



National
Landcare
Conference

CLIMATE IMPACTS & RESPONSES



The Role of Landcare in Fire Recovery

Preparing for natural disasters

Andrea Mason



Leigh Catchment Group



Fire in Australia

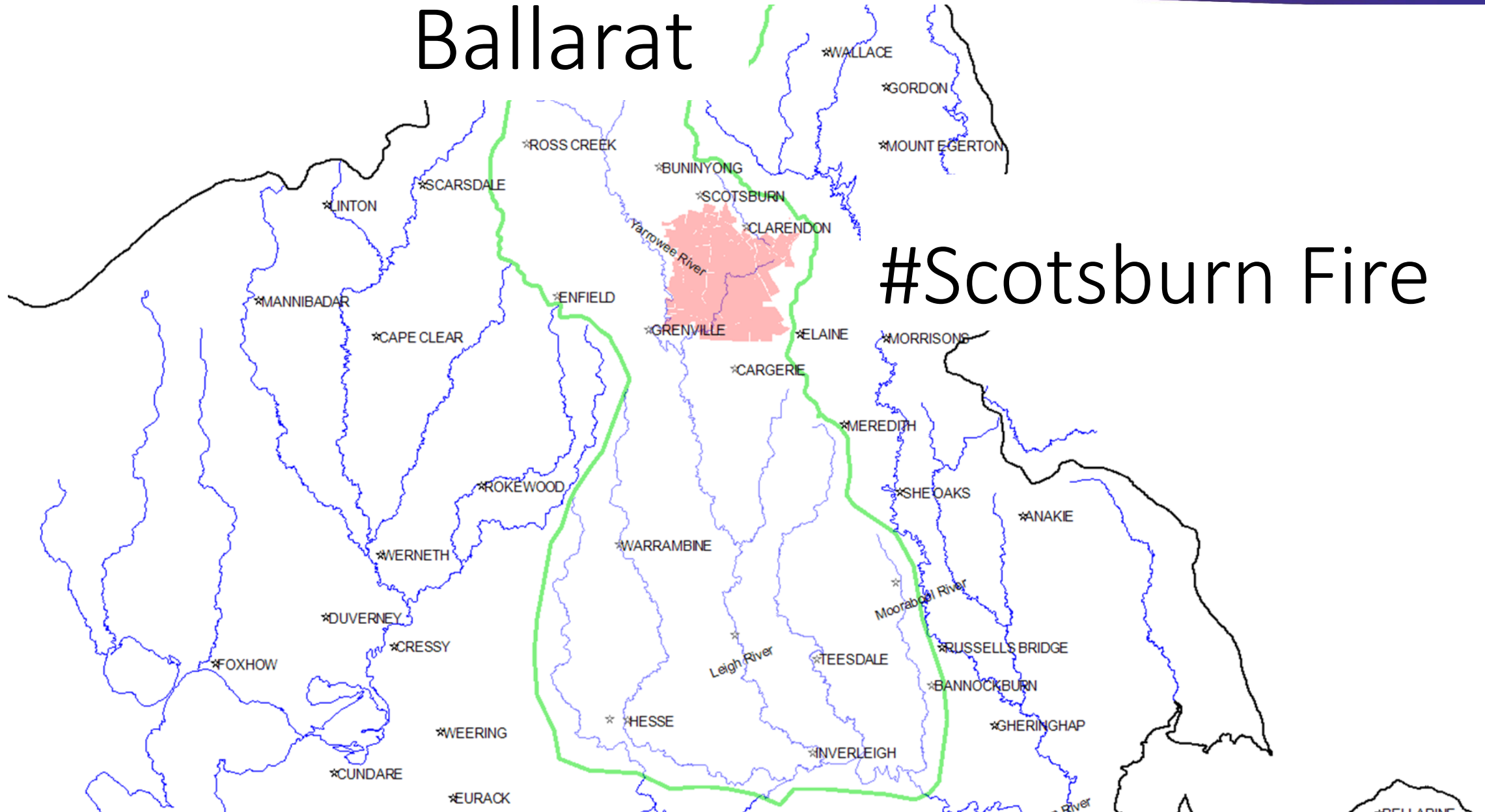
We've always lived with it
but now it's faster and
more ferocious and
shows no mercy...



