



## Media Release from the Australian Football League

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Sunday February 28, 2021

### **AFL State of Origin for Bushfire Relief One year on and \$3.856 million distributed from the AFL Community Relief Fund**

The AFL is pleased to announce that exactly one year to the day of the AFL State of Origin for Bushfire Relief event, \$3.856 million from the AFL Community Relief Fund has been distributed to community football clubs in bushfire affected areas.

The AFL's Community Relief Governance Committee most recently met this month, and awarded grants to the Batemans Bay Seahawks and the Paynesville Football Netball Club.

All 262 community football clubs in bushfire affected areas received an initial donation, while an additional 51 grants have been awarded and distributed across 74 clubs in bushfire affected areas.

A \$1 million donation was also made to the Australian Red Cross.

The ongoing work is part of the AFL's commitment to ensure the affected communities continued to be supported, especially after a year in which the Covid-19 pandemic affected local football competitions across the country.

Summary of grants awarded:

- \$3.856 million in total has been distributed, including:
- \$2,116,000 distributed across 51 grants representing 74 clubs across 4 states (VIC, SA, NSW, QLD)
- \$738,000 distributed to 262 community football clubs & NAB Auskick centres in Bushfire affected areas. A list of these clubs can be found [here](#)
- \$1 million to the Australian Red Cross
- \$2.6 million remains in the fund and will be distributed in 2021 and beyond in bushfire affected areas

AFL Chief Executive Officer Gillon McLachlan said one year on he was proud of the way the AFL community came together to help communities affected by the bushfires.

"It now seems like a lifetime ago, but as these fires were unfolding, I had many discussions among senior people in football and the universal response from across the football community was, what can we do to help." Mr McLachlan said.

"Our clubs, the players, corporate and broadcast partners and all our fans came together raised an amazing amount of money that has benefited so many affected areas in the community.

**Australian Football League**

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“The AFL community is committed to continuing to work in these areas, with state football bodies, local leagues and all levels of Government to support these communities through the ongoing rebuild and recovery.”

The State of Origin for Bushfire Relief event was played at Marvel Stadium on Friday February 28, 2020 in front of 51,052 fans.

### **About the Governance Committee**

The AFL has formed a governance committee to administer the remaining funds raised from the Community Relief Fund.

Former Essendon Football Club President and former Federal Finance Minister Lindsay Tanner chairs the Governance Committee, with representatives from across the AFL industry, representing states and territories that have been impacted as well as people with community, legal, infrastructure, club and playing experience.

KPMG have been engaged to audit the process.

Members of the Governance Committee include:

- Chair - Lindsay Tanner, Former Essendon President
- Simone Wilkie AO, AFL Commissioner
- Andrew Dillon, AFL General Counsel & EGM Game Development
- Tom Harley, CEO Sydney Swans
- Paul Vandenberg, Diversity Talent Manager AFL
- Phil Davis, AFLPA Vice President, GWS Giants player
- Meg Downie, AFLPA board member, Melbourne Demons AFLW player
- For more information on the Governance Committee.

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