



Angus Taylor

LIBERAL FOR HUME

ANGUS TAYLOR VISITS DEVASTATED JUGIONG PROPERTY

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Angus Taylor, the Liberal Candidate for Hume, today visited historic Bogolara Station near Jugiong which was last night caught in the path of the Cobblers Road Fire in the Harden/Jugiong district. All but 800 acres of Bogolara were burned, leaving over 4000 acres devastated by yesterday's fire.

Bogolara Manager Nick Andersen, along with other firefighters and volunteers managed to save the homes and gardens. Pasture, fences, sheds and stock were badly damaged or wiped out by yesterday's fire.

Mr Taylor said:

"What I witnessed today was just incredible.

"Of course, the unbelievable thing is that houses are still standing and no lives were lost. And for that we can thank the amazing local brigades and volunteers.

"But today, when the mop up began, and the cost is starting to be counted, it was impossible not to be shocked yet again by the sheer destructiveness of a major fire. The whole area was like a war zone

"I have grown up with bush fires. I have seen many before, and I will likely see many again. But nothing ever quite prepares you for the loss and impact of a fire of this magnitude – which has taken out a number of very significant farming operation.

"On the tail of many years of drought with only recent recovery, this is incredibly tough for farmers in the area

When Mr Taylor was at Bogolara today the local LHPA were inspecting stock – while some survived, many are lost of will need to be put down. Fortunately, at Bogolara the children's two ponies were avoided the fire by finding shelter in the front paddock near a road.

Mr Taylor said:

"Today, the Andersons were exhausted. Nick had been up all night fighting the fire. Caroline had returned to her home from which she had fled the evening before after picking up some personal belongings. So you can imagine that there was a lot of classic country stoicism, and gratitude for the big things and some smaller things too: that everyone was safe, that the home and garden were still standing, and that the kids' ponies had come through unscathed. Naturally, they were incredibly grateful for the help that they had had from the firies, friends and volunteers.

“But when they wake up tomorrow and the drama starts to recede, Bogolara will have to count the cost of finding feed, replacing stock, replacing strainer posts and fences across the property, the list goes on.

“I think it’s important that we commend everyone who is helping to harness these fires all around the state.

“It’s also important to remember that although so far there’s been a remarkable record in terms of saving lives and homes, the magnitude of property and stock losses is devastating.”

Please call Angus Taylor on 0413 963 113 if there are any queries.