



Anglicans Support Victims of Bushfires

The Anglican Bishop of Grafton, Dr Murray Harvey, said he was shocked and saddened by the destruction and loss caused by fires within his diocese and across Australia.

Grafton Diocese, which covers an area from Wauchope to the Queensland border, is one of the hardest hit regions in eastern Australia during the current bushfire emergency.

Long time residents, in many areas, claim the fires are the worst on record with several already destroying more than 160,000 hectares and still burning.

The fire emergency in some locations has been constant for nearly 13 weeks with residents reluctant to leave their properties for any reason.

Some families have been separated, with school children unable to return home and parents prevented from reaching local centres.

The Bishop said that "Many from our parishes are involved with volunteers helping staff evacuation centres, offering food, shelter, emergency supplies, pastoral care and other assistance to evacuees, victims of the fires, fire-fighters and emergency service workers.

"Church halls and other facilities across the diocese have been given over to helping their communities.

"Anglicare through its Disaster Recovery program has also been present making a real difference in many communities, as have been our volunteer chaplains and countless gifts of financial assistance have been made.

"Some parishes have existing funds or Op Shops that are distributing funds or other forms of assistance on the ground in affected communities.

"Some people have lost their lives and many homes and other properties have been destroyed, so financial assistance will be needed to provide help in these communities well into the future."

These are contact details of appeals to which donations can be made at any time:

- DORRIGO Fire Appeal: Bank BCU, BSB 533 000 or S11 for BCU members, Account No: 274988
- Anglican Relief and Development Fund Australia Bushfire Emergency Appeal - East Coast of Australia. Donate online via the Emergency Relief Fund at www.ardfa.org.au
- Bush Church Aid is receiving applications for funding in drought and fire-affected areas. To donate or apply for Drought/Disaster Relief go to <https://www.bushchurchaid.com.au/content/droughtdisaster-relief/give00>