

New Tanker adds muscle to strengthen Daylesford Fire Brigade

Daylesford, Thursday 29 October 2009: The Daylesford Country Fire Authority has received more than \$80,000 from Bendigo and Adelaide Bank's philanthropic arm, Community Enterprise Foundation™ to purchase an Ultra Light Tanker in the lead up to the bushfire season.

Country Fire Authority CEO, Mick Bourke, said the vehicle which will service the Daylesford, Hepburn Springs and Glenlyon areas. In times of significant fires, like those experienced earlier this year, the brigade will also offer support across the state.

"The communities in this region are living in high-risk fire zones and the dense bushland and rouged terrain which surrounds these townships means they are not easy to access.

"However, the Ultra Light Tanker will be able to tackle these conditions, hopefully allowing our volunteer fire fighters to attack and contain blazes and protect the community," he said.

Chief General Manager for Bendigo and Adelaide Bank, Russell Jenkins, said the foundation's 2009 Bushfire Appeal raised more than \$8 million dollars to support communities devastated by the Black Saturday bushfires.

"Many of the donors who contributed, indicated they wanted to acknowledge and support the great work of the CFA and its volunteers," Mr Jenkins said.

"The events of the 2009 Victorian bushfires left a lasting impression.

"Many Victorians faced the full front of the fires, losing property, treasured possessions and even their lives.

"But the nation was generous and the Community Enterprise Foundation™ million of dollars from more than 32,000 generous individual donors, businesses and community groups across Australia.

"The funds have been administered by the foundation, which is working with the bank's community partners to identify groups and programs in need of support in the rebuilding and recovery process."

Daylesford **Community Bank**® Steering Committee Chair, Chris Sedgeman, said once established the branch would commit to providing ongoing support to the local CFA.

"A **Community Bank**® branch in Daylesford will provide the local community, including our CFA, with more support.

"The Community Bank network has already given back more than \$30.4 million to local community groups and projects and it's time the people of Daylesford benefitted from the initiative."

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