

COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

POMONAL & YARRAM GAP FIRE UPDATE

FRIDAY 6 JUNE 2025

BUSINESS RECOVERY GRANTS NOW OPEN

The Business Bushfire Recovery Grant program is now open for small businesses, including eligible primary producers, that experienced a significant decline in their revenue due to the 2024-25 Western Victoria Bushfires. The program provides a one-off payment of up to \$5,000 to eligible small businesses.

Applications close on 13 November 2025 or earlier if funding allocation is exhausted sooner. For more info, and to apply, scan the QR code.



BOOST TO DROUGHT SUPPORT PACKAGE

As part of the State Government's Drought Support Package, eligible farmers can receive payments of up to \$5,000 as a co-contribution grant that will support activities including water infrastructure upgrades, stock containment areas, and grain and fodder storage. For more information on the Drought Support Package, visit: agriculture.vic.gov.au/dryseasons

FREE WASTE DISPOSAL FOR YARRAM GAP FIRE EFFECTED RESIDENTS

Yarram Gap bushfire-affected residents can dispose of burnt debris and waste free of charge at the Willaura or Moyston Resource Recovery Centres (Transfer Stations) until 30 June 2025.

Please present your rates notice or driver's license as proof of residency upon arrival.

If you have a large amount of waste to dispose of, please call Council on (03) 5355 0200 for further advice.

COMMUNITY EMERGENCY PLANNING WORKSHOPS

A third round of Community Emergency Management Planning Workshops, facilitated by Council with support from Emergency Management Victoria, were held in Wickliffe and Moyston this month, with a final workshop to be held at Streatham Memorial Hall on Monday 16 June 2025, 6.30pm - 8.00pm. Light refreshments will be provided.

These workshops are designed to develop tailored strategies to address unique local vulnerabilities in our townships' emergency preparedness, response and recovery capabilities. For more information, please call Council on (03) 5355 0200.

POMONAL

Garage SALE

TRAIL

CAR BOOT SALE

MORE THAN TEN GARAGE SALES

14 JUNE | 8AM- 1PM SATURDAY JUNE 14
CAR BOOT SALE & MAPS AT
POMONAL HALL
3360 ARARAT - HALLS GAP ROAD

ORGANISED BY POMONAL PROGRESS ASSOCIATION



Frequently Asked Questions

Access to water under the Victorian water entitlement framework during dry conditions

Q. How can I improve my own water security for domestic and stock purposes?

A. Under the *Water Act 1989*, all Victorians can take water from a dam (under certain circumstances), river or bore for domestic and stock use under private rights. Domestic and stock access can be used for:

- The house
- A kitchen garden
- Watering pets or stock
- Fire prevention (only if taken from a spring or soak)

Domestic and stock water cannot be used for dairies, piggeries, feedlots, poultry or any other intensive or commercial use.

The quantity and quality of this water is not guaranteed, and it is at the responsibility of the landholder to make sure it is fit for purpose.

River or creek water can be used if your:

- property title includes the river.
- property title directly abuts the river.
- lease to Crown Land abuts the river.

Groundwater can be extracted for domestic and stock use if the bore is located on your property. If you don't have a bore and there are groundwater resources in your location, you can have one built.

You must obtain a licence to construct a bore from your rural water corporation, but you do not need an annual licence to take groundwater for domestic or stock use.

If you are using water for purposes other than domestic and stock use, then an entitlement for water is required, which may be a section 51 (Take and Use licence) licence or a water share, depending on which water system you are in.

While you may have access to water through a private right, improving water security is best done through identifying the water needs of your property and understanding how to obtain water legally.

If you think you may be able to access water at your property, you should check with your local rural water corporation before proceeding to take and use water so they can check your private right status and advise you on what is required.

Q. What can I do if my private water source dries up during an extended period of low rainfall?

A. When there is no water left in your domestic and stock dam, or when your groundwater bore has dried up, you may need to access an alternate source. Your local water corporation can provide guidance on:

- if your bore has dried up, it may be due to infrastructure or a lowered groundwater table in your area. Your bore may need to be deepened or a new bore may need to be drilled.
- If alternative water sources are available locally, where it is and how much is available, and what approvals are required; and
- Whether buying water on the water market is an option, and how to purchase it.

