

## Community Newsletter

# Southern Hume (Longwood) Fires – January 2026

Issued 7am Friday 16<sup>th</sup> January

### What is happening now

The fire has burnt approximately 133,000 ha with a fire perimeter of approximately 320 km. Today there are 660 personnel working on the fire with aircraft continuing to assist.

There are 2 Watch and Acts and 4 Advice messages currently in place

### Road closure and opening information

The Goulburn Valley Highway from Yea, to Cathkin is now open. This includes the road network from Cathkin to Alexandra – Goulburn Valley Highway merging to the Maroondah Highway.

These roads have been opened as an access level C – **Authorised Access for residents and recovery services.**

This allows access to:

- Local residents returning to their homes.
- People providing recovery and relief services to residents in this area.
- Council or VicRoads employees or sub-contractors.
- Business owners in the immediate area of Ruffy.
- DEECA or Ag Vic staff facilitating the treatment and humane destruction of injured animals.
- Individuals or groups delivering relief and aid to residents and animals.

### **These roads are not open to the general public or holiday makers**

The escorted convoys from Yea are no longer required and will not operate from Friday 16 January 2026.

The Maroondah Highway between Yarck and Merton remains closed due to hazardous trees.

### **Road closure information**

☎ 13 11 70 🌐 [traffic.vicroads.vic.gov.au](https://traffic.vicroads.vic.gov.au)

### **Community Info Hubs**



#### **Strathbogie Shire**

Euroa Tourist and Information Centre  
50 Binney Street.

#### **Murrindini Shire**

Yea Library  
15 The Semicircle

Alexandra Library  
49 Grant Street

The Hubs provide information on services and supports available to impacted community members.

### **Landslide threat**

After bushfires, rain and the loss of plants and roots can make the ground soft and heavy, leading to greater chance of landslides.

Landslides can carry debris such as boulders and trees downhill and cause serious damage to buildings. Avoid walking in burnt areas or along riverbanks and gullies during and immediately after rainfall.

### **Air Quality Poor or Very Poor**

Minimise time outside, exercise indoors and wear a P2/N95 mask when working outside. Close windows, set air-con to recirculate. Use a HEPA air purifier if you have one. Bring pets inside.

**Call Triple Zero 000** for trouble breathing or chest pain/tightness.



### Important Water information



A water tanker has been set up outside the Molesworth Hotel and General Store to provide drinking water to the community between 8am and 9pm.

Goulburn Valley Water, in consultation with the Department of Health, has lifted the Boil Water Advisory for Longwood and Longwood East. The water supply to Longwood and Longwood East customers is safe for all drinking, washing and food preparation purposes. We will continue to provide water at the Longwood Recreation Reserve through the water tanker from 8am to 4pm and a supply of bottled water, for all landholders around Longwood who have been fire-affected.

People who have a large water carting tanker can access standpipes in Euroa, Yea, Bonnie Doon, Alexandra and Seymour for free.

The water being provided to Ruffy community members is safe to drink.

**More information about all of these services and more are available at [Emergencies and Natural Disasters](#) | [Goulburn Valley Water](#)**



#### **Mental health support**

Emergencies can bring on strong emotions or even physical reactions – and can be different for everyone.

Talking about how you're feeling, staying connected with others, and taking

practical steps to address your concerns can help.

There are many free mental health support services across Victoria. These provide crisis support, information, resources, counselling and therapy to people of all ages.

The Better Health Channels has contact details for Mental Health and Wellbeing Locals and Hubs, which are free – you don't need a GP referral or Medicare card.

#### **Mental Health and Wellbeing Locals**

Mental Health and Wellbeing Locals are a free service for Victorians aged 26 and over.

They provide treatment, care and support for your mental health and wellbeing close to home. They're free and you don't need a GP referral, Medicare card or mental health care plan.

They provide access to a wide range of professional and confidential support, including from psychologists, peer workers and other mental health workers

For more information go to:

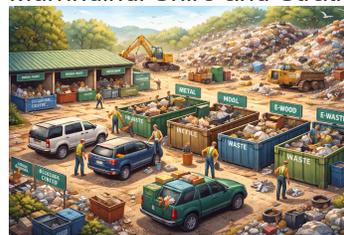
<https://www.health.vic.gov.au/mental-health-services/mental-health-and-wellbeing-locals#current-locations-and-providers>

#### **Waste Disposal fees waived**

People from the local LGA's impacted by the fire won't need to pay any fees at waste disposal facilities if they show proof of residence like a drivers licence.

The fee waivers will run for 120 days to 13 May 2026 to ensure impacted communities have enough time to clean up their property and start getting back on their feet.

LGA's include: Mansfield Shire, Mitchell Shire Murrindindi Shire and Strathbogie Shire.



#### **Emergency Fodder Support Program**

Agriculture Victoria is working with the Victorian Farmers Federation (VFF) on an emergency fodder program to provide relief assistance to farmers affected by bushfires.



Farmers in fire affected areas can request emergency fodder by contacting the VFF on 1300 882 833 or visiting [vff.org.au](http://vff.org.au).

#### **Register for convoy or Emergency Fodder**

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

## Information about returning home

Before you return home stock up with basic items such as nonperishable food, bottled water, medications before you go back home.

Have suitable clothing, boots and necessary protective equipment to ensure your safety when moving around your home.

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

### **Drinking water access**

Each household can receive 20,000L of relief drinking water.

