

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ENVIRONMENT AND PLANNING COMMITTEE

Inquiry into the 2026 Summer Fires across Victoria

Alexandra – Friday 24 April 2026

MEMBERS

Ryan Batchelor – Chair

David Ettershank – Deputy Chair

Melina Bath

Gaelle Broad

Jacinta Ermacora

Wendy Lovell

Sarah Mansfield

Rikkie-Lee Tyrrell

Sheena Watt

**Necessary corrections to be notified to
executive officer of committee**

WITNESSES

Andrew Miller;

Fiona Lindsay; and

Peter Weeks, President, Upper Goulburn Community Radio.

The CHAIR: Welcome back to the proceedings of the Legislative Council Environment and Planning Committee's Inquiry into the 2026 Summer Fires across Victoria. Welcome to some local resident witnesses.

Just to let you know, all the evidence we take is protected by parliamentary privilege as provided by the *Constitution Act 1975* and the provisions of the Legislative Council standing orders. Therefore the information you provide to us now is protected by law. You are protected against any action for what you say during the hearings, but if you go elsewhere and repeat those same things, those comments may not be protected by this privilege. Any deliberately false evidence or misleading of the committee may be considered a contempt of Parliament.

All the evidence is being recorded, and you will be provided with a proof version of the transcript for review prior to its publication on the website.

Thanks for coming in. My name is Ryan Batchelor. I am the Chair of the committee and a Member for Southern Metropolitan Region. I will ask the rest of the committee to introduce themselves.

Rikkie-Lee TYRRELL: Rikkie-Lee Tyrrell, Member for Northern Victoria Region.

Gaelle BROAD: Hi. I am Gaelle Broad, Member for Northern Victoria.

Melina BATH: Good afternoon. Eastern Victoria Region – Melina Bath.

Wendy LOVELL: Wendy Lovell, Northern Victoria Region.

Jacinta ERMACORA: Jacinta Ermacora, Western Victoria Region.

Sarah MANSFIELD: Sarah Mansfield, Western Victoria Region.

John BERGER: And I am John Berger, Member for Southern Metro.

The CHAIR: For Hansard, if you could state your name and any organisation you are appearing on behalf of. We will start with you, Peter, and work our way down.

Peter WEEKS: My name is Peter Weeks. I am the President of Upper Goulburn Community Radio, UGFM, Radio Murrindindi. We have 45 volunteers involved.

Fiona LINDSAY: I am Fiona Lindsay, resident of Fawcett.

Andrew MILLER: Andy Miller. I am a happily retired individual.

The CHAIR: The best sort to be. We will invite you each to make an opening statement, and then the committee will have an abridged session to ask a shorter amount of questions of you. I do not know who wants to go first or if you have decided. We can start with you, Andrew.

Andrew MILLER: Okay. I will start off then. I will try and keep it brief, given the time. There are a couple of areas I would like to focus on that, given what we have heard this morning, may seem less important or less consequential than many of the challenges ahead. But I think with a few changes and improvements we could make quite a difference to how people understand what is going on and how we respond to some of these incidents, and they are to the warnings that people are receiving, particularly through VicEmergency, and traffic management during and following events.

Starting with warnings, we know that many people wait and see what the fire is going to do before they decide how they are going to act, and situational awareness is vitally important for everyone. It is part of the fireground training for first responders. It is part of the training for people in incident management teams. But most of the warnings do not actually give much situational awareness to the people looking at the VicEmergency app and websites. They say pretty bland statements: 'There's a fire at such and such. We're responding.' 'You should implement your action plan' or 'You should evacuate' or whatever. I think the warnings need to be expanded to actually explain what the fire is doing and where we expect it to go. It could even include things like observed flame heights, forward rates of spread and so forth, so that it builds a better picture for the community to understand what is actually happening with the fire, because if it is just a small fire coming into the edge of town with a few embers, you might stay and defend; if it is a raging fire that is crowning through the bush, coming straight at you, you do not want to be there. So I think we need to be able to give people that sort of level of detail, and we seem to very rarely do it.

