

Progressing Towards Disaster Preparedness in Gippsland, Victoria



An Anglicare
Victoria
Program in
partnership
with the local
community

Acknowledgement of Country

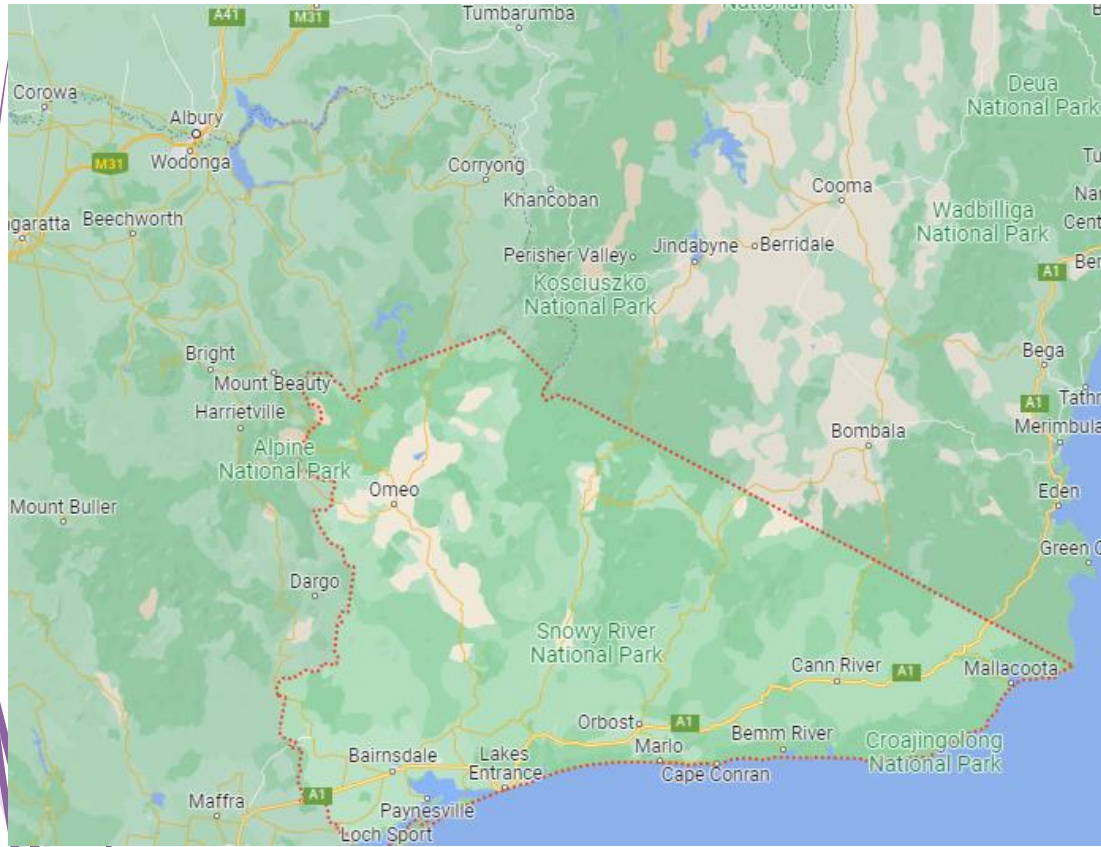
Gippsland Community Legal Service acknowledges the Traditional custodians of the land, their diversity histories, knowledge and their continuing connections to land, water and community. We respectfully acknowledge their Elders, past and present.



