

NOTICE OF PROPOSED SETTLEMENT

MURRINDINDI BUSHFIRE CLASS ACTION

Persons who suffered loss or damage as a result of the Murrindindi Bushfire on Black Saturday, 7 February 2009 should **TAKE NOTICE** of a **PROPOSED SETTLEMENT** of the "Murrindindi Bushfire Class Action" (the class action) in the Supreme Court of Victoria.

If you are, or think you might be, a person who suffered loss or damage as a result of the Murrindindi Bushfire, you should **READ THIS NOTICE CAREFULLY** as it may affect your rights.

On 6 February 2015, the plaintiff and the defendants agreed upon terms for a settlement of the class action which include the defendants paying the sum of \$300,000,000 inclusive of legal costs without admission of liability.

You can find out more about the proposed settlement by reading the Information Sheet at www.mauriceblackburn.com.au/media/2636/murrindindi_info_sheet_feb_2015.pdf. All group members are encouraged to read the proposed settlement.

What group members must do

The plaintiff is applying to the Court for approval of the proposed settlement, so that it can take legal effect. The application will be heard in Court 6 at 223 William Street, Melbourne at 10.30 am on 13 and 14 May 2015.

If you are a registered group member and you do **not** wish to oppose the settlement, you do not need to do anything. If the settlement is approved, you will be contacted by the plaintiff's solicitors about the steps you will need to take.

If you are a group member and you wish to **object** to the settlement, you must notify the Court of your intention and the basis of your objection. The notice of objection is attached to the Information Sheet (Attachment 1). You must file the notice by 4.00 pm on 1 May 2015 and you should attend the settlement approval hearing on 13 and 14 May 2015 to put your reasons why you object to the settlement of the class action to the Court. You should also be ready at that hearing to tell the Court whether you are willing to replace Katherine Rowe as the plaintiff in the class action if the settlement is not approved and the case is to proceed to trial. If you are unable to attend the hearing but wish to object to the settlement, you must set out the reasons for your objection in as much detail as possible when completing the notice of objection. Your written objection will be considered by the Court.

If you are not already a registered group member

If you have not registered as a participating group member and have suffered loss or damage as a result of the Murrindindi Bushfire, any claim of yours is excluded from the settlement by reason of class closure orders made previously by the Court. However, you may be able to apply under the Settlement Scheme for approval to participate in the settlement.

Please read the above information and that in the Information Sheet carefully. If you are not sure whether you are a group member, or if you want further information, you can contact Maurice Blackburn Lawyers on 1800 182 645 or murrindindica@mauriceblackburn.com.au or seek your own independent legal advice.