

# Community Newsletter

## Longwood Berrys Lane Bushfire 11 February 2026

### Message from the Mayor

The January bushfires have had a deep impact across Strathbogie Shire. Many families have lost homes, sheds, fencing, livestock and the routines that make life feel normal. Like many in our community, some of our councillors and Council staff have also been directly affected.

As a farmer and a local, I understand how tough this has been and how uncertain things can feel right now.

I want you to know that Council is here to support you - with practical help, clear information, approvals, and recovery services. We'll work alongside you in a way that respects where you're at and what you need.

Everyone's recovery will look different. Some people are ready to move forward, while others are still taking things day by day. There's no right pace.

Please keep an eye on Council's website, Facebook page and community notices for updates and recovery information.

If you need assistance, advice, or simply someone to talk things through with, please reach out to Council. Our community is strong, and together we will support one another through recovery.

**Scott Jeffery**  
Mayor, Strathbogie Shire Council



Cr Scott Jeffery spoke to Nic Healey from ABC Mornings when the program broadcast from the pop-up Recovery Hub.



### Recovery Hub now open in Euroa

A new Recovery Hub has been established in Euroa to support residents impacted by the January fires. The Hub provides a welcoming place to access information, speak with recovery specialists, and connect with key support services — all in one location.

Community members are welcome to drop in for practical assistance, wellbeing support, or simply to connect with others as recovery continues.

You'll find it at 34 Railway Street, Euroa

It's open from 9am - 3pm weekdays or by appointment.

### Third rates instalment postponed

The due date for the third 2025-26 rates instalment has been deferred to March, with notices now being issued in late February.

Properties impacted by the Longwood-Berrys Lane fire will not receive this instalment notice while damage assessments and rating reviews are completed.

Council's hardship policy remains available for anyone experiencing financial difficulty.

Please contact Customer Service on 1800 065 993 to discuss individual circumstances.

## Secondary impact assessments

Following the recent bushfires, Strathbogie Shire Council is undertaking Secondary Impact Assessments (SIAs) across affected areas. These assessments involve Council staff and specialists visiting properties and communities to better understand the full impact of the fires — including damage to buildings, health and wellbeing needs, and environmental risks.

The information collected helps Council:

- connect residents with support services such as housing, financial assistance and clean-up help
- plan local recovery projects and priorities
- advocate for state and federal funding to support our community's recovery.

SIAs are also important for identifying hidden hazards such as unstable structures, contamination and asbestos risks, which is why residents are encouraged not to begin clean-up until assessments are complete.

Participation is voluntary, and all information is handled securely and in line with privacy requirements.

To learn more about SIAs, what to expect during visits, and why waiting for assessment is important, visit the Strathbogie Shire Council website.

## Road inspections and repairs

Council crews are inspecting and repairing roads impacted by fire damage and increased heavy vehicle movements. Road users are asked to drive with care and be mindful of workers on site.

As works are completed, some roads will reopen with temporary reduced speed limits until permanent signage is installed.

Thank you for your patience as safe access across the Shire is restored.

## Free disposal of bushfire-related waste

Residents can dispose of bushfire-related waste free of charge until 12 May 2026 at Strathbogie Shire transfer stations and collection points. A daily limit of 4 cubic metres per household/vehicle applies.

Accepted items include fire-damaged household goods, fencing materials, green waste, food waste from outages, white goods and e-waste. Proof of residence is required.

Asbestos, chemicals, liquids, bricks and concrete are not accepted and require specialist disposal.

Opening hours vary and sites close on Total Fire Ban days — please check Council's website before visiting. For more information go to: 20260206-Bushfire-Related-Waste-.pdf

## Clean-up assistance

Help to clean-up your property is available if you are uninsured or underinsured. Emergency Recovery Victoria will remove eligible damaged homes, businesses, and community assets at no cost.

Supporting structures, like sheds, may also be eligible. Visit [vic.gov.au/register-for-clean-up](http://vic.gov.au/register-for-clean-up) or call the Emergency Recovery Hotline on 1800 560 760.

## Support for local businesses in clean-up program

Local businesses are encouraged to register their interest in the Victorian Government's Clean-Up Program.

Forge Solutions has been appointed as the lead contractor and is seeking qualified local trades, suppliers and service providers. You can register directly at [forgesolutions.au](http://forgesolutions.au).

## Health and wellbeing assistance

While reflecting on what has happened is natural, also take time to recognise your strengths and the positive actions you took to stay safe during this time.

Recovery is a personal journey, and everyone experiences things differently. For some people, recovery is ongoing.

Experiencing these emotions is a normal response to such events, but these concerns may lead to other issues if they are not managed.

If you find yourself experiencing strong emotions, talking about your worries and feelings as well as remaining connected to others can make them more manageable. It is important to identify what actions can be taken to address the source of your concerns.

Seeking help is a sign of strength and often the first step in recovery.

### For immediate support, contact:

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| • <b>Lifeline</b>                       | 131 114      |
| • <b>Beyond Blue</b>                    | 1300 224 636 |
| • <b>Mens Line</b>                      | 1300 789 978 |
| • <b>Kids Help Line</b>                 | 1800 55 1800 |
| • <b>National Centre Farmers Health</b> | 03 5551 8533 |

**Contact the Customer Service team on 1800 065 993**

**Email [info@strathbogie.vic.gov.au](mailto:info@strathbogie.vic.gov.au)**

**Website: [www.strathbogie.vic.gov.au](http://www.strathbogie.vic.gov.au)**

