



MEDIA RELEASE

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Victorian bushfires: Statement from RCV Chair Ben Blain

Regional Cities Victoria (RCV) extends its deepest thanks and unwavering support to the volunteer firefighters of the Country Fire Authority, alongside Victoria Police, Ambulance Victoria, State Emergency Service volunteers and all emergency services responding to the current bushfire emergencies across our state.

These fires are unfolding in fast-moving, unpredictable and dangerous conditions. For many CFA volunteers, this is not only a professional and physical test, but a deeply personal one. Across regional and rural Victoria, volunteers are fighting fires to protect their neighbours and communities, even as their own homes and families remain under threat. Their courage, selflessness and endurance over many days and nights of sustained response represents the very best of Victoria.

We also acknowledge the extraordinary work of local governments across regional Victoria. Councils have activated emergency response plans, established evacuation centres, and are providing safe shelter for residents and their pets, often at very short notice. Local governments are coordinating food relief, welfare support and community services for people who have been displaced or who may have lost their homes, working in conjunction with community organisations and state agencies.

At times like this, the strength of regional Victoria is found in its people – volunteers, frontline workers, councils and communities standing together under immense pressure.

Our thoughts are with everyone affected. RCV stands with our member cities and their communities as this situation continues to evolve.