

Community Newsletter

Southern Hume (Longwood Berry's Lane)

25th January 2026



Information about the current fire situation:

The fire area is 132,653 hectares with a fire perimeter of over 500 kilometres.

The fire is now contained.

Multiple resources continue to work across the fire affected area completing blacking out, patrol and hazardous tree work.

Road opening works are a major focus of the Incident Management Team, affected Councils and the Department of Transport. Roads will be reopened as soon as they are safe to do so.

The long weekend leading up to 26 January has brought widespread heatwave conditions across the State, and these high temperatures are expected to continue throughout the coming week. Take steps to protect yourself and others by keeping cool, staying hydrated, planning ahead and checking in with others.

For guidance on staying safe during extreme heat, visit:
<https://www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au/extreme-heat>

Please remain up to date with messaging through the VicEmergency app or website.

There will be hot spots within the burnt area for a period of time. If you see trees or stumps burning within the burnt area, there is no need to call 000. If you see fire outside of the burnt area or on the roadside or if you are concerned, call 000.

Recovery & Information Hubs:

Mansfield - Mansfield Visitor Centre, 175 High Street.

Seymour - Seymour Library, 125 Anzac Avenue.

Yea - Yea Library, 15 The Semicircle.

Alexandra - Alexandra Library, 49 Grant Street.

Euroa - Euroa Tourist Information Centre, 50 Binney Street.

Community Hubs:

Yarck - Yarck Community Hall, 6583 Maroondah Highway.

Fawcett – Fawcett Hall, 655 Spring Creek Road.

Highlands – Highlands Community Hall, 1603 Ghin Ghin Road.

Monitor your local council's social media and website for more information on recovery.



Pictured above: Yarck Community Hub

Generator Program:

Families impacted by prolonged power outages as a result of the fires can now apply to loan a small generator.

More than 250 generators will be made available to those in need. Small generators are able to supply small electrical appliances such as fridges, laptops and LED lights.

They cannot power your entire property.

More information can be obtained by calling the DEECA customer call centre on 136 186.

Returning Home

Emergency Recovery

A simple factsheet has been developed which lists all available support. [January 2026 Victorian bushfires - Relief and recovery factsheet](#)

For help accessing support, call the Emergency Recovery Hotline. **1800 560 760 (9am to 5pm)**

- 🌐 Sign up for updates to new recovery programs at <https://www.vic.gov.au/january-2026-victorian-bushfires>

Before you return home stock up on basic non-perishable food, bottled water, medications and take protective clothing, boots, gloves and equipment like P2/N95 masks.

<https://www.redcross.org.au/emergencies/coping-after-a-crisis/returning-home-and-coping-after-a-crisis/>

Insurance Claims:

Free legal support and financial counsellors are available for any questions or advice about insurance claims.

In these early days, consider getting a second opinion before accepting cash settlements or temporary accommodation payments.

ARC Justice (legal): 03 5445 0909 or 1800 450 909

National Debt Helpline (financial counselling): 1800 007 007

Access to Drinking Water

Each household may be eligible to receive 20,000L of relief drinking water.

Visit [Emergency relief drinking water 2026](#) to see if you are eligible and to fill out an online form.

For help with the form, **call the DEECA**

Customer Contact Centre on 136 186 - press 0.
Monday to Friday 8am to 6pm

Free Waste disposal / Tip fees

There are no fees at local waste disposal facilities for fire affected properties until 13 May 2026.

Show proof of residence, such as a driver's licence.

Essential Water Replacement

Water used for firefighting can be replaced within 3 months of it being taken from your property. If essential water supplies run out, urgent replacement can be arranged.

Register for water replacement

- 📞 customer call centre 136 186 and press 0.
- ✉️ emergency.recovery@deeca.vic.gov.au
- 🌐 <https://www ffm.vic.gov.au/recovery-after-an-emergency/public-land-recovery>

Power and Phone

Mobile generators are being installed in some for the worst impacted communities where AusNet may not be able to restore power for some time.

AusNet

🌐 www.ausnetservices.com.au/outages

📞 Bushfire Support Line on **1300 561 171**.

Ask about payments for prolonged power outages

Telstra

📞 Disaster Support Hotline **1800 888 888**

Extra mobile data has been applied to customers in impacted areas. Telstra can also pause billing for services that cannot be used due to fire.

