The Victorian and Commonwealth governments are supporting landholders impacted by recent fires across Victoria. For support with animal welfare assistance or the latest emergency information, call the Vic Emergency Hotline on 1800 226 226.

For more information on bushfire recovery, please contact:

**Bushfire Recovery Victoria:**
- 1800 560 760

**Agriculture Victoria:**
- 136 186

**Regional Agriculture Recovery Managers:**
- North East – 0428 975 728
- Gippsland Recovery – (03) 5159 5118

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**SUPPORT FOR PRIMARY PRODUCERS**

**Meat & Livestock Australia’s Back to Business Program**

Allows producers in fire-affected regions to access up to three free one-on-one sessions with a local farm business consultant to help put their business back on track.

The Back to Business program in Victoria is being coordinated by Agriculture Victoria.

For more information:
- Email MLA: backtobusiness@mla.com.au
- visit https://bit.ly/33bAI8a
- phone Lyndon Kubell, Agriculture Victoria – (03) 5761 1649

**Small Business Bushfire Recovery Grants (Commonwealth/State Support)**

Grants of up to $50,000 are available for small businesses and non-profit organisations (who are not primary producers) that have suffered direct damage as a result of bushfire. Grants are to help pay for costs of clean-up and reinstatement of eligible small businesses.

For further information call Victorian Chamber of Commerce and Industry
- 03 8662 5160
- visit www.victorianchamber.com.au/bushfires

**Small Business Bushfire Support Grant (Commonwealth/State support)**

Grants of up to $10,000 to support small businesses (including primary producers) significantly affected by the 2019-20 bushfires to recover and rebuild resilient businesses.

Eligible activities include meeting standard business costs, seeking financial advice, adjusting the business to be viable in the changed local context following bushfire and improvements to make the business more resilient to future disasters.

Available to eligible small businesses in the local government areas of East Gippsland, Towong and Alpine who have suffered a decline in revenue of 40 per cent or more in a relevant three-month period.

Businesses can apply for this grant in addition to other bushfire grants.

For further information call Rural Finance
- 1800 260 425 or

**Emergency Bushfire Response in Primary Industries Grants**

Grants of up to $75,000 per business to assist primary producers directly affected by the 2019-20 bushfires.

Eligible activities include disposing of dead stock and rebuilding or replacing damaged or destroyed on-farm infrastructure, including fencing.

The grants are available in eligible fire affected local government areas across Victoria.

For further information call Rural Finance
- 1800 260 425 or
Victorian Bushfire Concessional Loans

Concessional loans of up to $500,000 are available to assist primary producers, small business and non-profit organisations that have suffered significant damage to their assets and/or significant loss of income due to the 2019-20 Victorian bushfires.

The loans are for the purposes of restoring and/or replacing damaged assets and/or to meet working capital expenses.

For more information call Rural Finance on

- 1800 260 425 or

Emergency Transport Support Program: Primary Producers

Fire-affected primary producers (including apiarists) can claim up to $15,000 to support:

- emergency fodder to fire affected properties
- stock to agistment (including return), sale, or slaughter
- emergency stock drinking water.

Up to 50% of costs can be claimed for a maximum of 1500 kilometres per movement, or a maximum of 500 kilometres for water movement.

For further information call Rural Finance on

- 1800 260 425 or

Available in eligible fire affected local government areas across Victoria.

Rural Financial Counselling Service (RFCS)

RFCS provides free financial counselling to farmers and small related businesses who are in, or at risk of, financial hardship. They can also assist with filling in forms.

Call the Rural Financial Counselling Service

- 1800 686 175 (toll free) or
- Western RFCS: 1300 735 578
- Eastern RFCS: 1300 045 747
- North East RFCS: 1300 834 775
- North West RFCS: 1300 769 489

Bushfire Clean-up Program

Registration is open for the 2020 Clean-Up Program which is being delivered by Grocon on behalf of the Victorian Government.

The program covers costs associated with the demolition and disposal of all buildings destroyed or damaged beyond repair by the 2019-2020 bushfires.

For more information and to register for the clean-up - Bushfire Recovery Victoria

- 1800 560 760
- Email: BushFireRecoveryVictoria@dpc.vic.gov.au

Animal welfare, technical and decision-making support for managing livestock after a bushfire

Agriculture Victoria provides technical and decision-making support for managing livestock, property, domestic animals and pets before and after fires.

Topics include: Stock containment areas, feed budgeting and water quality.

Agriculture Victoria

- 136 186

Emergency livestock water

Emergency stock drinking water may be accessed from Emergency Water Supply Points within your region.

Contact your council or local water authority for further information.

Southern Rural Water

- srw.com.au/east-gippsland-fires

East Gippsland Shire

- 1300 555 886

North East Agriculture Victoria Recovery

- 0428 975 728
**FIRE DAMAGED AGRICULTURAL FENCING**

**Farm fencing adjoining State and National parks and State forests**

For fire damaged fences between private land and National Parks, State Parks or State forests, the Victorian Government will contribute 50 per cent of repair costs.

