

Support after the January 2026 Victorian bushfires

Recovery support

Emergency Recovery Support Program: Support officers can advise on what services are available or connect you to programs. If you need extra support, a recovery support worker can help you over the long term.

Call – [1800.560.760](tel:1800560760)

Financial support

Emergency relief payment: a payment for people who have been evacuated or whose homes are unliveable due to the bushfires.

Apply through the VicEmergency Hotline – [1800.226.226](tel:1800226226) (press 0 then 1)

Emergency re-establishment assistance: a payment if you can't return home because it was damaged or destroyed, you don't have insurance and you can't afford repairs.

Apply through the Emergency Recovery Hotline – [1800.560.760](tel:1800560760) (press 4)

Australian Government Disaster Recovery Payment: 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.

Apply online – servicesaustralia.gov.au/vic-bushfires-jan-2026-agdrp

Disaster Recovery Allowance: an allowance for up to 13 weeks to help if you have lost income as a direct result of the bushfires.

Apply online – servicesaustralia.gov.au/vic-bushfires-jan-2026-dra

Prolonged power outage payment for households: a payment if your home has been without power for more than 7 days.

Apply online – ausnetservices.com.au/outages/emergency-response or call [1300.561.171](tel:1300561171)

Primary producer grants: grants to assist farmers with the cost of clean-up and getting back to business.

Apply online – ruralfinance.com.au/grants/

Concessional loans for primary producers: loans for farmers to be used for restoring and replacing damaged assets, or for working capital expenses.

Apply online – ruralfinance.com.au/loans/



Recovery water tank cleaning rebates: Rebates for households who are not connected to the mains water supply to clean and fill water tanks impacted by the fires.

More information – <https://www.water.vic.gov.au/grants/recovery-water-tank-rebates>

General financial counselling: A financial counsellor can help you make a plan to manage your money. They can also talk to creditors on your behalf. Call the:

National Debt Helpline – [1800 007 007](tel:1800007007) to speak to a financial advisor.

Mob Strong Debt Helpline for Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander people – [1800 808 488](tel:1800808488)

Small Business Debt Helpline – [1800 413 828](tel:1800413828)

Rural Financial Counselling Service for primary producers – [1300 771 741](tel:1300771741)

Business support

Prolonged power outage payment for businesses: a payment if your business has been without power for more than 7 days.

More information – energy.vic.gov.au/about-energy/safety/power-outages

Business Recovery Advisory Service: free, confidential, one-on-one support to business owners to identify needs and develop strategies for long-term recovery.

More information – business.vic.gov.au

The Small Business Financial Counselling Service: free and confidential financial counselling to businesses who are who are in, or at risk of, financial hardship due to the bushfires.

More information – business.vic.gov.au

Practical support

Help to clean-up your property: help with things like demolition and removal of hazardous materials. For people who are uninsured and under-insured.

More information – vic.gov.au/clean-support-january-2026-bushfires

Emergency relief drinking water: up to 20,000L of drinking water if your household relies on tank water, your tank has been contaminated by fire, ash, debris or firefighting activities, and your property is within an impacted area.

Apply online – go.vic.gov.au/4aqT6nm or call DEECA on [136 186](tel:136186)

Water replacement: if we take essential water from your land to fight fires, you can request for it to be replaced.

More information – ffm.vic.gov.au/recovery-after-an-emergency/public-land-recovery

Waste disposal fees waived for disaster waste: no fees at local waste disposal facilities until 13 May 2026 for rubbish from your property generated by the January bushfires. Show proof of residence, like a driver's license.

Fencing: 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.

Find out if your damage is eligible – contact DEECA on [136 186](tel:136186)

Land surveys: There are land surveyors who will provide professional advice on surveys and perform title boundary surveys at a discounted rate, only covering costs or less.

Contact – Surveyor-General Victoria on [\(03\) 9194 0282](tel:0391940282) or email surveyor.general@transport.vic.gov.au

Fodder: To request fodder, contact the Victorian Farmers Federation on [1300 882 833](tel:1300882833) or vff.org.au/vff-emergencyfodderrequestform/

Livestock disposal: if you need advice for disposing of livestock, contact Agriculture Victoria on [0407 145 007](tel:0407145007) or livestock.disposal@agriculture.vic.gov.au.

Sign up for updates

Sign up to get information via email and SMS.

We will send you updates about available support.

Sign up: vic.gov.au/recovery or call [1800 560 760](tel:1800560760)

