

Rehabilitation and revegetation of public land

Bendigo, Thursday 10 December 2009: Bendigo and Adelaide Bank's philanthropic arm, Community Enterprise Foundation™, has contributed \$80,850 in funding to assist in revegetation of more than 70 hectares of public land affected by the Black Saturday bushfires.

The grant will go to Conservation Volunteers Australia which is overseeing the \$162,500 project in association with Department of Sustainability and Environment and Parks Victoria.

Ken Beasley, Program Manager, Conservation Volunteers Australia said the project will include the enhancement and establishment of native vegetation, control of new and emerging weeds and the re-establishment of lost habitat for native wildlife.

"Weeds are a major problem in burnt-out areas, so a major component of the project is spraying and eradicating weeds.

"By removing these invasive weed fire risk will be reduced.

"The works will also result in improved flora and fauna values, the enhancement of public land and the recreation areas those spaces provide," he said.

Bendigo and Adelaide Bank Regional Manager, Phil Whiting, said caring for public spaces is an important aspect of the recovery process.

"Not only will this project improve the safety and aesthetic value of these areas, it's a great opportunity to bring members of the community together," he said.

"So far, the Community Enterprise Foundation™ has contributed more than \$850,000 to bushfire affected communities throughout Central Victoria, with more projects to be announced in the New Year."

This project has been endorsed by the Community Recovery Committee of Bendigo

Conservation Volunteers Australia is now calling for volunteers to assist in delivering the project.

For more information or to volunteer contact Iain Wilson, Volunteer Coordinator 5444 0777.