

**AGRICULTURE VICTORIA**



# **Victorian Bushfires January 2026 – Recovery Resource Directory**

Published: 23 February 2026 V.1

## Contents

|   |          |
|---|----------|
| <b>FINANCIAL SUPPORTS</b> .....                                     | <b>2</b> |
| Primary Producer Bushfire Recovery Grants .....                     | 2        |
| Primary Producer Bushfire Recovery Concessional Loans .....         | 2        |
| Prolonged Power Outage Payments.....                                | 2        |
| Personal Hardship Assistance Program.....                           | 3        |
| <b>FARM MANAGEMENT SERVICES</b> .....                               | <b>3</b> |
| Technical advice, resources and events .....                        | 3        |
| Emergency Fodder Support Program.....                               | 4        |
| Livestock Carcass Disposal .....                                    | 4        |
| Clean-up support.....   | 4        |
| Fencing repair and replacement.....                                 | 4        |
| BlazeAid .....  | 5        |
| Water tank rebates for rural properties .....                       | 5        |
| Essential water replacement .....                                   | 5        |
| Emergency water supply points .....                                 | 5        |
| <b>FARM BUSINESS SUPPORT</b> .....                                  | <b>5</b> |
| Rural Financial Counselling Service.....                            | 5        |
| Justice Connect – disaster legal support for small businesses ..... | 6        |
| Farm Household Allowance.....                                       | 6        |
| Regional Investment Corporation.....                                | 6        |
| Farmer Assistance Hotline .....                                     | 6        |
| <b>PERSONAL WELLBEING SUPPORT</b> .....                             | <b>7</b> |
| Look Over the Farm Gate community events program.....               | 7        |
| Wellbeing counsellors.....  | 7        |
| Emergency Recovery Support Program – helping people.....            | 7        |
| National Centre for Farmer Health – online support hub.....         | 7        |
| GPs and community health care providers .....                       | 8        |
| Mental Health and Wellbeing Locals.....                             | 8        |
| Royal Flying Doctor Service – Flying Doctor Wellbeing .....         | 8        |
| Personal wellbeing contacts .....                                   | 8        |
| <b>GOVERNMENT AND AGENCY CONTACTS</b> .....                         | <b>9</b> |
| Agriculture Victoria .....  | 9        |
| Emergency Recovery Victoria .....                                   | 9        |
| Local government.....   | 10       |
| Water corporations and services.....                                | 10       |
| Catchment Management Authorities .....                              | 10       |

Agriculture Victoria is working with Victorian farmers and industry to prepare for, respond to and recover from drought and natural disasters, including fires, floods and storms.

Support is available for eligible farmers who were affected by the Victorian bushfires that started on 7 January 2026.

Support programs include financial grants and concessional loans, clean-up support, power outage payments, and water replacement.

The information listed below is current as at 23 February 2026. Please check eligibility criteria with the relevant agency listed below.

In addition, Agriculture Victoria's Ag Recovery Team is working to deliver technical information, advice and decision-making support to ensure farm business recovery. Please contact the team at [recovery@agriculture.vic.gov.au](mailto:recovery@agriculture.vic.gov.au) or call 136 186.

If you have urgent animal welfare needs, please contact 136 186.

## **FINANCIAL SUPPORTS**

### **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 reinstatement of primary production enterprises that have suffered direct damage as a result of the January 2026 bushfires.

Funding can be used for essential recovery activities; for example: disposing of stock, rebuilding or replacing damaged on-farm plant or equipment, repairing or replacing fencing, and purchasing fodder.

For information on eligibility, funding guidelines and how to apply contact Rural Finance at [ruralfinance.com.au](http://ruralfinance.com.au) or call 1800 260 425.

Applications will close at 4pm on 21 October 2026.

### **Primary Producer Bushfire Recovery Concessional Loans**

Loans of up to \$250,000 are available for eligible primary producers who have suffered significant damage to their assets as a result of the January 2026 bushfires.

Concessional loans are provided to re-establish normal business operations and are intended to be used for the purposes of restoring and/or replacing damaged assets and/or for working capital expenses that cannot be met due to a loss of income.

For information on eligibility, including loan guidelines and how to apply contact Rural Finance at [ruralfinance.com.au](http://ruralfinance.com.au) or call 1800 260 425.

Applications will close at 4pm on 21 October 2026.