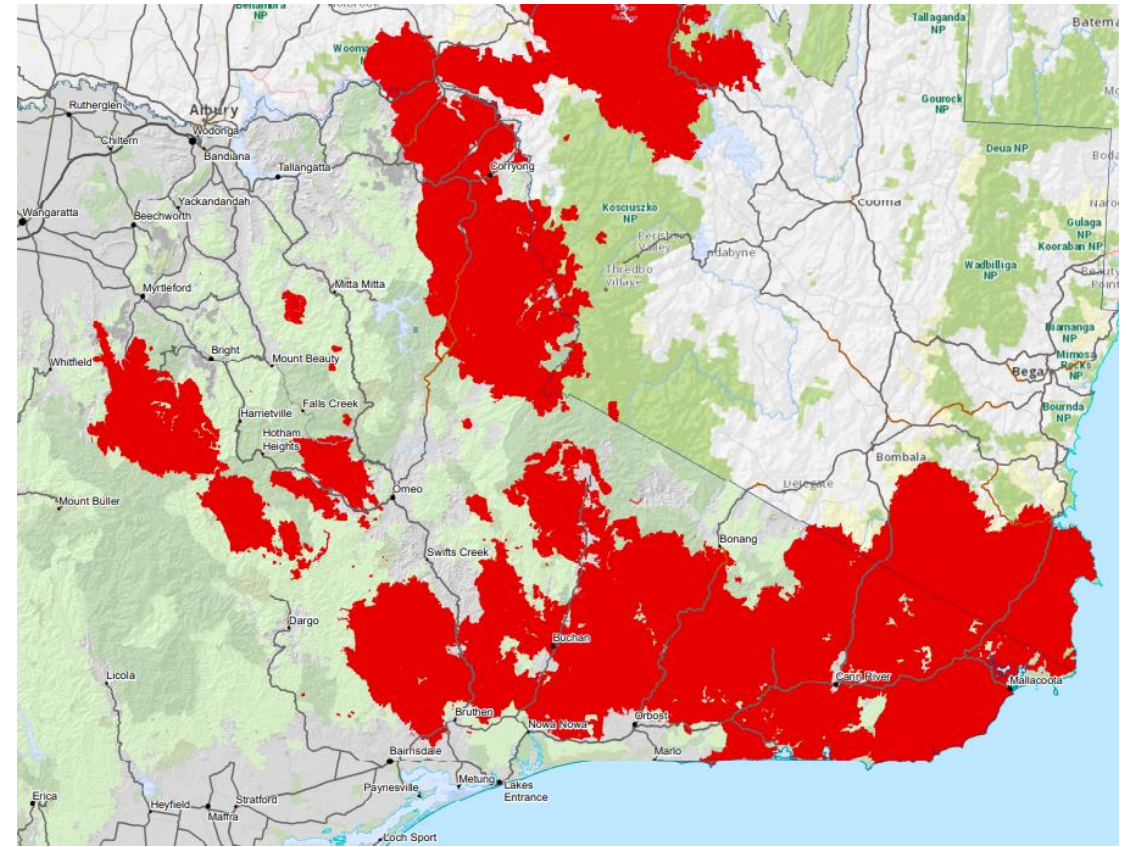
Recent Disasters in Gippsland

2019/2020	Black Summer Bushfires
Jun 2021	Floods
Jul 2021	Earthquake
Oct 2022	Floods
Oct 2023	Fires, Floods, Storms & an Earthquake

Black Summer Bushfires in East Gippsland



20,940 square kilometres



8,700 square kilometres









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Emergency Recovery Victoria Expectation

