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## **Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of Australia activates to deal with devastation from wildfires**



The Greek Orthodox Archdiocese and Orthodox faithful have stepped up efforts to collect and distribute aid towards wildfire-stricken residents in southeast Australia. In an interview with the Athens weekly “To Vima”, the Archbishop of Australia, His Eminence Makarios, referred to a dramatic situation by many of the island continent’s residents.

His Eminence has toured many of the devastated areas, speaking with firefighters and volunteers, and expressing the Church’s support and solidarity to emergency crews.

Among others, firefighters battled the flames and prevented the destruction of the Orthodox monastery of Pantanassa, in New South Wales.

In the interview, the Archbishop notes that “... during these dramatic hours, when Australian society is sorely tested by a great disaster, our Archdiocese has directed all of its forces, material and spiritual, towards relief of those affected by the wildfires, and in ending this blazing nightmare, which continues to threaten people, animals and property.”