### **Prolonged Power Outage Payments**

Between 7-10 January, extreme weather and bushfires resulted in power outages across Victoria.

Subject to eligibility criteria, the Prolonged Power Outage Payment will provide:

- \$2,380 per week for households for up to three weeks depending on the length of time the household was without power
- \$3,088 per week for small businesses for up to three weeks depending on the length of time the business was without power.

Applications will close at 11.59pm on Tuesday 31 March.

For more information and to make an application visit: [www.energy.vic.gov.au/about-energy/safety/power-outages](http://www.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.

Applications are still open (as of 18 February).

For more information and to apply for assistance, call the Vic Emergency Hotline on 1800 226 226 or visit Emergency Recovery Victoria at [www.vic.gov.au/January-2026-victorian-bushfires](http://www.vic.gov.au/January-2026-victorian-bushfires)

## **FARM MANAGEMENT SERVICES**

### **Technical advice, resources and events**

Agriculture Victoria is working with bushfire-affected farmers and industries to deliver technical information, advice and decision-making support to ensure farm business recovery. Topics include:

- animal health
- feeding livestock, including feed budgeting
- soil and erosion control, including protecting farm water quality
- farm water reticulation and infrastructure, including farm dams
- soil health and maintaining ground cover
- pasture and crop management
- designing and using stock containment areas.

For information on technical support visit the Agriculture Victoria website at [agriculture.vic.gov.au/bushfires](http://agriculture.vic.gov.au/bushfires), email [recovery@agriculture.vic.gov.au](mailto:recovery@agriculture.vic.gov.au) or call 136 186.

For information about upcoming technical events visit the Agriculture Victoria website at [agriculture.vic.gov.au/events](http://agriculture.vic.gov.au/events)

## **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](http://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 is available to provide advice to landholders. This service can be contacted on 0407 145 007 and [livestock.disposal@agriculture.vic.gov.au](mailto:livestock.disposal@agriculture.vic.gov.au).

## **Clean-up support**

Help is available for clean-up of farm sheds and some outbuildings through the state coordinated clean-up program for farmers who:

- are uninsured or underinsured
- have lost or damaged sheds or other farm structures because of the fire.

The clean-up work is being coordinated by the state government and, where possible, local contractors are being used.

For more information and to register for support contact Emergency Recovery Victoria: [www.vic.gov.au/clean-support-january-2026-bushfires](http://www.vic.gov.au/clean-support-january-2026-bushfires)

## **Fencing repair and replacement**

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.

For more information contact DEECA on 136 186 or visit [www.ffm.vic.gov.au/recovery-after-an-emergency/public-land-recovery](http://www.ffm.vic.gov.au/recovery-after-an-emergency/public-land-recovery)

## **BlazeAid**

BlazeAid is a volunteer-based organisation that works with families and individuals in rural Australia after natural disasters. Working alongside rural families, their volunteers help to rebuild fences and other structures that have been damaged or destroyed.

They currently have several camps established in bushfire-affected areas.

For more information contact the BlazeAid Hotline on 1300 333 546 or visit [www.blazeaid.com.au](http://www.blazeaid.com.au)

## **Water tank rebates for rural properties**

The Recovery Water Tank Rebate supports bushfire-affected rural households that are not connected to mains water. Rebates of up to \$1,500 for cleaning and decontaminating rainwater tanks, roofs and gutters and are available if cleaning has already been paid for.

For more information on the program and to submit an application, go to the rebate program web page [www.water.vic.gov.au/grants/recovery-water-tank-rebates](http://www.water.vic.gov.au/grants/recovery-water-tank-rebates)

Applications must be submitted by 5:00pm on 29 May 2026.

## **Essential water replacement**

If essential water has been taken from your property to fight fires, you can request for it to be replaced.

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

More information and to make an application at [www.ffm.vic.gov.au/recovery-after-an-emergency/public-land-recovery](http://www.ffm.vic.gov.au/recovery-after-an-emergency/public-land-recovery)

Applications need to be completed within 3 months of water being taken from your property.

## **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 may 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](http://water.vic.gov.au/for-agriculture-and-industry/emergency-water-supply-points)

## **FARM BUSINESS SUPPORT**

### **Rural Financial Counselling Service**

The Rural Financial Counselling Service (RFCS) offers free, confidential and independent financial information, options, decision-making support and referral services to farmers and small, related rural businesses who are in, or at risk of, financial hardship.

