*, April 2005, pp.300-4

212 Public Accounts and Estimates Committee, *Report on the 2005-06 Budget Estimates*, November 2005, pp.539-40

213 *ibid.*, pp.541-2

214 Public Accounts and Estimates Committee, *Report on the 2004-05 Budget Outcomes*, April 2006, pp.335-8

215 Public Accounts and Estimates Committee, *Report on the 2006-07 Financial and Performance Outcomes*, May 2008, pp.45, 345, 400, 454, 626, 784, 787

- risk management;<sup>216</sup>
- bushfire recovery expenditure;<sup>217</sup>
- fire management on public land – number of fires, area affected and extent controlled to less than five hectares for the 2007-08 fire season;<sup>218</sup>
- agility to respond quickly to incidents of fire;<sup>219</sup>
- the need to review the adequacy of the balance held in the Victorian Natural Disasters Relief Trust Account, given the magnitude of the 2009 bushfires;<sup>220</sup>
- steps taken to minimise the impact of bushfires during 2007-08;<sup>221</sup>
- costs and budget variations connected with the 2007-08 bushfire season;<sup>222</sup>
- fire causes per region and month;<sup>223</sup>
- Treasurer’s advance bushfire payments 2003-04 to 2007-08;<sup>224</sup> and
- preventative burning – actuals versus targets.<sup>225</sup>

With regard to the Committee’s analysis of the Budget Estimates for 2009-10, the Committee made a number of observations which centred on:

- the breakdown of funding provided through the Budget (\$908 million over five years and \$78 million TEI) to assist bushfire response and recovery;<sup>226</sup>
- the Victorian Bushfire Appeal Fund – gifts available and amounts allocated;<sup>227</sup>
- the Bushfire Reconstruction and Recovery Authority – number of cases managed and grants paid across communities at 30 July 2009;<sup>228</sup>
- the Department of Human Services Case Management Service – funding, workload and accountability;<sup>229</sup> and
- Emergency Services Communications – budget initiatives.<sup>230</sup>

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216 Public Accounts and Estimates Committee, *Report on the 2007-08 Financial and Performance Outcomes*, May 2009, p.68

217 *ibid.*, p.87

218 *ibid.*, pp.186, 365

219 *ibid.*, p.208

220 *ibid.*, pp.303

221 *ibid.*, pp.372–3

222 *ibid.*, pp.373–4

223 *ibid.*, pp.374–5

224 *ibid.*, p.376

225 *ibid.*, p.376, 508

226 Public Accounts and Estimates Committee, *Report on the 2009-10 Budget Estimates – Part Two*, October 2009, pp.26, 238–9

227 *ibid.*, pp.240–1

228 *ibid.*, pp.242–3

229 *ibid.*, pp.243–4

230 *ibid.*, pp.245–6

The Committee also expressed its interest in looking forward to a comprehensive and transparent reporting to Parliament on the management of bushfire funding and the level of effectiveness in achieving recovery outcomes.<sup>231</sup> This is particularly important in view of the ongoing and long-term nature of some of the recovery activities in this area and the further funding provided in the 2009-10 Budget Update dealing with bushfire response and preparedness activities.<sup>232</sup> Of particular note is the \$35.1 million to fund preparedness activities to manage fires on public land in response to predictions of the potential severity of the coming fire season.<sup>233</sup>

## 9.2. Introduction

With this background in mind, the Committee's lines of inquiry for its 2008-09 outcomes inquiry relating to the 2009 Victorian Bushfires comprised the following:

- seeking details from departments about the level of expenditure incurred in 2008-09 against funding initiatives for 2008-09 contained in the 2009-10 Budget papers;
- for each initiative, seeking information about outcomes achieved against planned outcomes; and
- requesting departments describe the processes employed to manage the total bushfire response and recovery package.

In framing these lines of inquiry, the Committee was mindful of the recent inquiry into the budget estimates which covered the funding provided by Government towards the 2009 Victorian bushfire response and recovery. The Committee also followed the principle applied in its most recent inquiry into the budget estimates of not straying into aspects that fall under the purview of the Royal Commission, given the Commission's very wide powers to inquire into, and report on, a range of matters that include:<sup>234</sup>

- the causes of the bushfires that burned in various parts of Victoria in late January and in February 2009 ('2009 Bushfires');
- the preparation and planning involved; and
- the measures taken to control the spread of the fires and protect life and private and public property.

