

Gippsland Bushfire Support Programs

Updated – 14 March 2019

Agriculture Victoria is supporting Gippsland landholders impacted by recent fires through animal welfare assessments and the referral of urgent cases of personal need to the appropriate agencies.

In the months ahead, Agriculture Victoria will provide ongoing support to farmers, such as the provision of technical advice associated with fire recovery.

For support on animal welfare assessments, please contact Agriculture Victoria on 1800 226 226. If you have injured pets, please seek advice immediately from your local vet.

For more information on bushfire recovery, please contact Agriculture Victoria on 136 186 or visit the website: agriculture.vic.gov.au/animalemergencies

BUSHFIRE RECOVERY SUPPORT		
Technical and decision-making support for managing livestock after a bushfire	<p>Agriculture Victoria provides technical and decision-making support services to assist farm businesses recover from bushfires.</p> <p>Agriculture Victoria has technical information and tools on topics such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stock containment areas • Assessing sheep after a bushfire • Assessing cattle after a bushfire • Horses affected by bushfires • Agisting livestock affected by a bushfire • Disposing of carcasses after bushfire 	<p>Call the Agriculture Victoria Information Line on 136 186 or visit the website: agriculture.vic.gov.au/animalemergencies</p>
Technical information to ensure the welfare of pets during bushfires	<p>Agriculture Victoria provides practical and decision-making support advice to assist pet owners to manage the welfare of their pets during an emergency.</p> <p>Agriculture Victoria has technical information and tools on topics such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planning ahead • Evacuating pets • Pets that remain on property • After the emergency 	<p>Call the Agriculture Victoria Information Line on 136 186 or visit http://agriculture.vic.gov.au/agriculture/emergencies/pets-in-emergencies</p>
Recovery Centres	<p>To provide information and support services to affected people.</p>	<p>Check your council's website for location and opening hours.</p>
Personal Hardship Assistance Program	<p>The program provides financial assistance for eligible Victorians struggling because of an emergency.</p> <p>This is administered by the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS).</p> <p>Emergency grants are also available to help community members meet immediate needs, including emergency food, shelter, clothing and personal items.</p>	<p>DHHS is onsite at the Bunyip Recovery Centre; Bunyip Showgrounds and Recreation Reserve (Longwarry-Nar Nar Goon Road, Bunyip). Details may change. Check council websites.</p> <p>Call Windermere (DHHS) 1800 560 760</p>

		Or please call Vic Emergency on 1800 226 226 for more information
Fodder	<p>Requesting fodder If you have been affected by the fires, you can request assistance on the Need for Feed website by filling out the ‘request for assistance’ form.</p> <p>Donating fodder If you have fodder to donate visit the Need for Feed website and fill out the form to donate fodder and Need for Feed will transport it to a farmer in need.</p> <p>Transporting fodder If you would like to volunteer to assist in the transport of fodder, please visit the Need for Feed website and fill out the form to volunteer for a hay run.</p>	For more information and support , please visit our Gippsland bushfires support program webpage: agriculture.vic.gov.au/agriculture/emergencies/recovery/gippsland-fires/gippsland-bushfires-support-programs
Livestock water	For emergency livestock water for Bunyip fire-affected properties, please contact your local council.	Cardinia Shire – www.cardinia.vic.gov.au Baw Baw Shire – www.bawbawshires.vic.gov.au
Water taken from dams for fire suppression	Councils arrange for the replacement of essential water to replace water used by DELWP for fire suppression during emergency response	Contact your council.
Affected livestock	If you have or know of injured livestock, please contact Agriculture Victoria	Agriculture Victoria on 136 186 or contact your local veterinarian.
Agistment	For offers of agistment Agistment of livestock affected by bushfires – agistor or agistee, do you know what to do?	For information go to agriculture.vic.gov.au/agriculture/livestock/agistment-of-livestock-affected-by-bushfires
Rebuilding fence assistance	BlazeAid provides assistance with rebuilding fences for all types of livestock from Tuesday 12 March. For guidelines for fences and control lines after bushfires	Contact John and Sue Anderson on 0412 382 184 to register. Updates at blazeaid.com.au or at www.facebook.com/blazeaid or email blazeaid.bunyip@gmail.com Information can be found at www.ffm.vic.gov.au/recovery-after-an-emergency/public-land-recovery
Hazardous tree information	Information is available at the Forest Fire Management site.	www.ffm.vic.gov.au/recovery-after-an-emergency/public-land-recovery

