

Thursday April 1st

Mr. Tony Pearce
Inspector General Emergency Management
GPO Box 4356 Melbourne VIC 3000
Dear Mr. Pearce /Tony,

I am writing to firstly thank you for your support and assistance for we 'bushfire-affected farmers and people, and to especially for taking the time to reach out to our communities, in person, making your personal fact-finding visits. You may remember me, being present at the evening meeting in Buchan with a small group ... [REDACTED] and myself.

I also raised the issue of 'dust' and the need for better, sealed roads to help our recovery, post fires. I see this issue of roads as a very important one in our area. We joked about the dust and increase in domestic chores but actually the issue is one of safety for road users, and safety for us, particularly in regard to our health... both mental and physical. Not only is the dust a real problem, domestically, but it also is a great problem when it comes to our health. We rely 100 per cent on tank water for day-to-day living and the amount of dust build up on our roof drastically affects the condition of our water supply as our only source for collection is that of rain water collecting on the roof! The dust also presents an issue in relation to our use of solar panels for our power source and supply of electricity.

With the increase road usage by: ... tourists, (DWELP have a ten-year plan to develop the tourist Snowy River National Park facilities in our area, directly impacting future road usage); local agriculture heavy traffic; and post bushfire recovery building programs; there is a real need for improvement by way of sealing the roads, to be made. I feel that post-bushfire recovery work and efforts in our area have been of little effectiveness in giving immediate relief. Recovery work and arrangements for long term effectiveness need more thought thru in consultation with us, the local users. There needs to be greater personal contact and connectiveness with the local road users if more positive steps are to be made in our recovery.

Importantly tho, by writing to you I wish to alert you to the fact that continued support in the form of Federal Grants is still most necessarily needed, for our recovery and in order for us to return to our pre-bushfire status.

I'm including here in my email, as an attachment, a submission document which I have recently prepared which outlines our particular case. This document I have disseminated to some relevant Ministers at both the State and Federal levels.

The issues I'm raising in my document are real, they affect our post-bushfire recovery and well-being; upon reading the attached you will gain a good picture of why we need continued assistance through a grant program, similar to the initial Primary Producers' Grant of early last year.

Obviously local economies need boosting (e.g., through the Local Economic Recovery Grants) but this has been done, I feel, at the expense of those who were directly affected, and who still require funds to assist in their recovery. Now that we're 'out-of-the-fog' of the bushfires and into the second 'twelve months of recovery', we can see more clearly the enormity of the tasks at hand in our recovery.

You are no doubt aware of our case, however for the record, I am also including it here....

We were severely and catastrophically impacted on the night of December 30th 2019 by the 2019-2020 Black Summer Bushfires.

Our Family Home, at [REDACTED], Buchan, was completely annihilated. We lost, completely, our family home of 30+years: a bespoke home, and infrastructure (shedding, carports, workshop areas, established landscaped garden with rock-walled terraces (with well over 100 roses), glass house, vegetable garden, orchard, chook house and chooks, garden pond and goldfish, and swimming pool plus fencing etc. Also, we lost our two cars; one completely burned out during the fires, and the other classed as a 'trauma' write-off).

As well, at our Farming Property at [REDACTED], Buchan, we lost, completely, our farm, farmhouse and all infrastructure related to our business as Primary Producers (shedding, fencing, cattle yards, hay shed, shearing shed, workshops, storage sheds, stables, machinery, and pasture and farming paddocks. Not to mention our Breeding Bull, breeding cows, complete flock of sheep, and other menagerie of livestock, and farm pets.

We lost as well, our iconic "Buchan Farmhouse Accommodation Business", and all infrastructure related to its operation as a successful tourist and accommodation business.

As Primary Producers and Small Business Owners, our losses were catastrophic!

We had been operating since 2004. We lost everything related to Our Farm, and the Farmhouse Accommodation Business, including all associated Business-Office setup, computer files, paperwork and business accounting details and records. We have lost our livelihood!

For us, my husband Dennis, and myself, it has been both a terrible, and extremely terribly busy year, of recovering. Not there yet, of course!

Now that we are coming out of the catastrophic bushfire-induced 'fog', we are beginning to realize more and more how much needs to be done to restore what we have lost.

There are three stages to our recovery.

1. As Primary Producers Restore our Farming Property.
2. As Small Business Operators restore our 'Buchan Farmhouse Accommodation' Business which had been operating successfully since 2004, catering for local, State and National guests as well as from numerous International locations.
3. Restore and rebuild our family home and property of 30+ years, and livelihood.

