

31<sup>st</sup> January 2013

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## SP AusNet presents cheque to Gippsland Emergency Relief Fund

Gippsland's electricity distribution business, SP AusNet, presented a \$10,000 cheque to the Gippsland Emergency Relief Fund (GERF) to assist local residents impacted by the Alberfeldy bushfires that continue across Gippsland.

GERF provides relief and assistance to people living in the Gippsland municipalities of Bass Coast, South Gippsland, Latrobe, Baw Baw, Wellington and East Gippsland who suffer loss or damage from natural disasters.

SP AusNet Eastern Regional Manager Jim Haylock presented the cheque to GERF Chairman, John Mitchell, on Tuesday, 5th February, 2013.

"Being part of the Gippsland community, SP AusNet sees first-hand the positive impact the Gippsland Emergency Relief Fund has on helping Gippsland residents manage the effects of natural disasters," Mr Haylock said.

"SP AusNet has a strong presence in the Gippsland area and we are pleased to be able to once again provide some assistance to the people within our community. Hopefully this cheque provides some welcome community relief."

"We'd also like to thank our impacted customers for their patience as we worked hard to reconnect the power supply, including the Country Fire Authority and State Emergency Service for their support," he said.

"Many people have been hard hit by the bushfires across Gippsland," Mr Haylock said. "GERF focusses on helping to meet people's immediate needs for food, clothing, utensils, furniture, bedding etc and is an important community organisation in the Gippsland region."

Mr Mitchell, in accepting the cheque, praised SP AusNet for its ongoing support of GERF funding events.

"SP AusNet has demonstrated continual commitment to the Gippsland community during our times of need. They have been a generous contributor to our appeals and a valued partner in our efforts to assist the impacted families and businesses to re-establish themselves following fire and flood events.

"This donation will be put to immediate use in assisting Gippslanders who have been affected by the Aberfeldy bushfire," he said.

**Ends...**