

Dear Kamaishi City (whomever it may concern),

On behalf of Australian Red Cross, I'd like to extend my sincere gratitude and thanks to the City of Kamaishi for your generous donation to support Australian communities recover from the devastating 2019-20 Summer bushfires.

We recently published our 6 Month Update on our work responding to this disaster which I have also attached for you. The progress achieved in this report is a testament to the generosity of every individual and organisation around the world who gave so generously in response.

Because of your support, we have been able to:

- support **49,718 people** through **37 fires** from September to March
- disburse **\$155m** as of 1 August, including grants for **4,758 people** (and counting!)
- establish a recovery footprint in **47 local government areas**

Thousands of Australians have received grants that helped them meet immediate needs, make repairs, cover out-of-pocket funeral or hospital costs, or re-establish a safe place to live. Further funds are available to help those in ongoing hardship.

We know that there's a long road ahead. Many people are living in caravans while they wait for their land to be cleared and rebuilding to begin. The trauma they have endured will continue to manifest in the months and even years ahead.

Our teams will remain working in these communities and have rapidly adapted to the additional impact of Covid-19 restricting our face-to-face work. We know how important social ties and community connections are and we quickly developed our support work to be on line and via phones. Through this, our promise remains the same: to be there for recovering communities at every step, through every crisis, no matter what.

We are truly grateful to everyone in your organisation who showed compassion and generosity, ensuring that we can continue to deliver on this promise.

On behalf of our emergency teams, and all the people they help, thank you.

Sincerely,



**Judy Slatyer**  
CEO, Australian Red Cross