Despite working tirelessly, day-in-day-out, to reinstate some of the infrastructure on our farming and home property there remains a mammoth task-list of things to be done. One of which ... a priority, is to restore the pasture land, shelter belt and creek valley areas; and ultimately our farming enterprise, to its pre-bushfire status. And herein lies the problem....

Immediately following the fires, we set about renewing all lost fencing particularly the boundary fencing: for reasons of keeping the stock from roaming, and for safety regarding local road usage by the public. We also had to rebuild cattle / stock yards. This work involved hiring fencing contractors and contractors with heavy machinery to clear fencelines and renew gateway accesses. This was done at great personal expense, combined with the initial Primary Producers Grant successfully gained during 2020.

Unfortunately, since the fires, a compounding issue has arisen and that is of the fire-induced overgrowth of weeds and wattle thicket growth, making a majority of our farming land unusable. (See Submission).

All creek valleys, shelter belt areas, fencelines etc. are so overgrown that it is impossible to reestablish these areas without major work being undertaken. Not to mention the dams and many low-level creek crossings which have silted-up with fire-ash run-off. Whilst many people and groups (Rotary, Landcare, local Garden Clubs,) are offering such things as pasture seed and native shelter-belt trees for revegetation purposes it is impossible to take up their offers because of the need for massive clearing which needs to be done in order to make the areas ready for planting and revegetating.

Hence, I am putting forward this submission and request for your information and consideration when making your report.

Hopefully, with a heightened awareness of our problems and issues, you will actively lobby and /or use your network to enlighten those in government for continued Federal acknowledgment and further assistance.

Funds for Bushfire Recovery and assistance need to be forthcoming to enable us to regain our livelihood and return to our pre-bushfire status. This is an immediate problem for us and needs diligent attention with a successful outcome.

Thank you for taking the time to consider the included issues and concerns.

Kind regards.

Mary & Dennis Gilbert

██████████, Buchan, Vic. 3885

See attached submission document: *Post 2019-2020 Bushfire Recover Observations and Concerns: Pasture Rehabilitation, Water Infrastructure and Fencing.! Mary & Dennis Gilbert*

Mary and Dennis Gilbert

██████████, Buchan, Victoria 3885

Post 2019-2020 Bushfire Recovery Observations and Concerns: Pasture Rehabilitation, Water Infrastructure and Fencing.

❖ Statement of Need; and Request for Immediate Further Release of Federal Government Bushfire Recovery Funds, to Enable Our Recovery as Primary Producers and Small Business Operators.

The following is information about my husband and myself, to give you a perspective and to make relevant the following submission for further assistance to enable our recovery, in regard to our livelihood as both Primary Producers and Small Business Operators.

Please note, this submission is primarily related to concerns and issues we have for rehabilitating our farming property; the re-establishment of our Farmhouse Accommodation Business will form a second part to this submission at a later date.

Our Background.

We were severely and catastrophically impacted on the night of December 30th 2019 by the 2019-2020 Black Summer Bushfires.

Our Family Home, at ██████████, Buchan, was completely annihilated. We lost, completely, our family home of 30+years: a bespoke home, and infrastructure (shedding, carports, workshop areas, established landscaped garden with rock-walled terraces (with well over 100 roses), glass house, vegetable garden, orchard, chook house and chooks, garden pond and goldfish, and swimming pool plus fencing etc. Also, we lost our two cars; one completely burned out during the fires, and the other classed as a 'trauma' write-off).

As well, at our Farming Property at ██████████, Buchan, we lost, completely, our farm, farmhouse and all infrastructure related to our business as Primary Producers (shedding, fencing, cattle yards, hay shed, shearing shed, workshops, storage sheds, stables, machinery, and pasture and farming paddocks. Not to mention our Breeding Bull, breeding cows, complete flock of sheep, and other menagerie of livestock, and farm pets.

We lost as well, our iconic "Buchan Farmhouse Accommodation Business", and all infrastructure related to its operation as a successful business.

As Primary Producers and Small Business Owners, our losses were catastrophic!

We had been operating since 2004. We lost everything related to Our Farm, and the Farmhouse Accommodation Business, including all associated Business-Office setup, computer files, paperwork and business accounting details and records. We have lost our livelihood!

Our Story.

Our escape from the fire that raged through our property on December 30 is nothing short of a miracle. In the weeks leading up to our home and farming property being impacted, fires sparked by dry lightning started in the Gelantipy and W-Tree areas. For weeks, Dennis ██████████, and myself ██████████, watched as CFA / DWELP firefighters, strike teams and heavy machinery regularly passed by our property; we heard the constant drone of water bombing choppers and fire-related air-craft pass overhead.

