

Community Information Newsletter

Cobden-Camperdown Peat Fires

Sunday 8th April 2018

Important Information

- While weather conditions over recent days have increased the smoke impacts in nearby communities, particularly in Cobden, conditions this morning have improved.
- We are continuing to closely monitor forecasts and issuing additional warnings as required. Cobden, Cobrico, Elingamite, Elingamite North and Camperdown remain at risk from the smoke.
- Firefighters are continuing to work hard to extinguish the peat fires near Lake Cobrico, Lake Elingamite and Lake Bullen-Merri, but it may take many weeks to fully control them.
- Work is underway to construct a 4km pipeline from the Ewen Hill Reservoir to Lake Cobrico. This will significantly increase the amount of water available for crews to use for firefighting efforts.
- This 4 kilometre above-ground pipeline means we'll be able to pump water directly to the Lake Cobrico peat fire, helping us to advance our efforts and reduce the impacts on local communities.
- The Incident Controller, Environment Protection Authority and Department of Health and Human Services are strongly encouraging community members to stay away from areas heavily affected by smoke from the peat fires.
- If leaving these areas for longer periods, you should attend the Terang relief centre to complete an absence of residence form, which should be handed to police anytime between 9am to 5pm at the relief centre.

Warnings and Advice messages

Currently 2 Warnings have been issued for poor air quality in the areas of Cobden, Cobrico, Elingamite, and Elingamite North.
Currently 1 Advice Messages have been issued for peat fire near Camperdown.
Currently 1 Community Information for area between the peat fires.

Please check up to date messages at:

www.emergency.vic.gov.au

Listen to Local ABC radio VicEmergency

App VicEmergency Hotline 1800 226 226

Health & Safety

Smoke from peat fires can affect people's health. People with heart or lung conditions (including asthma), children, pregnant women and those over 65 years of age are more sensitive to the effects of breathing in smoke from fires. People with existing heart or lung conditions (including asthma) should follow the treatment plan advised their doctor.

If you or anyone in your care is experiencing symptoms that may be due to smoke exposure, you can visit the Community Health Assessment Centre based out of the **Terang Relief Centre** **Opening hours 8am to 8pm (Terang Civic Hall, 129 Mary Bradshaw Avenue), After hours Terang Hospital or NURSE-ON-CALL on 1300 60 60 24 or seek medical advice. Call 000 in an emergency.**

Information Point

Country Fire Authority – Mobile Education Unit , the big red bus is set up out front of the Uniting Church, 61 Curdie Street, Cobden.

EPA Air Watch visit

www.epa.vic.gov.au/epairwatch

Air quality is continually being monitored for the areas of Cobrico, Elingamite and Elingamite North. Up-to-date air quality information can be found at

For Relief and Recovery Information visit

<https://www.emergency.vic.gov.au/relief#southwestfiresmarch2018>

Personal Welfare

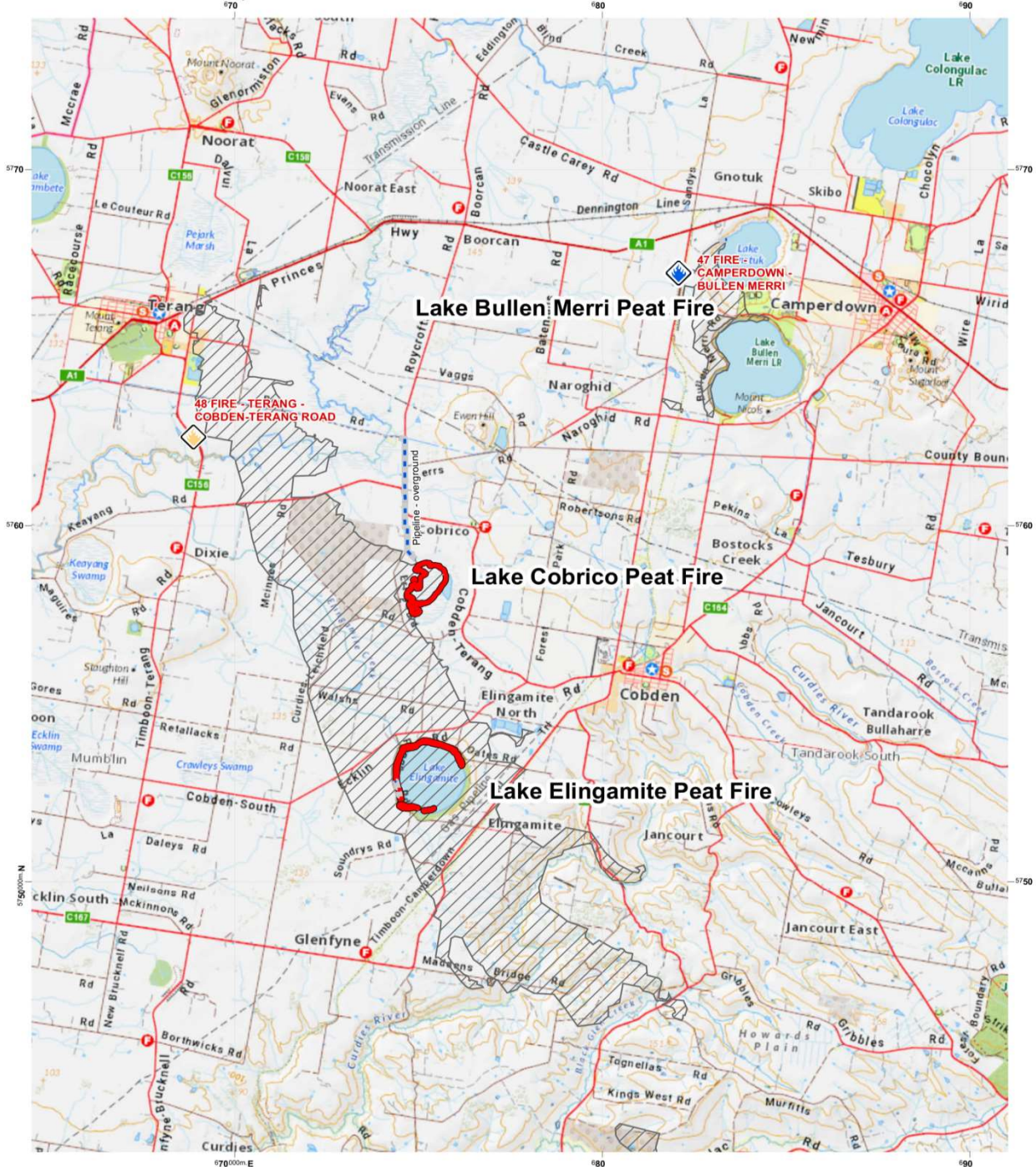
It is normal to have strong emotional or physical reactions after an emergency these feelings are part of the healing process.

For local Community Health or Emotional Support Services - South West Healthcare provides specialist mental health services to South Western Victoria please call:

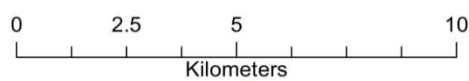
Phone: 5563 4000 or 5232 5180 **Website:** southwesthealthcare



Cobden - Camperdown Peat Fires Public Information Map



- Pipeline - overground
- Active Peat Fire Area
- Current burnt area



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Disclaimer: This map is a snapshot generated from Victorian Government data. The State of Victoria does not guarantee that the publication is without flaw of any kind or is wholly appropriate for your particular purposes and therefore disclaims all liability for error, loss or damage which may arise from reliance upon it. All persons accessing this information should make appropriate enquiries to assess the currency of the data.