As such, in not wishing to pre-empt the final findings of the Royal Commission, the Committee has not analysed from a critical perspective the broad processes described by the departments that were applied in managing the response and recovery procedures for the February 2009 bushfires, nor asked for additional more comprehensive material to be supplied by departments. Due to the broad nature of the responses provided by departments to the Committee, it was not possible to link any of the detailed findings and recommendations of the Royal Commission to processes described by departments in managing the total bushfire response and recovery package.

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231 *ibid.*, p.26

232 Department of Treasury and Finance, *2009-10 Budget Update*, p.128-41

233 *ibid.*, pp.128, 130

234 2009 Victorian Bushfires Royal Commission, *Interim Report*, August 2009, pp.vii-viii

The material outlined in this chapter is therefore offered for information purposes only as a synopsis of how Government funding for 2008-09 was applied by departments and related agencies together with the high level management processes implemented by Government.

### 9.3. Departmental responses – consolidated summary

The Committee acknowledges the extensive range of activities undertaken by government departments and related agencies in responding to the February 2009 bushfires. The following quote illustrates the magnitude of the scale of operations:<sup>235</sup>

*More than 10,000 personnel, including firefighters, support workers, police and emergency services personnel and community volunteers were involved in the response, which was the largest ever coordinated emergency response and community recovery operation.*

The Committee was informed by the Department of Sustainability and Environment that it is responsible for fire management on public land including National Parks, State Parks and forests. The Department also advised that it has in place a number of policies and procedures to manage the response effort required in times of bushfire in order to reduce the threat and impact of bushfires.<sup>236</sup> The scope of the Committee's inquiry did not involve examining these policies and procedures, given that a Royal Commission was underway.

The Committee noted the Department's comment that:<sup>237</sup>

*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.*

Departmental expenditure incurred and outcomes achieved in 2008-09 in relation to the government-wide initiatives contained in the 2009-10 State Budget are summarised overleaf. References to the full responses are reproduced in Appendix 1 of this report.

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235 Victorian Government, *Implementation Plan of the State of Victoria*, 30 September 2009

236 Department of Sustainability and Environment, response to the Committee's 2008-09 Financial and Performance Outcomes Questionnaire – Part One, received 1 December 2009, p.32

