

## Community Newsletter

### Southern Hume (Longwood Berry's Lane)

### 25<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto: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](http://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 [iccale.wildlife@icc.vic.gov.au](mailto:iccale.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](http://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](mailto: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](http://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](tel:131114)  
[Beyond Blue - 1300 224 636](tel:1300224636)  
[MensLine - 1300 789 978](tel:1300789978)  
[Kid's Help Line - 1800 55 1800](tel:1800551800)  
[National Centre Farmers Health \(03\) 5551 8533](tel:0355518533)

**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](http://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](http://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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1800 007 007

### Stay Informed



 VicEmergency Hotline 1800 226 226  
 [www.emergency.vic.gov.au](http://www.emergency.vic.gov.au)

 **Emergency Radio Broadcasters**  
**Southern Hume (Longwood Fires) UGFM**  
**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](http://www.givit.org.au) to donate funds or give specific items people have requested.