



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **Shire of Esperance**

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**9 December 2015**

## **PRIME MINISTER VISITS ESPERANCE**

Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull visited Esperance today as recovery begins from the worst bushfires the state has seen in 50 years.

At a community morning tea for more than 350 volunteers and community members affected by the fires, the Prime Minister acknowledged the cooperative and resilient spirit of Esperance and recognised the devastating loss of four members of the community.

Concerns about existing issues with mobile networks in the region were highlighted by the recent fires as people struggled to communicate with authorities, and loved ones. The Prime Minister assured the community that emergency response would be thoroughly investigated and that mobile communication challenges would be addressed.

Shire President Victoria Brown presented the Prime Minister with several gifts to show appreciation of the visit, which included a framed photo of the recently closed, iconic tanker jetty. Cr Brown said "The Prime Minister was in Esperance to recognise the efforts of the community in relation to the bushfires. His visit was a rare opportunity to bring other matters of importance to his attention, one of which was the future of our tanker jetty."

The Prime Minister's speech was positive and supportive and further energised the community in the recovery process. The Shire of Esperance appreciates the support of the highest office in government.



Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull meets with volunteers to acknowledge their work during the bushfires.



Shire of Esperance President, Victoria Brown meets Prime Minister, Malcolm Turnbull.

**Ends**

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