



## HOW YOU CAN HELP SUPPORT BUSHFIRE RECOVERY ACTIVITIES

While the Australian bushfire emergency response phase is over, the Australian Government is actively working with affected communities to rebuild.

Australia is deeply grateful for all of the offers of support it has received from around the world. Should you wish to make a financial donation, please make this directly to emergency service agencies or to charities involved in supporting the recovery efforts, as this allows services to most effectively and efficiently deal with the on-ground recovery efforts.

### **Charities and Donations**

Organisations and charities that are able to accept donations and are working to support bushfire relief or recovery efforts include:

- Red Cross Disaster Relief and Recovery – [www.redcross.org.au](http://www.redcross.org.au)
- NSW Rural Fire Service – [www.rfs.nsw.gov.au](http://www.rfs.nsw.gov.au)
- Country Fire Association of Victoria – [www.cfa.vic.gov.au](http://www.cfa.vic.gov.au)
- South Australia Country Fire Service – [www.cfsfoundation.org.au](http://www.cfsfoundation.org.au)
- The Salvation Army Disaster Appeal – [www.salvationarmy.org.au](http://www.salvationarmy.org.au)
- St Vincent de Paul Bushfire Appeal – [www.vinnies.org.au](http://www.vinnies.org.au)
- Wires (injured wildlife) – [www.wires.org.au](http://www.wires.org.au)
- Governments can also support the Australian Red Cross by donating through their own National Red Cross/Red Crescent Society.

You can find more registered charity organisations listed here: <https://www.bushfirerecovery.gov.au/how-help/registered-bushfire-charities>

### **Bushfires and Scams**

There are a wide range of appeals raising funds for people and animals affected by the bushfires. Unfortunately, some of these are scams. If you wish to make a donation towards those affected by the bushfires, please protect yourself with the following information:

- Scammers are pretending to be legitimate well-known charities, creating their own charity names, and impersonating people negatively impacted by the bushfires.
- Scammers are cold-calling, direct messaging and creating fake websites and pages on social media to raise funds.
- Do not donate via fundraising pages on platforms that do not verify the legitimacy of the fundraiser or that do not guarantee your money will be returned if the page is determined to be fraudulent.
- Be careful about crowdfunding requests as these may be fake and also come from scammers. Check the terms and conditions of funding platforms and ensure you are dealing with official organisations. If you are unsure, make your donation to an established charity instead.
- If you are donating to an established charity or not-for-profit organisation, ensure it is registered and that you are on its official website by searching the [Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Charity Register](#).
- If you think you have paid money to a scammer, please contact your bank immediately.