We were very fire-prepared, as per usual in the lead up to summer, throughout those weeks. We had extra water reserves, two 20,000-gallon house-water tanks, a 10,000-gallon water tank, two 5000-gallon tanks and, as well,

Mary and Dennis Gilbert

[REDACTED], Buchan, Victoria 3885

Post 2019-2020 Bushfire Recovery Observations and Concerns: Pasture Rehabilitation, Water Infrastructure and Fencing.

❖ Statement of Need; and Request for Immediate Further Release of Federal Government Bushfire Recovery Funds, to Enable Our Recovery as Primary Producers and Small Business Operators.

numerous IBC 1000 litre water tanks, buckets, wheelbarrows, watering cans and mopping bags placed in strategic positions around the family home and shedding, ready for ‘mopping up’ after the front had passed.

We also had firefighting pumps and hoses at the ready, including mobile water tank and hoses.

In early spring 2019, Dennis had whipper snipped and poisoned weeds along the entire fence lines to keep them safe from burning. Excess trees were cleared also. We were well aware of the weather conditions and always kept an eye on the prevailing winds to know where and when the fire was active or on the move.

Eventually, in the final days of 2019, the fire began licking at our doorstep, and despite all the preparations, it moved frighteningly fast.

“It all happened too quickly to ‘feel’ anything. I didn’t feel scared or shaky or nervous, I guess adrenalin kicked in and we just did what we had to do, in order to survive”.

OUR SUBMISSION.

PART 1.

Physical Location and Area of Concern

A. As per Google Map Image #1

This image shows the area located at [REDACTED], Buchan, within our total acreage which was greatly affected by bushfire damage and since then by wild regrowth nuisance, including thickets of invasive weeds, and fire emergent native species... Black & Lightwood Wattles, Manuka Ti-Tree, blackberries, flea-bane, Bathurst Burr, Castor Oil Plant, Datura; to name a few. Depicted on this map are three creek valleys and some associated pasture.

NOTE: This image does not show the actual total area of bushfire affected acreage, suffered at the time.

B. As per Google Map Image #2

This image depicts detail of the area within our total acreage which was greatly affected by bushfire damage and since then by wild regrowth nuisance. This area consists of creek valleys, low-level creek crossings, shelter-belt areas, grazing areas, and areas of pasture.

The area of approx. 90 acres, as depicted in the image, is close to 50% of our total acreage.

PART 2

Our Major Over-riding Concern:

This is two-pronged:

- 1. The amount of work to be done,**
and
- 2. The associated monetary expenditure required to return this acreage back to its pre - ‘Black Summer Bushfire’ status so that it can be utilized for continued grazing, and pasture usage.**

The reinstatement of shelter belt areas, pasture and efficient creek-valley conservation will require both mammoth monetary expenses, and clearing of the bushfire-affected and damaged trees, wild-seeding

Post 2019-2020 Bushfire Recovery Observations and Concerns: Pasture Rehabilitation, Water Infrastructure and Fencing.

❖ Statement of Need; and Request for Immediate Further Release of Federal Government Bushfire Recovery Funds, to Enable Our Recovery as Primary Producers and Small Business Operators.

regrowth, and wattle regrowth, before effective new pasture and replanting of shelter belt trees can take place.

In considering our major over-riding concern it is important to note two underlining aspects.

- **It is imperative that bush-fire damaged trees be removed and sufficiently cleared before new pasture is planted.** If the bushfire-affected trees were to remain, the investment in new pasture seeding would be rendered a waste of time: obviously when those fire-damaged trees eventually fall any new pasture growth would be damaged and rendered less effective.
- **Efficient pasture reseeding cannot take place in a majority of this area due to wattle and wild-seed tree regrowth.** This needs to be removed before effective re-planting can take place.

OUR CONCERNS AND ISSUES.

