

FIRE RECOVERY UPDATE

NUMBER 16: THURSDAY 10 MAY



CORANGAMITE
SHIRE

FIRE SUPPRESSION ACTIVITIES

The peat fires in the Cobrico and Lake Elingamite areas have been declared safe. This is a step short of the official “under control” designation, but no hot spots have been detected for almost three weeks.

Crews continue to monitor the area with probes and in-ground monitors and using infrared equipment from the air. The Cobden ICC will remain open until further notice with crews continuing to monitor and rehabilitate affected areas.

CARBON MONOXIDE

The EPA has not recorded any significant levels of carbon monoxide in the area that would raise concerns health is at risk. Air monitoring is continuing.

Do you still have a CO monitor in your possession? Please return CO monitors to Betty Robilliard at Cobden Fire Station. Phone: 5595 1395.

WHERE TO GO FOR HELP

The community information point at the Keilambete Room in the **Corangamite Shire Civic Centre at 181 Manifold Street, Camperdown** has now closed.

General information can still be picked up from customer service at the Civic Centre. 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.**

VFF GRANTS PRIORITY

Dairy farmers affected by the recent fires will be given priority in the May round of the The Victorian Farmers Federation Farmers’ Fund dairy farmer grants. Farmers’ Fund is expected to deliver up to \$500,000 in grants in this May round. Applications are open and will close on 31 May. For applications forms, go to www.vff.org.au, email farmersfund@vff.org.au or call 1300 882 833.

FIRE DEBRIEFINGS

Emergency Management Victoria will hold community debriefing sessions over the next month.

Each community debrief will run from 5 pm – 8.30 pm at the following locations and dates:

Camperdown: Thursday 17 May, Killara Centre

Cobden: Monday 21 May, Cobden Civic Hall

Terang: Thursday 24 May, Terang Civic Hall

Simpson: Tuesday 29 May, Simpson Recreation Reserve

Port Campbell: Wednesday 30 May, Port Campbell Recreation Reserve

Timboon: Thursday 31 May, Timboon Hall supper room
Light refreshments will be available at each debrief.

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

Kid’s Helpline: 1800 55 1800

MensLine: 1300 78 9978

Nurse on Call: 1800 02 2222

FEED AND FODDER FOR LIVESTOCK

Agriculture Victoria’s funding for the Victorian Farmers Federation to coordinate distribution of donated fodder ends on Tuesday 15 May. Emergency fodder is usually supplied for four weeks, but that period was doubled because of the scale of the fires.

Agriculture Victoria and WestVic Dairy will provide one-on-one advice to help fire-affected landholders assess their fodder requirements through a feed budget.

Staff will help farmers work out how much feed their stock will need over the coming weeks and months, and plan strategies while burnt areas recover. **Graziers should contact Michele Jolliffe from Agriculture Victoria on 0428 581 883 and dairy farmers should call Helen Chenoweth from WestVic Dairy on 5557 1000.**

Farmers who need fodder can contact the **Victorian Farmers Federation on 1300 882 833.**

Free, independent financial support for primary producers and non-agriculture related small businesses is available from **The Rural Financial Counselling Service on 1300 735 578.**

Detailed information about recovering from fire is available at www.agriculture.vic.gov.au/firerecovery