

Moorabool Recovery—Scotsburn Fire

Newsletter 1



Moorabool Shire Council is committed to working with its community to respond and recover from the Scotsburn fire.

Fire recovery can be an extended process. We are committed to the wellbeing of our fire affected residents and will continue to support in whatever way we can.

Council understands the ongoing emotional, economic and social toll which events like these have on residents. Council provides additional services during an emergency to help co-ordinate recovery efforts and minimise the impact.

Updates relating to recovery services will be published on our website moorabool.vic.gov.au under News and Information and on our Facebook page: Moorabool Shire Council and our Twitter account @mooraboolshire.

Counselling

Stress and other psychological impacts of experiencing a natural disaster like a fire can impact on a person's recovery.

Counselling is available through general practitioners and psychologists at local medical centres. Most medical centres will bulk bill and prioritise referrals, with up to 10 sessions supported by Medicare. For more information, contact your local medical centre.

If you have a more urgent need to talk to someone (including on the weekend or evening) you are able to contact Lifeline on 13 11 14. Lifeline provides 24 hour, confidential, crisis support via landline, payphone or mobile.



Relief Centre

A Relief Centre is open at Buninyong Town Hall, Learmonth Street, Buninyong. It will be opened from 10am to 5pm on **Tuesday 22 December**.

The Relief Centre will provide advice, information, support and referral for fire impacted residents. It will be staffed by Council and other support agencies.

Department of Health and Human Services will be available to provide financial support.

Government Grants

The Commonwealth and State Governments through their Commonwealth-State Natural Disaster and Relief Recovery Arrangements has announced:

- ◆ Emergency Relief Assistance, which provides payments of up to \$520 per adult and \$260 per child (up to a maximum of \$1,300 per household) available to help meet immediate needs, including emergency food, shelter, clothing, and personal items.
- ◆ Emergency Re-establishment Payments, which provide up to \$32,500 per eligible household for clean-up, emergency accommodation, repairs, rebuilding (a principal place of residence), and replacing some damaged contents.

Water Supplies

Residents reliant on tank water for their drinking supply should be mindful that during the fire a large amount of ash and other debris may have come into contact with roofs or tanks which could cause contamination. You will be able to access a tank cleaning and tank refill service by contacting Council on 5366 7100.

Licences and Registration

VicRoads will help out those who have burnt cars or licences. They will fast-track processing new licences and will refund the registration on burnt-out vehicles.

Asbestos

Community members returning to their damaged properties should be mindful of asbestos. Asbestos removal kits are being sourced and will be available from the Relief Centre for pick up.

Taking care of yourself after the fire

If your property has sustained damage during the fire and you are going to be at your property for an extended length of time during clean-up, remember to take bottled drinking water, food (perishable food should be kept in a cooler bag), sunscreen and a hat. Returning to your property may be stressful and exhausting – look after yourself.

Dangerous Trees

Trees along burnt roadsides are being inspected as it becomes safe to do so and those deemed as dangerous will be marked for removal. Contractors will begin these works but will take some time to move through each of the fire affected areas.

Agricultural Management and Livestock

Support and advice is available for properties affected by the fires. For information on areas including stock water management, pasture recovery, and injured stock, contact the Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources on 136 186.

Residents should continue to report wandering livestock to Council on 5366 7100 or our after-hours emergency number 0400 501 696.

Moorabool Shire Council

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Email: **info@moorabool.vic.gov.au**

Bacchus Marsh Service Centre: **182 Halletts Way, Darley**

Lerderderg Library: **215 Main Street, Bacchus Marsh**



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