

Updated – 3 January 2020

Agriculture Victoria is supporting Gippsland and Upper Murray 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 	<p>Call the Agriculture Victoria Information Line on 136 186 or visit agriculture.vic.gov.au/agriculture/emergencies/pets-in-emergencies</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pets that remain on property • After the emergency 	
Personal Hardship Assistance Program	<p>The program provides financial assistance for eligible Victorians struggling because of an emergency. 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 a number of relief Centre in Gippsland and the Upper Murray.</p> <p>Gippsland locations: Lakes Entrance Mechanics Hall, Bairnsdale Racecourse (please register at the City Oval) and Orbost Community Sport Centre.</p> <p>Upper Murray locations: Corryong and Tallanagata</p> <p>Or call Vic Emergency on 1800 226 226 for more information</p> <p>or services.dhhs.vic.gov.au or emergency.vic.gov.au/relief</p>
Australian Government Disaster	Information on disaster assistance visit the website	Website www.disasterassist.gov.au
Fodder	<p>Requesting fodder</p> <p>If you have been affected by the fires, and need emergency fodder for livestock you should contact the Victorian Farmers Federation (VFF) on 1300 882 833 between 9am and 5pm or email fodder@vff.org.au.</p> <p>Alternatively you can also request assistance on the Need for Feed website by filling out the 'request for assistance' form.</p> <p>Donating fodder</p> <p>If you have fodder to donate, Victorian Farmers Federation (VFF) can also arrange for fodder collection and distribution, including donated fodder without transport. If you wish to donate fodder you should contact the VFF on 1300 882 833 or email fodder@vff.org.au</p> <p>If you have fodder to donate and your own transport, please call Need for Feed on 0459444111 to coordinate the delivery of the fodder.</p> <p>Alternatively, if you have fodder to donate but cannot transport it yourself, you can 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>Please contact the VFF on 1300 882 833 or email fodder@vff.org.au or call Need for Feed on 0459444111</p> <p>For more information and support, please visit http://agriculture.vic.gov.au/agriculture/emergencies/recovery/gippsland-upper-murray-fires</p>

	<p>Transporting fodder</p> <p>If you would like to volunteer to assist in the transport of fodder, please contact the VFF on 1300 882 833 between 9am and 5pm or email fodder@vff.org.au or visit the Need for Feed website and fill out the form to volunteer for a hay run.</p>	
Emergency livestock water	For emergency water supply please contact your local council.	<p>East Gippsland Shire – 1300 555 886 www.eastgippsland.vic.gov.au</p> <p>Towong Shire – (02) 6071 5100 www.towong.vic.gov.au</p>
Affected livestock	If you have or know of injured livestock, please contact Agriculture Victoria	Agriculture Victoria on 1800 226 226 or contact your local veterinarian.
Agistment	<p>For offers of agistment please contact the VFF on 1300 882 833</p> <p>There is Emergency Livestock Agistment at the Bairnsdale Saleyards, please contact Mel Leys 0417 707 504</p>	<p>Please contact the VFF on 1300 882 833</p> <p>Bairnsdale Saleyards agistment, please contact Mel Leys 0417 707 504</p> <p>For information go to agriculture.vic.gov.au/agriculture/livestock/agistment-of-livestock-affected-by-bushfires</p>
Rebuilding fence assistance	<p>BlazeAid provides assistance with reestablishing fences for all types of livestock.</p> <p>For guidelines for fences and control lines after bushfires</p>	<p>Contact Kevin Butler on 0459444111 in East Gippsland to register. Updates at blazeaid.com.au or at www.Facebook.com/blazeaid</p> <p>Information can be found at www.ffm.vic.gov.au/recovery-after-an-emergency/public-land-recovery</p>
Pet, horse and livestock shelter	Local councils have arranged animal shelters in bushfire affected areas. All relief centres can also cater for pets and small numbers of horses and livestock. The fire situation is dynamic and these arrangements may change at short notice due to safety and capacity issues.	<p>East Gippsland Shire (03) 5153 9500</p> <p>Towong Shire (03) 6071 5180</p>

	<p>In East Gippsland, small animals can be catered for at:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bairnsdale City Oval, 40 MacArthur Street, Bairnsdale • Bairnsdale Racecourse (register at Bairnsdale City Oval First), Forge Creek, Bairnsdale • Recreation Reserve Pavillion, Park Street, Omeo • Mechanics Hall, 18 Mechanics Street, Lakes Entrance <p>Large animals can be catered for at the Bairnsdale Sale Yards.</p> <p>In the North East animals can be catered for at relief centres:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Corryong Secondary School • Tallangatta Memorial Hall • Wodonga Cube • Wangaratta Performing Arts Centre <p>Large animals can also be accommodated at:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Corryong Saleyards • Wangaratta Showgrounds 	
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>
Federal Government assistance	Information on disaster assistance is available on the Australian Government Disaster Assist website.	www.disasterassist.gov.au

Farm Household Allowance (Australian Government)^	The Australian Government makes an income support payment available to eligible farmers and their families experiencing financial hardship.	Call 132 316 or visit the website: www.humanservices.gov.au
Farmer Assistance Hotline (Australian Government)	Information on the Australian Government's support services available to farmers and rural communities.	Call 132 316 or visit the websites www.humanservices.gov.au
Farm Debt Mediation	The scheme makes it compulsory for banks and other creditors to offer mediation to farmers before commencing debt recovery proceedings on farm mortgages.	Call the Agriculture Victoria Information Line on 136 186 or visit the website: http://agriculture.vic.gov.au/agriculture/farm-management/business-management/farm-debt-mediation

^Eligibility criteria and loan amounts have recently changed.

PERSONAL AND FAMILY SUPPORT		
General Support	There are many programs and support services available to help people affected by these bushfires. General practitioners are valuable providers of emotional / psychological support, and if indicated, can arrange additional assistance.	Emergency Relief and Recovery Victoria www.recovery.vic.gov.au or by phoning the Victorian Emergency Recovery Information Line on 1300 799 232
Urgent concerns	Urgent concerns about your own, or the mental health of others, contact: 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	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
1800 RESPECT	Counselling delivered by qualified, experienced professionals 24-hours a day, seven days a week.	Phone 1800 RESPECT 1800 737 732
Kids HelpLine	Confidential telephone counselling service for young people aged 5–25 years.	Kids Help Line – 1800 551 800
ParentLine	Counselling and information for families with children (up to 18 years) from 8am to midnight seven days a week.	ParentLine – 132 289

Men's Australia	Line	24-hour counselling and advice for men.	Men's Line Australia – 1300 789 978
Lifeline		24-hour telephone counselling, information and referral service.	Lifeline – 13 11 14
beyondblue		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.

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