

The Australian Jewish Community expresses its solidarity with the State of Israel and its sympathy and support to the victims of the terrible fires that have caused Israel's worst natural disaster ever.

We are grateful to the Government of Australia and the many people who have already contributed to the various appeals that have been made for assistance but much more is needed as the effects of this devastating tragedy continue to unfold.

The community is urged to support the appeals that have been instituted by various organisations and in particular to note that the JNF, as the organisation most concerned with forests in Israel, has been asked by the Israeli government to play the lead role for the purposes of fundraising for this emergency.

Whilst immediate aid is necessary in order to contain the current situation, as with the Australian bushfire experience, it is also vital to ensure that appropriate equipment and measures are in place for the future.

Contributions to the Emergency Fire Appeal in favour of the JNF Environment Gift Fund are fully tax deductible and may be made through JNF offices in Australia or by visiting www.jnf.org.au/emergencyfire

