



canberraregion.org.au • PO Box 66 QUEANBEYAN NSW 2620

26 August 2021

The Hon. Shelley Hancock MP  
Minister for Local Government  
PO Box 1436  
Nowra NSW 2541

Dear Minister,

**RE: Rates relief support for South East NSW primary producers significantly impacted by the Black Summer bushfires whose primary dwelling was not destroyed**

I am writing on behalf of the communities of our region to request rates relief support for South East NSW primary producers significantly impacted by the Black Summer bushfires whose primary dwelling was not destroyed.

The Black Summer bushfires severely impacted regional areas of NSW, with a large amount of damage being done in South Eastern NSW. Within the Canberra Region Joint Organisation, eight of ten member councils are considered to have been significantly impacted by these bushfires. Across the broader region of South Eastern NSW, including these LGAs, tens of thousands of residents were evacuated, with 2,448 homes and 5,469 outbuildings lost, and 1,013 homes and 2,042 outbuildings damaged.

Rates relief support measures have been implemented for Black Summer bushfire impacted properties where the primary dwelling was destroyed, and these measures provide much needed assistance. Unfortunately, many primary producers, despite being effectively put out of business by the loss of property infrastructure, have been excluded from these measures because they were able to prevent the destruction of their primary dwelling. These primary producers are substantial contributors to the economic activity and social fabric of the entire southern region bushfire impacted local government areas. This rates relief would assist them to get back up on their feet and will hasten our local and regional recovery from the bushfires.

This request is made on behalf of primary producers across the Canberra Region Joint Organisation footprint including; Bega Valley, Snowy Valleys, Snowy Monaro, Eurobodalla, Queanbeyan Palerang, Wingecarribee, and Goulburn Mulwaree Shires, and our neighbouring Local Government Areas of Shoalhaven and Greater Hume. Should you require further information about Council's support for these bushfire impacted primary producers, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely



Rowena Abbey  
Chair  
Canberra Region Joint Organisation

CC Mayor Heather Wilton, Greater Hume Council  
Mayor Amanda Findley, Shoalhaven City Council