



Friday 28th January 2011

Final – For immediate release

INTERNATIONAL POWER AUSTRALIA ALLOCATES ANOTHER \$55,000 TO FIRE-AFFECTED GIPPSLAND COMMUNITIES

Four more Gippsland community organisations have been successful in the final round of funding from International Power Australia's (IPRA) Bushfire Recovery Fund.

Moe South CFA, Boolarra South Landcare Group, Yinnar South CFA and the Boolarra Animal Shelter will share in an allocation of \$55,000 provided by IPRA.

IPRA announced a community support package of over \$500,000 in the aftermath of the terrible fires in early 2009. The Fund included a significant allocation of £100,000 (\$A170,000) from the UK head office which was intended to assist the Latrobe Valley community in the important community recovery process.

IPRA's allocation committee approved an initial tranche of A\$90,000 in 2009 that was received by community organisations in Callignee, Mirboo North, Boolarra and Hazelwood South.

On the second anniversary of the 2009 fires, IPRA's Group Manager of Corporate Affairs, Mr Jim Kouts, said whilst the memories of the 2009 fires were still vivid to many people, the determination of Gippsland's community groups to rebuild their communities was clearly very strong.

"Our funding committee felt these submissions reflected sincere and genuine efforts to restore community infrastructure and to provide additional mitigation capacity for the future," Mr Kouts said.

He said the applications again had strong employee connection with IPR, showed diversity and reflected good restoration capacity for local infrastructure.

"We would like to congratulate these organisations on their successful application and wish them every success as they continue the recovery, rebuilding and rehabilitation process in their communities," he said.

Representatives from the four organisations will assemble at 11am on Friday 28th January at Boolarra's Memorial Hall to receive their cheques from senior IPRA representatives.

This final round of funding completes the original funding package of more than \$500,000 made available by International Power for projects to assist Gippsland to recover from the 2009 fires.

Ends

For more information, contact Neil Lawson on **0407 842 285**