237 *ibid.*

**Table 9.1: Departmental expenditure and outcomes in relation to the February 2009 bushfires**

<b>Department of Sustainability and Environment</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bushfire Emergency Stabilisation Works                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– \$5.8 million expenditure (<b>Section 1.1 in Appendix 1</b>)</li> <li>– Recovery, stabilisation, rehabilitation and repair work undertaken (1.2)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bushfire Impact Research                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– \$300,000 expenditure (1.3)</li> <li>– Parties involved and research intentions (1.4)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bushfire Preparedness                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– \$8.2 million expenditure (1.5)</li> <li>– Landscape Mosaic Burns commenced and planned and reporting system (1.6)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fire Suppression                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– \$318.7 million expenditure (1.7)</li> <li>– Scale of bushfires and resourcing (1.8)</li> <li>– Department's role in fire management (1.9)</li> <li>– Organisations involved in fire roles (1.10)</li> <li>– Additional spending on bushfire response (1.11)</li> <li>– Ongoing recovery of bushfire affected areas (1.12)</li> <li>– Role of the Rehabilitation and Recovery Team and departmental reporting (1.13)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	
<b>Department of Human Services</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Case Management Program                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– \$15.1 million expenditure (2.1)</li> <li>– Individual case management service provided (2.2)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Grants to Individuals and Housing Support                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– \$19.6 million expenditure (2.3)</li> <li>– Provision of financial assistance (2.4)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Health and Wellbeing                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– \$11.0 million expenditure (2.5)</li> <li>– Provision of health and medical services including counselling (2.6)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• State Coordination and Regional Response and Recovery                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– \$6.6 million expenditure (2.7)</li> <li>– Increase in capacity (2.8)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bushfire Psychosocial Recovery team – coordination of mental health initiatives (2.9)</li> </ul>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Activities where costs incurred were in excess of normal budgeted levels (2.10)</li> </ul>	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Victorian Bushfire Case Management Service – workload (2.11)</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community Service Hubs (2.12)</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Temporary Housing (2.13)</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community Development Program (2.14)</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New psycho social support model including administration of the Victorian Bushfire Appeal Fund (2.15)</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Health and medical, including ambulance expenses – Bushfire Recovery Service Unit (2.16)</li> </ul>
<p><b>Department of Premier and Cabinet</b></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bushfire Memorial Service <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– \$600,000 expenditure incurred in 2008 09 (3.1)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Victorian Bushfire Reconstruction and Recovery Authority <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– \$71.7 million expenditure (3.3)</li> <li>– Clean up and demolition program, distribution of donated goods, establishment of housing and temporary villages and administration – the Community Engagement team, community recovery committees Regional Community Engagement Coordinators (3.4)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Housing and Temporary Villages (Asset Funding) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– \$1.6 million expenditure (3.5)</li> <li>– Extent of one/two bedroom units established/being established and village configuration (3.6)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community Recovery Fund <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– \$10 million Fund administered by the Department of Planning and Community Development (3.8)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Victorian Bushfire Appeal Donation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– \$2 million donation to the Red Cross Bushfire Appeal Fund (3.9)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Victorian Bushfire Royal Commission <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– \$7.6 million expenditure (3.11)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Victorian Bushfire Reconstruction and Recovery Authority – processes employed included activities associated with the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– working with the Victorian Bushfire Appeal Fund (3.12)</li> <li>– administering Community Winter Events Payments (3.12)</li> <li>– employing Regional Community Engagement Coordinators (3.13)</li> <li>– managing high value donations (3.14)</li> <li>– establishing an interagency taskforce and expert reference group (3.15)</li> <li>– meeting with insurance companies and peak industry bodies (3.16)</li> <li>– working with local councils – disposal of bushfire waste and maintaining drinking and waste water services (3.17)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

