

Community Information Newsletter

Terang – Camperdown Fires

Monday, 19th March 2018

COMMUNITY INFORMATION MEETING

Location: Terang Civic Hall – 129 Mary Bradshaw Avenue,
Terang
Time: 1:00pm

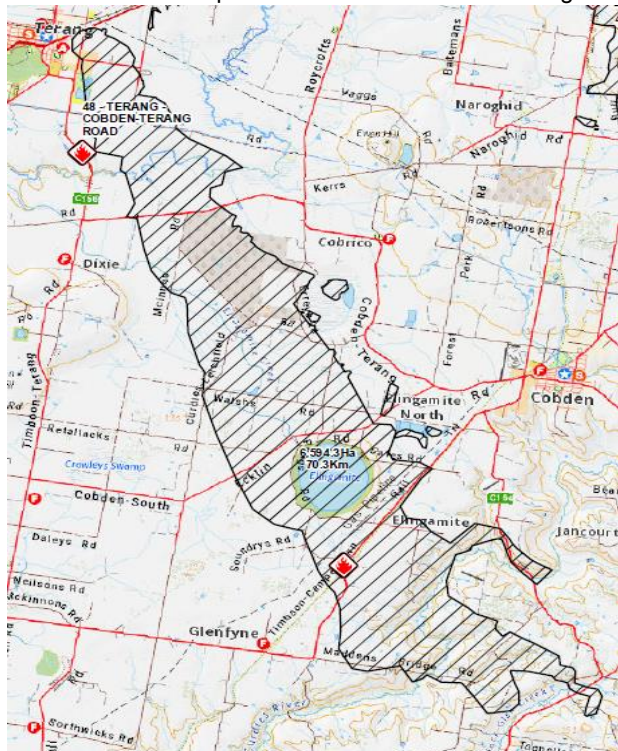
INCIDENT INFORMATION

The Terang and Camperdown fires are not yet under control, however significant work overnight by ground crews kept both fires from growing.

Estimated losses across both fires include 18 houses, 42 sheds, several head of cattle, pasture and silage as well as part of a blue gum plantation. Impact assessment teams will be working in the area over coming days to assess property losses.

TERANG FIRE - Estimated at 6,771 hectares

This grassfire is the largest of the south west fires. With conditions easing overnight on Sunday, crews are on high alert for possible breakouts if winds pick up. 200 firefighters and 70 vehicles and 6 aircraft are working on the fire, along with machinery to build containment lines. Several homes remain without power. Powercor crews are working to restore power to about 1,500 homes and businesses that remain without power in Victoria's south west region



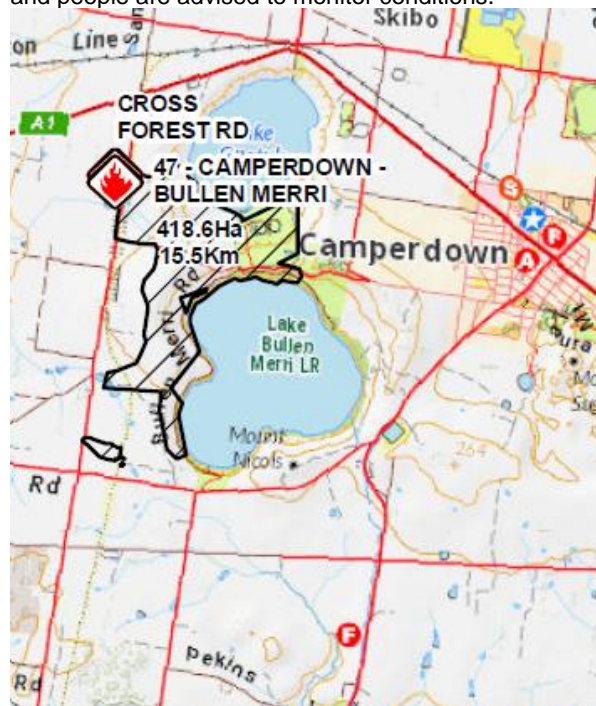
following the weekend's fires and damaging winds. While most customers are expected to be back on supply today, in some cases it may be a number of days before crews are able to safely repair damaged infrastructure.

There is a Watch and Act and Advice warning in place for several townships in the area.

GNOTUK -CAMPERDOWN FIRE - Estimated at 200 hectares

This fire is not yet under control, however fire behaviour has eased overnight. Waterbombing aircraft attacked the fire on the steep banks near Lake Gnotuk.

