

## **MISSION RAINWATER INSTALLING DOZENS OF WATER TANKS FOR EAST GIPPSLAND BUSHFIRE-AFFECTED COMMUNITIES**

Families still recovering from the Black Summer bushfires across East Gippsland are once again connected to household water thanks to generous donations coordinated by national online charity [GIVIT](#) and a tradesmen-led project dubbed 'Mission Rainwater'.

The collaborative project started by Tradies for Fire Affected Communities (TTFAC) has delivered and installed water tanks first in Upper Murray communities, and now East Gippsland. GIVIT helped coordinate and fund the project thanks to donations through their [Victoria Bushfires Appeal](#)'.

Other vital members of 'Mission Rainwater' include Anglicare, Deloitte, Bushfire Recovery Victoria, Equity Trustees, Towong Shire and East Gippsland Shire Council.

GIVIT Engagement Officer, Lisa Herbert, said the feedback from people receiving a water tank had been humbling, and demonstrated the challenges communities are facing to access clean water.

"Some people rely on creek water for their home. But, after the bushfires and subsequent heavy rain, those creeks were contaminated with debris and ash, meaning they didn't have enough clean water to even brush their teeth," said Ms Herbert.

"Many were driving long distances to the nearest town regularly to fill containers of water, while others set up make-do catchments with tarps and wading pools to catch rain.

"One recipient at Clifton Creek said her tank has 'made all the difference to her world'. She no longer has to lug heavy water containers, and now has the ability to have a decent shower."

TTFAC representative, Dwayne Heath, said their teams of local plumbers are amazed by the impact each water tank has on residents who are enduring an extremely tough year.

GIVIT Victorian Manager, Solange Ardiles, said the charity's key focus is to continue to engage their network of donors to ensure no resident or bushfire-affected community is forgotten.

"From Corryong to Buchan, Wangarabell to Mallacoota and the dozens of bushfire-affected communities across eastern Victoria, donations from generous Australians and businesses have allowed GIVIT to provide exactly what's needed by struggling communities," said Ms Ardiles.

GIVIT has coordinated more than 75,000 items to support VIC communities still rebuilding, including winter clothing and tools to grocery vouchers and generators for residents who cannot afford everyday items due to the financial impact of the bushfires and now COVID-19.



100% of donated funds GIVIT receives are used to purchase items for people in need. To donate or find more information about GIVIT's Victoria Bushfires Appeal, visit [GIVIT.org.au/victoria-bushfires](https://givit.org.au/victoria-bushfires).

Almost a year on from the catastrophic bushfires, Ms Ardiles has prioritised the need to collaborate with bushfire recovery support networks as well as State and Federal governments to help communities repair, recover and prepare for the next bushfire season.

Ms Ardiles also urged local charities and community groups to register with GIVIT to access and request items for free to help those in need due to bushfires and the impact of COVID-19.

GIVIT is free, private and easy to use, and currently supports over 3,700 charities across Australia. If you are a local charity or service, please register at [GIVIT.org.au/need-help/organisations](https://givit.org.au/need-help/organisations).

***For more information or to arrange an interview please contact  
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#### **About GIVIT**

GIVIT is the smart way to give. Through [GIVIT.org.au](https://givit.org.au), we channel generosity where it is needed to support vulnerable people and communities in Australia. Working with more than 3,700 support organisations, we ensure people get what they need when they need it most – whether recovering from a disaster event, or experiencing hardship due to circumstances such as drought, domestic and family violence, homelessness, disability, and mental health.

GIVIT captures all offers of goods and services online, removing the need for charities and services to sort, store and dispose of unsolicited donations, saving valuable resources. 100% of donated funds received by GIVIT to support people in need are used to purchase essential items. We buy locally, wherever possible, to support local businesses. GIVIT's operational costs are covered by government contracts and our amazing corporate partners.

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