

FENLAND DISTRICT COUNCIL

PRESS RELEASE

January 29, 2020

Fenland Twinning Association: How to support our friends in fire-ravaged Australia

As recovery operations get underway in Australia following its wildfire crisis, Fenland Twinning Association is sharing details of how people can best help communities in devastated areas.

Fenland is twinned with the Sunshine Coast in Queensland, Australia, with Fenland District Council having well-established links with the Sunshine Coast Council.

The country has suffered some of its worst bushfires seen in decades. Some 30 people have so far been killed, including four firefighters, and more than 10 million hectares of bush, forest and parks across Australia has burned. It is estimated that around one billion animals have also been killed.

Roger Coulthurst, Chairman of the Fenland Twinning Association, said: "Members have received a number of enquiries concerning how people can support the bushfire recovery and it has been somewhat difficult to advise safe and approved ways of helping people and communities in devastated areas.

"Our friends and colleagues at the Sunshine Coast Council have also received such enquiries and have now shared a number of safe ways people can give help."

To support PEOPLE:

- GIVIT (umbrella organisations which supports a number of agencies, services and charities): www.givit.org.au
- Australian Red Cross: www.redcross.org.au
- Foodbank: www.foodbank.org.au
- Salvation Army: www.salvationarmy.org.au
- St Vincent De Paul: <https://donate.vinnies.org.au>

To support WILDLIFE:

- Queensland RSPCA: www.rspcaqld.org.au
- New South Wales RSPCA: www.rspcansw.org.au
- Victoria RSPCA: www.rspcavic.org.au
- WIRES (Wildlife Rescue): www.wires.org.au

To support RURAL FIREFIGHTERS (volunteers)

- Queensland Rural Fire Brigades Association: www.rfbaq.org
- New South Wales Rural Fire Service: www.rfs.nsw.gov.au
- Victoria Country Fire Authority: www.cfa.vic.gov.au
- South Australia Country Fire Service: www.cfs.sa.gov.au

To find out more about the Fenland Twinning Association, visit: www.fenland.gov.uk/twinning

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For more information contact Fenland District Council press office on 01354 622226