

Appeal launched to help Margaret River fire victims

24th Nov 2011

An appeal has been opened to help people suffering as a result of the fierce bushfire that has swept through the Margaret River area this week.

The appeal has been set up through the Lord Mayor's Distress Relief Fund (LMDRF) which is the recognised state emergency fund. It provides relief for personal hardship and distress arising from natural disasters occurring within Western Australia.

Lord Mayor Lisa Scaffidi said she was shocked by the sudden and devastating impact of the fire and extensive loss and damage to property. Early estimates put the number of homes damaged or destroyed at about 20.

"The bushfire demonstrates clearly how people's lives can change dramatically when events such as this happen so quickly," Ms Scaffidi said.

"Most people would be shocked by news of the fire and through the LMDRF they can help those people who are suffering now and who face a big job in rebuilding or cleaning up after the fires are extinguished.

"The LMDRF is run by an independent board and all the money goes to victims, with donations of \$2.00 and above being tax deductible.

"The appeal is set up in a way that allows assistance to be dispensed rapidly."

Last summer the LMDRF assisted victims of the Gascoyne and Mid West floods (\$2.59 million), the Perth Hills fires (\$3.77 million) and Lake Clifton fire (\$0.52 million).

Donations to the Margaret River Fire Appeal can be made in these ways ...

- over the counter at any BankWest branch or agency to the dedicated Appeal account BSB 306-089, account 287738-4
- via EFT BankWest's Appeal account BSB 306-089, account 287738-4;
- in person at the Customer Service counter at Council House, 27 St Georges Terrace, Perth;
- to make a credit card donation, phone the City of Perth on 9461 3333 during normal business hours;
- by mail to LMDRF, Margaret River Fire Appeal, c/- City of Perth, GPO Box C120 Perth 6839.