Fire Situation Update
Total Area of Upper Murray fire – 308,242ha
The milder conditions have enabled crews to continue to work on containment lines along the western side of the fire.

As weather conditions permit, back burning will continue to occur in the Wabba Wilderness, between Berringama and Dartmouth Dam along the Gibb Range Track and Glamour Hill Track to secure the western flank of the fire.

Smoke may be visible in the Pine Mountain area as heavy fuels continue to burn within the fire ground.

As a result of this and back-burning, increased smoke will be visible in nearby areas for some time.

There is currently no threat to the community.

Hazard tree assessment and treatment continues to be a priority across the fire affected area.

Fire Danger Ratings
Today High
Sat 18th High
Sun 19th High
Mon 20th Low - Moderate

Weather
Friday 17th January
A slow moving low pressure trough will remain over northeaster Victoria today.
- Corryong – 14 / 29 C
- Tallangatta – 17 / 33 C
- Dartmouth – 15 / 25 C

Saturday 18th January
- Corryong – 12 / 30 C
- Tallangatta – 18 / 32 C
- Dartmouth – 13 / 26 C

Air quality
An Advice message remains current for Good to Very Poor air quality across Victoria for Friday 17 January.

Stay Informed during emergencies
- www.emergency.vic.gov.au
- VicEmergency Hotline - freecall 1800 226 226
- VicEmergency app
- Facebook or Twitter #vicfires

Local radio
ABC Radio is the Emergency Broadcaster
- Albury-Wodonga & Wangaratta 106.5FM
- Bright 89.7FM
- Corryong 99.7FM
- Myrtleford 91.7FM
Roads and Access

Roads with Restricted Access

The Murray Valley Highway from Tallangatta to Corryong is now open with restricted access to residents and approved essential services 24 hours a day. No escorts are required.

The Benambra – Corryong Road is now open to residents between 7am to 8pm from the Murray Valley Highway intersection at Colac Colac to Stacey's Bridge. The road remains closed beyond Stacey's Bridge.

Khancoban residents travelling to Corryong are able to return home through the Traffic Management Point (TMP) located at intersection of Murray Valley Hwy / Mongans Lane.

For access through Traffic Management Points:
- **Residents** should carry some proof of residency & Photo ID, such as a driver’s licence.
- **Essential services** are required to show some evidence of the service they are providing (such as an invoice). Police will then let you travel through.

Traffic Management Points

as at 11.00am today

Tintaldra – Murray River Rd / Cudgewa Rd
Corryong - Murray Valley Hwy / Sugarloaf Rd
Corryong – Murray Valley Hwy / Mongans Lane
Bullioh - Murray Valley Hwy / Granya Rd
Mitta Mitta - Omeo Hwy at Mitta Mitta Township
Shelley – Murray Valley Hwy / Shelley Walwa Rd
Walwa – Murray River Rd / Jingellic Rd
Walwa – Murray River Rd / Harvey St
Colac Colac – Benambra-Corryong Rd / Murray Valley Hwy
Burrowye – Murray River Rd / Guys Forest Rd
Tintaldra – Murray River Rd (200m west of rec reserve)

Other arterial roads in the fire area are progressively being opened as tree hazards are removed. If you require access onto roads that are closed to the general public, please contact the **Traffic Management Desk** on 02 6043 4674 so your case can be assessed, and your details recorded.

Please drive carefully and observe speed limits.

Current Information on road closures available 13 11 70 or the Vic Traffic website: traffic.vicroads.vic.gov.au

Current Park Closures

As a result of the fire **ALL** Parks and State Forests are closed to the public until further notice.

For information on forest access and roads visit www.parks.vic.gov.au

Relief Centres

- **Corryong**
  P-12 College, Towong St,
  8am-8pm (Ph: 0438 681829)
- **Tallangatta**
  Monday to Friday: 8.30am-5pm, Towong Shire Offices, 32 Towong St.
  Saturday: 10am-3pm, Tallangatta Library, Towong St.
  Sunday, closed.

Animal Welfare

Livestock

Farmers in need of fodder or agistment should call the VFF on 1300 882 833 to register for assistance.

For urgent animal welfare and needs for pets, horses and livestock including food and water contact 1800 226 226 or visit http://agriculture.vic.gov.au for more information.

Contact the Towong Shire for assistance with livestock disposal 02 6071 5100.

