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# Public Accounts and Estimates Committee

**Inquiry into the 2025-26 Budget Estimates**

**Vicki Ward MP**

Minister for Natural Disaster Recovery

Tuesday 3 June 2025



# Recovery coordination

Victoria is continuously improving how we manage and support recovery, coordinated through **Emergency Recovery Victoria**:

Pre-2019

Recovery forms part of Emergency Management

Jan 2020

Victoria establishes its first dedicated recovery agency

June 2021

Recovery agency remit expands to new events

Oct 2022

Emergency Recovery Victoria (ERV) now state relief + recovery (inc. regional) coordinator

Sep 2024

ERV remit expanded to regional relief

- **Leads** state and regional relief and recovery coordination
- **Delivers** funding arrangements (including Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements with the Commonwealth)
- **Advocates** and advises government on community need
- **Coordinates** capability and capacity in the recovery system
- **Assurance and monitoring** to government that recovery needs are being managed



ERV delivers recovery programs as requested by Government (e.g. clean-up).



# 2025 Western Victoria Bushfires recovery

The 2025-26 Budget provides \$77.5m to address recovery needs from the Western Victoria Bushfires.



## Supporting businesses in 2024-25

- \$5,000 grants for small businesses and eligible primary producers
- Business Recovery Advisory service providing free business support
- Tourism and marketing activities to boost visitors to the Grampians region



## Supporting environment, land and biodiversity recovery in 2024-25

- Support for survival of key native species
- Repairs to strategic road networks and signage replacement
- Treatment of hazardous trees
- Gate Fee Rebate program for impacted LGAs



## Additional recovery support

Addressing longer-term recovery needs from the Western Victoria Bushfires

*\*Some of the initiatives included may be cost-shared with the Commonwealth under Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements. Estimates of the Commonwealth's contribution are yet to be determined.*

# Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements – Support for councils



## How we're helping councils with their DRFA claims:

- Additional claims assessors
- Expert DRFA contractors
- DRFA experts working directly with priority councils
- Provision of training to councils

## Councils and DRFA – high-level process



# Continued recovery support for past events



## October 2022 Victorian floods

- **4,400** households accessed the Flood Recovery Support Program
- Housed **2,212** flood-affected people in temporary accommodation
- **63** Local Government Areas affected





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# Continued recovery support for past events



December 2023 – January 2024  
Victorian storms and floods

- More than **545** households have accessed the Recovery Support Program
- **Re-impacted** areas that were affected during October 2022 floods
- **29** Local Government Areas affected

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# Continued recovery support for past events



February 2024 Victorian storms and  
bushfires

- **4,500** impacted households accessed the Recovery Support Program
- Clean-up supported **187** properties for hazardous tree remediation and **21** structural demolitions
- **38** Local Government Areas affected



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Thank you.

