

FIRE RECOVERY UPDATE

NUMBER 11: WEDNESDAY 11 APRIL



FARM HOUSEHOLD ALLOWANCE

Farmers whose livelihood has been disrupted by the fires may now qualify for Farm Household Allowance.

The Federal Government scheme provides:

a fortnightly payment comparable to Newstart for up to three years

a Farm Household Case Officer to help you improve your financial circumstances

an Activity Supplement worth up to \$4000 for study, training or professional advice to help improve your financial position

You can discuss your eligibility at the Australian Government Mobile Service Centres or from a Rural Call Centre by calling the Farmer Assistance hotline on 132 316.

The hotline staff are experienced and knowledgeable about issues that affect rural families and farming businesses.

MOBILE SERVICE CENTRE

Australian Government Mobile Service Centres travel to rural and regional communities to provide personalised, face-to-face services. Department of Human Services staff travel with the Mobile Service Centres and can help with Centrelink, Medicare, Child Support and Australian Hearing payments and services.

- **Cobden: adjacent to the Senior Citizens Hall, Parrott Street, Wednesday 11 April, 9 am – 4 pm; and 12 April, 9 am to 4 pm**
- **Timboon: Council car park, Main Street, Friday 13 April 2018, 9:30 am – 4 pm**
- **Terang: Terang Civic Hall, High Street, Monday 16 April, 9:30 am – 4 pm and Tuesday 17 April, 9 am – 4 pm**
- **Skipton: opposite Skipton Hotel, Montgomery St, Tuesday 24 April, 9:30 am – 4 pm**

WELLBEING SUPPORT

If you require confidential emotional or psychological support, available 'on farm', please contact the Farmer Community Support Workers on 5563 4000 or 5232 5180.

General Practitioners also provide of emotional and psychological support, and can arrange additional assistance.

If you have urgent concerns about your own, or the mental health of others, please contact Mental Health Services on 1800 808 284 (24 hours).

Other 24 hours Helplines include:

Lifeline: 13 11 14.

MensLine: 1300 78 9978.

Kid's Helpline: 1800 55 1800.

Nurse on Call: 1800 02 2222

TREE ASSISTANCE

Please contact Council on 5593 7100 if you have concerns about trees.

Council can:

- Provide native vegetation assessments for fence re-establishment;
- Undertake the removal of trees overhanging boundary fences where they are adjoining a road reserve or crown land; and
- Provide advice on other trees and particularly native vegetation within your property however the removal and clean-up of trees will be the responsibility of the property owner.

If you believe a tree within your property is a hazard you should ensure the area around the tree is avoided until it can be made safe. Council can assist you if you are unsure if a tree on your property is hazardous.

The removal of trees and particularly cypress and pine plantations within private property are the responsibility of the property owner. There is currently no funding for these works however Council are working with a range of agencies to determine if financial support may be available to landowners for these works.

IF YOU NEED HELP

TERANG RELIEF CENTRE

CIVIC HALL, HIGH STREET

**OPENING HOURS: 8 AM-8 PM DAILY FOR HEALTH CHECKS
10 AM-4 PM DAILY FOR SUPPORT SERVICES**

Services available: Department Health and Human Services [DHHS], Red Cross, Victorian Council of Churches and Rural Financial Counselling Service. Carbon monoxide testing and health checks are available at Terang.

COBDEN COMMUNITY INFORMATION POINT

CIVIC HALL, 53-55 VICTORIA STREET

The Community Information Point now operates weekdays from 10 am-4 pm.

FOOD, WATER & PERSONAL ITEMS

If you have been impacted by the fires - food, water and personal items are available at Cobden Uniting Church [61 Curdie Street]. We encourage you to call in and grab some supplies that have been kindly donated by the community. Please call 0427 954 216 for more details.

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FARM PLANNING SUPPORT

If you require confidential farm business analysis support then please contact **Rural Financial Counselling (RFCS) on 1300 735 578**. They will come to you.

The service can assist you with accessing grants, claiming insurance, analysing your current financial situation and planning for your future. It will help you find the support you need.

RFCS support is free, personalised and ongoing until you get back on your feet.

LIVESTOCK

Landholders with animals in the vicinity of the ongoing peat fires should take every effort to minimise exposure to smoke. Animals generally tolerate smoke well, but some may exhibit minor respiratory problems or eye irritation.

Veterinary advice should be sought if animal owners are concerned their animals are being affected by smoke or ash.

Further information on the management of livestock following an emergency and pets and smoke go to agriculture.vic.gov.au/agriculture/emergencies/recovery/bushfires-in-south-west-victoria/.

Farmers with affected livestock can contact **Agriculture Victoria on 5336 6721**. An Animal Health Team will visit properties to assess damage and provide advice.

If you have stock in need of transport, we can house them for free at Camperdown Saleyards. Contact **Corangamite Shire on 5593 7100**.

If you need fodder for your livestock, contact **Victorian Farmers Federation on 1300 882 833**.

For help disposing of dead livestock, contact **Corangamite Shire on 5593 7100**.

If any livestock are still alive but injured beyond treatment, the owner can **call Victorian Petfood Processors on 5593 1986** to have the animal collected and destroyed at no cost.

FENCING

To enquire about assistance with rebuilding your fences, call Blaze Aid camp leaders directly.

- **Cobden:** <http://blazeaid.com.au/cobden-2018/> Chris and John Male, 0418 745 994, blazeaid.cobden@gmail.com
- **Terang:** <http://blazeaid.com.au/laang-2018/>, Vicki and Malcolm McIntosh, 0437 817 330, blazeaid.terang@gmail.com

IF YOUR TANK WATER IS CONTAMINATED

If you live in a bushfire-affected area your drinking water tank could have become contaminated from debris, ash, dead animals or aerial fire retardants.

If the water tastes, looks or smells unusual, do not drink it or give it to animals. Use bottled water for drinking, cooking, brushing teeth et cetera until tanks can be cleaned and refilled. Contact **Council on 5593 7100** to flush clean and refill your tanks.

IF YOU WANT TO HELP

PLEASE NO MORE FOOD OR WATER DONATIONS - WE ARE AT FULL CAPACITY.

IF YOU WISH TO HELP IN OTHER WAYS - PLEASE SEE BELOW.

CASH DONATIONS

SOUTH WEST VICTORIAN COMMUNITY RELIEF FUND

Funds raised will be distributed to charitable organisations working with communities that are directly impacted by recent fires or subsequent aftermath of the disaster.

Donate at your nearest Bendigo Bank branch or online at bendigobank.com.au/southwestvicbushfire

SALVATION ARMY GRANTS 5561 6792

ROTARY INTERNATIONAL BUSHFIRE APPEAL

Account: Rotary International District 9780 – Bushfire Appeal
BSB: 035 070

Account: 179149

BLAZE AID

Online at www.blazeaid.com.au

FEED AND FODDER FOR LIVESTOCK

Contact the Victorian Farmers Federation on **1300 882 833** or visit www.vff.org.au/support

IF YOU WANT TO DONATE LABOUR

BLAZE AID

For anyone wishing to donate time and skills with fencing please contact **Chris on 0418 745 994 (Cobden)** or **Vicki on 0437 817 330 (Terang)**.

If you want to donate labour or services, **contact Corangamite Shire on 5593 7100** or **AceRadio on 5564 3888**.