1. PASTURE RENEWAL.

➤ Concerns:

- **Issue #1: Approximately 90 aerial acres of our property are in need of bushfire-related rehabilitation works.**
- **Issue #2: This rehabilitation work requires a massive undertaking of machinery and man hours to reinstate to the level of what we had pre 2019-2020 Black Summer Bushfires.** The work needing to be done includes: removal of fire-damaged trees, which were once “shelter trees”; scrub clearing, discing, and then the sowing down of new pasture, and the replanting of shelter-belt trees and vegetation.
- **Issue #3: The terrain in the majority of areas is too steep for wheeled tractors and therefore requires use of track type dozer / machinery.**

2. WATER INFRASTRUCTURE.

➤ Concerns:

- **Issue #1: Dams.** Seven out of twelve dams need to be re-cleaned from fire-ash silt and debris run-off. This had been done, once, following the fires at our own expense. However, with the ensuing heavy rain and rain storms, heavy silt-ash run-off has run downhill into our property from the State Forest above.
- **Issue #2: Creek Valleys.** All three creek valleys need removal of bushfire-affected and damaged trees as well as clearing of fire emergent wild-tree regrowth and native species: Black & Lightwood Wattles, Manuka Ti-Tree; and noxious weed infestation: blackberries, flea-bane, hen-bane, thistles, Bathurst Burr, Castor Oil Plant, Datura weeds etc.
- **Low Level Creek Crossings.** Eleven gully and low-level creek crossings need to be restructured / rebuilt with rock & piping due to the same issue above (i.e., silt-ash and debris run off) These

Post 2019-2020 Bushfire Recovery Observations and Concerns: Pasture Rehabilitation, Water Infrastructure and Fencing.

❖ **Statement of Need; and Request for Immediate Further Release of Federal Government Bushfire Recovery Funds, to Enable Our Recovery as Primary Producers and Small Business Operators.**

OUR CONCERNS AND ISSUES. (cont.)

crossings have been rendered useless / impassable in wet weather; it is not possible to use these crossings in tractors or 4WD. Again, all damage to private property from the abounding uphill, State Forest.

3. **FENCES**

➤ Concerns

- **Issue #1: Considerable cost has already been outlaid, during early 2020, for the renewal of a majority of bushfire-damaged boundary fence lines.** This involved employing the use of heavy machinery to bulldoze & excavate all fence lines in order to build new boundary fences (still a work-in-progress: incomplete along the State Forest boundary).
All our boundary fenced areas are now a heavy thicket resultant from the bushfire-induced propagating of wild seeding and the resultant overgrowth of weeds and of wattle regrowth.
- **Issue #2: The State Forest boundary where fire-damaged trees continuously fall onto fences and into pasture areas.** Fencing still needs to be completed which will be at a cost to have contractor assistance with heavy machinery & labour.
- **Issue #3: Internal fences still not completed in all areas of the property.** Because of this, we are prevented from running stock in all areas of both properties and particularly that of [REDACTED] Road. Please Note: to date, we have concentrated on rebuilding our farming infrastructure in order to keep the animals safe and free from wandering and of being nuisance value to neighbouring properties and public roadways.
- **Issue #4: The considerable on-going cost of maintaining and spraying Shire Council land adjoining our properties along both the [REDACTED] Roads.** We have already expended huge costs in purchasing the necessary spray and spray equipment to facilitate meeting this task. However, it is proving to be an on-going issue both in a monetary and man-power sense. Boundary fences are being grown over by weeds, wattles and scrubby trees along the roadsides. As per above: wild regrowth nuisance, including thickets of invasive noxious weeds: blackberries, flea-bane, hen-bane, thistles, Bathurst Burr, Castor Oil Plant, Datura; and fire-emergent native species: Black & Lightwood Wattles, Manuka Ti-Tree, including many gum and eucalypt species.

Mary and Dennis Gilbert

[REDACTED], Buchan, Victoria 3885

Post 2019-2020 Bushfire Recovery Observations and Concerns: Pasture Rehabilitation, Water Infrastructure and Fencing.

- ❖ **Statement of Need; and Request for Immediate Further Release of Federal Government Bushfire Recovery Funds, to Enable Our Recovery as Primary Producers and Small Business Operators.**
-

MEETING OUR CONCERNS AND ISSUES.

PART 1.

Our 'Concerns and Issues' as outlined above, are both considerable and daunting. In meeting these concerns and issues we can see that specific objectives are required to be met in order to return our property back to its pre "Black Summer Bushfires" status.

We have prepared the following list of objectives and costings; based on previous Contractor Invoice costs (paid out by us during 2020).

OBJECTIVE #1

- To clear fire damaged and burnt trees from shelter-belt areas; to clear creek areas including access to low-level creek crossings; to make repairs to vegetation areas including discing steep hillsides where unwanted wild fire-emergent regrowth trees and invasive weeds (Black & Lightwood Wattles, Manuka Ti-Tree, Blackberries, Flea-bane, Bathurst Burr, Castor Oil Plant, Datura) are now growing in incorrect areas in what was once pre-existing pasture land, grazing land, and shelter-belt creek areas. These wild regrowth trees and weeds are also growing along fence-lines which had, post-fires, been cleared and installed with new boundary fences.
- Overall tasks include: Using heavy machinery for clearing, discing, raking, and re-seeding and fertilizing pasture.

