Financial assistance is available to eligible fire-affected residents in Towong Shire from the Australian and Victorian Governments and a number of other organisations.

**Bushfire Case Support Program**

The Victorian Bushfire Case Support program is available for people for fire-affected people of North East Victoria. The program offers support workers as a first point of contact, providing information, financial support, insurance, mental health support and small business advice and practical support for residents. They can also help with paperwork, grants and navigation of services through local, state and Commonwealth governments.

Call 1800 560 760 or email bushfirerecovery@windemere.org.au

**Support for Individuals and Families**

**AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT DISASTER RECOVERY PAYMENT**

The Australian Government Disaster Recovery Payment is a one-off payment to help you if a declared disaster significantly affects you. It is not for minor damage or inconvenience. If you’re eligible you will receive $1,000 per adult and $400 for each child under 16 years of age.

Visit humanservices.gov.au/individuals/help-emergency/bushfires

**VICTORIAN GOVERNMENT PERSONAL HARDSHIP ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (PHAP)**

The PHAP is offering payments of up to $560 per adult and $280 per child (up to a maximum of $1960 per eligible household).

The payments are designed to help eligible people experiencing personal and extreme financial hardship due to the fires.

Relief payments are intended to help meet immediate needs, including emergency food, accommodation, clothing, medication and personal items.

Visit services.dhhs.vic.gov.au/personal-hardship-assistance-program or call 1800 226 226

**AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT DISASTER RECOVERY ALLOWANCE**

Offering up to 13 weeks income support for those who have lost income as a direct result of the bushfires. Equivalent to Newstart or Youth Allowance.


**AUSTRALIAN TAX OFFICE SUPPORT**

If you have been impacted by bushfires and you live in one of the identified impacted postcodes, the ATO will automatically defer any lodgments or payments you have due. You, or your agent, do not need to apply for a deferral – it will be automatically applied. Income tax, activity statement, SMSF and FBT lodgments, and their associated payments, will be deferred until 28 May 2020.

Visit ato.gov.au/Individuals/Dealing-with-disasters or call 1800 806 218

**SALVATION ARMY**

The Salvation Army can provide short term hardship payments to individuals and families who have been evacuated from their homes for several days, lost power or water, or lost their homes. Payments vary depending on individual circumstances.

Call 1300 662 217 or email sal.disasters@salvationarmy.org.au

**VIC ROADS**

Vic Roads is offering assistance to help with your registration and licensing services, including...
cancelling registration of fire damaged vehicles to claim a refund. Residents may also be eligible for a discount on duty payable for replacement vehicles of up to $2,100 for up to two replacement vehicles registered in your name.

Visit a VicRoads Customer Centre, or write to VicRoads GPO Box 1644, Melbourne Vic 3001 before April 1 2020.

Primary Residence

VICTORIAN GOVERNMENT EMERGENCY RE-ESTABLISHMENT PAYMENTS

Up to $42,250 per eligible household. Emergency re-establishment assistance is available if your principal place of residence (your home) is uninhabitable for more than seven days because of an emergency. The grants will be available for clean-up, emergency accommodation, repairs, rebuilding (a principal place of residence), and replacing some damaged contents. Re-establishment assistance is available to individuals or families experiencing financial hardship and who do not have building (home) insurance or contents insurance.

Visit services.dhhs.vic.gov.au/personal-hardship-assistance-program

RED CROSS

If you have lost your home in a bushfire since July 2019, you can apply for an emergency grant of $5,000.

Visit redcross.org.au/grants or call 1800 733 276

Small Business & Organisations

AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT SMALL BUSINESS RELIEF PACKAGE

Businesses and organisations that have sustained damage as a result of the fires can access up to $50,000 in grant funding (tax free).

Loans of up to $500,000 will be offered for businesses that have suffered significant asset loss or a significant loss of revenue. The loan is for up to 10 years and used for the purposes of restoring or replacing damaged assets and for working capital.


COMMBANK BUSHFIRE RECOVERY GRANT

Up to $50,000 grants available to assist the longer term recovery of organisations directly affected by the bushfires. To be eligible to apply for a CommBank Bushfire Recovery Grant, each organisation must:

- Be a community organisation, fire service, school, sporting club or non-government organisation in a bushfire affected area, not an individual
- Need to replace or repair facilities or property which was lost or damaged by bushfire during the 2019-20 bushfire season and is not likely to be covered by insurance
- Be able to identify how repair or replacement of the facilities or property will benefit the community.

Applications close 31 March 2020


VICTORIAN GOVERNMENT WILDLIFE SHELTERS AND CARERS

Licensed wildlife shelters and foster carers who are receiving animals as a result of current bushfires are eligible to apply for a Victorian Government grant of up to $1,000 by completing a simple online application form.

These grants are for the most immediate and basic supplies and services to support your wildlife emergency response. Feed, consumables and veterinary consultations are eligible items.
Closes 30 April 2020.

THE REECE GRANT
The Reece Group are supporting Bushfire Rebuild projects, beginning with $150k directly donated.
If you, or a tradesperson you know is involved in a project to help rebuild a bushfire affected community, apply at reecegrant.com.au/bushfires

Clean Up of Damaged Property
Victorians who have had their homes, shops and sheds destroyed in this season’s bushfires can have their properties cleaned up at no cost, so communities can start rebuilding as soon as possible.

Agriculture Support
VFF DISASTER RELIEF
Support with fodder relief, stock water, agistment and fodder transport. Call 1300 882 833

FENCING
A number of organisations are available to offer support to rebuild fencing, with some limited access to donated supplies.
BlazeAid 0417 552 116 (Rhonda) or blazeaid.com.au
Rotary 0400 872 799 (Barry) or 0419 603 024 (Peter)
Uniting Church 0412 578 237 (Alan) or 0458 646 544 (Cath)
Victorian Farmers Federation 1300 882 833

www.towong.vic.gov.au

Other Support
DHHS staff are working from relief centres, providing financial and emergency accommodation assistance to people evacuating impacted areas.
People who cannot get to a relief centre can call DHHS on 1800 961 054 (9am-5pm).

FREE LEGAL INFORMATION
Disaster Legal Help Victoria can provide free information to Victorians affected by the recent bushfires to support you with issues including:
• dealing with insurance claims
• replacing lost or destroyed documents, including wills and titles
• tenancy issues, such as disputes with landlords and outstanding rent
• debt and other financial problems resulting from loss of employment and the cost of dealing with the aftermath of a disaster.
Call 1800 113 432 or visit disasterlegalhelp.org.au

BANKS
Contact your bank to find out what support is available.

TELECOMMUNICATIONS
Optus and Telstra are also supporting bushfire affected customers, depending on circumstances. Information is available via their websites.

Where can I find out more?
Further information is available at: emergency.vic.gov.au/relief/
thegrantshub.com.au