The information that was presented by the deputy incident controller Greg Murphy on the 8th was very compelling because he went to that level of detail, but the VicEmergency app has almost never done that, and I think it needs to. And I think it needs a redesign, particularly of the mapping on the app. There are a number of things it should include: where the fire fronts are, where the edges are contained. It could go to the extent of having the various sectors so that you could give details by sector, particularly on large fires that are going for several days. It needs to include the wind speed and direction as well, because that is a significant thing that people need to understand, and at the moment you have to change screens on the app to get that level of detail. So I think the mapping on the app should be updated to have that level of detail. As an example of how that could look, there is another app and website, bushfire.io, which actually has a lot of that information on it, and it became my go-to reference for what the fire was doing. It was far better, in my opinion. You could even track where helicopters were operating, which gives you an idea of where the fire intensity actually is, so it has a lot more information than the app gives.

The other thing I would like to talk about is the road closures and traffic management. I know this caused a lot of angst for people afterwards. We know that particularly farmers and livestock managers want to get back to their properties as quickly as they can to check on livestock – for feed and water, to fence them, to stop them wandering around when fences have been lost or for humane destruction – and quite often people were not able to get back to their properties quickly enough. I think the whole process and chain of command for doing the traffic management is pretty long and cumbersome and subject to various interpretations along the way. I think we are probably always going to have troubles, and there will always be people that are frustrated with the traffic management and not being able to get in. But I think we can do better, and I think for a large-scale event such as the Longwood fire there needs to be a dedicated deputy IC or someone in a senior position to manage and take responsibility for the traffic management. That may have happened in this fire; I do not know. But livestock welfare has to be considered as a reason for going through traffic management points. At the moment livestock welfare is not considered in the strategic priorities, and I think it needs to be.

The CHAIR: If I can, I might just move on, and we might be able to get back to some issues and questions. Fiona.

Fiona LINDSAY: Chairperson Ryan, members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to speak today. I am Fiona Lindsay, and for the past 11 years Fawcett has been home to me, my husband, my 11-year-old son and our caretaker, who is here today and has also made a submission. On the afternoon of Friday 9 January my family and I watched from a hotel room in Melbourne via 22 cameras as the wall of fire entered our property. Within seconds – I am sorry – it stopped being a fire. It became a devourer. In less than 1 minute 50 acres of our life's work was erased – not damaged, not partially lost, completely incinerated. Our workshop, our machinery shed, our caretaker's home, my Woolshed Cottage Airbnb business of 11 years were reduced to ashes. Offices, studio, gym, eight classic cars, hay shed, a brand new off-grid solar system, gardens, paddocks and over half of our trees – all destroyed. Our privacy has been stripped. Then there are irreplaceables: photos, journals, awards, gifts, family mementos – decades of passion and sacrifice in dust. Our caretaker lost everything except the clothes on his back, his mobile phone and a car of his that we managed to get out in time. Generations of family heirlooms are completely gone. Our entire llama herd perished – that cuts pretty deep.

Four days later we were still fighting spot fires with our feet, buckets, shovels and a garden hose, breathing in such thick smoke I had to wear a mask. It took six weeks before we were allowed to return home. Now, over three months on, I want to be clear, and I am sure it is obvious: we are not okay, and we are not going to be

okay anytime soon. This is not just loss, it is ongoing trauma, grief and exhaustion. Since returning home I struggle to be there. The smell of scorched earth remains. Standing in the ruins of your life's work, trying to reconcile it – there is insomnia, there is guilt and there is hypervigilance. My son is still asking now if the clouds over the valley are actually clouds or they are smoke.

Rebuilding is not just about structures; it is about safety, identity, a future and trust. And then there is the anger. We were told our property was considered collateral damage. Resources were redirected to protect areas that were deemed more important than ours. We called 000 more than once. We begged for one truck. No-one came. We watched our lives burn knowing that no-one was coming to help because a decision had been made, and that reality reshapes how you see institutions, priorities and your place within them, even some locals. At the same time regional resources have been in steady decline. Our local CFA operates with equipment that is over 35 years old, with one truck servicing over 120 properties and fewer than 10 fires on the ground that day. They did not have a chance. My husband and I raised concerns about funding cuts with our local MP Cindy McLeish. Others did the same. Fearing the impacts, government chose not to listen.

