

8.3 VICTORIAN BUSH FIRES

Submitting Councillors: Crs P Klisaris, C Baines, J Banerji, M Driberg, S Dimopoulos, G Lake, J Lo, G Male, D McGill OAM, T Morrissey JP, S Perri

NOTICE OF MOTION

That Council

- 1. Makes a donation of \$50,000 towards the recovery works for the towns devastated by bushfires in Victoria, through the Australian Red Cross Bushfire Appeal 2009.*
- 2. Participates fully with the Municipal Association of Victoria in its coordinated response on the part of Local Government in Victoria, to the recovery efforts following the bushfires.*
- 3. Endorses and assists local organisations to arrange donation booths during the Clayton Community Festival, the Oakleigh Festival and Mulgrave Family Fun Day.*
- 4. Investigates providing support to local Service Clubs to facilitate 3 free concerts to raise funds for the recovery works.*

INTRODUCTION

This Notice of Motion responds to the devastation and loss experienced by Victorians as a result of the bushfires that have occurred in this State.

DISCUSSION

As a result of the bushfires many parts of the State have experienced loss of life and property.

In response to the tragic events over the weekend, it is clear that Councils and communities affected by the fires will need assistance.

The Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV) is coordinating a response on behalf of Victorian Councils, to the recovery efforts by arranging for specialist staff such as Engineers, Surveyors and other specialists from metropolitan Councils to provide their knowledge and expertise in rebuilding the towns destroyed by the fires.

The MAV's leadership in this difficult time is commended and we consider it appropriate that this Council joins the MAV in its efforts to help our fellow Victorians.

To further support donation and fundraising efforts, the Council is committed to working with local organisations to assist setting up donation booths during the Clayton Community Festival, Oakleigh Festival and Mulgrave Family Fun Day. It is proposed that the Council makes further contact with the Red Cross, Brotherhood of St Lawrence and Salvation Army to further ideas initiatives and their involvement at these festivals.

Council will also investigate how it can facilitate 3 free concerts within the municipality, which will include performances from the Police Show Band, Monash Concert Band and Oakleigh Brass Band and organised by local Service Clubs.

Businesses in the City of Monash are encouraged to participate in the bushfire recovery program concentrating on the skills that each particular business has to offer the community. Any business willing to participate in the recovery program, but unsure how to progress their assistance, should contact the Council for support and direction.

CONCLUSION

We consider it appropriate that the Council acknowledges the suffering of the towns devastated by bushfire through the donation of \$50,000 towards the recovery works.

It is understood that as the response and recovery activities unfold, a clearer picture will emerge as to how Monash can help in a practical way to assist the affected Councils.