*Where land holders wish to upgrade these fences to exclude pests such as wild dogs or to fire-resistant fencing the government will pay half the cost up to $5 per metre.*

**Farm fencing destroyed by firefighting activities**

The Victorian Government will pay 100 per cent of the restoration costs for fences on private land that have been damaged through fire control and suppression measures by fire agencies and their staff.

For more information contact the DELWP Contact Centre.

**Other fencing support**

**BlazeAid** can provide in-kind assistance for re-establishing fences for all types of livestock.

For more information contact the DELWP Contact Centre

- 136 186, 8am to 8pm, Monday to Friday

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**WINE GRAPE INDUSTRY ASSISTANCE**

The Victorian Government will provide a rebate to growers for smoke impact testing of wine grape, grape juice and wine samples submitted for laboratory analysis between 1 January 2020 and 30 April 2020.

The Technical Support Package, delivered by Wine Victoria, provides winemakers and growers access to technical advice to help manage any effects of smoke exposure in their wines.

Initiatives delivered through the package include technical workshops, support to produce mini-ferments (test batches), evaluations of 2020 wines by an expert sensory panel or kits for winemakers to assess their own products, as well as research activities into treatments for smoke-affected wines and the impacts of smoke on locally important varieties.

Wine Victoria will deliver the Technical Support Package until September 2021.

**Agriculture Victoria**

- smoke.taint@agriculture.vic.gov.au

**Wine Grape Testing Rebate: Rural Finance**

- 1800 260 425 or

**Technical support: Wine Victoria**

- 03 8658 5716

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**OTHER ASSISTANCE**

**Small Business Bushfire Recovery Grants Victoria**

Grants of up to $50,000 are available for Victorian small businesses and non-profit organisations that have suffered direct damage as a result of the 2019-20 Victorian bushfires.

Grants can help pay for costs of clean-up and reinstatement of small businesses. Loss of income is not covered under this grants program.

For further information call the Victorian Chamber of Commerce and Industry on

- (03) 8662 5160 or
- visit www.victorianchamber.com.au/bushfires

**HiveAid**

Hive Aid supports all Australian professional beekeepers managing difficult conditions. It is managed by Rural Aid and overseen by the Australian Honey Bee Industry Council.

To donate or to register for assistance visit

PERSONAL SUPPORT

Personal hardship assistance program

Emergency Relief Assistance Payment
Available up to seven days after the event for individuals impacted by fires in eligible fire affected local government areas across Victoria.

Payments of up to $560 per adult and $280 per child (up to a maximum of $1960 per eligible household) are available to help meet immediate needs, including emergency food, shelter, clothing and personal items.

Emergency Re-establishment Payments
Available in East Gippsland and Towong Shires

Provides up to $42,250 per eligible household experiencing financial hardship, that has been affected by fire at their primary place of residence.

Visit an Emergency Relief Centre or call the Payment Assistance Helpline
- 1800 961 054

Australian Government Disaster Recovery Payment and Allowance

Contact Australian Government Department of Human Services
- 1800 22 66

Available in East Gippsland and Towong Shires

Australian Government Disaster Recovery Payment
The payment provides one-off financial assistance to Australians who have been seriously injured, lost or had their homes damaged directly by bushfire, or are immediate family members of a person who has died as a direct result of the bushfires.

The payment is $1000 per eligible adult and $400 per eligible child.

Disaster Recovery Allowance
The allowance provides fortnightly payments for up to 13 weeks up to the applicable rate of Newstart or Youth Allowance, depending on the person’s circumstances.

The allowance provides income support payments to employees, primary producers and sole traders who can demonstrate they have experienced a loss of income as a direct result of the bushfires.

URGENT MENTAL HEALTH CONCERNS

If you have urgent concerns about the mental health of others or yourself there are services available.

In an emergency you can also call 000 for assistance

Mental Health Services
- 1800 808 284 (available 24 hours)

Nurse on Call
- 1300 606 024

1800 RESPECT
A 24-hour counselling service delivered by qualified experienced professionals
- 1800 737 732
- www.1800respect.org.au

Kids HelpLine
Confidential telephone counselling service for young people aged 5 to 25
- 1800 551 800
- kidshelpline.com.au

ParentLine
Counselling and information for families with children up to 18 years. Open 8am to midnight, seven days.
- 132 289
- www.parentline.com.au

MensLine Australia
24-hour counselling and advice for men
- 1300 789 978
- mensline.org.au/Lifeline

24-hour telephone counselling, information and referral service
- 13 11 14
- www.lifeline.org.au

Beyondblue
Provides information on depression and anxiety
- 1300 224 636
- www.beyondblue.org.au

Accessibility

If you would like to receive this publication in an accessible format, please telephone the Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions on 136 186.

This document is also available in PDF format at www.agriculture.vic.gov.au