

Tuesday 2 February 2010

FENCE REBUILDING FUNDING AWARDED TO COMMUNITIES

Following extensive representation in Parliament and with the Premier's office, Nationals Member for Morwell Russell Northe has commended the decision by the Victorian Bushfire Reconstruction and Recovery Authority (VBRRA) to provide funding for the position of Latrobe Fencing Coordinator to lead the replacement of thousands of kilometres of fencing in the Morwell Electorate.

Via a donation to bushfire recovery efforts from the Indonesian Government, a total of \$314,000 is to be provided for fencing programs in the Hazelwood-Jeeralang, Traralgon South and District, and the Boolarra and Yinnar communities.

Each of the Community Recovery Committees in the towns identified fencing programs as priorities, and each community's share of the \$314,000 will go towards funding for the Fencing Coordinator position which was ceased as of 4 December 2009, due to the expiration of previous funding.

In addition to this coordinating position, the program will provide support and equipment for fencing works.

"Rebuilding is a huge task, and to receive this funding is great news for the community, as it means that we can continue to rebuild after the devastating destruction of the fires last year.

"The work that fencing coordinators and the volunteers have put into replacing this amount of fencing has been incredible, and the Fencing Coordinator position has been fundamental to the success of this very important project.

"The work done by the fencing volunteers, some of which came from far and wide to assist our communities is much appreciated and has been of great help. The support that local service clubs have provided and also individuals within the community, is most appreciated.

"I didn't want to see all this hard work go unfinished, and to have the Fencing Coordinator position scrapped due to a lack of funds was something I desperately did not want to see happen.

"The last thing I wanted was for landowners to be uncertain as to how and when their fencing would be re-established on their properties, so it's certainly a big relief to know this position will continue to be funded

"None of this would have been possible without the help of VBRRA, Ron Harris from the Department of Primary Industries, Chris Devers from the office of the Minister of Agriculture, and the kind support of the Indonesian Government.

"The time and effort they have all put into ensuring this program remains funded has been much appreciated, by me, and the landowners within the Morwell Electorate," Mr Northe said.

Media: Russell Northe 0408 22 55 23 / Julia Auciello 5133 9088