Need to talk fire recovery?
The Corryong Community Ag Recovery Drop-in centre is now open at the Corryong Neighbourhood Centre 42 Hanson Street Corryong.
The centre will be open Monday to Friday and all this weekend from 10.30 am until 3.30 pm.
You’ll find a vet and specialist agriculture recovery staff there with advice relating to land management, erosion control, animal welfare and feed budgeting.
For more information on bushfire recovery, please contact Agriculture Victoria on 136 186 or see agriculture.vic.gov.au/animalemergencies

**Wildlife**

Members of the public are urged to contact the Wodonga Incident Control Centre on 1300 322 061 if they come across wildlife that appear caught, injured or distressed as a result of the fire. Wildlife Coordinators will provide further advice to coordinate the assessment and appropriate treatment of affected wildlife.

We expect to see more wildlife coming on to private property/ into towns such over coming days as they seek shelter from fire and search out food and water.

If you see wildlife resting in your garden, you should keep people and pets away and allow it to rest and recover. Noise should also be kept to a minimum.

Residents are encouraged to put out bowls/buckets of water and food, such as cut up carrots and apples for wildlife.

**Health Impacts**

Corryong Health Services are available for health related concerns - 02 6076 3290

Call NURSE-ON-CALL on 1300 606 024 or see your doctor if you are unwell.

In an emergency, call Triple Zero (000)

**Mental Health**

It is normal to have strong emotional or physical reactions following a distressing event. There is always help available through your doctor and local mental health professionals. You can call the following for support at any time:

- Lifeline - 131 114
- Beyond Blue - 1300 224 636
- Mens Line - 1300 789 978
- Kid’s Help Line - 1800 55 1800
- Parent Line - 13 22 89
- Bushfire Counselling Line – 1300 514 811
- Mental Health Crisis Line – 1300 881 104

**Family Violence**

There is an increased risk of family violence after an emergency. Help is available. [https://www.vic.gov.au/family-violence-support](https://www.vic.gov.au/family-violence-support) or call 1800 737732 (1800 RESPECT)

**Supporting children**

Like any of us, children can feel overwhelmed and devastated when directly affected by bushfires or from the scenes that emerge afterward. Sometimes, they don’t have ways of understanding what they see and can be particularly vulnerable to feelings of anxiety, stress and sadness.

At the same time, children can also have a natural ability to be resilient and adapt to challenging events.

**Here are some signs to look out for:**

- a child becoming more clingy towards a parent or carer – for example wanting to be held more than usual, wanting to be with parents or carers, asking about fire, seeking reassurance
- changes to sleeping or eating patterns, or both • the emergence of new physical complaints – such as stomach ache or headache • changes in mood – such as being more easily irritable, or shutting down
- changes in a child’s behaviour or learning at school
- appearing on edge and frightened – for example, being more easily startled, developing new fears, having nightmares or regression in behaviour.

If you (or one of your child’s carers) notice these or other changes then it is important to ask the child what they are worried about. Talk to them in a way that is open and appropriate to their age. Listen to their questions and fears and show them that you understand.

If you are concerned and need assistance you can get help from your doctor, local community health centre, psychologist, Beyond Blue Tel. 1300 224 636 Parentline Victoria Tel. 13 22 89, Kids Helpline Tel. 1800 551 800, Lifeline Tel.131 114, and NURSEON-CALL Tel. 1300 60 60 24 – for expert health information and advice (24 hours 7 days).
Community Support
Support is available through the Towong Shire Council hotline **02 6071 5180**


Report suspicious behaviour to Crime Stoppers on **1800 333 000**.

**Bushfire Case Support Program**
The Victorian Bushfires Case Support Program has been launched and is available for people affected by the bushfires in East Gippsland and North East Victoria, as a single point of contact linking local residents to vital support – such as information and advice, mental health support or financial counselling, and details of waste handling.

Residents can access service via **1800 560 760** or email bushfirerecovery@windermere.org.au

**Financial Assistance**
People seeking financial hardship assistance can call the DHHS hotline **1800 961 054**(9am-5pm).


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Essential Services Update

**Communications**

**Emergency Water Relief Program**
Bushfire affected residents can seek emergency water. On behalf of North East Water, South East Water are facilitating this program for the North East fires.
Call **131851**, and press 9.


**Power supply**
AusNet dedicated line for customers impacted by bushfires **1300 561171**
If no fire damage is identified and you do not have power, please call Ausnet Services’ Faults Line on **131799**.