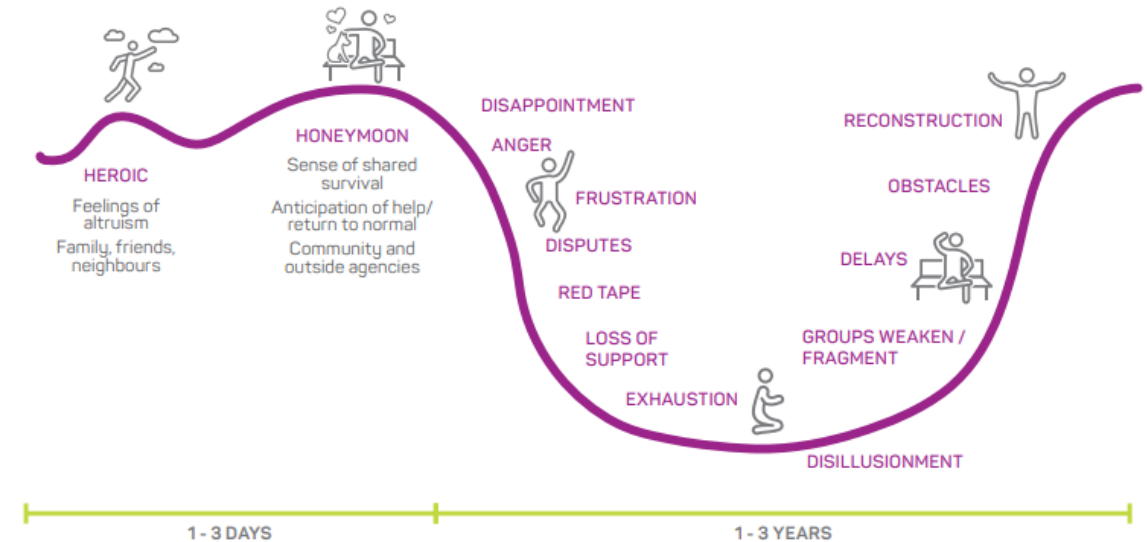
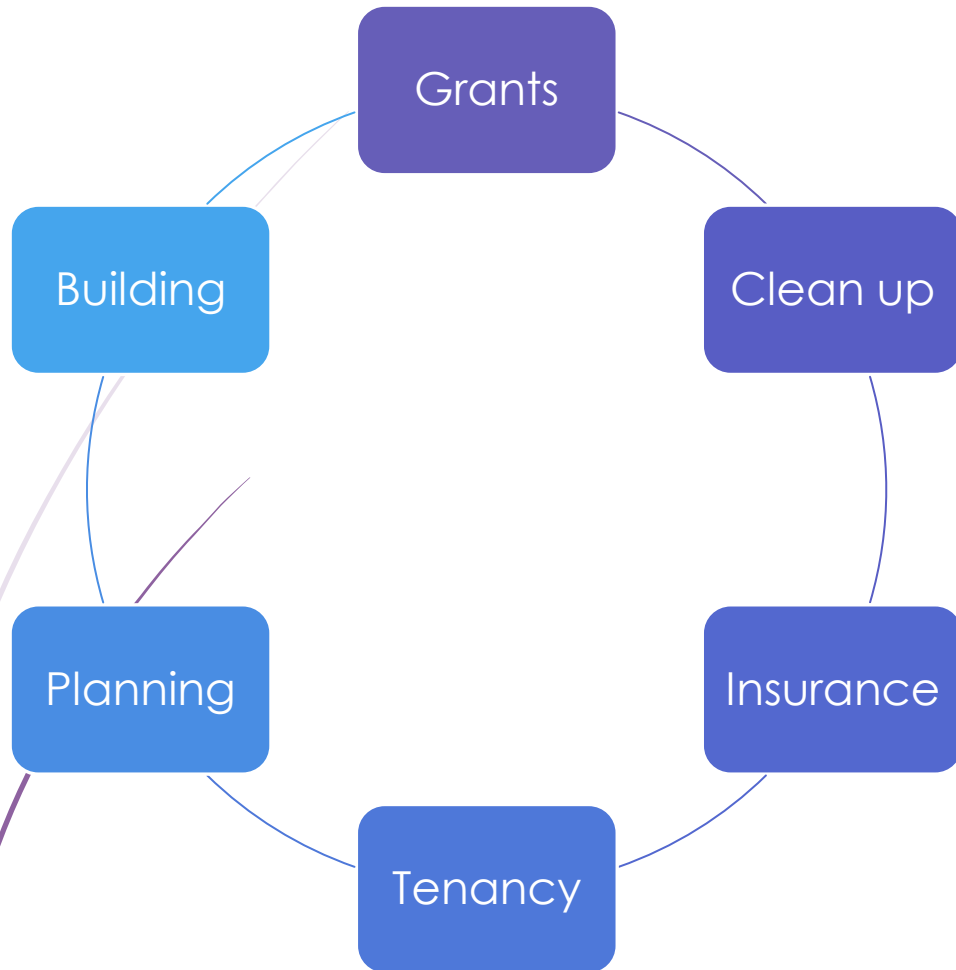
