

## Community Newsletter

### Ovens Fire Complex Community

### Monday 10 February 2020

#### Fire Situation Update

**Total Area of Ovens Fire Complex - 105910ha approx.**

The fire is contained and is generally quiet.

There has been scattered amounts of rain across Ovens district ranging from 1.6 millimetres to 26.8 millimetres in the last 24 hours.

Ground crews are focused on track clearing, hazardous tree treatment, patrolling and treating hotspots.

A rapid risk assessment team has been assigned to the fire and is presently assessing biodiversity values, debris flows and cultural heritage sites across the fireground.

#### Community Meetings

There are currently no community meetings planned at this time. Regular updates are being published on the DELWP Hume Facebook page to keep residents informed.

For the most up to date fire information visit [www.emergency.vic.gov.au](http://www.emergency.vic.gov.au)

#### Weather

**Forecast for Tuesday 11 February**

Humid. Cloudy. High chance of showers, most likely in the afternoon and evening. The chance of a thunderstorm in the afternoon and evening. Light winds. Daytime temperatures reaching 23 to 30.

**Forecast for Wednesday 12 February**

Partly cloudy. Medium chance of showers, most likely in the afternoon and evening. The chance of a thunderstorm in the morning and afternoon. Light winds becoming south-easterly 15 to 20 km/h during the afternoon then becoming light during the evening. Daytime temperatures reaching 23 to 33.

Starting from Monday 10th February (weather permitting), aerial shooting operations will take place on fire-affected public land in the Mount Buffalo National Park and Alpine National Park. These operations will only be carried out in areas which are closed to the public.

The community are reminded to stay out of areas closed to public until advised that the area is safe and open to public.

The aerial shooting operation is an immediate response action under the Victorian Government's biodiversity bushfire response program.

The aerial shooting operation will be targeting pest predators and large pest herbivores in priority fire-affected areas as a necessary and urgent action to give native plants and animals the best chance of survival after the fires.

During the aerial operation, people may see a helicopter and be able to hear gunshots.

The aerial shooting program will be carried out under strict conditions designed to ensure the operation is safe, effective and humane. Highly qualified pilots and shooters will be used during the operation.

For general public enquiries, please contact the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning's Customer Contact Centre on 13 61 86 or Parks Victoria's Information Centre on 13 19 63

#### Current Park Closures

For updates visit [www.parks.vic.gov.au](http://www.parks.vic.gov.au)

#### Road Closures

For information about road closures phone 13 11 70 or visit the VicTraffic website [traffic.vicroads.vic.gov.au](http://traffic.vicroads.vic.gov.au)

#### Animal Welfare

Farmers in need of fodder or agistment should call the VFF on 1300 882 833 to register for assistance. For urgent animal welfare and needs for pets,

horses and livestock including food and water, contact 1800 226 226 or visit <http://agriculture.vic.gov.au>

### **SUMMARY OF FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE: Emergency Bushfire Response in Primary Industries \$75,000 Grants**

This program helps pay for the costs of clean-up and other emergency measures including:

- repairing or replacing fencing and horticultural netting
- disposing of dead stock
- rebuilding or replacing damaged or destroyed on-farm infrastructure
- additional labour costs and more.

Claims can be made for activities/costs incurred since the date of the event.

For more information call 136 186 or visit: <https://www.ffm.vic.gov.au/recovery-after-an-emergency/public-land-recovery>

### **Transport subsidy:**

This program covers 50 per cent of the total freight costs to a maximum of \$15,000 (excluding GST) per farm business. Applicants can apply for a combination of the following transport activities:

- transport of emergency fodder for stock to fire-affected properties
- transport of stock to agistment, including returning stock
- transport of stock to sale or slaughter
- transport of emergency stock drinking water.

Claims can be made for activities/cost incurred since the date of the event. A maximum distance of 1,500 km applies per movement of stock and fodder and 500 km per movement of water. A minimum load of 20 dry sheep equivalents applies for movements of stock (loads of less than this will be assessed on a case by case basis). The minimum load for water and fodder is 500 kg.

Both programs are being delivered by Rural Finance. For further information, and to apply,

contact Rural Finance on 1800 260 425, visit [ruralfinance.com.au](http://ruralfinance.com.au) or email [governmentservices@ruralfinance.com.au](mailto:governmentservices@ruralfinance.com.au)

### **Wildlife**

For general enquiries & wildlife emergencies please contact 136 186.

### **Emergency Water Relief Program**

If you have water contamination due to bushfire. Eligible residents will be provided a tank water flush and 5000 litres of water. South East Water are facilitating this program for the north east fires. Call 131 851 for further information.

### **Flying drones near emergencies**

Emergency situations can be dangerous for people, property and the environment. Flying your drone near emergencies can cause major safety risks to response teams both in the air and on the ground. If you fly –they can't. Someone's life could be on the line. To protect yourself and the safety of others, unless you have specific permission, never fly your drone in or near natural disasters such as bushfires.

### **Mental Health**

It is normal to have strong emotional or physical reactions following a distressing event. There is always help available through:

Your doctor

Local mental health professionals

**Lifeline** - 131 114

Beyond Blue - 1300 224 636

MensLine - 1300 789 978

Kid's Help Line - 1800 55 1800

Parent Line - 13 22 89

### **Family Violence**

There is an increased risk of family violence after an emergency. Visit [www.vic.gov.au/familyviolence](http://www.vic.gov.au/familyviolence) or call 1800 737 732 (1800RESPECT).

### **Other Information**

A range of information regarding the current emergency and support services is available on the Alpine Shire Council website. Visit [www.alpineshire.vic.gov.au/emergency](http://www.alpineshire.vic.gov.au/emergency)