**Response from CRC to EMV discussion paper –**

**Resilient Recovery**

The CRC recently made a submission to the important Emergency Management Victoria discussion paper. The paper was intended to

*reform relief and recovery arrangements to enhance recovery outcomes for communities*

<https://www.emv.vic.gov.au/publications/resilient-recovery-discussion-paper>

The CRC submission strongly endorsed the goal and purpose of the resilient recovery model proposed.

*A resilient recovery supports individuals, families and communities to be healthy and safe, to engage in and lead their recovery, to be able to live, work and connect within the community, and identify opportunities for growth, renewal and innovation.*

The submission also strongly supported the holistic focus of the model, which allows consideration of relief and recovery issues from a community outcome perspective.

*The Resilient Recovery Model, proposed in this paper, allows us to consider relief and recovery holistically from a community outcome perspective. It is a model that is community focused and driven. It aligns with community needs and authentically connects individuals, communities and business into the recovery process.*

Based on our experience of recovery and renewal from the fire that ravaged Wye River and Separation Creek on Christmas Day 2015, the CRC submission made some suggestions as to how the goal and purpose of the proposed resilient recovery model might be best achieved.

**Suggestions Made by the CRC**

**1. Be guided by recognised community development principles**. Basing development of the recovery model on communities recovering from a crisis will limit understanding of how communities usually work and thus limit the potential of proposed model.

Development of the resilient recovery model needs to be based on how communities normally work, how members of the community usually organise their communal and individual lives, rather than when they are in crisis.

**2. Fully understand what it means for communities to lead their recovery.** Avoidthe trap of thinking that because you have provided information to a community, assisted it to be involved in the work being undertaken, formed a long term dialogue with stakeholders, and even handed over policy development to stakeholders within a framework developed by the organisation, that you have provided the means for a community to make decisions. This is not the case - the organisation is still making the decisions and excluding the community.

If a community is genuinely going to lead its own recovery the organisation must allow the community to make decisions, or to have its representatives actively involved in decision making about the issues that effect and/or impact on the community, its recovery and renewal.

**3. Embed command and control responses in a community led model of resilient recovery.** Community development principles should be used to guide

* development of the plan for bushfire and landslip management, which will then be in place to support a community-led response to any future disaster in the community
* development of command and control policies and procedures covering the immediate response to a disaster.

For a copy of the submission and a full discussion of community development principles and how they could be used to embed a command and control response in a community led model of resilient recovery go to (insert link to CRC submission on wyesepconnect)