➤ **COSTS INVOLVED: HIRE D6 BULLDOZER (Wet Hire)**

- Contractor Costs (previously [REDACTED]):
 - Bulldozer D6 (Wet Hire) Rate: \$203.50 per hr. incl. GST
 - Costing: \$203.50 per hr x 8hr per day x 5 days = \$8140.00 (40 hrs /week)
\$8140.00 x 6 weeks = \$48,840 inc GST
- Pasture Re-seeding: \$6900.00
- TOTAL COSTS: #55,740.00

OBJECTIVE #2

- To dig and repair dams clean of ash-silt build up and post-fire flood-water erosion.
- To repair fence line cuttings below old shearing shed paddock and to facilitate access. These were heavily damaged by erosion with the post-bushfires flooding events and associated ash-ridden run-off.
- To re-seed disturbed earthworks areas to prevent further erosion.
- To re-seed rehabilitated fire-damaged paddocks.

Mary and Dennis Gilbert

[REDACTED], Buchan, Victoria 3885

Post 2019-2020 Bushfire Recovery Observations and Concerns: Pasture Rehabilitation, Water Infrastructure and Fencing.

- ❖ **Statement of Need; and Request for Immediate Further Release of Federal Government Bushfire Recovery Funds, to Enable Our Recovery as Primary Producers and Small Business Operators.**
-

MEETING OUR CONCERNS AND ISSUES. (cont.)

OBJECTIVE #2 (cont.)

- **COSTS INVOLVED: HIRE 20 T EXCAVATOR (Wet Hire)**
 - Contractor Costs (previously [REDACTED]):
 - Excavator 20T (Wet Hire): \$187.00 per hr incl. GST
 - Costing: \$187 per hr x 8hr per day = \$1496.00 per day
\$1496.00 x 48 hours = \$8976.00 inc GST
 - Re-seeding: included as above
 - Total Costs: \$8975.00

OBJECTIVE #3

- Preparation and construction of pre-existing damaged and burnt fences along the boundary fence-line shared with Victoria State Forest as well as internal paddock fencelines. Preparation includes demolition and removal of bushfire damaged fences.
- **COSTS INVOLVED: HIRE 2.5 T EXCAVATOR (Dry Hire)**
 - Contractor Costs (previously "[REDACTED]"):
 - Excavator 2.5T (Dry Hire) with grapple and auger: \$220.00 per day
 - Total Costs: \$220.00 x 45 days = 10,890 GST inc

OBJECTIVE #4

LABOUR

- To include labour for fencing, including chainsaw milling of hardwood for fence posts as well as for supply of fence strainers and maxi posts.
- **COSTS INVOLVED:**
 - Labour Costs: \$55.00 per hr 8 hrs = \$440.00 per day
 - Total Costs: \$440.00 per 45 days = \$19,800.00 GST inc

Mary and Dennis Gilbert

[REDACTED], Buchan, Victoria 3885

Post 2019-2020 Bushfire Recovery Observations and Concerns: Pasture Rehabilitation, Water Infrastructure and Fencing.

❖ Statement of Need; and Request for Immediate Further Release of Federal Government Bushfire Recovery Funds, to Enable Our Recovery as Primary Producers and Small Business Operators.

MEETING OUR CONCERNS AND ISSUES. (cont.)

PART 2.

Request for Further Government Assistance.

- We believe that we have a strong case for requesting further Government monetary assistance in the form of a grant so that we can undertake the work necessary, and as highlighted above, in order to return our property to the pre-2019-2020 Black Summer Bushfire status.
- We believe we are due this assistance as the 2019-2020 Bushfire-resultant damage to our property was a direct result from the wildfires encroaching on to our property from both National and State - owned declared Forests.

As a reminder....

As Primary Producers and Small Business Owners, our losses were catastrophic!

We had been operating since 2004 when we purchased the property at [REDACTED], Buchan.

We lost everything related to Our Farm, and the Farmhouse Accommodation Business, (including all associated Office Computer files, paperwork and business accounting details and records. We have lost our livelihood!

Please note: we do not wish to be encumbered with Government Loans or Government Assisted Loans as this would be considered an added cost to us, and one which we should not be responsible for as we were not responsible for the horrific damages and huge losses which we suffered under this disastrous fire event.