Goulburn Valley Water [www.gvwater.vic.gov.au](http://www.gvwater.vic.gov.au)

North East Water <https://www.newater.com.au/>

### **Essential water replacement**

Water used for firefighting purposes can be replaced. Request 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

✉ [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>

### **Food spoilage**

All foods perishable and non-perishable that has been fire-damaged or affected by heat should be thrown out. Including cans or packaged foods.

[www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au/health/healthyliving/food-safety-and-storage](http://www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au/health/healthyliving/food-safety-and-storage)

### **Wildlife Welfare**

☎ Wildlife Victoria on (03) 8400 7300

Seymour ICC Wildlife Coordinator

☎ 1300 322 060

[iccale.wildlife@icc.vic.gov.au](mailto:iccale.wildlife@icc.vic.gov.au)

Be conscious of your own safety when handling wildlife. Bites and stings have been reported in recent days.

### **Power and Telecommunications**

Check websites for updates on outages and restoration timelines. Mobile generators are being installed in some for the worst impacted communities where AusNet may not be able to restore power for some time.

Telstra have added Additional data to mobile services automatically, to impacted areas.

### **AusNet**

🌐 [www.ausnetservices.com.au/outages](http://www.ausnetservices.com.au/outages)

☎ Bushfire Support Line on 1300 561 171.

### **Powercor**

🌐 [www.powercor.com.au/outages](http://www.powercor.com.au/outages)

☎ 13 24 12

### **Telstra**

☎ Disaster Support Hotline 1800 888 888

### **Agriculture and Livestock**

**Emergency fodder** is available for farmers in fire-affected areas. If you have urgent animal welfare needs contact ☎ **VicEmergency Hotline** on 1800 226 226 then dial 0 (incident) then 3 (recovery).

Agriculture Victoria can help with information about how to assess stock welfare.

### **Victorian Farmers Federation VFF**

☎ 1300 882 833 or [www.vff.org.au](http://www.vff.org.au)

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

### **Agriculture Victoria**

☎ 1800 226 226

🌐 [www.agriculture.vic.gov.au/farm-management/emergency-management/bushfires](http://www.agriculture.vic.gov.au/farm-management/emergency-management/bushfires)

### **Bushfires and Livestock Disposal**

Landowners are now advised that the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) does not have specific timelines on the burial of dead livestock due to bushfires. EPA is available to support and advise.

☎ EPA hotline on 1300 372 842

Before burial of 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.

## Relief and Recovery Information

### Emergency Recovery Hotline

☎ 1800 560 760 (9am to 5pm)

🌐 <https://www.vic.gov.au/january-2026-victorian-bushfires>

### Emergency Relief Centre locations

- **Mansfield Sporting Complex**  
35 Highbury Street,
- **Seymour Sports and Aquatic Centre**  
Pollard Street
- **Shepparton Showgrounds**  
McIntosh Centre, Archer Street

### Register.Find.Reunite [register.redcross.org.au](https://register.redcross.org.au)

Let friends, family and emergency services know you are safe at or at a relief centre.

### Financial Assistance

Australian Government Disaster Recovery Payments. Eligible people may receive a one-time payment to cover essentials like food, clothing, medication and accommodation.

- \$1,000 per adult
- \$400 per child

Further funding is available for those that have lost their homes including those uninsured. Free confidential wellbeing support alongside financial and business counselling is available via

☎ **Rural financial counselling** 1300 834 775

### Victorian Bushfire Appeal

🌐 Visit [www.vic.gov.au/2026-Victorian-Bushfire-Appeal](https://www.vic.gov.au/2026-Victorian-Bushfire-Appeal)

☎ 1800 837 733 (9am to 5pm)



Donations over \$2 are tax deductible. 100% of funds raised go directly to those in need. Donations of food cannot be accepted, contact the Salvation Army if you wish to donate goods. Go to [www.givvit.org.au](https://www.givvit.org.au) to donate funds or give specific items people have requested.

### Business support

Information about support for businesses will become available in coming days.

🌐 Business Victoria website  
<https://business.vic.gov.au/>

## Health information

It is normal to have strong emotional or physical reactions following a distressing event. Look out for changes or signs of someone's mental health might be changing. There is always help available through your doctor – request a Medicare Mental Health Plan.

Access support by contacting

[Lifeline](https://lifeline.org.au) - 131 114

[Beyond Blue](https://beyondblue.org.au) - 1300 224 636

[MensLine](https://mensline.org.au) - 1300 789 978

[Kid's Help Line](https://kidsline.org.au) - 1800 55 1800

[Parent Line](https://parentline.org.au) - 13 22 89

[National Centre for Farmers Health](https://nationalcentreforfarmershealth.org.au) (03) 5551 8533

### Protect your health

Staying hydrated helps protect your physical and mental wellbeing. Dehydration can be dangerous. Drink plenty of fluids, ideally water.

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

**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/>

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

### Family Violence

☎ 1800 737 732 (1800RESPECT)

🌐 Visit [www.vic.gov.au/familyviolence](https://www.vic.gov.au/familyviolence)

### Stay informed

☎ VicEmergency Hotline 1800 226 226

🌐 [www.emergency.vic.gov.au](https://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



 Current Burnt Area

Print Date: 15/01/2026  
 Print Time: 23:49:15  
 Linescan: N/A  
 Field Obs: N/A  
 Sat. Hotspots: N/A

PROJECTION: Lambert Conformal Conic  
 HORIZONTAL DATUM: GDA2020  
 COORDINATE SYSTEM: GDA2020 Vicgrid



1:70,000

0 1.75 3.5 7 Kilometres

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.

Project name: C:\data\20260115\_Day\projects\20260115\_Longwood\_Fire\_Public Info.aprx  
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