A Rural Financial Counsellor can visit you at your place of business or residence and can assist with business planning, creditor negotiation, cash flow management, accessing government and industry support programs and referrals to other professional services.

To connect with your closest service call 1300 771 741 or visit [rfcsnetwork.com.au](http://rfcsnetwork.com.au)

## **Justice Connect – disaster legal support for small businesses**

Justice Connect supports small businesses and farms/primary producers impacted by bushfires, floods and other climate disasters by connecting them with pro bono lawyers for legal advice and representation.

They can help with a wide range of issues, including but not limited to: business insurance coverage and claims, fencing and disputes with neighbouring farms, leases and property, credit and debt, and contracts.

More information on Justice Connect is available at [justiceconnect.org.au](http://justiceconnect.org.au) and to apply for help directly visit [help.justiceconnect.org.au/natural-disaster](http://help.justiceconnect.org.au/natural-disaster)

## **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.

More information on the Farm Household Allowance is available at [servicesaustralia.gov.au](http://servicesaustralia.gov.au) and search for 'Farm Household Assistance' or by calling the Farmer Assistance Hotline on 132 316.

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

## **Regional Investment Corporation**

Farmers may be able to access low-interest loans through the Commonwealth Government's [Regional Investment Corporation](http://ric.gov.au) (RIC). A RIC loan is a partnership between the farm business, a commercial lender and the Regional Investment Corporation.

More information about low interest RIC loans, the application process, eligibility, and terms and conditions are available from the Regional Investment Corporation.

Call 1800 875 675 Email [info@ric.gov.au](mailto:info@ric.gov.au) Visit [ric.gov.au](http://ric.gov.au)

## **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.

## PERSONAL WELLBEING SUPPORT

### Look Over the Farm Gate community events program

The 'Look Over the Farm Gate' program is helping farming communities deliver events and initiatives tailored to their unique needs to support mental health and wellbeing and bring people together.

Grants of up to \$5,000 are available to local groups across Victoria for events and activities that support mental health and wellbeing.

Applications are open until 20 May 2026 or until funding is fully allocated. The program is managed by the National Centre for Farmer Health. More information, visit [farmerhealth.org.au](http://farmerhealth.org.au)

### Wellbeing counsellors

Wellbeing counsellors are available to visit bushfire-affected farmers and their families at their property or over the phone to assist with mental health and wellbeing issues. This is a free, confidential service.

Based with the Rural Financial Counselling Service (RFCS), the wellbeing counsellors work alongside the RFCS's financial and business counselling support service.

To access the support of a wellbeing counsellor, call the Rural Financial Counselling Service on 1300 771 741.

### Emergency Recovery Support Program – helping people

Emergency recovery support officers help people and families after a major emergency.

Support officers will help you with advice on what recovery services are available or put you in touch with programs that can help in recovery. This can be things like finding local services, insurance and legal questions, money problems, health and wellbeing, and registering with government services.

To be put in touch with the program, call the Emergency Recovery Hotline and select 2 from the menu.

The Emergency Recovery Support Program is administered by the Department of Families, Fairness and Housing. For more information, visit [www.vic.gov.au/emergency-recovery-support-program](http://www.vic.gov.au/emergency-recovery-support-program)

### National Centre for Farmer Health – online support hub

The National Centre for Farmer Health's (NCFH) online support hub is available at [farmerhealth.org.au/support-hub-victoria](http://farmerhealth.org.au/support-hub-victoria) and has a range of mental health resources and information tailored for farmers and agricultural communities.

Resources include the '[Managing Stress on the Farm](#)' book, which explores the common causes of stressors on farms and offers practical ways to deal with them.

The NCFH is dedicated to supporting primary producers through the delivery of initiatives to support mental health and wellbeing, and safety on-farm.

More information is available at [farmerhealth.org.au](http://farmerhealth.org.au)

## GPs and community health care providers

If in need of support during difficult times, visit your local Doctor / General Practitioner (GP).

Community health services also provide a range of primary health care services that could include 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.

## Mental Health and Wellbeing Locals

Mental Health and Wellbeing Locals is a **free** service for people aged 26 and over. The service has been expanded in bushfire-affected areas, providing free treatment, care and support.