We therefore declare and request, under the circumstances, that immediate Funding Assistance be granted to us so that we can continue forward with the huge physical task of rebuilding our farming property and small business; namely 'Buchan Farmhouse Accommodation'.

... And then, our livelihood!

PART 3

➤ Request for monetary assistance in meeting the costs as outlined above and as summarised here:

• Overall Total Costs:	
HIRE D6 BULLDOZER (Wet Hire)	\$ 48,840.00
HIRE 20 T EXCAVATOR (Wet Hire) Costs:	\$ 8,975.00
HIRE 2.5 T EXCAVATOR (Dry Hire) Costs:	\$10,890.00
LABOUR Costs:	\$19,800.00
PASTURE RE-SEEDING:	\$ 6,900.00
HERBICIDES: per 90 acres: (Grazon, Brush-off, Brush-wet)	\$ 3,260.00

TOTAL COSTS: \$98,665.00 + 15% Contingency Costs = \$113,464.00

NB. All quotes GST inclusive

Mary and Dennis Gilbert

[REDACTED], Buchan, Victoria 3885

Post 2019-2020 Bushfire Recovery Observations and Concerns: Pasture Rehabilitation, Water Infrastructure and Fencing.

- ❖ Statement of Need; and Request for Immediate Further Release of Federal Government Bushfire Recovery Funds, to Enable Our Recovery as Primary Producers and Small Business Operators.

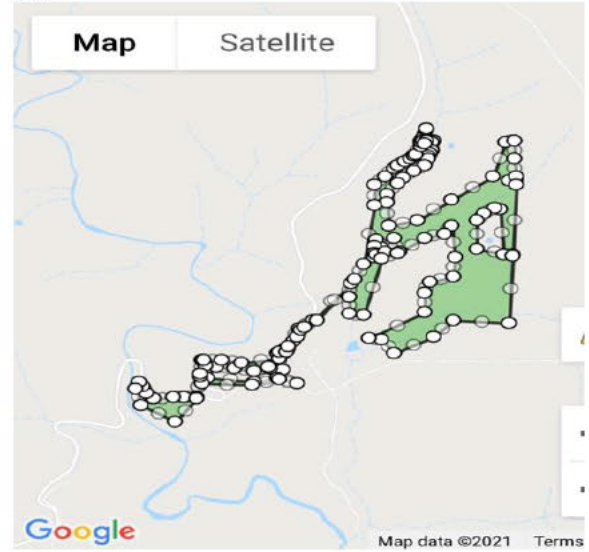
LOCATION MAPS OF OUR AFFECTED FARM AREAS

Google Map 1
Fire-affected area of Properties # [REDACTED], Buchan Victoria 3885.



Google Map 2
Detail of Fire-affected area of Properties [REDACTED], Buchan Victoria 3885. Showing Area in acreage, and perimeter in metres.

Area 352312 meters², 3792254 feet² 87.06 acres 0 miles² 0.352 km²
Perimeter 11469 meters , 37627 feet 7.126 miles 1 km



Post 2019-2020 Bushfire Recovery Observations and Concerns: Pasture Rehabilitation, Water Infrastructure and Fencing.

❖ Statement of Need; and Request for Immediate Further Release of Federal Government Bushfire Recovery Funds, to Enable Our Recovery as Primary Producers and Small Business Operators.

- **Photos depicting Pasture Paddock, Shelter-Belt and Creek areas with bushfire-damaged trees, and vegetation; of invasive weeds, fire-emergent regrowth of native eucalypt species and thickets of wattle growth.**



Post 2019-2020 Bushfire Recovery Observations and Concerns: Pasture Rehabilitation, Water Infrastructure and Fencing.

❖ Statement of Need; and Request for Immediate Further Release of Federal Government Bushfire Recovery Funds, to Enable Our Recovery as Primary Producers and Small Business Operators.

- **Photos depicting Pasture Paddock, Shelter-Belt and Creek areas with bushfire-damaged trees, and vegetation; of invasive weeds, fire-emergent regrowth of native eucalypt species and thickets of wattle growth.**



Post 2019-2020 Bushfire Recovery Observations and Concerns: Pasture Rehabilitation, Water Infrastructure and Fencing.

❖ Statement of Need; and Request for Immediate Further Release of Federal Government Bushfire Recovery Funds, to Enable Our Recovery as Primary Producers and Small Business Operators.