Preparedness, funding and response are not abstract policy questions. They are the difference between protection and abandonment. Recovery has brought unique challenges: 12 weeks of navigating insurance processes that were inconsistent and retraumatizing. We are significantly underinsured, which creates further ongoing financial uncertainty. Our bank advised that they could exercise their option to take our entire insurance payout, despite the fact that it is three times the size of our mortgage. At our most vulnerable, we were faced with being robbed of everything that we needed to rebuild. The anxiety was debilitating. This is not administration, this is multilayered trauma. Our family has been deeply impacted. My oldest son was fired for supporting us, evicted for caring for our cat and has now relocated permanently to Melbourne. My youngest was robbed at the local skate park while we were displaced. This is the human cost, and it does extend across our community. There is grief, anger and fear at a scale that is very difficult to articulate. Some are on the edge; some are suicidal. We have experienced both abandonment and extraordinary support, alongside blame, insensitivity and pressure. My husband and I raised over \$123,000 via a GoFundMe campaign. We donated half of that amount locally because we knew they needed it. The remainder of that money was consumed within weeks to pay for the clean-up. Some in our community have yet to begin rebuilding.

When we talk about recovery, it must go beyond infrastructure. Recovery is accessible mental health support. Currently, I am paying hundreds of dollars a month to do that. For many I understand that is completely unaffordable. It is fair and transparent insurance and financial systems. It is investment in regional services before another disaster strikes. We are still waiting on basic road repairs, which adds daily strain to us as a family. In metro Melbourne this would not be tolerated, but here it is expected. Yes, we did choose regional life; we did not choose to be abandoned by those elected to represent us.

These fires are no longer isolated events; they are part of a new normal that requires serious attention to preparedness and resource allocation, because it will happen again. The question is whether we will once again be left to fend for ourselves. I stand here not just for my family but for a community that is hurting, trauma-exhausted and searching for answers. I ask you: please hear us and please act decisively, because no-one should ever have to watch their life burn and be told they were simply collateral. Thank you.

The CHAIR: Thank you. Peter.

Peter WEEKS: Thanks for hearing me today, Ryan and committee. I am Peter Weeks, and my background is 50 years in the radio and telecommunications and radio and TV broadcasting industries; 53 years with the Alexandra SES, 11 years as a controller; 30 years on the Murrindindi municipal emergency management planning committee for this shire; and 26 years involvement with the organisation UGFM Radio Murrindindi, which is a designated state emergency broadcaster run by 45 volunteers established in 1994. We were heavily involved with the emergency broadcasting during the 2009 bushfires. I have also been involved with the Indi telecommunications advisory committee for the last eight years with Helen Haines, the federal member.

I just want to talk a little bit about public warnings as an emergency broadcaster and also the reliability of communications during mains power failures. The warnings were timely, I believe, and people heeded the warnings. In my mind they significantly reduced the loss of life, especially when compared to the 2009 bushfires, when we were relying on information actually coming from this guy in the Alexandra ICC and others. It was via the phone, and we were getting that information out as it came to hand. That was straight from

the incident control centre during those fires, and we know we helped save many lives. We were told about it later.

The changes since 2009 have been significant. There is a better system of getting information out. But as Andy said, they were very bland, the warnings. As an emergency broadcaster, we have helped develop the guidelines for other emergency broadcasters in this state. We were the first community station to become an emergency broadcaster in Victoria – the first in Australia actually. We are fairly well organised. We have a really good system and process in place for broadcasting emergency information from the state control centre. However, it is very bland. We rely heavily on access to the incident controllers at regular intervals, or the deputy incident controllers, and they paint a picture to the community of what is actually happening out there.

However, mapping of the location of the recent fire front published could not keep up with the speed of the fire's spread, so what was on the websites was not accurate. It was probably 5 kilometres behind the pace. We could only go by the information we were given, but we obviously had to warn people that it was coming and it was not good. UGFM continued to broadcast throughout. We have permanent backup power generators at our studios and at our five transmission sites, or four of our five transmission sites. We stayed on air even during the loss of internet and the phone outages, maintaining connectivity by using locally established since 2009 radio communication systems with hospitals and the CFA et cetera. The local SES just prior to the fire had Starlink installed for backup communications. This was heavily used with the loss of internet and power during and following the fire.

One of the issues that we find as an emergency broadcaster is that there is such a heavy reliance on social media, internet, mobile phones and connectivity that when it all falls over, we are the last line of information for the community. We have to stay on the air no matter what, and it does not matter to us how; it is vital that we stay on the air. We had presenters rostered every 4 hours and shift changes with two presenters at a time, and that was 24/7 for about four days so that they could get that information out. We could tell there were a lot of people online listening, because they had evacuated but wanted to know what was happening back at home. They were listening online, and it was maxing out our online capabilities. I think we had 1200 people online listening – so we knew a lot of people had evacuated from the area – apart from our normal FM broadcasting transmissions.

