

Community Newsletter

Grass Flat, Natimuk, Quantong and Vectis

Saturday, 10th January 2026

Information about the fire

The grass fire started at Grass Flat, 13 kilometres north-west of Natimuk at around 12.30pm Friday 9th January 2026. The extreme weather conditions caused the fire to spread quickly. The fire impacted areas of Natimuk and Quantong and kept burning towards Vectis crossing the Wimmera River and Wimmera Highway. After the late wind change, the rate of spread slowed considerably. This allowed firefighters and machinery to start building containment lines around the fire edge. The fire is approx.8500 hectares. Multiple assets have been lost.

Today, firefighters and emergency service vehicles including heavy machinery continue to work on the fire and commenced tree assessments within impacted areas.

The fire has been declared as contained.

Key Concerns

Emergency services continue to work through the process of assessing fire damaged trees. Access to the fire affected area remains unavailable until this work has been completed. Fire affected trees are extremely dangerous, and residents need to be cautious in the landscape.

Traffic Information

The following roads are closed
Wimmera Highway

- is closed from Horsham at Curran Road.
- at the Nhill-Harrow Road towards Natimuk.

Natimuk Frances Road is closed at Gymbowen, with traffic diverted to Nhill.

Check the VicTraffic website

(www.traffic.transport.vic.gov.au) or call 13 11 70 for road closures.

Relief Information

A Relief Centre is open at Horsham Town Hall, Pynsent Street Horsham.

Contact Horsham Rural City Council on 5382 9777 or attend a relief centre access support services.

Water and Water Quality

Town water quality remains unaffected in the area and is safe to drink. GWMWater recommend running your taps to flush your lines prior to consumption.

Water tank quality can be contaminated with ash following a fire. Please visit the [Department of Health](#) website for information on the importance of cleaning your roof, gutters and water tanks after a fire.

Waste Arrangements

A skip bin will be available at the Natimuk Waste Facility for the disposal of spoiled food waste only. The public should avoid disposing of other fire related waste in this skip bin for the time being, especially wastes suspected to be contaminated with asbestos.

The Quantong Transfer Station is also being opened but will be un-staffed. General waste bins at the transfer station can also be used for the disposal of spoiled food waste only.

Further arrangements for general waste for Natimuk and Quantong will be advised soon.

Asbestos

Following a fire, asbestos clumps and some fibres may remain on the property and cause a risk if the ash or debris is disturbed and inhaled. For more information about asbestos hazards after a fire, visit the [Department of Health](#) website.

Essential Water Replacement

If you require essential water replacement for your water tanks or dams, please complete and submit the request form [here](#).

Before your essential water replacement occurs, please clean your roof and gutters to ensure no ash is washed into your water tank.

Wildlife Welfare

If you see wildlife impacted by fire, please call the Horsham Incident Control Centre Wildlife Coordinator on 1300 356 682 This number is for local members of the community to report wildlife impacted by fire. There are wildlife welfare crews conducting assessments with vets to care for injured wildlife.

Cleaning Up a Smoke Affected Home

If your home has been damaged by the fire or smells of smoke from bushfires you should: ventilate your home; wash hard surfaces (furniture, walls and floors); wash soft furnishings (upholstered furniture and bedding); and wash affected clothing. For more information visit <https://www.epa.vic.gov.au/clean-smoke-affected-home-after-fire>

Protect your Health

Nurse-on-Call on 1300 60 60 24 is a phone service. You can discuss any health-related issue with a registered nurse, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week for the cost of a local call from anywhere in Victoria.

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](tel:131114)

[Beyond Blue - 1300 224 636](tel:1300224636)

[MensLine - 1300 789 978](tel:1300789978)

[Kid's Help Line - 1800 55 1800](tel:1800551800)

[Parent Line - 13 22 89](tel:132289)

Family Violence

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

Emergency Relief Payments Available Now

If you have been impacted by an emergency in Victoria, support is available. Emergency relief payments are available for eligible people affected by the January 2026 bushfires.

Visit the Horsham Emergency Relief Centre to apply in person or call the VicEmergency Hotline on 1800 226 226 and press 0 and then 1 to talk to someone.

Stay Informed

- www.emergency.vic.gov.au.
- VicEmergency Hotline - freecall 1800 226 226.
- VicEmergency app.
- Social Media
- Local radio
- Horsham Rural City Council website

To access this information in other languages, call the Translating and Interpreting Service on 131 450 (freecall) and ask them to call VicEmergency Hotline.

If you are deaf, hard of hearing, or have a speech/communication impairment contact National Relay Service on 1800 555 677 and ask them to call the VicEmergency Hotline.