

MEDIA RELEASE

Shire of Esperance

PO Box 507 Esperance WA 6450

T: (08) 9071 0666 F: (08) 9071 0600

E: shire@esperance.wa.gov.au

www.esperance.wa.gov.au



30 June 2016

LORD MAYORS DISTRESS RELIEF FUND WRAPPED UP

The Lord Mayors Distress Relief Fund was activated as a result of the Cascade and Merivale Bush Fires in November. The West Australian community rallied behind Esperance and donated money to help support and assist in the recovery process.

Applications for assistance were assessed utilising seven categories recommended by the Lord Mayors Distress Relief Fund Board, in consultation with the Shire of Esperance. Six categories reflected the impact of the fires on families, properties and residents. The seventh category was identified to assist the Shire of Esperance with proposals for community well-being activities to assist in broader recovery programs.

Shire President Victoria Brown said "The support our community received during both the response and recovery phases has been overwhelming. We cannot express enough the gratitude we have for those who physically assisted or donated during our time of crisis and continue to provide assistance where possible. The Lord Mayors Distress Relief Fund has enabled members of our community to move forward and helped reduce potential financial burdens that may be experienced."

Applications for the Fund closed on 29th February 2016. The total amount raised was \$1,674,986.05 with a total of \$1,505,000 has been distributed to 67 applicants. The residual funds, \$169,986.05, was paid to the Shire of Esperance via the Category 7 allocation.

The Lord Mayors Distress Relief Fund Board recommended a payment of \$5,000 each (from Category 7) be made to the Scaddan Bowling Club and Scaddan Golf Club to assist with their costs to repair club infrastructure. These Clubs and their facilities provide the Scaddan community with a place to congregate and socialise and are considered vital in the overall recovery of the community.

The remainder of the funds have been used to assist with costs associated with the removal and disposal of asbestos from properties affected by these fires. Costs for asbestos management are yet to be finalised, however to date, the clean-up bill is nearing \$800,000. Funding has been sourced from the Shire's insurers (LGIS), Category 7 of the Lord Mayors Fund, through the Western Australian Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements (WANDRRA) and other donations made directly to the Shire.

Ends

MEDIA CONTACT:

Priscilla Davies (08) 9071 0679