

Relief & Recovery Newsletter

Walwa River Rd Bushfire

Friday 30 January 2026



This is the first edition of Council's weekly Bushfire Relief and Recovery Newsletter.

In this newsletter we will provide current information to our communities relating to bushfire relief and recovery services being provided by Council, including our focus on wellbeing support.

We all look forward to the Murray Valley Highway re-opening as soon as possible as a step towards recovery.

With the extreme heatwave conditions this week, it has been a challenging period for everyone in the community. We remind everyone that extreme heat can be very dangerous.

Visit our website for information on how to take care of yourself during this extreme weather:

www.towong.vic.gov.au/heatwaves

Recovery Hub Updates

Council is opening **Bushfire Recovery Hubs** in Corryong and Tallangatta to support residents impacted by the bushfires. The Hubs will provide a place for multiple agencies to provide a single point of contact for residents.

Residents can also contact the recovery team at **recovery@towong.vic.gov.au** for advice or to discuss available support.

Corryong Recovery Hub – OPEN

Old Primary School
2-10 Towong Road
10am – 2pm Tuesday - Thursday

Tallangatta Recovery Hub – Early February TBA

Courthouse (next to Council Offices)
34 Towong Street
10am – 2pm Tuesday - Thursday

Service Updates

Bin and recycling collection

Bin and recycling collection services are operating per Council's usual schedule, except in areas where roads are still closed to ALL traffic as a result bins cannot be collected yet. Call us on 1300 365 222.

Learn more: www.towong.vic.gov.au/your-bins

Resource Recovery Centres

Council Resource Recovery Centres are currently operating as per usual business hours. Fee waivers are in place until 13 May 2026 for bushfire-related material. See below for further details.

Corryong Resource Recovery Centre:

289 Sugarloaf Road, Corryong.

Opening hours:

- Thursday: 4pm - 6pm (3pm - 5pm outside of daylight savings)
- Sunday: 12pm - 4pm
- Closed on Public Holidays

Tallangatta Resource Recovery Centre

767 Murray Valley Hwy, Tallangatta.

Opening hours:

- Thursday: 4pm - 6pm (3pm - 5pm outside of daylight savings)
- Sunday: 12pm - 4pm
- Closed on Public Holidays

www.towong.vic.gov.au/resource-recovery-centres

Customer Service

Council's Customer Service desks in Corryong and Tallangatta remain open as per usual operating hours.

Corryong (temporarily at Davis Cottage):

9.00am - 4.30pm

Tallangatta (Tallangatta Council Office and Library):

8.30am - 5.00pm

Call us on [1300 365 222](tel:1300365222) or email us at

info@towong.vic.gov.au

**Stay tuned to Council's website
and social media for updates:**

Website: www.towong.vic.gov.au/january-2026-fires

Facebook: facebook.com/towong.shire.council/

Fire and Emergency Updates

Stay up to date on emergency warnings via the VicEmergency App or emergency.vic.gov.au and always use this as your single source of truth.

Never enter an area against advice and set up your watch zone now in the App if you haven't already.

Emergency Broadcasters

ABC 106.5 FM
ABC 99.7 FM
ABC 675 AM
2AY 1494

Public Land and Recreation Closures

www.parks.vic.gov.au
ffm.vic.gov.au

Road Closure Information

Residents and travellers in Victoria are encouraged to stay informed about road closures and traffic conditions during emergency events. Up-to-date information is available from the following sources:

- **VicEmergency Website and App:** Provides official alerts and warnings for bushfires, floods, storms, and other emergencies across Victoria. Access real-time alerts at www.emergency.vic.gov.au
- **VicTraffic:** Offers current road closures, planned maintenance, traffic incidents and detours across Victoria. Check live updates at traffic.transport.vic.gov.au

Always check both sources before travelling and follow official advice to stay safe.

Support Information

Council Support and Contact Details

Council's Relief and Recovery team can assist residents impacted by the fires, including guidance on next steps and connections to support agencies.