Q. Can water from private bores or dams be shared between neighbours?

A. If you take water for domestic and stock under a private right, that water can only be used on the property at which the water is taken.

Water that is taken under a section 51 licence (Take and Use) can only be used on the land specified in the licence. However, you can apply to your rural water corporation to trade some or all of your water to your neighbour, or to amend your licence to allow water to be used on their land.

You will need to contact your rural water corporation to explore if this is an option for you.

Q. Am I able to trade water available under my groundwater licence?

A. In many cases, groundwater can be traded permanently or temporarily on the water market within connected water resource systems.

Groundwater can be traded between licenced groundwater customers, subject to the water trading rules for the water system, and assessment by the rural water corporation of any potential impacts of the trade on other entitlements or the environment.

Potential buyers are encouraged to discuss opportunities for trade within their community. Your local water corporation can help match you with a willing buyer or seller.

Q. What are Emergency Water Supply Points (EWSPs)?

A. EWSPs are located across Victoria and are one of the most practical ways of water carting for emergency domestic and stock use during severe dry conditions and surface water scarcity. These sites, which can include groundwater bores or standpipes, are managed by local councils or local water corporations.

To find an EWSP near you or for more information, the first step is to visit <https://www.water.vic.gov.au/for-agriculture-and-industry/emergency-water-supply-points>.

Water accessed via an EWSP can only be used for domestic and stock purposes, as outlined in *the Water Act 1989*.

For further information regarding access and conditions of use you can also contact your local council or local water corporation for advice.

Q. Can I tap into existing infrastructure to access water?

A. In some areas there may be existing water infrastructure (for example, water delivery pipelines or irrigation channels) which may be accessed by local landholders if there is water available to meet their needs. Works may be required (valves, standpipes, meters, etc.) to access this water, the costs of which are typically the responsibility of the customer.

Any request to access existing infrastructure should be made to the responsible water corporation, which will consider requests on a case-by-case basis. Generally, there are costs to access water through infrastructure, and there are limits on the volumes which can be supplied in addition to existing obligations. For more information, contact your local water corporation.

Q. Why is it important to talk to my local rural water corporation before accessing water?

A. Taking water in Victoria without the required approvals constitutes water theft. If you take water without the required approvals, penalties – including fines and prosecution can apply.

Clear rules for the take and use of water and effective compliance allows fair access to water, the protection of the environment, and confidence in the water entitlement framework.

You can contact your local water corporation to discuss your options and identify the appropriate approval.

Q. How can I find my local rural and urban water corporations?

A: Contact details for rural and urban water corporations below, click on the hyperlinks to visit their web page.

Rural Water Corporation	Phone	Email
Southern Rural Water	1300 139 510	srw@srw.com.au
Goulburn-Murray Water	1800 013 357	reception@gmwater.com.au
Grampians Wimmera Mallee Water	1300 659 961	info@gwmwater.org.au
Lower Murray Water	1800 808 830	contactus@lmw.vic.gov.au

Urban Water Corporations	Phone	Email
Barwon Water	1300 656 007	info@barwonwater.vic.gov.au
Central Highlands Water	1800 061 514	customer.enquiries@chw.net.au
Coliban Water	1300 363 200	coliban@coliban.com.au
East Gippsland Water	1800 671 841	egw@egwater.vic.gov.au
Goulburn Valley Water	03 5832 4800	mail@gvwater.vic.gov.au
Gippsland Water	1800 050 500	online form
Grampians Wimmera Mallee Water	1300 659 961	info@gwmwater.org.au
Lower Murray Water	1800 808 830	contactus@lmw.vic.gov.au
North East Water	1300 361 622	info@newater.com.au
South Gippsland Water	1300 851 636	sgwater@sgwater.com.au
Wannon Water	1300 926 666	info@wannonwater.com.au
Westernport Water	1300 720 711	westport@westernportwater.com.au