

FIRE RECOVERY UPDATE

NUMBER 13: THURSDAY 19 APRIL



COMMUNITY-LED RECOVERY

Corangamite Shire has established a Community Recovery Committee to support the communities affected by the recent fires.

What's a Community Recovery Committee?

Local community recovery committees are established to help people meet and contribute to the recovery process after an emergency event such as our recent bushfires. The community recovery committee can comprise:

- Members of the community
- Personnel from Local Council, DHHS, Agriculture Victoria, VFF, Red Cross or other relevant local stakeholders.

The community recovery committee's work can include:

- representing the community in the recovery process
- facilitating dialogue between the municipal recovery manager and the community so as to regularly advise on issues of concern
- working with the municipal recovery manager and task groups to tackle specific issues
- assisting in the coordination of recovery initiatives undertaken in the community including special events.

NEW ROLES DEDICATED TO RECOVERY

Council has appointed Jarrod Woff as Manager Fire Recovery to work with people affected by the fires and to ensure they have the support required to help them through the recovery process.

For up to 12 months he will play an important part in working with the broader community and liaising with State and Federal Governments.

Mr Woff will also be the point of contact for the Community Recovery Committee.

A Fire Recovery Project Coordinator and Fire Recovery Communications Officer will also be employed. These positions have been obtained through funding from the State and Federal Government.

For more information, contact Council on 5593 7100.

WELLBEING SUPPORT

For access to local emotional support services please call South West Healthcare on 5563 4000 or 5232 5180. There is free, confidential, professional support to individuals or families who have been impacted by the recent fires regardless of where you are located. No GP referral is required.

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

General Practitioners are also valuable providers of

emotional / psychological support, and if indicated, 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

Kid's Helpline: 1800 55 1800

Nurse on Call: 1800 022 222

MensLine: 1300 78 9978

GROUND AND AIR OPERATIONS

Drone and infrared flights have shown a decrease in heat signatures around the Cobrico Swamp but the peat is likely to burn beneath the surface for some time.

The public is reminded to be aware of the drones and to keep their personal drones out of the area of operation.

Recent rain has softened the ground so gravel has been brought in and culverts built to improve access for firefighting vehicles.

An alpine attack vehicle from Mt Buller will be used at Cobrico Swamp.

The tracked vehicle will have better access and less environmental impact around the swamp area.

IF YOU WANT TO HELP

CASH DONATIONS

SOUTH WEST VICTORIAN COMMUNITY RELIEF FUND

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: 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.**

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WHERE TO GO FOR INFORMATION, ADVICE AND HELP

A community information point is open at the Keilambete Room in the **Corangamite Shire Civic Centre at 181 Manifold Street, Camperdown.**

You are welcome to call in and find out how Corangamite Shire can help with fire recovery.

Information is also available by **calling Council on 5593 7100** or emailing shire@corangamite.vic.gov.au

You can also go online for the latest information: www.emergency.vic.gov.au/relief/#recovering_from_a_bushfire

Community information in relation to the peat fires is on display on noticeboards at

- **Terang Civic Hall, 129 High Street, Terang**
- **Cobden Civic Hall, 53-55 Victoria Street, Cobden**

and at www.emergency.vic.gov.au/relief/#community_information_newsletters

For any police matters, including relocation forms, please contact your local Police Station at Cobden, Camperdown or Terang. For emergencies ring 000.

Please contact the **VicEmergency Hotline on 1800 226 226** outside operating hours.

FENCING

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

- **Cobden:** Chris & John Male, 0418 745 994
blazeaid.cobden@gmail.com
- **Terang:** Vicki and Malcolm McIntosh, 0437 817 330
blazeaid.terang@gmail.com

EMERGENCY RE-ESTABLISHMENT ASSISTANCE

Emergency Re-establishment Assistance is available to eligible fire-affected community members under hardship.

For more information on recovery support services, **call Council on 5593 7100** or **VicEmergency on 1800 226 226**, or go to **VicEmergency:** http://emergency.vic.gov.au/relief/#financial_support

FOOD, WATER & PERSONAL ITEMS

Food, water and personal items are available at Cobden Uniting Church at 61 Curdie Street. Call 0427 954 216 for more details.

Relief packs (food, water and toiletries), furniture, goods and clothing are available at the Terang Community Op Shop.

Please call 0419 314 870 for more details.

HEALTH CONCERNS

For health advice and support you can call NURSE-ON-CALL on 1300 60 60 24, visit your GP for medical advice, visit your local health service or dial Triple Zero in an emergency.

As air quality has improved, including very low Carbon Monoxide (CO) levels, the free community health assessment centres have moved to your local health services.

If you are still concerned about your health, or wish to get your CO levels checked, you can visit:

- **Cobden Health, 5 Victoria Street Cobden**
- **Terang Hospital, 13 Austin Avenue Terang**
- **Camperdown Hospital, Robinson Street Camperdown**

*A referral from your GP is not necessary

TREE ASSISTANCE

Please contact Corangamite Shire on 5593 7100 if you have concerns about trees. We 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
- Provide advice on other trees and particularly native vegetation on your property, however the removal and clean-up of trees will be the responsibility of the property owner

If you believe a tree on your property is a hazard you should ensure the area around the tree is avoided until it can be made safe. We can help if you are unsure about any trees on your property.

The removal of trees (particularly cypress and pine plantations on private property) is the responsibility of the property owner.

There is currently no funding for these works, however, we are working with a range of agencies to determine if financial support may be available to landowners for these works.