- **Photos depicting Pasture Paddock, Shelter-Belt and Creek areas with bushfire-damaged trees, and vegetation; of invasive weeds, fire-emergent regrowth of native eucalypt species and thickets of wattle growth.**



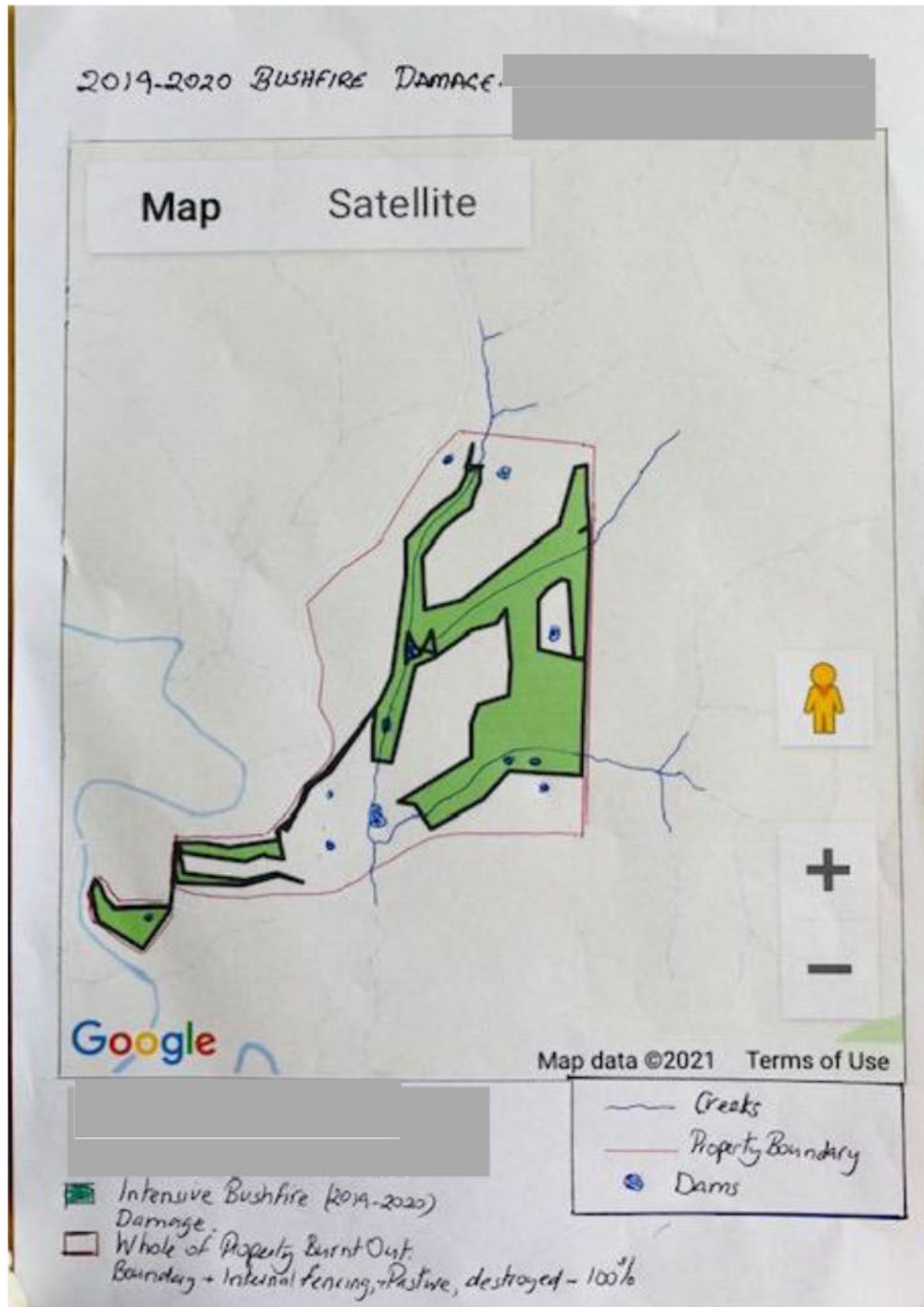
- **Map, detailing our fire-damaged property at [redacted], Buchan.**

Mary and Dennis Gilbert

[Redacted], Buchan, Victoria 3885

Post 2019-2020 Bushfire Recovery Observations and Concerns: Pasture Rehabilitation, Water Infrastructure and Fencing.

- ❖ Statement of Need; and Request for Immediate Further Release of Federal Government Bushfire Recovery Funds, to Enable Our Recovery as Primary Producers and Small Business Operators.
-



Post 2019-2020 Bushfire Recovery Observations and Concerns: Pasture Rehabilitation, Water Infrastructure and Fencing.

