Current as at 22 January 2026

Bushfire Resource Directory

AGRICULTURE VICTORIA

Ground Support

Animal Welfare

If your property has been impacted by fire and you have urgent animal welfare concerns, please contact the VicEmergency Hotline on **1800 226 226**.

Injured Native Animals

If you find an injured native animal, you can:

- Contact Wildlife Victoria on **03 8400 7300**
- Visit **wildlife.vic.gov.au/injured-native-wildlife/help-for-injured-wildlife**

Emergency Fodder Support Program

Agriculture Victoria and Victorian Farmers Federation (VFF) have activated the emergency fodder program to provide relief assistance to farmers affected by bushfires.

The Agriculture Emergency Fodder Support Program will provide urgent, practical assistance to support the health and welfare of livestock.

Farmers in fire affected areas can request emergency fodder by contacting the VFF on **1300 882 833** or visiting **vff.org.au**.

Livestock Carcass Disposal

Disposing of deceased livestock is managed by the landholder as part of on-property recovery. Agriculture Victoria is available to support landholders disposing of livestock with guidance, information and technical advice.

A Livestock Disposal Advisory service has been established to provide advice to landholders. This service can be contacted on 0407 145 007 and livestock.disposal@agriculture.vic.gov.au.

Emergency Water Supply Points

Emergency Water Supply Points (EWSPs) provide access to water for emergency stock and domestic purposes. These EWSPs can include council bores, urban and rural standpipes and can have costs and conditions associated with access.

To find your nearest EWSPs, visit water.vic.gov.au/for-agriculture-and-industry/emergency-water-supply-points

Essential Water Replacement

If we take essential water from your land to fight fires, you can request for it to be replaced.

If essential water supplies run out, we will replace the water within 48 hours of your request, as long as it's safe.

Please download and complete the form within 3 months of it being taken from your property.

Essential water replacement form

Email the completed form to **emergency.recovery@deeca.vic.gov.au.**

Fencing

Eligible property owners may get support to repair fencing if:

- firefighting or disaster response teams brought about the damage, or
- the fence is on the boundary of National Parks, State Parks or State Forests.

In most cases, fences not on the boundary of parks or those covered by insurance won't qualify for support.

To find out if your damage is eligible for support, you can contact DEECA on 136 186.

Financial Support

Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements

Primary Producer Bushfire Recovery Grants

Grants of up to $75,000 are available to eligible primary producers, to help cover the costs of clean-up and reinstating their enterprises.

Funding can be used for essential recovery activities such as disposing of stock, rebuilding or replacing damaged on-farm infrastructure and restoring operations.

Grants are open. Contact Rural Finance. Information on eligibility and how to apply at ruralfinance.com.au.

Primary Producer Bushfire Recovery Concessional LoansBus

Loans of up to $250,000 are available for producers who have suffered significant damage to assets.

This assistance will further help cover essential costs such as repairing or replacing damaged equipment, rebuilding infrastructure, purchasing livestock and meeting working capital expenses like wages, rent and fodder.

Applications are now open. Contact Rural Finance. Information on eligibility and how to apply at ruralfinance.com.au.

Prolonged Power Outage Payments

Eligible households who have been without power for seven or more days within a two-week period will receive $2,380 per week for up to three weeks, helping families manage during this challenging time.

Applications can be made through electricity distribution businesses, with full details available at energy.vic.gov.au/about-energy/safety/power-outages.

Personal Hardship Assistance Program

Emergency relief payments are based on a fixed amount for each member of your household. The payment is not based on income.

You can apply for an emergency relief payment if:

- Your principal place of residence was damaged or destroyed by the fires and you can't live in it or
- your principal place of residence was in an evacuation warning area and you evacuated your property

and you have unmet immediate relief needs.

Call the VicEmergency Hotline on 1800 226 226 to apply or visit an Emergency Relief Centre. Check if there's one open near you at emergency.vic.gov.au/relief

Farm Business Support

Rural Financial Counselling Service

The Rural Financial Counselling Service (RFCS) offers free, confidential and independent financial support to farmers and small, related rural businesses who are in, or at risk of, financial hardship. The RFCS also offer free, confidential wellbeing counselling.

To connect with your closest service call **1300 771 741** or visit rfcsnetwork.com.au.