Wildlife Welfare

Report wildlife impacted by bushfire:

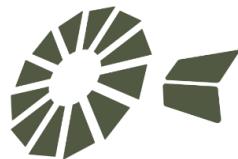
1300 322 060 or

email icale.wildlife@icc.vic.gov.au



Fire grounds are dangerous, even after the fire front has passed. Individuals, wildlife rescue and rehabilitation groups must not enter the fire ground area to search for wildlife

Agriculture and Livestock



**Victorian
Farmers
Federation**

To request emergency fodder, **contact the VFF:**

1300 882 833 or www.vff.org.au

<https://www.vff.org.au/vff-emergency-fodder-program/>



Fences and Control lines after Bushfires

Assistance may be provided to affected landowners for the stabilisation of fire control lines and/or the repair of rural fencing where those works or damages were directly related to activities undertaken by fire agencies during the bushfire emergency.

To find out if your damage is eligible for support, you can contact DEECA:

- on 136 186 (8am – 6pm Monday to Friday)
- visit <https://www.ffm.vic.gov.au/recovery-after-an-emergency/public-land-recovery>.
- Email the [Bushfire Recovery Assistance Form](#)

Livestock Disposal

Disposal is managed by the landholder. Agriculture Victoria can support you with guidance, information and technical advice. on **0407 145 007** or by email at

livestock.disposal@agriculture.vic.gov.au

If you have urgent domestic stock welfare needs, call VicEmergency Hotline on 1800 226 226 then dial 0 (incident) then 3 (recovery).

Before burying livestock, **Dial Before You Dig by calling 1100** or go to www.byda.com.au to avoid damaging your infrastructure.

Further information and support available at <https://agriculture.vic.gov.au/farm-management/emergency-management/bushfires>



Report fire impacts to Agriculture Victoria online to help us direct support efforts where they are needed most.

Please use the Loss and Damage form to report:

- Dead or injured animals
- Crop loss or damage
- Fodder and water needs

[Bushfires](#) | [Emergency management](#) | [Farm management](#) | [Agriculture Victoria](#)

Taking Care of Yourself

It is normal to have strong emotional or physical reactions after a distressing event.

Look out for changes or signs that someone's mental health might be changing. Help is available through your doctor – request a Medicare Mental Health Plan.

Victorian Virtual Emergency Department
A free medical service for non-life-threatening emergencies You need a device with a camera
<https://www.vved.org.au/>

You can speak to a registered nurse 24 hours a day at **Nurse-on-Call on 1300 60 60 24**.

For immediate support, contact:

[Lifeline - 131 114](#)
[Beyond Blue - 1300 224 636](#)
[MensLine - 1300 789 978](#)
[Kid's Help Line - 1800 55 1800](#)
[National Centre Farmers Health \(03\) 5551 8533](#)

Stress management techniques are available
<https://www.beyondblue.org.au/mental-health/what-is-stress>

Family Violence
1800 737 732 (1800RESPECT)
Visit www.vic.gov.au/familyviolence

Emergency psychosocial supports guide
The guide to emergency psychosocial supports explains what psychosocial supports are available in emergencies.
www.dffh.vic.gov.au/guide-emergency-psychosocial-support-word

Australian Red Cross practical tips to help you cope physically and mentally after a crisis:
<http://www.redcross.org.au/emergencies/coping-after-a-crisis/returning-home-and-coping-after-a-crisis/>

Insurance claims

Free legal support and financial counsellors are available for any questions or advice about insurance claims. In these early days, consider getting a second opinion before accepting cash settlements or temporary accommodation payments.

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Stay Informed 

📞 VicEmergency Hotline 1800 226 226
🌐 www.emergency.vic.gov.au

Emergency Radio Broadcasters

Southern Hume (Longwood Fires) UGF
106.9 - Alexandra / Lake Eildon / Mansfield
88.9 - Yea / Highlands
98.5 - Marysville / Lake Mountain
98.9 - Flowerdale / Hazeldene
94.5 - Kinglake Ranges

Radio Mansfield - 99.7FM

ABC
91.1FM, 97.7FM – Euroa / Seymour
103.7FM – Mansfield
98.1FM – Yea / Highlands

2026 Victorian Bushfire Appeal

If you're looking to help people impacted by the bushfires, go to <https://vic.gov.au/2026-Victorian-Bushfire-Appeal>

100% of donations go direct to those who need it most for immediate relief, long term recovery efforts, community projects and programs to regenerate wildlife and the environment.

📞 **1800 837 733 (9am to 5pm)**

Donations of food cannot be accepted, contact the Salvation Army if you wish to donate goods. Go to www.givit.org.au to donate funds or give specific items people have requested.