Date

Dear [Member Name],

I write to express my concerns about the ongoing challenges faced by vulnerable individuals, families and communities in the bushfire impacted areas of South East NSW. The scale of the 2019/2020 summer bushfire crisis was unprecedented, and the impact on vulnerable communities, particularly those on low income and those living on income support, has been profound.

The recent report [*2019-20 South Eastern NSW Bushfire Crisis Impact, Response and Recovery*](https://communityindustrygroup.org.au/wp-content/uploads/Final-South-Eastern-NSW-Bushfire-Crisis-Report.pdf) found that demand for services which support vulnerable people and communities had increased significantly, and this demand will continue to escalate as a result of job losses and increased financial distress caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

We predict community services will not be able to meet the intensifying demand from impacted people and many will be left behind. We are asking you, as our elected representative, to seek a commitment from the Premier and the Treasurer for additional program funding to meet this demand. In accordance with the *2019-20 South Eastern NSW Bushfire Crisis Impact, Response and Recovery* report, we are seeking an additional $5 million per year for 5 years ($25m) program funding for services which support communities in the bushfire impacted areas of South East NSW.

This investment in additional funding will also stimulate the economy in many hard-hit towns across the South East of NSW by enabling community organisations to employ up to 50 additional staff members, and will provide around 1400 additional hours of direct service delivery every week.

When re-elected in April 2019, the NSW Government identified that there was a need for “breaking the cycle of intergenerational disadvantage by fixing problems that have been in the too-hard basket for too long”. We seek your support now to help us enact long-term and sustainable strategies which will enable these community members to get back on their feet and experience stability, improved health and wellbeing and greater participation in the community.

Yours sincerely,

Name

Position

Contact details