To find your local service, visit: [www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au/mental-health-wellbeing-locals](http://www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au/mental-health-wellbeing-locals)

## Royal Flying Doctor Service – Flying Doctor Wellbeing

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

Email [wellbeing@rfd.vic.gov.au](mailto:wellbeing@rfd.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

|  |   |  |
|--|---|--|
| <b>National Centre for Farmer Health</b> | Support resources and services for emotional and social wellbeing for farmers, information for rural and health professionals, rural support organisations. | (03) 5551 8533<br><a href="http://farmerhealth.org.au/support-hub-victoria">farmerhealth.org.au/support-hub-victoria</a> |
| <b>Australian Red Cross</b>              | For people affected by Victorian Severe Weather and Flood.  | 1800 733 276<br><a href="http://redcross.org.au/">redcross.org.au/</a>   |
| <b>Lifeline</b>                          | 24/7 crisis support and suicide prevention services.  | 131 114<br><a href="http://lifeline.org.au">lifeline.org.au</a>  |
| <b>Beyondblue</b>                        | 24/7 telephone information and support to help everyone in Australia achieve their best possible mental health.   | 1300 224 636<br><a href="http://beyondblue.org.au">beyondblue.org.au</a>   |

|                                    |   |  |
|------------------------------------|---|--|
| <b>MensLine Australia</b>          | 24/7 service for men with relationship and family concerns.   | 1300 78 99 78<br><a href="http://mensline.org.au">mensline.org.au</a>  |
| <b>Family Relationship Service</b> | Providing families with access to information about family relationship issues.   | 1800 050 321<br><a href="http://familyrelationships.gov.au">familyrelationships.gov.au</a>   |
| <b>Mental Health Care Plan</b>     | Provides Medicare rebates for up to 10 individual or 10 group appointments per year with a psychologist, occupational therapist or social worker.   | Contact your GP for a referral<br><a href="http://healthdirect.gov.au/mental-health-care-plan">healthdirect.gov.au/mental-health-care-plan</a>         |
| <b>Kids Helpline</b>               | Confidential telephone counselling service for young people aged 5 to 25.   | 1800 551 800<br><a href="http://kidshelpline.com.au/">kidshelpline.com.au/</a>   |
| <b>NURSE-ON-CALL</b>               | Expert health information and advice (14 hours, 7 days)   | 1300 60 60 24  |
| <b>Rural Aid</b>                   | Rural Aid offers free, confidential counselling to Rural Aid registered farmers and their families. Rural Aid also provides critical support to farmers affected by natural disaster through financial, water, fodder and volunteer assistance. | 1300 327 624<br><a href="mailto:contact@ruralaid.org.au">contact@ruralaid.org.au</a><br><a href="http://www.ruralaid.org.au/">www.ruralaid.org.au/</a> |
| <b>Better Health Channel</b>       | Health and medical information that is quality assured, reliable, up to date, easy to understand, regularly reviewed and locally relevant.  | <a href="http://betterhealth.vic.gov.au">betterhealth.vic.gov.au</a>   |

## GOVERNMENT AND AGENCY CONTACTS

### Agriculture Victoria

The Agriculture Services team works with farmers and industry to prepare for, respond to and recover from natural disasters including bushfires. Call 136 186 or email [recovery@agriculture.vic.gov.au](mailto:recovery@agriculture.vic.gov.au)

### Emergency Recovery Victoria

Emergency Recovery Victoria has information on recovery support available for people and communities affected by the Victorian fires that started on 7 January 2026.

Call the Emergency Recovery Hotline on 1800 560 760 Monday to Friday, 8 am to 7 pm or weekends and public holiday 9 am to 5 pm or visit: [www.vic.gov.au/january-2026-victorian-bushfires](http://www.vic.gov.au/january-2026-victorian-bushfires)

## **Local government**

Find the contact details of your local shire council at [www.vic.gov.au/know-your-council](http://www.vic.gov.au/know-your-council)

## **Water corporations and services**

Water corporations provide water supply, sewage and trade waste disposal services across the state. Of these, there are 4 rural water corporations delivering water supply, drainage, and salinity mitigation services for irrigation and domestic and stock purposes.

More information and to find your local water corporation, visit: [www.water.vic.gov.au](http://www.water.vic.gov.au)

## **Catchment Management Authorities**

Catchment Management Authorities (CMAs) are responsible for the integrated planning and coordination of land, water and biodiversity management in each catchment and land protection regions. These 10 authorities have the lead role in developing and delivering regional programs for waterway management.

More information and to find your local CMA, visit: [www.viccatchments.com.au](http://www.viccatchments.com.au)