

2020 Victorian Bushfires

Social Recovery Planning update

Monday 20 January 2020

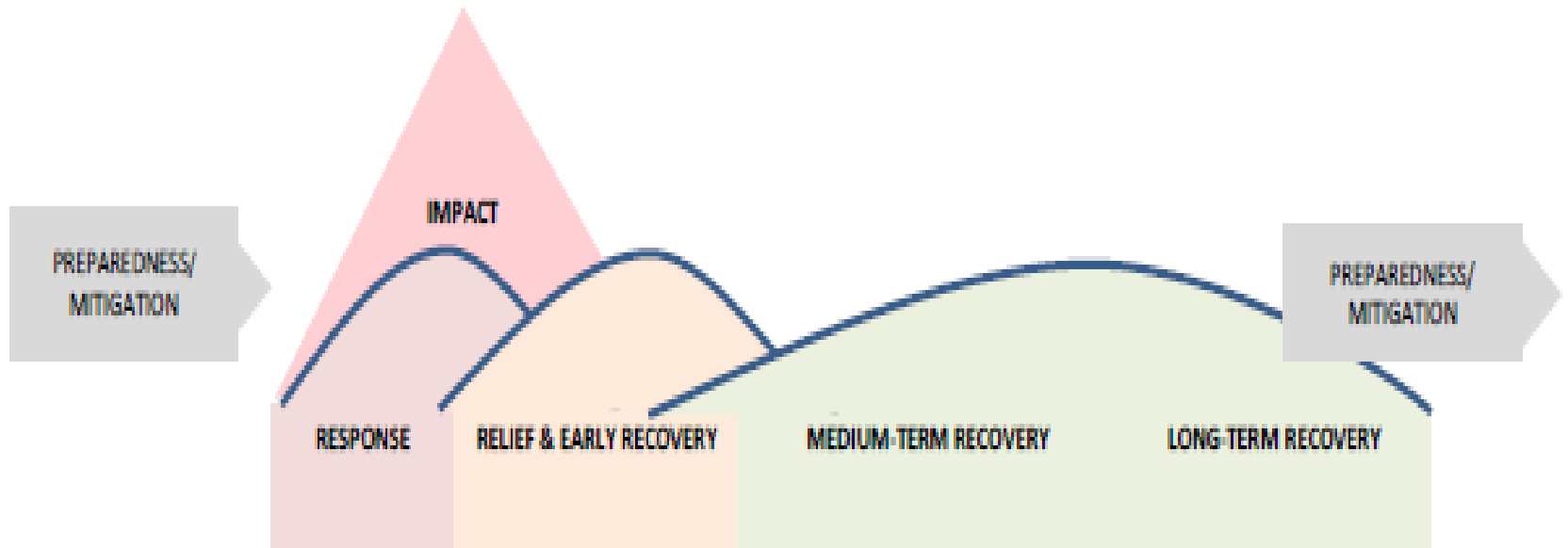
Agenda

Description	Presenter
Welcome and overview of the East Gippsland and North-East bushfires	Andrea Spiteri, Director, Emergency Management, DHHS
Relief and recovery effort in bushfire affected areas to date <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Overview of what is in place currently / recovery planning framework	Braedan Hogan, Deputy Director, Emergency Management, DHHS
Bushfire Recovery Victoria <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Who are they and what are they responsible for?	Lee Miezis, CEO, Bushfire Recovery Victoria
State Social Recovery Planning <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Case Support Program for fire affected communities- Overview of the program and how the sector will be involved or impacted- Offers of assistance	Colleen Clark, Bushfire Recovery Victoria

Current status of the 2020 Victorian bushfires

- The Premier declared a State of Disaster for six local government areas in East Gippsland and North-East Victoria
- Fires are still burning across Victoria
- More than 1.4 million hectares have been burnt
- Widespread smoke haze over multiple districts
- Property loss is significant and continues to grow as impact assessment is undertaken
- Some communities remain without power and some roads remain closed
- Most health services have resumed operation

Emergency relief and recovery



Emergency relief and recovery activities over time

Relief and recovery effort in bushfire affected areas to date

Mental Health support

- Australian Red Cross and Victorian Council of Churches volunteers trained in Psychological First Aid have been present in relief centres and mobile relief services.
- Health services outside of the affected communities have scaled up their mental health capacity to provide support to affected health services and emergency relief centres.
- Social media and fact sheets in relief centres include information about the available grief, bereavement and trauma services.

Public Health

- Assessment and implementation of mitigation controls to minimise impacts to water quality of fire-affected water supply catchments by relevant water agencies and catchment management authorities
- Protective P2 masks have been distributed in smoke affected areas and air purifiers supplied to relief centres and health services to improve air quality.
- Personal Protective Equipment kits delivered to fire affected regions for use by people entering properties that have been damaged or destroyed by fire.

Relief and recovery effort in bushfire affected areas to date ..continued

Individual and household financial assistance

- Personal Hardship Assistance Program (PHAP) payments are available for emergency relief to help meet immediate needs of households, including emergency food, shelter, clothing and personal items.
- A PHAP hotline (1800 961 054) is available 9.00 am –5.00 pm (7 days per week).
- Re-establishment assistance payments are also available for those who meet the eligibility criteria for those whose homes are destroyed or uninhabitable

Personal and financial counselling

- The Bushfire Case Support Program commenced on 11 January 2020. The program's state-wide intake service is provided by Windermere through a toll-free number (1800 560 760).

Housing and accommodation

- The department is working with relevant councils to provide safe temporary accommodation for displaced residents.

Social Recovery Planning

Comprises the following areas

Housing and Accommodation - to assist people displaced by the emergency to access temporary accommodation and return to permanent housing as soon as possible

Individual and Household Financial Assistance - to assist households to minimise the financial impact of the emergency by providing advice and financial assistance where eligible

Psychosocial Recovery – to support the emotional, spiritual, cultural, psychological and social needs of affected people and communities during an emergency and as they resume their normal life

Health and Medical Assistance – to ensure that health and medical emergency responses are coordinated and appropriate

Bushfire Recovery Victoria

- A new permanent and dedicated agency
- Working directly with local communities impacted by Victoria's bushfires
- Responsible for working closely with bushfire impacted communities - including local Community Recovery Committees - in the development and delivery of local recovery projects
- Responsible for advising the Victorian Government on the coordination of efforts and the development of an overarching plan for the recovery of communities across the state
- Chairperson: Ken Lay; CEO: Lee Miezis
- Working closely with DHHS to ensure effective coordination of social recovery

How to Contact BRV

Bushfire Case Support 1800 560 760
BushFireRecoveryVictoria@dpc.vic.gov.au