

FIRE RECOVERY UPDATE

NUMBER 4: THURSDAY 22 MARCH



IF YOU NEED HELP

DHHS ASSISTANCE GRANTS

Emergency Relief and Re-establishment Assistance is now being made available to eligible fire-affected community members.

- Personal Hardship Assistance Payments, which provide payments of up to \$540 per adult and \$270 per child (up to a maximum of \$1890 per household) are available to help meet immediate needs, including emergency food, shelter, clothing, and personal items.
- Emergency Re-establishment Assistance provides up to \$40,700 per eligible household that has been affected by fire at their primary place of residence. The grants are available for eligible clean-up, emergency accommodation, repairs, rebuilding (a principal place of residence), and replacing some damaged contents.

DHHS staff are available at the relief centres in Cobden or Terang or you can call call VicEmergency on 1800 226 226 for more information.

RELIEF CENTRES OPEN

There are two relief centres operating in Corangamite Shire for people affected by the fires and severe weather. These centres are operating from 9 am-5 pm.

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

Services available include:

- Department Health and Human Services (DHHS)
- Red Cross and Victorian Council of Churches
- Rural Financial Counselling Service (Terang only)

PUBLIC TRANSPORT

Trains from Southern Cross will terminate at Camperdown, with replacement coaches operating between Camperdown and Warrnambool. Selected services might be altered. V/Line cannot say when services will return to normal.

SCHOOL BUSES

School bus routes may be affected due to road closures. A full list of bus closures has been listed on Department of Education website www.education.vic.gov.au

ROAD CLOSURES

Where road closures are still in place, signage needs to be observed for your safety and the safety of others. Roads are closed because the area is still not safe.

IF YOU NEED FOOD OR PERSONAL ITEMS

Food and personal items are available from Terang CWA, The Promenade, and Cobden Uniting Church 61 Curdie Street.

Your local charity can help:

Terang Community Op Shop

10 Shadforth Street, Terang, 5592 1723

The Terang CWA branch

The Promenade, Terang, 0439 943 922

CDHS Charity Shop

41 Curdie Street, Cobden, 5595 1162

Uniting Church Op Shop

50 Curdie Street, Cobden, 0475 699 483

Lifeline South West Vic Inc.

178 Manifold Street, Camperdown, 5593 1441

St Vincent De Paul Society

156 Manifold Street, Camperdown, 5593 1122

Sunnyside Shop

184 Manifold Street, Camperdown, 5593 1175

TOPS Timboon

17 Timboon-Curdievale Road, Timboon, 0455 183 761

COUNSELLING

If you or someone you know is in need of emotional and social wellbeing support, call one of the following numbers.

- **beyondblue – 24hrs, 7 days a week – 1300 224 636**
- **Lifeline – 24hrs a day, 7 days a week – 13 11 14**
- **Kids Helpline – 24hrs, 7 days a week – 1800 55 1800**

LIVESTOCK

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**.

FENCING

There is a Blaze Aid meeting at Terang College, Strong St at 9am Saturday, to begin coordinating fencing assistance. If you need help, or want to volunteer, register with BlazeAid by **contacting Chris on 0418 745 994 (Cobden area) or Vicki on 0437 817 330 (Terang area)**.

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HAZARD TREES

If there are hazard trees on properties near houses or driveways, report them to Cobden CFA on 5595 1395.

FREE WASTE DROP-OFF

Properties affected by the Terang, Gnotuk, and Garvoc fires can drop off waste for free at Corangamite Shire's waste management facilities.

Residents can also drop off scrap metal for free at Wheelie Waste's facility located on the Princes Highway at Boorcan. Contact Council on 5593 7100 before you commence any clean up works if you suspect that there is asbestos or other toxic wastes present. Council cannot accept asbestos or asbestos contaminated waste at any of its waste facilities.

Council can provide free collection and disposal of waste and scrap metal from fire-affected properties. Please contact Council on 5593 7100 for assistance.

DEAD LIVESTOCK & ANIMALS

For help disposing of dead livestock, contact Corangamite Shire on 5593 7100. Corangamite Regional Landfill can accept small animals and small numbers of dead livestock for free.

INSURANCE

The Insurance Council of Australia has declared a Catastrophe for areas in south-west Victoria where fires have damaged or destroyed homes and other property.

The declaration means claims from affected policyholders will be given priority by insurers. Claims will also be triaged to direct urgent attention to the worst-affected property owners.

The catastrophe declaration is intended to help reduce the emotional and financial stress experienced by households and businesses affected by the bushfires.

Under the declaration the ICA has:

- Activated its disaster hotline – 1800 734 621 – to assist policyholders if they are uncertain of their insurance details, or have general inquiries about the claims process
- Mobilised ICA staff to work directly with local services and affected policyholders in affected regions
- Established an industry taskforce to address and identify issues that arise

Community members can also enquire via www.disasters.org.au For bushfire recovery tips visit: <http://understandinsurance.com.au/types-of-disasters/bushfires>

RURAL FINANCIAL COUNSELLING

Talk to a financial counsellor today to discover how they can assist you. To access financial counselling please telephone 1300 735 578.

CBA ASSISTANCE

Commonwealth Bank is providing its emergency assistance package for customers and businesses affected by bushfires in south-western Victoria.

Affected customers are invited to discuss their individual circumstances by phoning 1300 720 814 or visiting their nearest Commonwealth Bank branch.

More information can be found at www.commbank.com.au/emergencyassistance

IF YOU WANT TO HELP

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

FOOD OR WATER

Please donate to **Warrnambool and District Foodshare**, 24A Harrington Street, Warrnambool or phone 0428 197 715,

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.**

VISIT WWW.CORANGAMITE.VIC.GOV.AU FOR REGULAR UPDATES