The reliability of communications during a mains power failure and/or optic fibre failure – only one fibre connects most of the Murrindindi shire and surrounds. For NBN and Telstra landline and mobile phone services, this failed multiple times for many hours. In the case of the NBN it was nearly two days. That impacted three-quarters of the Murrindindi shire. People could not use their internet, could not use their phones, could not call 000 and had to rely on UHF radios if they had those and, if they had the ability, satellite services through Starlink and things like that. Only one fibre connects most of the shire, and when it fails there is no alternative backup for the carriers – i.e. Optus, Telstra, NBN networks – for most of the shire. Failure of mains power impacts all of those services once the batteries fail. NBN is set up to fail. It fails after about 5 hours, and even if you have got power, it all fails; it all falls over. Mobile phone base stations – none of them have backup generators to maintain the services. Damage to the fibre means total loss of services, including access to 000, as I mentioned. We need to identify primary telecommunication sites, including telephone exchanges, and emergency services organisations radio communications infrastructure that provide primary service to towns like Alexandra and Yea – where hospitals and emergency and essential services are located – to have permanent mains power generators installed capable of running these sites for up to five days without refuelling. I am talking about the prime sites – not the black spot sites, but prime locations.

The CHAIR: Peter, if you could just bring it to a conclusion.

Peter WEEKS: I am just about finished. In addition, a separate fibre is required – alternative routing to the area that will provide redundancy and connectivity for the telcos' networks should the primary fibre fail. We do not have that at the moment. Batteries do not provide long-term solutions to the loss of mains power. Generators cannot be safely accessed and transported in a timely fashion into an emergency area due to fire activity, or similarly in a flood situation. Generators need to be automatic and onsite to ensure lives are not put at risk. Just to sum up, in this fire, by pure luck, we had a large number of generators on hand locally, with local expertise, to make temporary connection to the mobile phone emergency communication sites and telephone exchanges to maintain and re-establish essential communications services for the area. Most of these generators

ran for three to five weeks. This local initiative averted a major catastrophe that would have resulted in a total loss of communications over a wide area. Thank you.

The CHAIR: Thanks, Peter. Andrew, I might just ask: you mentioned in your evidence something that happened on the 8th. Greg Murphy made a speech about –

Andrew MILLER: Oh, yes. Greg Murphy, the deputy incident controller, was leading a public meeting that was in Seymour, and it was broadcast or streamed over the web for everyone to watch.

The CHAIR: Right. Tell us what the forum was, what the message was and how it was received.

Andrew MILLER: The message was that there was a catastrophic day coming up the next day. The fire was going to move significantly, and he said it could move as far as Alexandra, which was I think a surprise to many. But he painted a very clear and compelling picture of the difficulties they were going to have controlling the fire, where it could spread and what it could mean. As a result of that I know a lot of people chose to relocate or evacuate that probably would not have otherwise done so. Now, probably the experience from Black Saturday led a lot of people to make that decision as well, but I know a lot of people that I did not think would relocate did, and I think that saved lives, no question.

The CHAIR: From just your perspective, do you think it was how the message was conveyed? What was particular about how the message was conveyed? One of the things we are hearing a lot over the course of the inquiry is that sometimes people feel there are just alerts going off all over the place – there is information overload, everything is pinging. Clearly we have got an example here of where there was clear and effective communication that dealt with complexity but in a way that conveyed meaning to people. I am just trying to understand from your point of view what the ingredients of that were that made it work.

Andrew MILLER: I think he was up-front, he was honest, he was not trying to hide things. He was not saying, 'We're here, we're going to put the fire out – no problem.' He was saying, 'We're not going to put the fire out. It's going to run and it's going to be intense, and there's not a lot we can do about it.' I think that is probably the basis of it.

The CHAIR: And what was the community's response?

Andrew MILLER: Well, people evacuated, people left town – left here anyway. I cannot speak for those wider or further afield, but as I said, a lot of people I know left town and made that decision.

The CHAIR: Okay, thank you. Ms Broad.

Gaelle BROAD: Thank you very much for your contribution today. Can you just talk a bit about the community need for mental health support? You mentioned that you are spending hundreds of dollars and others cannot afford it. We have heard from other areas that it is weeks and weeks on a waiting list and how important it is to have those caseworkers as well operating early on. Can you just speak to that need for support and the caseworkers? How could it be done better?