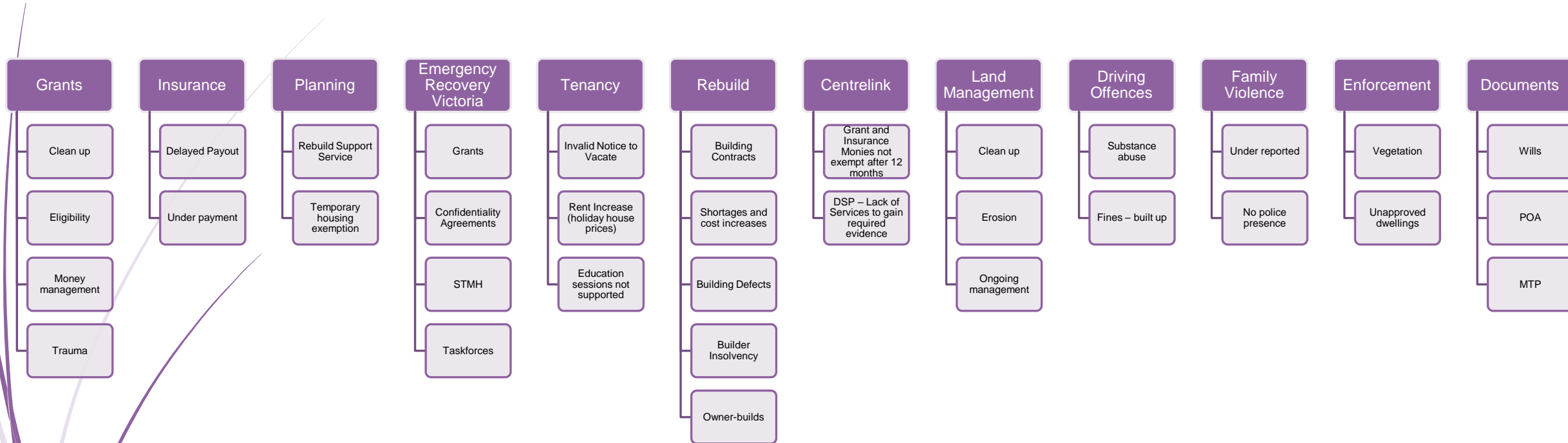


