



Victorian Bushfires January 2026 – Recovery Resource Directory

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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.

The information listed below is current as at 10 August 2026, including upcoming closing dates for some programs.

Agriculture Victoria's Ag Recovery Team is working to deliver technical information, advice and decision-making support to ensure farm business recovery.

Technical events are regularly listed on the [Agriculture Victoria website](#).

Please contact the team at recovery@agriculture.vic.gov.au or call 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 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.

Loans of up to \$100,000 are available for eligible primary producers who have suffered a significant loss of income as a direct 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 or call 1800 260 425.

Applications close at 4pm on 21 October 2026.

Australian Government disaster payments

There are lump sum payments and short-term allowances to help you from the Australian Government.

The **Australian Government Disaster Recovery Payment (AGDRP)** is a one-off, non-means tested lump sum payment. It's available if you've had major damage to your home or major assets that you own at your home. It can also help if you were seriously injured or your immediate family member has died or is missing. The payment is \$1,000 for eligible adults and \$400 for eligible children.

Applications remain open until the 19 October 2026 in the following declared areas:

- Leslie Manor in Corangamite Local Government Area (LGA)
- Woodfield in Mansfield LGA.

Applications closed on 5 August 2026 for all other eligible areas.

More information about the payments, including making an application and late claims, is available on the Services Australia website at <https://www.servicesaustralia.gov.au/vic-bushfires-jan-2026>

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, email 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

Farm Advisory Service

In addition to technical support, any Victorian farmer can book a **free one-on-one session with a specialist** from our panel of farm advisors. Sessions are up to 3 hours and either face-to-face on-farm or online – plus a follow-up call. You can indicate your preferred consultants from our list of experienced advisors.

Available farm advisors include vets, livestock nutritionists, and farm business advisors. Farmers from all regions in Victoria are eligible for two farm advisory consultations per farm business.

Applications for the Farm Advisory Service are open until funding is fully allocated or 30 September 2026, whichever comes first.

For more information, <https://agriculture.vic.gov.au/farm-management/drought-support/help-with-farm-management-decisions>

Clean-up support – applications closing soon

Registrations for Emergency Recovery Victoria's Clean-Up Program will close on 31 August 2026.

If your home, business or community asset was damaged and you don't have insurance (or not enough), you may be able to get free clean-up support. This may also include supporting structures like sheds.

Anyone who might be eligible should register. This includes properties that are insured, but where there is not enough to cover clean-up and a level of rebuild. **You can register if you are still talking to your insurer.**

If you withdrew from the program, you can get back in touch with ERV to continue your clean-up registration

For more information and to register for support contact Emergency Recovery Victoria: www.vic.gov.au/clean-support-january-2026-bushfires or call the Emergency Recovery Hotline on 1800 560 760 (select option 3) to discuss your situation.

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. A financial counsellor can also assist you with grant or loan applications.

To connect with your closest service call 1300 771 741 or visit 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 and to apply for help directly visit 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 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](https://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 Visit 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.

Keep a look out for upcoming events during autumn in your local community.

Grants of up to \$5,000 are available to local groups across Victoria. Applications for Look Over the Farm Gate funding are open. **All funded activities must be delivered by 31 December 2026.**

The program is managed by the National Centre for Farmer Health. More information, visit farmerhealth.org.au, or email lotfg@wdhs.net

Wellbeing counsellors

Wellbeing counsellors are available to visit 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 on 1800 560 760 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

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 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

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.

The expanded Mental Health and Wellbeing Locals are:

- Greater Geelong Queenscliffe – expanding services to the Colac Otway Shire: call 1800 573 151
- Benalla, Wangaratta, Mansfield – expanding services to the Towong Shire: call 1800 000 842
- Shepparton (servicing Greater Shepparton, Strathbogie and Moira) – expanding services to the Mitchell and Murrindindi Shires: call 1300 000 559.

Communities can access support now by calling the statewide Locals intake service, Partners in Wellbeing, on 1300 375 330. Support will be expanded to face-to-face appointments or by visiting staff in the community.

For more information, visit: 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 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

National Centre for Farmer Health	Support resources and services for emotional and social wellbeing for farmers, information for rural and health professionals, rural support organisations.	(03) 5551 8533 farmerhealth.org.au/support-hub-victoria
Australian Red Cross	For people affected by Victorian Severe Weather and Flood.	1800 733 276 redcross.org.au/
Lifeline	24/7 crisis support and suicide prevention services.	131 114 lifeline.org.au
Beyondblue	24/7 telephone information and support to help everyone in Australia achieve their best possible mental health.	1300 224 636 beyondblue.org.au
MensLine Australia	24/7 service for men with relationship and family concerns.	1300 78 99 78 mensline.org.au
Family Relationship Service	Providing families with access to information about family relationship issues.	1800 050 321 familyrelationships.gov.au
Mental Health Care Plan	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 healthdirect.gov.au/mental-health-care-plan
Mental Health and Wellbeing Locals/Partners in Wellbeing	A free service for people aged 26 and over. They provide treatment, care and support for your mental health and wellbeing close to home.	1300 375 330 www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au/mental-health-wellbeing-locals
Kids Helpline	Confidential telephone counselling service for young people aged 5 to 25.	1800 551 800 kidshelpline.com.au/
NURSE-ON-CALL	Expert health information and advice (14 hours, 7 days)	1300 60 60 24
Rural Aid	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 disasters through financial, water, fodder and volunteer assistance.	1300 327 624 contact@ruralaid.org.au www.ruralaid.org.au/
Better Health Channel	Health and medical information that is quality assured, reliable, up to date, easy to understand, regularly reviewed and locally relevant.	betterhealth.vic.gov.au

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

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

Local government

Find the contact details of your local shire council at 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

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