50 firefighters and 20 trucks have worked on the fire overnight. A Watch and Act message remains for townships in the area and people are advised to monitor conditions.



POWERCOR – POWER OUTAGES

Any dairy farmer without power – needs to contact 132 412 to register their details. These outages will be given priority for rectification.

URGENT LIVESTOCK ASSISTANCE

Contact Agriculture Victoria on 13 61 86. Select option 5.

RELIEF & RECOVERY INFORMATION

Relief Centres are in place at:

- Cobden Civic Centre 53-55 Victoria Street Cobden
- Terang Civic Centre 129 Mary Bradshaw Ave; Terang

Services available:

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

Hardship payments are available to help community members meet immediate needs, including emergency food, shelter, clothing and personal items. More information at www.emergency.vic.gov.au/relief

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR IMPACTED RESIDENTS

The Commonwealth and Victorian Governments have today announced:

\$540 per adult and \$270 per child, to a maximum of \$1890 per household, will be made available for immediate needs such as emergency shelter, food and clothing; and

UP TO \$40,700 per eligible household for clean up, emergency accommodation and repairs if the place of primary residence has been damaged and is uninsured.

The grants are available for people affected by the fires in Colac-Otway, Corangamite, Moyne and Southern Grampians shires, through the National Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements.

To confirm your eligibility please visit a relief centre as listed above or contact your local Council.

VFF ASSISTANCE

Meanwhile, the Victorian Farmers Federation is seeking urgent fodder donations to help farmers affected by the fires. Anyone who can help is asked to phone the VFF on 1300 882 833.

INSURANCE

Fire affected residents with property or contents insurance should contact their insurance company as soon as possible:

- Ask your insurer for advice on actions you should take
- Do not throw away damaged items without first consulting your insurance company
- Make a list of items that have been damaged and take photographs if possible
- Keep receipts for any emergency repair work.

On Sunday 18 March the Insurance Council of Australia (ICA) declared a catastrophe for fires across Victoria. A 24hr Catastrophe Hotline (1800 734 621) is active to assist the community with insurance related issues. Information on lodging a claim can be found at www.disasters.org.au

BUS SCHOOL CLOSURES

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

STAY INFORMED

For information on fires in Victoria and general fire safety advice, please contact the **Victorian Bushfire Information Line (VBIL)** on freecall **1800 240 667**. Callers who are deaf, hard of hearing, or have a speech/communication impairment can call VBIL via the National relay Service on **1800 555 677**.

Check for the latest warnings and advice messages at www.emergency.vic.gov.au

Facebook ([facebook.com/vicemergency](https://www.facebook.com/vicemergency)) or Twitter ([@vicemergency](https://twitter.com/vicemergency))

MOBILE EDUCATION UNITS

CFA have positioned two Mobile Education Units within the townships of Terang and Colac until 3pm.

They are available to members of the community to provide information on

- Fire situation
- Road closures
- Relief centre locations
- Emergency Services contact details
- General fire safety information
- Bushfire Survival Plans

Terang Location

Landmark: IGA Supermarket

Address: Estcourt St, Terang

Colac Location

Landmark: Opposite

Address : 53-55 Victoria St, Cobden

ROADS AND RAIL

Check traffic.vicroads.vic.gov.au for further information.

- The Princes Highway has now re-opened.
- Train services on the Warrnambool line are currently suspended due to fire activity. Replacement buses are now able to travel through to Warrnambool.
- V/Line passengers are being advised that disruptions on the Warrnambool line will continue across the week. Visit ptv.vic.gov.au/

HEALTH INFORMATION

For information on how smoke from bushfires can affect your health, and emergency assistance availability:

The Department of Health and Human Services

www2.health.vic.gov.au/public-health/environmental-health/climate-weather-and-public-health/bushfires-and-public-health

Nurse-on-Call on 1300 60 60 24 (this is a phone service that allows you to discuss any health related issue with a registered nurse, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week for the cost of a local call from anywhere in Victoria).

AFTER THE FIRES

The Department of Human Services offer a range of support services including personal, emotional, psychological and financial help. For information go to www2.health.vic.gov.au/

COMMUNITY SUPPORT

Wanted to thank the community/ business etc for the amazing support they have provided – the resources are arriving to deliver key services to fire fighters .