Figure 4 Different phases that individuals and communities might experience post disaster
Adapted from Cohen and Ahearn 1980 and DeWolfe 2000

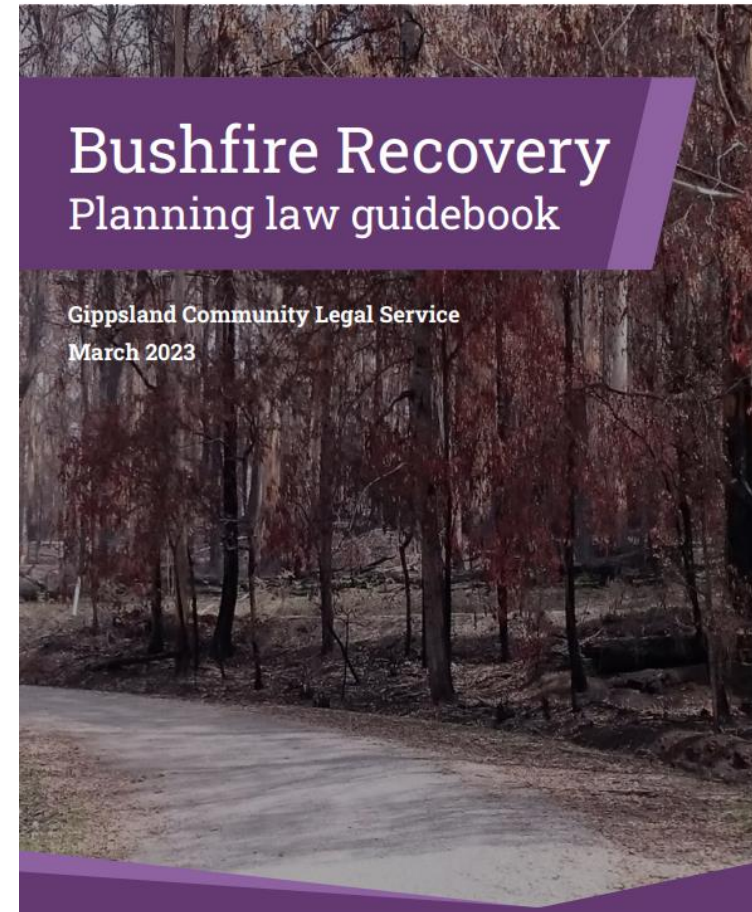
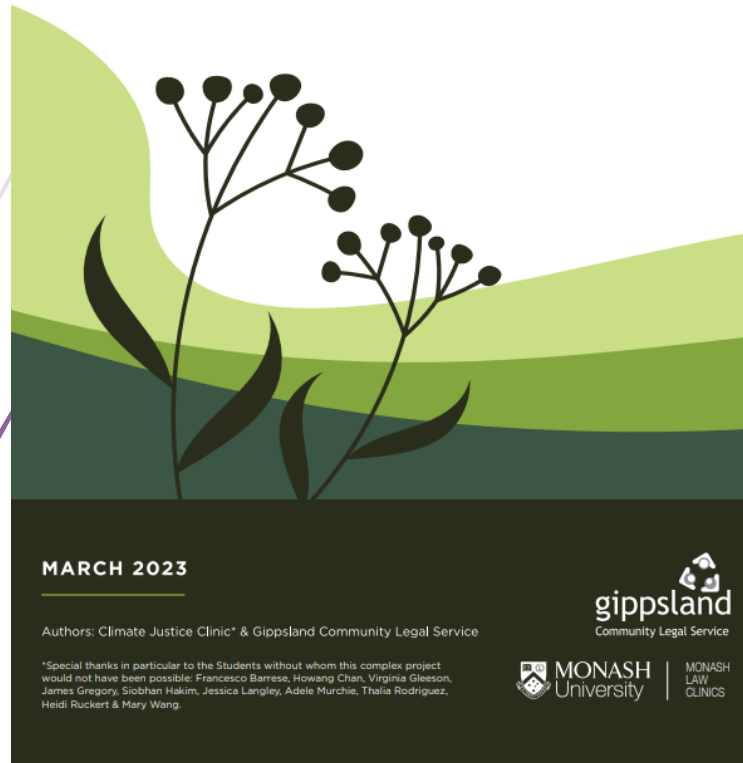
East Gippsland Recovery Reality



Our Resources



GUIDEBOOK TO
**PUBLIC LAND MANAGEMENT
IN VICTORIA**



Why Our Work is Important

Public Understanding of Law Survey by the Victoria Law Foundation:

People affected by the Black Summer Bushfires were more likely to have legal problems and had:

