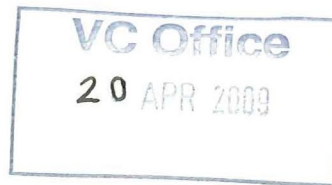




Premier of Victoria



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**Professor Alan Pettigrew
Vice-Chancellor and CEO
University of New England
Armidale NSW 2351**

Dear Professor Pettigrew

**CONDOLENCES FOR THE VICTIMS OF THE 2009 VICTORIAN BUSHFIRE
CRISIS**

On behalf of the Government and people of Victoria I would like to convey my sincere thanks for your letter of 16 March 2009, expressing your condolences in relation to the 2009 Victorian Bushfires.

The loss of so many lives is devastating to all Victorians. The Government is doing its utmost to meet the needs of those affected. A wide range of financial, accommodation, personal, medical, psychological and other support has been made available, and every effort will be made to assist communities to recover.

In this difficult time I am comforted by the outpouring of generosity and support that has accompanied such a terrible disaster, and as we begin the huge task of rebuilding I continue to stand in awe of the strength and resilience of the Australian spirit. Your letter will be retained as part of the Official Condolence Books to remember the victims of this devastating tragedy.

Yours sincerely

**HON JOHN BRUMBY MP
Premier of Victoria**

12 / 4 / 2009