



# Victorian Bushfires Surveying Taskforce

Bulletin 2

4 March 2009

## Update

A meeting of the Victorian Bushfires Surveying Taskforce (VBST) was held on 3 March to discuss the progress of the surveying response and the next steps in the recovery project. Since last week's bulletin, significant progress has been made in establishing contact with other organisations involved in the recovery and, most importantly, gaining access to the fire-affected areas. As of 4 March, surveyors from the Office of Surveyor-General Victoria (SGV) and Spatial Information Infrastructure (SII) are on the ground in the Kinglake region securing and establishing MGA94 control to be used in future surveys. It is anticipated that volunteer surveyors will be permitted into this area from the week commencing 16 March to perform the next stage of the project - the recovery, referencing and recording of surviving survey marks and monuments.

## Access

As mentioned above, government surveyors have now been granted access to the fire-affected areas in the Kinglake region. This was arranged through the Victorian Bushfire Reconstruction and Recovery Authority (VBRRRA) and Victoria Police who are currently in Kinglake performing searches for the Coroner. SGV and SII surveyors are working closely with police and have been requested not to enter private property and to limit their work to the road reserves. Volunteer surveyors will be permitted to enter the Kinglake region once the police searches have been completed and the Coroner's order restricting access to certain areas has been removed.

It is anticipated that a similar approach will be followed in Marysville when the police move there following the completion of searches in Kinglake.

## Other organisations

The work of the taskforce has been brought to the attention of VBRRRA, the authority responsible for the bushfire recovery works. One of its members,

Mr Brian Marwick, attended yesterday's taskforce meeting and, given his background in surveying and spatial sciences, will be a valuable contact within that organisation.

Also present at yesterday's meeting were Patrick Meehan and Nicholas Moore from Survey21 who has been engaged by Grocon to perform the survey work associated with the clean-up. The extent of the work to be performed by Survey21 was outlined at the meeting and does not conflict with or duplicate the work the taskforce is coordinating. It was agreed that Patrick Meehan, as a representative of ASIBA, would join the taskforce as the survey contact for the clean-up contract.

Taskforce members also met with representatives of the Building Commission during the week to brief them on the project and the scope of the proposed volunteer surveying work. The commission is coordinating the volunteer responses for all types of recovery work in the fire-affected areas and will add the work of the taskforce to its register.

## Volunteer register

A further 20 volunteer offers were received during the week which takes the number of individuals on the Association of Consulting Surveyors Victoria (ACSV) register to approximately 200. For those who have yet to register, the ACSV office is still accepting offers of volunteer survey work so if you would like to help, please send an email with your details and how you wish to contribute to [volunteers@acsv.com.au](mailto:volunteers@acsv.com.au).

In last week's bulletin, a call was made to regional surveyors to coordinate or perform volunteer survey work in fire-affected areas in their vicinities. In response to this, Beveridge Williams in Traralgon have identified areas around Traralgon South and Callignee where they are willing to do some of the work.

Also in last week's bulletin, a call was made for surveyors to identify sections in Marysville, Kinglake, Kinglake West and Pheasant Creek in



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which they had particular experience and would be willing to perform an assessment of the cadastre. Unfortunately, there was not a great response to this request, so the taskforce has decided to be pro-active in identifying sections within these townships for volunteers to assess, identify the important survey marks and monuments and then locate them on the ground. Post-fire aerial photography, when it becomes available, will be used to identify and prioritise sections within these townships. Once this has been done, the relevant survey information will be collated and the taskforce will then assign volunteers and resources to those sections.

### **Survey guidelines**

The guidelines for the recovery, referencing and recording of surviving survey marks and monuments are currently being finalised and will be available for volunteers to use in their stage of the project. Also, as a result of the geodetic work presently being performed, updated permanent mark sketch plans of the coordinated MGA94 PMs in the fire-affected areas will be distributed with the guidelines to facilitate the connection of the proposed recovery-type surveys to MGA94 datum.

### **Further information**

For further information on the work of the taskforce or the progress of the project, please contact the Taskforce Leader Mr Eddie Cichocki on 8636 2545 or email [eddie.cichocki@dse.vic.gov.au](mailto:eddie.cichocki@dse.vic.gov.au).