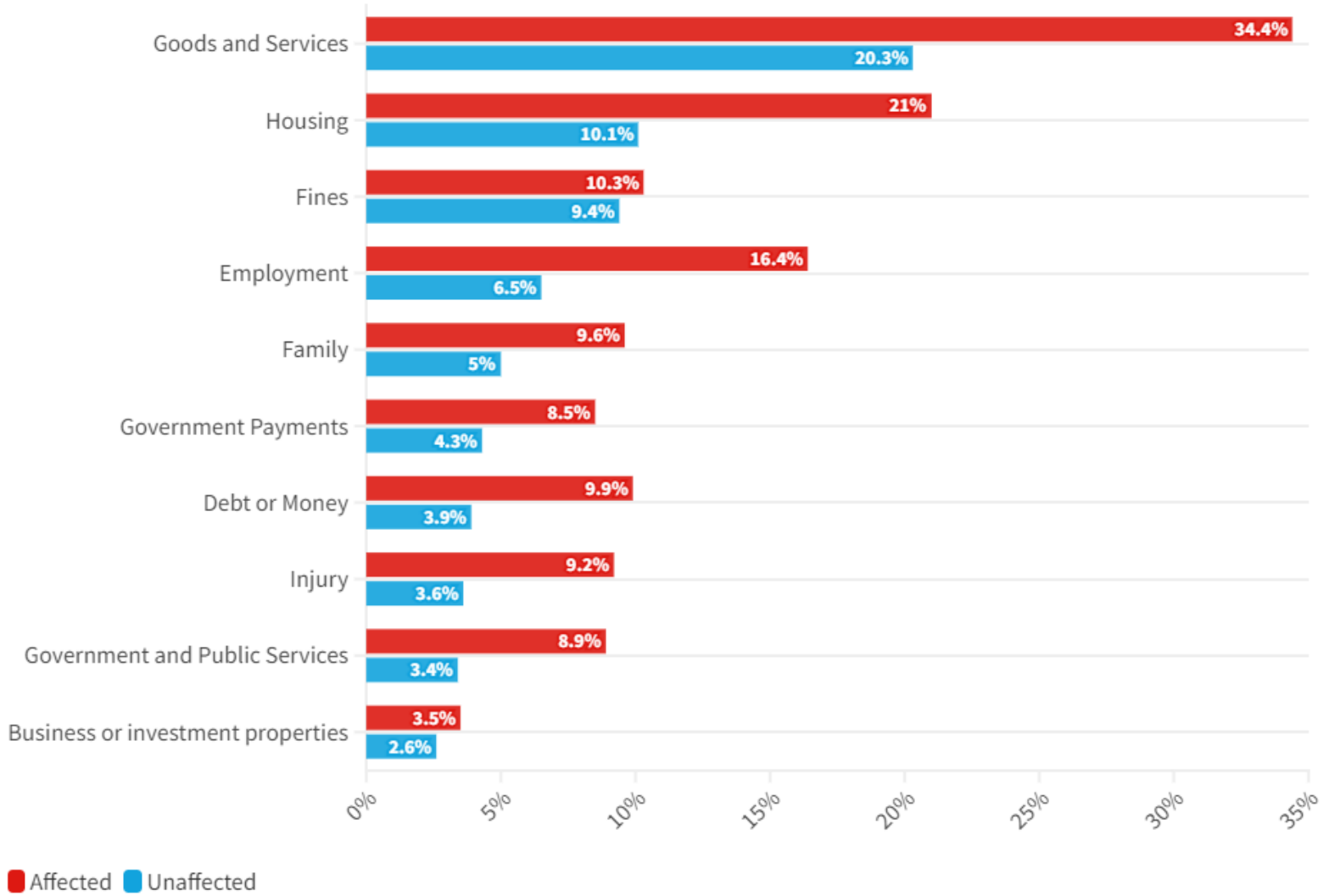
- More problems of all types
- Longer problems
- More severe problems
- Greater use of legal and non-legal services

BUT people affected by the Black Summer Bushfires rarely linked their problem to the bushfires.

<https://puls.victorialawfoundation.org.au/publications/everyday-problems-and-legal-need>

Broad justiciable problem types reported by those affected and those unaffected by the 2019- 2020 bushfires

Problem type



Towards Preparedness

“GCLS considers the existing distinction between disaster preparedness and disaster recovery legal services as arbitrary and disconnected from the reality of the experiences of our communities. There is no point recovering from a disaster if you are not building that recovery around an expectation that you will be better prepared for the next disaster. In Gippsland, the reality is that the next disaster is always coming.”

Preparing for the Legal Impacts of Climate Disasters in Gippsland

Two disaster preparedness lawyers for two years

Integration

- Drive integration of legal services into existing climate preparedness frameworks across Gippsland
- Build and maintain functional relationships with disaster preparedness stakeholders prior to disasters occurring
- Build and maintain relationships with communities prior to disasters occurring to overcome trust barriers to service provision

Direct client service provision

- Provision of preparedness legal advice and casework directly to clients

Community service provision

- Community legal education, with a focus on translating sessions into actions

Sector Development

- Develop resources for communities and the wider legal sector to increase the capacity of services to undertake complex work related to climate disasters

Gippsland Community Legal Service

1800 004 402

gcls.org.au

Bairnsdale | Leongatha | Morwell | Warragul | Wonthaggi

Advice | Casework | Outreach
Family Violence & Family Law Duty Lawyers
Disaster Preparedness and Recovery
Legal Education | Law Reform