



# Victorian Bushfires Surveying Taskforce Brief

A meeting was held on 17 February 2009 with representatives from the Office of Surveyor-General Victoria (SGV), Spatial Information Infrastructure (SII), Association of Consulting Surveyors Victoria (ACSV), Spatial Sciences Institute (SSI), Institution of Surveyors Victoria (ISV) and RMIT University to discuss and coordinate a surveying response to the bushfire tragedy and recovery works.

Many offers have been received to date from members of these organisations and others to assist with the survey component of the recovery. The Victorian Government is appreciative of the support being shown as it will inevitably lead to securing vital infrastructure necessary in re-instating property boundaries affected or lost by the fires.

In order to manage the offers of volunteer work and ensure that a coordinated and effective approach is undertaken, the meeting agreed on the way to proceed in the early stages of the recovery and which organisations would be responsible for the actions identified. A project group to be known as the Victorian Bushfires Surveying Taskforce and comprising members from SGV, SII, ACSV, SSI, ISV and RMIT has been established and will meet on a weekly basis to coordinate the actions.

The priority at this stage is gaining access to the fire affected areas so that existing survey marks and monuments can be recovered and referenced prior to any clearing work being undertaken. SGV is in the process of obtaining approval for the access and in doing so will stress the importance and urgency of the survey work to the relevant authority.

Once the access issue has been resolved and the Occupational Health and Safety requirements for entry in to the areas determined, the following tasks are proposed to be undertaken by the organisations listed –

- Establishment of survey control networks of coordinated permanent marks (SGV)
- Establishment of GNSS master base stations at the affected localities (SII)
- Preparation of Survey Guidance Notes (SGV & RMIT)
- Establishment of a single register to record offers of assistance (ACSV)
- Identification of areas requiring survey marks and monuments to be recovered and referenced (SGV)
- Recovery, referencing and recording of surviving survey marks and substantial monuments such as brick corners and fence posts (volunteer surveyors)

The recovery and referencing of the survey marks is seen as an important initial step in securing and establishing infrastructure to enable subsequent surveys to proceed efficiently and economically. This will be the main focus of the volunteer survey work as it is envisaged that surveys for the re-establishment of road alignments and property boundaries will be performed on a fee for service basis at a later date.

If you are willing to volunteer your services and/or equipment to perform the survey monument referencing task, please send an email to ACSV at [volunteers@acsv.com.au](mailto:volunteers@acsv.com.au) providing your name, organisation and details of the level of assistance (time, equipment, staff, etc.) you are willing to provide.

For further information please contact the Office of Surveyor-General Victoria, Land Victoria, on 8636 2525 or the ACSV office on 9326 9700.

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