

Lord Mayor visits fire affected area of Toodyay

5th Jan 2010

Lord Mayor Lisa Scaffidi this morning took the first steps towards dispersing the funds raised through the Toodyay Bushfire Appeal when she met with the local community in the fire ravaged area.

Ms Scaffidi and City of Perth CEO Frank Edwards met with the Local Recovery Committee Chairman Charlie Wroth and Toodyay CEO Graham Merrick to discuss applications for assistance from the Lord Mayor Distress Relief Fund.

“Whilst it is devastating to see what the residents of Toodyay have endured over the week, it is encouraging to see how the Western Australian community has bound together to support Toodyay on their long road to recovery,” Ms Scaffidi said.

Already over \$60,000 has been raised through the Appeal with major donations of \$10,000 coming in from ANZ and Apache Energy.

“The Lord Mayor’s Distress Relief Fund is the long established fund that was set up to assist in times of Western Australian natural disasters,” Ms Scaffidi said.

“We are pleased by the funds raised already, however after meeting with Toodyay residents, we realise that a lot more needs to be done. I implore citizens throughout our state to continue to contribute to this much needed cause,” she said.

In addition to discussing applications for assistance, Ms Scaffidi and Mr Edwards toured the fire affected areas of Toodyay including the facilities that have been established for residents to gain access to day-to-day living supplies such as food, clothing, toiletries, children's toys and manchester.

"It was highly impressive to see the range of services being offered to community members. Red Cross, Salvation Army, the Department of Child Protection, insurance assessors, banks and legal aid providers have all come together to help the Toodyay community," she said.

Donations to the appeal can be made at:

- All Bankwest branches
- City of Perth, Council House, 27 St Georges Tce, PERTH

Donations can be mailed to:

Toodyay Bushfire Appeal
C/- City of Perth, GPO Box C120, PERTH, WA 6839

ABOUT THE LORD MAYOR'S DISTRESS RELIEF FUND

The Lord Mayor's Distress Relief Fund was established in 1961 to provide relief of personal hardship and distress arising from natural disasters occurring within Western Australia.

The perpetual fund is a registered charitable body and has approval of the Australian Taxation Office for tax deductibility of contributions.

Recent examples where the Fund has been used to directly support Western Australian communities include the 2007 Dwellingup Fires, the 2003 Bridgetown Fires and Western Australians affected by the 2002 Bali Bombings.

<http://appealswa.org.au/>