Emergency Responses

- Victorian experience
- Cyclones → flood → fire → drought
- Prepare, Respond, Recover
- This is about recovery because we hadn't done the first 2 and we should have!!
- Since the terrible fires of the last 10 years, emergency responses have become more organised but Landcare has lost its place in the process – this is a story of how we have re-established our role in disaster management.

Ballarat



Impact on assets

- 4570 hectare fire zone
- 91 landowners affected across Scotsburn, Clarendon, Durham Lead
- 12 houses destroyed
- 74 outbuildings lost, fencing, machinery
- 55 water tanks affected
- 4136 animals destroyed
- 153ha of grazing pasture land lost
- 10ha hardwood plantation lost

**Fortunately
NO LIVES LOST**

What's missing?

Impact statements on
private natural
environment assets
including
Landcare projects





Fire response

State recovery coordination

Emergency Management Victoria

Social environment

Department of Health and Human Services

Built environment

Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources

Economic environment

Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources

Natural environment

Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning

Agricultural environment

Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources

So...after the smoke clears



Get on the phone!!

Lead Recovery Organisation (Council)

Catchment Management Authority

Regional Landcare Coordinator

Regional Landcare Facilitator

Government Agencies (DEWLP, Ag Services)

Other Landcare friends

BlazeAid, Need for Feed Disaster Relief, VFF

And get yourself on the recovery sub committees!



Focus on the Landcare issues

- **Community**
- **Vegetation**
- **Soil**
- **Water Quality**
- **Fencing**
- **Fauna**
- **Weeds**
- **Pastures**
- **Pest Animals**

There are others doing the rest

Advocate for all the issues

Natural Environment

- Initially focussed on public land fire line, private land fire line, animal welfare, cultural heritage, flora and fauna EPBC, waterways and roadside vegetation
- NO provision for PRIVATE LAND rehabilitation or risks
- Leigh Catchment Group had to request representation via CMA
- Subsequent addition of Landcare and environmental projects to actions

Advocate for all the issues

Economic Environment

- Leigh Catchment Group gained representation
- Weeds sit here – not in the Natural Environment sub-committee!
- Only Weeds of National Significance e.g. Serrated Tussock
- Subsequent addition of potential impacts of weed infestation on private land

What Landcare has to offer

- Initial support for communities
- Clear understanding of the impact to local natural environment
- A point of contact for the Recovery team
- Coordinated approach to extension
- Conduit and buffer between agency staff and the community for property access

What you need

- Good relationships with your local agencies
- An understanding of the Emergency Response in your state
- An action plan for immediate response post disaster
- Identified key people with the capacity to represent Landcare/natural environment on response subcommittees
- Ability to assess the damage and prepare risk/loss statements
- RESERVE FUNDS for immediate support (CMA???)

The Benefits

- Your priorities are tabled in the overall Recovery Plan
- You have an established and recognised plan for action
- The Recovery process will take years – so you will be pulling together projects and funding applications for years
- Get it right – and you will get funding
- Get it right and you can make a difference.

The Result

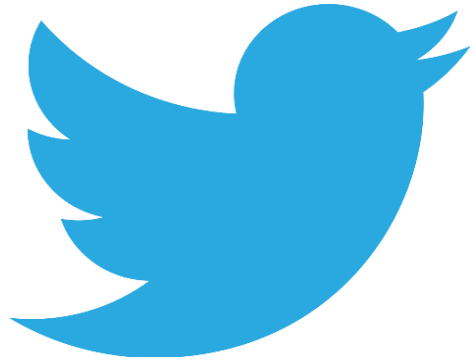
September, 2, 2016

Minister for Emergency Services James Merlino today announced the Labor Government will provide \$624,000 to the Corangamite Catchment Management Authority to restore and revegetate bushfire affected areas.

The CCMA will work alongside the community and farmers to deliver this.

A BIG thank you!!

- Tracey McRae (Corangamite Regional Landcare Coordinator)
- Gareth Smith (CEO, Corangamite CMA)
- Tony Kubeil (Goulburn Broken Regional Landcare Coordinator)
- Chris Cobern (Upper Goulburn Landcare Network Coordinator)
- Craig Whiteford (DELWP)
- Phil Franklin (DEDTJAR)
- Nick McKinley (Leigh Catchment Group, Fire Recovery Coordinator)



@leighcatchgroup



leighcatchmentgroup.org



@LeighCatchmentGroup



Leigh Catchment Group

 0455 147 398