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Media release

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Beach donates fencing equipment to help March bushfire recovery

Beach Energy, operator of the Otway Gas Plant, has donated \$20,000 to BlazeAid to help communities to recover from the bushfire that devastated south west Victoria on 17 March.

The donation includes a new post hole digger and fencing materials which will assist farming communities around Cobden to rebuild their fences, many of which suffered extensive damage during the bushfire.

A new Munro auto-digger with two additional augers will be based at the BlazeAid depot in Terang, and is able to be deployed across the Victoria where required.

Beach Energy CEO Matt Kay said "We know that the physical damage caused by bushfires can have significant and lasting effects on the wellbeing of local communities and local dairy farmers have been doing it tough for a while now."

"We appreciate what BlazeAid do and know that this new fencing equipment will contribute to the recovery effort and help farmers get back on their feet quicker.

"Our Beach Energy staff are also members of the local community, and several of the workers at the Otway Gas Plant and their families were directly involved in rescue efforts during the fires."

BlazeAid President Kevin Butler said the recovery efforts will be ongoing for some time yet.

"Our volunteers have really put the hours in and covered a lot of ground - but we've still got at least a couple of months to go around Cobden," Mr Butler said.

"So Beach's \$20,000 donation including the post-hole digger will really help our volunteers get through the job much quicker."

Beach Energy, who recently purchased the Otway Gas Plant from Origin Energy, is an ASX listed, oil and gas, exploration and production company headquartered in Adelaide, South Australia.

For further information contact Linda French, Community Relations Manager (Vic) 0448 236 121