Fiona LINDSAY: I think communication is key, and early. I mean, for me personally, I was not aware of any mental health support or any caseworkers, and I am not throwing anybody under the bus here. All I am saying is I was not aware of anything available at all at any point. That is all I have to say about that.

Gaelle BROAD: Did you call the state government advice line, or did you have no idea that that existed?

Fiona LINDSAY: I did not know there was a state government advice line.

Gaelle BROAD: So lack of information. Just talking to community needs, I guess I am aware that in other states when disasters occur there seems to be a coordinated response to get more support on the ground. Here, as we talk to people, it seems to be that in the community a lot of them have said that they feel abandoned. They feel like they have been left on their own. We have driven through kilometres and kilometres of roads with huge trees that need to be moved. Can you describe what the needs are now and what kind of practical support is needed now or should have been occurring over the last 105 days?

Peter WEEKS: As an emergency broadcaster, we have been providing information regularly. We have been in regular contact with all of the hubs on a daily and a weekly basis. That still continues at the moment in the recovery phase. We have been putting that information out to the community on that. From what I am hearing, mental health is the biggest issue. We do not have it locally. The local hospitals do provide some level of mental health support. However, the nearest in general is Shepparton or Melbourne, and people have to travel. Some people do not have the capability to travel. The issue of that is also the current cost of fuel to travel. Public transport is limited to those locations, especially from here. That is probably the biggest impediment to mental health: ongoing mental health support from here is very difficult to obtain.

Andrew MILLER: I forgot to mention in my introduction that before I retired, amongst other things, I was a level 3 incident controller, so I have had some involvement in these sorts of things. One of the troubles I think is: where do you get people for the support people? There is no pool of people sitting around in Melbourne or Shepparton or anywhere else just waiting for a disaster to happen. It is a challenge trying to get that level of that support quickly. And if you are taking it from somewhere else, then they are going to miss out. So I do not know what the answer is.

The CHAIR: Dr Mansfield.

Sarah MANSFIELD: Thank you. Thank you for appearing today and for providing that information and sharing those stories. Maybe following on from that, there is not a pool of people or resources ready to go to mobilise in these sorts of situations, but all of you have mentioned that we are going to see more of these sorts of events and, whether it is here or somewhere else, it is going to happen.

Peter WEEKS: Yes.

Sarah MANSFIELD: Do you think we need to have something like a team ready to go to mobilise – I mean, they are not necessarily going to be sitting around, but some sort of process that we can activate to get out to communities like this in these sorts of events? What could we do to plan better for the recovery part of a disaster? We now we are going to have more of these.

Peter WEEKS: Can I just say one thing: I think the thing that we have seen the most is local knowledge is a big thing as part of the whole process. It does not matter where you bring people in from, having that local knowledge as part of that response is vital.

Fiona LINDSAY: I would say: better resource the local community halls on the ground. I will just speak to my own personal experience, because obviously that is all I can do. Without the support of Fawcett Hall we would not be where we are today – it is as simple as that. My constant concern was how well they were being resourced and supported, and my biggest concern was obviously the lack thereof.

Peter WEEKS: The fire had not even gone out and they were swinging into gear. They did an amazing job, the hubs – an absolutely amazing job. Those three girls that you had here were all just part of that team. They did an amazing job. We supported them all the way, but they did, yes.

Andrew MILLER: And a community-led response is really important, and supporting them is a really good way to do it, because lots of people want to help. Lots of people are volunteering, and if you say, ‘No, no, we’ve got the professionals in – you go away,’ they would be pretty disappointed with that. So I think we need to find a way to support those volunteer groups and make their life a little bit easier – take off some of the burden but support them.

Sarah MANSFIELD: So rather than bringing in outsiders to do a job, bringing in more resources to support the people who are already here. Is that what you are saying?

Fiona LINDSAY: Yes, absolutely, especially considering so many – present company as well – have lived through Black Saturday. I myself have lived through significant bushfire events in other states and seen, like you just said, very different responses.

Andrew MILLER: The other challenge is that not everyone needs the same level of support at the same time. As we have heard, some people are waiting weeks before they seek support, and others need it in a day or two. That adds to the complexity, although it probably spreads it out to some extent.