Regional Investment Corporation

Farmers may be able to access low-interest loans through the Commonwealth Government's Regional Investment Corporation (RIC).

More information about the low interest loans process is available from the Regional Investment Corporation. Call **1800 875 675**, email info@ric.gov.au or visit ric.gov.au or scan the QR code.

Farmer Assistance Hotline

Contact the Farmer Assistance Hotline on **132 316** to find out about Australian Government support services available to farmers and rural communities.

Farm Household Allowance

Farmers in financial hardship may be eligible for the Commonwealth Government's Farm Household Allowance (FHA), a fortnightly payment available for up to four years in a specific 10-year period.

For more information on the Farm Household Allowance, visit servicesaustralia.gov.au.

Search for '*Farm Household Assistance*'.

A rural financial counsellor can help farmers to understand eligibility and apply for the FHA.

Personal Wellbeing Support

National Centre for Farmer Health

The National Centre for Farmer Health is supporting primary producers through initiatives to boost farmer mental health and wellbeing, including:

- Distribution of mental health resources and support information
- The Managing Stress on the Farm book, which explores the common causes of stressors on farms and offers practical ways to deal with them
- A new mental health hub with tailored mental health information and resources: farmerhealth.org.au/support-hub-victoria.

GPs and community health care providers

For support in difficult times, visit your local doctor (GP)

Community health services provide primary health care services including acute hospital care, medical centre, home and community care, district nursing, women's health, allied health services (podiatry, occupational therapy etc.), counselling, pharmacy, referrals.

Contact your GP or local Community Health service.

Royal Flying Doctor Service – Flying Doctor Wellbeing

Flying Doctor Wellbeing is a free mental health and wellbeing service for rural and remote Victorian communities.

Email wellbeing@rfds.vic.gov.au or call **1330 363 3222** (Gippsland), **1300 363 788** (Loddon Campaspe/Southern Mallee), **1300 661 323** (Grampians), **1800 808 284** (South Western) or **03 8412 0480**.

Personal Wellbeing Contacts

VicEmergency	Monitor the VicEmergency app, website and hotline for warnings and emergency info.	emergency.vic.gov.au 1800 226 226
Rural Financial Counselling Service	Free, confidential wellbeing support alongside financial and business counselling. Counsellors available to visit producers and their families at their property or over the phone.	rfcsnetwork.com.au/ 1300 771 741
National Centre for Farmer Health	Support resources and services for emotional and social wellbeing, farm business support, information for rural and health professionals, rural support organisations.	farmerhealth.org.au/support-hub-victoria 1300 771 741
Australian Red Cross	For people affected by severe weather and flood.	1800 733 276 redcross.org.au/
Lifeline	24/7 crisis support and suicide prevention.	131 114 lifeline.org.au
Beyondblue	24/7 telephone mental health information and support.	1300 224 636 beyondblue.org.au
MensLine Australia	24/7 service for men with relationship and family concerns.	1300 78 99 78 mensline.org.au
Family Relationships	Provides families with access to information about family relationship issues.	1800 050 321 familyrelationships.gov.au
Mental Health Care Plan	Medicare rebates for up to 10 individual or group appointments per year with a psychologist, occupational therapist or social worker.	Contact your GP for a referral healthdirect.gov.au/mental-health-care-plan
Kids Helpline	Confidential telephone counselling service for young people aged 5 to 25.	1800 551 800 kidshelpline.com.au/
NURSE-ON-CALL	Expert health information and advice (24 hours, 7 days a week).	1300 60 60 24
Rural Aid	Offers free, confidential counselling to Rural Aid registered farmers and families, and critical support to farmers affected by natural disaster with financial, water, fodder and volunteer assistance.	1300 327 624 contact@ruralaid.org.au www.ruralaid.org.au/
Better Health Channel	Health and medical information that is reliable, up to date, easy to understand, regularly reviewed and locally relevant.	betterhealth.vic.gov.au

Agriculture Victoria

Agriculture Recovery Services	Work with farmers and industry to prepare for and respond to natural disasters.	1800 226 226 recovery@agriculture.vic.gov.au
Information	The Agriculture Victoria website provides information on animal welfare, livestock and animals, as well as biosecurity.	agriculture.vic.gov.au/