

# FIRE RECOVERY UPDATE

NUMBER 7: THURSDAY 29 MARCH



CORANGAMITE  
SHIRE

## PEAT SMOKE RISKS

So far 277 people (including firefighters) have presented for precautionary health checks as a result of ongoing peat fires at Cobrico and Lake Elingamite. Community Liaison officers will check in with the local community members and businesses in coming days, to assess if needs are being met by emergency and support services. As a precautionary measure, DHHS and Ambulance Victoria assisted relocation of residents of the local aged care facility in Cobden. Residents were relocated to stay with family or to other facilities in the area.

If you are within 6kms of the peat smoke plume, it's recommended you avoid outdoor physical activity. Anyone with a heart or lung condition should take their medication as prescribed by their doctor and people with asthma should follow their asthma management plan.

## PROTECTIVE MASKS

Regular paper dust masks, handkerchiefs or bandannas don't protect you from fine smoke particles or gases.

Ambulance Victoria are handing out P2 masks (for smoke particles) at Terang relief centre, and showing how to properly fit them. Particulate matter face masks will not protect against carbon monoxide. Anyone with facial hair will need to be clean shaven to ensure correct fitting.

Asbestos kits containing personal protection equipment can also be collected from the relief centre.

## CARBON MONOXIDE TESTING

Community members within 1km of the fire are encouraged to get their carbon monoxide levels tested regularly.

Anyone who feels unwell, or is concerned, should visit the Terang relief centre and speak with paramedics or visit your GP.

Health assessments are being provided by Ambulance Victoria at the Terang relief centre.

The Camperdown Hospital now has a carbon monoxide monitor and can then test patients on site rather than sending them to Terang or Warrnambool.

## SCHOOLS AND KINDERGARTENS

Local schools in Cobden will also be temporarily relocated this week to ensure they see out the school term without the interruption from the sometimes poor air quality.

The school community has been notified of the arrangements.

Contact your school for details of class relocations.

## EASTER WASTE DROP-OFF

Properties affected by the South West Complex Fires can drop waste and scrap metal for free at Council's waste facilities. The Corangamite Regional Landfill, Derrinallum Transfer Station and

Timboon Transfer Station will be closed on Friday 30 March for the Good Friday public holiday. Normal operating hours will apply for Easter Sunday and Easter Monday. Visit [www.corangamite.vic.gov.au](http://www.corangamite.vic.gov.au) for opening times. Truckloads can only be delivered to the Corangamite Regional Landfill from Monday to Friday but will be accepted on Saturday 31 March, from 10 am - 4 pm to assist with the fire clean up. Council cannot accept asbestos or asbestos contaminated waste. Contact Council on 5593 7100 before cleaning up if you suspect asbestos or other toxic waste is present. Council can provide free collection and disposal of waste and scrap metal from fire-affected properties (ie. skips).

## IF YOU NEED HELP

### 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 10 am - 4 pm, 7 days a week.

- **Cobden Civic Hall, 53-55 Victoria Street (Friday and Saturday – closed Sunday and Monday)**
- **Terang Civic Hall, High Street**

Services available include, Department Health and Human Services (DHHS), Red Cross, Victorian Council of Churches and Rural Financial Counselling Service (Terang only). Carbon monoxide testing is being done at Terang. Anyone with health concerns can access the Terang relief centre 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

### COMMUNITY INFORMATION POINTS

- **Cobden: Civic Hall, 53-55 Victoria Street 10 am – 4pm**
- **Garvoc: Community Hall, Princes Highway 10 am – 4pm**

If you have any issues over the Easter period, ring Council on 5593 7100 and dial 1.

### IF YOU NEED FOOD OR PERSONAL ITEMS

If you need food or personal items, contact your local charity.

### DHHS ASSISTANCE GRANTS

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

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

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

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## 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**

### Fencing Disputes

Where boundary fences need replacing, normally each neighbour pays half, except on roads where the landowner is fully responsible.

If one neighbour wants a higher or better standard of fencing they pay the extra amount.

Ideally people sort it out themselves but if there is a dispute, there is a legal process that can be followed that involves issuing the neighbour with a fencing notice.

In the worst case a magistrate determines this.

For more information go to [www.justice.vic.gov.au/home/justice+system/laws+and+regulation/civil+law/fencing+law+in+victoria](http://www.justice.vic.gov.au/home/justice+system/laws+and+regulation/civil+law/fencing+law+in+victoria) or [www.disputes.vic.gov.au/information-and-advice/fencing/frequently-asked-questions-fences](http://www.disputes.vic.gov.au/information-and-advice/fencing/frequently-asked-questions-fences)

## MOBILE SERVICE CENTRE

Australian Government Mobile Service Centres travel to rural and regional communities to provide personalised, face-to-face services.

Staff from the Department of Human Services travel with the Mobile Service Centres and can help with Centrelink, Medicare, Child Support and Australian Hearing payments and services.

- **Camperdown:** opposite the post office, Manifold Street, Tuesday 10 April, 9 am – 4 pm
- **Cobden:** adjacent to the Senior Citizens Hall, Parrott Street, Wednesday 11 April, 9 am – 4 pm  
12 April, 9 am to 4 pm
- **Timboon:** Council car park, Main Street, Friday 13 April 2018, 9:30 am – 4 pm
- **Terang:** Location TBC Monday 16 April, 9:30 am – 4 pm  
Tuesday 17 April, 9 am – 4 pm
- **Skipton:** opposite Skipton Hotel, Montgomery St, Tuesday 24 April, 9:30 am – 4 pm

## FIREARMS INFORMATION

Firearms destroyed by fire to the extent of being unrecognisable, can be presented to a police station, along with a statutory declaration containing details of the firearms, the registered owner and the location where the firearm was destroyed.

## TOURISM AND VISITORS

Travellers are encouraged to visit the South West of Victoria the Easter long weekend. It's important to continue to stay informed of warnings and incident information by checking [www.emergency.vic.gov.au](http://www.emergency.vic.gov.au)

## HAZARDOUS TREES

As well as the risk of branches falling from fire-damaged trees, recent localised heavy rain may lead to ground instability and trees may become uprooted and fall. If people require hazardous tree removal as a result of the recent fire call Warrnambool Incident Control Centre on **55592500**.

## 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](http://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](http://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](http://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**.