<b>Department of Justice</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Coronial Hearings and Victim Identification Services                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– \$3.1 million expenditure (4.1)</li> <li>– outcomes achieved by the Victorian Institute for Forensic Medicine and the State Coroner's Office (4.2)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Counselling Services                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– \$441,000 expenditure (4.3)</li> <li>– outcomes achieved in terms of grief counselling and financial counselling (4.4)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Country Fire Authority – funding for operations positions                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– \$6 million expenditure (4.5)</li> <li>– number and role of operations officers (4.6)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Police Emergency Services                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– \$17.7 million expenditure (4.7)</li> <li>– police response activities including additional rostering and operational equipment (4.8)</li> <li>– manning road blocks and securing hazardous sites (4.8)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Volunteer Recruitment and Recognition                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– \$443,000 expenditure (4.9)</li> <li>– the <i>Vital, Valued, Victorians</i> campaign (4.10)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tracking additional costs associated with the bushfire response (4.11)</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Management of Royal Commission activities and requests – establishment of coordination unit (4.12)</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• State Coordination and Management Council – implementation plan for the Royal Commission (4.13)</li> </ul>
<b>Department of Treasury and Finance</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bushfire Funeral Expenses                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– \$1.2 million expenditure (5.1)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Business Assistance Package                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– \$10 million expenditure (5.3)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Natural Disaster Relief Arrangements                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– \$4.6 million expenditure (5.5)</li> <li>– Breakdown of claims (5.6)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• VicForests Salvage Harvesting                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– \$1.5 million expenditure (5.7)</li> <li>– Scope of initial salvage operations and reasons for indirect costs exceeding budget (5.8)</li> <li>– independent audited accounts (5.13)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Business Assistance Package claims – assessment process (5.10)</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Natural Disaster Relief arrangements (5.11)</li> </ul>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• VicForests Salvage Harvesting – quarterly reporting characteristics (5.12)</li> </ul>
<b>Department of Primary Industries</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Animal Welfare and Emergency Fodder <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– \$4.0 million expenditure (6.1)</li> <li>– Fodder distribution – engagement of coordinators (6.2)</li> <li>– Completion of animal welfare and loss of damage assessments (6.2)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bushfire Suppression and Recovery <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– \$3.9 million expenditure (6.3)</li> <li>– Staff deployed to fire suppression (6.4)</li> <li>– Distribution of recovery booklets (6.4)</li> <li>– Replacement of National Livestock Identification System tags (6.4)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Claims paid to victims – fencing (6.4)</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Soil Conservation Program <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– \$100,000 expenditure (6.5)</li> <li>– Stock containment areas and on ground works (6.6)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support of Replacement of Fences by Volunteers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– \$1.0 million expenditure (6.7)</li> <li>– Fencing repair program – coordination of volunteers and engagement of contractors (6.8)</li> <li>– Staff involved in responses to end of September 2009 (6.9)</li> <li>– <i>Rebuilding Together – A Statewide Plan for Bushfire Reconstruction and Recovery</i> launched October 2009 (6.10)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>Department of Transport</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Public Transport Services <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– \$6.2 million expenditure (7.1)</li> <li>– Repairs to fire damaged infrastructure (7.2)</li> <li>– Removal of infrastructure and vegetation (7.2)</li> <li>– Provision of alternative transport services (7.2)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Road Repairs and Services <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– \$11.7 million expenditure (7.3)</li> <li>– Extent of works undertaken (7.4)</li> <li>– Assessment of damaged trees and infrastructure/subsequent removal (7.5)</li> <li>– Assessment of immediate impact on transport services/provision of material aid (7.6)</li> <li>– School bus services (7.7)</li> <li>– Provision of updates to the Victorian Bushfire Response and Recovery Authority (7.8 and 7.9)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Management of emergency management duties including the requirement for public transport operators to have their own Fire Disaster Recovery Plan (7.10)</li> </ul>
<p><b>Department of Education and Early Childhood Development</b></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Kindergarten Services and Clean Up <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– \$600,000 expenditure (8.1)</li> <li>– Assistance for kindergartens (8.2)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Student Wellbeing and Support <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– \$2.5 million expenditure (8.3)</li> <li>– Student Support Services Officers support including distribution of resources to support teachers working with bushfire affected students/affected parents and carers (8.4)</li> <li>– Psychosocial support for children, young people and families (8.4)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support to Schools <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– \$2.0 million expenditure (8.5)</li> <li>– Dual-enrolled students, IT equipment, additional buses and teacher relief (8.6)</li> <li>– Temporary school facilities (8.7)</li> <li>– Governance structure established to coordinate and manage the response, including the creation of a Department Bushfire Recovery Coordination Group, a Department Bushfire Reconstruction Taskforce, School Community Reference Teams and a Bushfire Management Steering Committee (8.7)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><b>Department of Innovation, Industry and Regional Development</b></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bushfire Assistance Package <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– \$60,000 expenditure (9.1)</li> <li>– Support for small business and staffing relief and recovery centres (9.2)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improving information to regional areas <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Immediate access to information by businesses (9.4)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support for Regional Development <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– \$240,000 expenditure (9.5)</li> <li>– Activities included coordination of Bushfire Business Roundtables and support for the Wine Industry (9.6)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bushfire Community Events Program <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– \$152,000 expenditure (9.9 and 9.10)</li> <li>– Cleanup and disposal of bushfire waste (9.22)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Information Victoria – rapid response plan (9.22)</li> </ul>
<p><b>Department of Planning and Community Development</b></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bushfire Memorial Service <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– \$400,000 expenditure (10.1 and 10.2)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Community Building and Neighbourhood Houses<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>– \$900,000 expenditure (10.3)</li><li>– Recovery support to local councils, including community strengthening activities (10.4)</li></ul></li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Grants to volunteers<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>– \$1,324,000 expenditure (10.5 and 10.6)</li></ul></li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Bushfire Building Standards<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>– \$1.01 million expenditure (10.7)</li><li>– Outcomes included establishment of a Bushfire Building Advice Information Line and Bushfire Community Hubs (10.8)</li></ul></li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Coordinating three streams of donations – including offers of volunteer assistance financial support and material goods with specific responsibility for corporate donations (10.9)</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Community Recovery Fund, including allocations to community sports clubs and accountability arrangements (10.14 – 10.19)</li></ul>

Source: *Department responses to the Committee's 2008-09 Financial and Performance Outcomes Questionnaire – Part One*