To reach the Relief and Recovery team, call Customer Service on **1300 365 222** or email recovery@towong.vic.gov.au

Support Payments

There are two Australian Government payments you may be eligible for if you've been directly affected by the Victoria bushfires in January 2026 in a declared area.

The **Disaster Recovery Allowance** provides short-term income support if you have lost income as a direct result of the bushfires. Payments are equivalent to the maximum rate of JobSeeker Payment or Youth Allowance, depending on individual circumstances, and are taxable.

The **Australian Government Disaster Recovery Payment** is a one-off, non-taxable lump sum to help people who have experienced major damage to their home or assets, serious injury, or the death or disappearance of an immediate family member. Payments are \$1,000 per eligible adult and \$400 per eligible child.

For eligibility and claim information, visit the Services Australia website.

www.servicesaustralia.gov.au/vic-bushfires-jan-2026

Prolonged Power Outage Payment (PPOP)

Available to households without power as a result of the bushfires. Payments of \$2,380 per residential customer for each 7 day period without power, up to a maximum of three payments.

Eligibility requires an electricity account linked to a National Metering Identifier (NMI) for properties without power between 7–10 January 2026. Applications must be submitted by 11:59 pm (AEDT), 31 March 2026. Apply online or by phone.

www.ausnetservices.com.au/outages/emergency-response

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Support for Farmers and Property Owners

Emergency Fodder

Directed by the Victorian Farmers Federation (VFF) and Agriculture Victoria to fire affected farmers with livestock. Contact the VFF for assistance.

More information:

www.vff.org.au/vff-emergency-fodder-program/

Essential Water Replacement

If water taken for firefighting is essential for homes, livestock or crops, replacement can be requested by completing the essential water replacement form and emailing **emergency.recovery@deeca.vic.gov.au** within 3 months.

Fencing Assistance

You may be eligible for assistance if your fencing was damaged by firefighting operations or if fencing borders National/State Parks. Contact DEECA for eligibility inquiries on 136 186.

Property Clean Up Program

Assists eligible homeowners (including uninsured or under-insured) with demolition, debris removal and hazards. Learn more www.vic.gov.au/clean-and-waste

Financial support for farmers

Primary producers impacted by the January 2026 bushfires may be eligible for assistance under the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements:

- **Primary Producer Bushfire Recovery Grants** – grants of up to \$75,000 to help with clean-up and recovery costs following direct bushfire damage.
- **Primary Producer Bushfire Recovery Concessional Loans** – loans of up to \$250,000 for significant asset damage, or up to \$100,000 for major income loss.

Applications close at 4pm on 21 October 2026. Eligibility and application details are available at

www.ruralfinance.com.au

Waste Disposal and Resource Centres

Residents from the 18 LGAs impacted by the fires (including Towong Shire) can dispose of bushfire-related waste free of charge. Fee waivers are valid for 120 days to 13 May 2026 (proof of residence required).

Learn more:

www.towong.vic.gov.au/resource-recovery

Business and Insurance Support

Business Victoria provides fact sheets, insurance claim assistance, dispute guidance and financial support information.

More information:

<https://business.vic.gov.au/business-information/disaster-resilience/how-to-recover/recovering-from-a-bushfire>

Mental Health and Wellbeing

Bushfire events can impact emotional wellbeing; reach out for support where needed. Council's website includes links to mental health contacts and resource sheets.

More information:

www.towong.vic.gov.au/january-2026-fires

DISCLAIMER

This information has been compiled from a range of sources to support residents impacted by the January 2026 bushfires. Sources include AusNet Services, VicEmergency, Forest Fire Management Victoria newsletters, Services Australia, Emergency Recovery Victoria, and other Victorian and Australian Government websites.

While every effort has been made to ensure this information is accurate and up to date at the time of publication, eligibility criteria, payment amounts, application processes and timeframes may change. Residents are encouraged to check source websites directly or contact the relevant agencies listed below to confirm current details and eligibility before applying.