

Community Information Newsletter

Cobden-Camperdown Peat Fires Monday 16th April 2018

Important Information

Situation Update

Since 9am yesterday an additional 12mms of rain has fallen across the fire affected area contributing to the already slippery conditions. This has created hazardous conditions for fire suppression activities and subsequently night time pumping has been temporarily suspended. The outlook for Tuesday and Wednesday is for drier conditions which will enable resumption of night time pumping soon.

Fire suppression activities around the Cobrico Swamp have stopped the spread of fire, and the Bullen Merri fire is no longer active. There has been little opportunity for drone monitoring due to the poor weather conditions. Once there is opportunity, drones will again be used to monitor conditions and the public is reminded to stay clear of the areas of operation if launching personal drones.

One of the helicopters utilised for the Cobden-Camperdown Peat Fire event has been loaned to New South Wales to assist in their firefighting efforts, but it is envisaged that it will be back with us later in the week.

Local priorities are the protection of cultural assets and continuation and/or re-establishment of primary production. As firefighting efforts continue and recovery measures begin to be implemented, care is being taken to ensure effective wash down facilities are provided for heavy machinery as it is moved through affected properties. This will ensure biosecurity is maintained. Recovery plans are in the planning phase as the Incident Team work towards assisting the local community to resume normal activity.

Community Health Assessment Centre

As air quality has improved, including very low Carbon Monoxide (CO) levels, the **free** community health assessment centres have moved to your local health services.

If you are still concerned about your health, or wish to get your CO levels checked, you can visit:

- Cobden Health, 5 Victoria Street Cobden
- Terang Hospital, 13 Austin Avenue Terang
- Camperdown Hospital, Robinson Street Camperdown

*A referral from your GP is not necessary

Hazards – Trees and power lines

Be aware of dangers with respect to burnt and partially burnt trees. There may be a risk of power outages in the event of fallen branches/trees, consider your needs in such an event. Visit the following link for further information:

<https://www2.health.vic.gov.au/public-health/food-safety/food-safety-information-for-consumers/food-safety-during-power-outages>

Water tanks and water quality

If your stored water looks, smells or tastes unusual, then there is a good chance that it may have become contaminated. Do not use the water for drinking, food preparation or for consumption by animals. You can still use contaminated water on your garden. If you have any concerns about the quality of your water, contact Wannon Water on 1300 926 666.

If you need assistance with the flushing, cleaning or refilling of your tanks please contact your local council (contact details on last page).

Assistance for small business

If you are affected by the bushfires, the Australian Taxation Office can help with your lodgement program and reconstructing records. For more information visit <https://www.ato.gov.au/tax-professionals/your-practice/tax-and-bas-agents/natural-disasters/> or call 1800 806 218 to discuss your circumstances and how we can assist you.

Community updates and recovery Information

People can contact their local council for important recovery information:

- Corangamite Shire
 - A community information point will be open from Monday at the Keilambete road located within the Corangamite Shire, Civic Centre, at 181 Manifold Street, Camperdown, or phone the Corangamite Shire on (03) 5593 7100 or email shire@corangamite.vic.gov.au
- Moyne Shire
 - For any Moyne Shire Council assistance or fire recovery information contact: 1300 656 564 or email Moyne@moyne.vic.gov.au

- South Grampians Shire
 - For any South Grampians Shire assistance or fire recovery information contact: (03) 5573 0444 or email council@sthgrampians.vic.gov.au

Community information in relation to the peat fires will continue to be displayed in shopfronts of local businesses in the townships of Terang, Cobden and Camperdown and on the front windows of the Cobden Civic Hall and Terang Civic Hall and online at https://www.emergency.vic.gov.au/relief/#community_information_newsletters

For any **Police** matters including relocation forms, please contact your local Police Station at: Cobden, Camperdown or Terang. For emergencies ring 000.

Help is available

If you believe you need help or assistance due to a strong emotional or physical response to this fire event, do not hesitate to contact your local support services. Equally, if you believe you know someone who may be struggling, encourage them to seek assistance

For access to local emotional support services please call Warrnambool Community Health on **(03) 5563 4000** or Colac Area Health on **(03) 5232 5180**. They are offering free, confidential and professional support to individuals or families who have been impacted by the recent fires regardless of where you are located. No General Practitioner referrals are required. Website: <http://www.southwesthealthcare.com.au>

More helpful information is also available here: <https://www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au/health/conditionsandtreatments/trauma-reaction-and-recovery>

Warnings and Advice messages

There are currently two (2) community notifications in place for air quality in the areas of Cobrico, Elingamite, and Elingamite North. Please observe this advice.

Financial assistance

Financial assistance is still available to eligible fire-affected community members. Please call your local council or call VicEmergency on 1800 226 226 for more information.

Questions & Answers

I live within the 1 km exposure zone and have relocated my family. Is it safe for me and my children to return home?

Careful monitoring of the conditions in the area has determined that it is now safe for you. However, it is still important for everyone to minimise exposure to smoky conditions. This is particularly the case if you or anyone you care for has a chronic health condition, such as a heart or lung condition including asthma.

Spend time indoors when there is smoke, wherever possible. If you feel unwell, visit the Community Health Assessment Centre or call NURSE-ON-CALL. In an emergency, dial 000.

Visit VicEmergency or the EPA's AirWatch website for the most up-to-date information on air quality in the area.

Carbon Monoxide monitors

EPA continue to monitor air quality in affected areas and advise that the quality is constantly improving. It is unlikely that the air quality will negatively affect people's health. Members of the community who have retained Carbon Monoxide Monitors can return them to the Warrnambool CFA office, corner Raglan Parade and Walsh Road, Warrnambool. Community members may also hold onto them if they wish, and can return them at a later date to the Warrnambool CFA office.

The EPA will be out and about re-locating and calibrating the CO monitors.

Fire suppression activities at Cobrico Swamp



Useful Services

After hours Terang Hospital or NURSE-ON-CALL
on 1300 60 60 24 or seek medical advice. Call 000
in an emergency.

For Relief and Recovery Information visit
<https://www.emergency.vic.gov.au/relief#southe>
[west fires march 2018](#)

LifeLine: 13 11 14
MensLine: 1300 789 978
Kids Helpline: 1800 551 800
1800 Respect: 1800 737 732
Parent Line: 13 22 89

EPA Air Watch visit
www.epa.vic.gov.au/epairwatch

Hazardous Trees
Contact: Corangamite Shire Council 5593 7100

Blazeaid:
www.blazeaid.com.au

Agriculture Victoria (affected stock)
Contact: 5336 6721

Wannon Water
Contact: 1300 926 666

Corangamite Shire
Contact: 5593 7100
www.corangamite.vic.gov.au

Moyne Shire Council
Contact: 1300 656 564
<http://www.moyne.vic.gov.au>

Southern Grampian Shire
Contact: 5573 0444
<http://www.sthgrampians.vic.gov.au>

NURSE-ON-CALL
Ph: 1300 60 60 24 or visit your GP for medical
advice, or dial Triple Zero in an emergency.

This information is also helpful for parents
<https://www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au/health/healthyliving/tr>
[auma-and-primary-school-age-children](#)