❖ Statement of Need; and Request for Immediate Further Release of Federal Government Bushfire Recovery Funds, to Enable Our Recovery as Primary Producers and Small Business Operators.

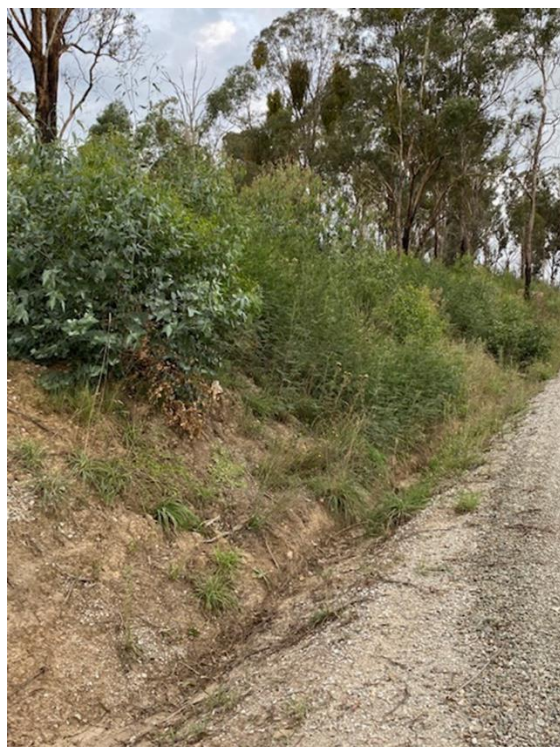
- **Photos depicting State Forest Boundary Fence Line with bushfire-damaged trees, and vegetation; of invasive weeds, fire-emergent regrowth of native eucalypt species and wattle growth.**



Post 2019-2020 Bushfire Recovery Observations and Concerns: Pasture Rehabilitation, Water Infrastructure and Fencing.

❖ Statement of Need; and Request for Immediate Further Release of Federal Government Bushfire Recovery Funds, to Enable Our Recovery as Primary Producers and Small Business Operators.

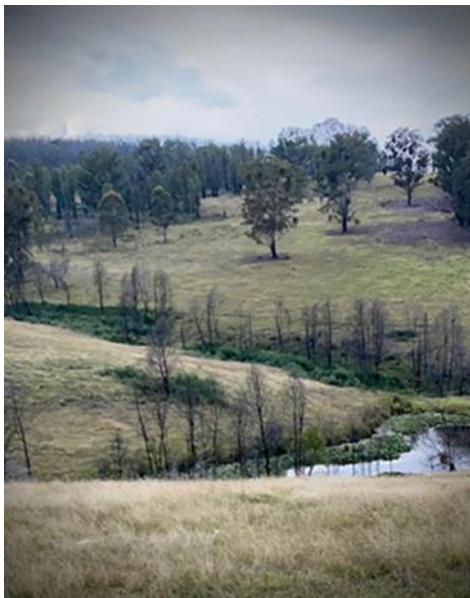
- **Photos depicting Road Reserve with bushfire-damaged trees, and vegetation; of invasive weeds, fire-emergent regrowth of native eucalypt species and wattle growth.**



Post 2019-2020 Bushfire Recovery Observations and Concerns: Pasture Rehabilitation, Water Infrastructure and Fencing.

- ❖ Statement of Need; and Request for Immediate Further Release of Federal Government Bushfire Recovery Funds, to Enable Our Recovery as Primary Producers and Small Business Operators.
-

- Photos depicting Creek Valley Pre- 'Black Summer Bushfire', showing Lush Shelter Belt areas and vegetation; and post- 'Black Summer Bushfire' Shelter Belt area, showing bushfire-damaged trees, and fire-emergent vegetation of invasive weeds, regrowth of native eucalypt species and thickets of wattle growth.



Mary and Dennis Gilbert

[REDACTED], Buchan, Victoria 3885

Post 2019-2020 Bushfire Recovery Observations and Concerns: Pasture Rehabilitation, Water Infrastructure and Fencing.

- ❖ **Statement of Need; and Request for Immediate Further Release of Federal Government Bushfire Recovery Funds, to Enable Our Recovery as Primary Producers and Small Business Operators.**

**Our Current Situation and Statement for Assistance in Rehabilitating Our Farm
Property and Farming Livelihood Post 2019-2020 'Black Summer Bushfire'
Catastrophe, Buchan. East Gippsland.**

Mary & Dennis Gilbert

Buchan Victoria 3885