The CHAIR: Ms Ermacora.

Jacinta ERMACORA: You have done very well at describing the issues. I will pass.

The CHAIR: Okay. Thanks. Ms Lovell.

Wendy LOVELL: Fiona, thank you for sharing your story. It is heart-wrenching, and your generosity in sharing those funds that you raised speaks a lot for the community spirit of the Fawcett community. I am getting a little bit emotional now. I am sorry. It must have been horrific to sit and watch those cameras, but there must have been some point where the cameras melted, the electricity went off and you did not really know the final outcome of what had happened at your property. How long was it before you were able to get back in to see if you had stock that were suffering or –

Fiona LINDSAY: Yes. It actually got to a point where my husband told me to look away. The cameras were progressively going; they did not all just go at once. It was when we lost one building, we lost those cameras, then the next one and the next one and the next one, and then they all went. In that moment we just assumed it had all gone. It took three days to find out that we had one building standing, and we were back in four days later. It was difficult to understand what the traffic management was. We were really relying on the Facebook group, because we just did not know. I think it took about three days for us to really understand that locals were being allowed back in. We came back in through Taggerty. We had to produce a drivers licence to prove that we were residents. It was not a problem, but it took us a few days to figure out what was fact.

Wendy LOVELL: Yes, which speaks a lot to the communications and the failure of that. That takes me to Peter. Peter, congratulations for what you do for the community in keeping that information coming. What is the one source of truth for you? Where do you get your information? And is that an easy thing to access so that you can make sure that you are giving timely and accurate information to the public?

Peter WEEKS: Well, we have more than one source. We do not just rely on the State Control Centre, but that is where primarily all of our information comes from. In 2009 we lost that, and it was also up to 2 hours behind what was really happening. It is the advances that have happened today, with getting that information much quicker. But we also have our local lines of communication with the emergency services, and that is vital. We tap in with those guys and girls, and they do an amazing job. Without them we would not have the regular information from the incident controllers or their team to keep the community up to date. We can read those messages till the cows come home, but as soon as you get the person in charge of responding to the fire or the flood or whatever it might be on the phone and speak about it, the community at large is much calmer. They understand where they are coming from. They can paint a better picture as to what is really going on.

The CHAIR: Ms Tyrrell.

Rikkie-Lee TYRRELL: Thank you, Chair. First question: what areas were deemed more important than yours to render yours as collateral damage?

Fiona LINDSAY: Alexandra.

Rikkie-Lee TYRRELL: Alexandra as a whole. Okay. Now, we were talking about having to travel to get support, say, to Shepparton or somewhere. Did any mobile trucks, such as the Centrelink truck – I met a truck; Wildlife Recovery Australia actually wanted to come here but were denied access. Women's health clinics – did any of those roll into town in the aftermath?

Fiona LINDSAY: Not that I am aware of.

Peter WEEKS: There were some services. Banking services came in. Some of the insurance companies came in. I do not remember seeing any health services in here, but the local community have established their own community health van – that was actually established a week before the fire started – and the Yea and District Memorial Hospital has regular health checks for the farmers at the saleyards at Yea, every sale. That has been extremely well received. Alexandra District Health, the hospital here, have also taken it on board, and that is being used regularly at various events. The Unbreakable Farmer and people like that came in and helped at community meetings. That was provided at all sorts of venues around the response area, especially the hubs, on a regular basis.

Rikkie-Lee TYRRELL: Staying on that topic, what mobile facilities do you think would have been really beneficial that did not make an appearance or do not even exist yet?

Peter WEEKS: The Murrindindi community health van is probably a really good example. That was community-funded; it was not government-funded. I think it was \$150,000 they raised in about six months, and that is run and operated by the local community. That obviously is filling a need. But that is the sort of thing that you need to respond in situations like a disaster, and that obviously needs to move around. I know there were the local community hubs here in Alexandra as well. They had Services Australia coming in and providing support at those locations at Yea and Alexandra and Fawcett and also Yarek and Terip, Ruffy and Highlands. They were regularly at those locations as well, so they were able to provide some means for people to be able to tap into those services.

Rikkie-Lee TYRRELL: Thank you, Chair.

The CHAIR: Thank you. That brings this session to a close. We really appreciate the time and evidence that you have given the committee today. You will be provided with a proof version of the transcript for review following the hearings. With that, the committee will take a short break.

Witnesses withdrew.