BUSHFIRE FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Rural Financial Counselling Service (RFCS)	<p>RFCS provide free financial counselling to farmers and small related businesses who are in, or at risk of, financial hardship.</p> <p>Counsellors can provide referrals to other professional services, including accountants, agricultural advisors, education, or counselling.</p> <p>Counsellors can assist applicants to apply for the Farm Household Allowance and other support.</p>	<p>Call 1800 686 175 (toll free) or call:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Western RFCS: 1300 735 578 • Eastern RFCS: 1300 045 747 • North East RFCS: 1300 834 775 • North West RFCS: 1300 769 489 <p>or visit www.agriculture.gov.au/ag-farm-food/drought/assistance</p>
Emergency Re-establishment Assistance payments	<p>Eligible households in the local government areas of Baw Baw, Cardinia, Latrobe, South Gippsland and Wellington can also access Emergency Re-establishment Assistance payments of up to \$40,700 to assist with clean-up, emergency accommodation, repairs, rebuilding (a principal place of residence), and replacing some damaged contents.</p>	<p>contact local council</p>
Farm Household	<p>The Australian Government makes an income support</p>	<p>Call 132 316 or visit the</p>

PERSONAL AND FAMILY SUPPORT

General Support	<p>There are many programs and support services available to help people affected by these bushfires.</p> <p>General Practitioners are valuable providers of emotional / psychological support, and if indicated, can arrange additional assistance.</p>	<p>Emergency Relief and Recovery Victoria www.recovery.vic.gov.au or by phoning the Victorian Emergency Recovery Information Line on 1300 799 232</p>
Department of Human Services support hotline	<p>Case management support.</p>	
Urgent Concerns	<p>Urgent concerns about your own, or the mental health of others, contact:</p> <p>Mental Health Services on 1800 808 284 (24 hours). Lifeline: 13 11 14 MensLine: 1300 789 978 Kid's Helpline: 1800 55 1800 Nurse on Call: 1300 606 024</p>	<p>Mental Health Services on 1800 808 284 (24 hours). Lifeline: 13 11 14 MensLine: 1300 789 978 Kid's Helpline: 1800 55 1800 Nurse on Call: 1300 606 024</p>
Baw Baw Shire	<p>Any residents that require personal support in the first instance should contact Baw Baw Shire Council on 1300 BAW BAW (1300 229 229).</p>	<p>Baw Baw Shire Council on 1300 BAW BAW (1300 229 229)</p>
1800 RESPECT	<p>Counselling delivered by qualified, experienced professionals 24-hours a day, seven days a week.</p>	<p>Phone 1800 RESPECT (1800 737 732)</p>
Kids HelpLine	<p>Confidential telephone counselling service for young people aged 5–25 years.</p>	<p>Kids Help Line – 1800 551 800</p>
ParentLine	<p>Counselling and information for families with children (up to 18 years) from 8am to midnight seven days a week.</p>	<p>ParentLine – 132 289</p>
Men's Line Australia	<p>24-hour counselling and advice for men.</p>	<p>Men's Line Australia – 1300 789 978</p>

Lifeline	24-hour telephone counselling, information and referral service.	Lifeline – 13 11 14
beyondblue	beyondblue – 1300 224 636 Provides information on depression and anxiety. To access professional counselling services, please contact your GP and seek a referral.	beyondblue – 1300 224 636

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 or visit agriculture.vic.gov.au.