Relief & Recovery Newsletter
Walwa River Rd Bushfire
26 June 2026

towongshire

Council's Recovery Team is visiting communities across the Shire through the "Community Outreach Recovery Hub" program this June and July. Please see page 3 for detailed information.

Council is currently organising wire collection and current collections will occur during June and July.

Do you have fire affected fencing wire that needs to be collected? If yes, please contact us at recovery@towong.vic.gov.au or call us at 1800 518 222 to arrange a future collection.

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.

The physical recovery hubs continue as booking only.

Please call 1800 518 222 or email recovery@towong.vic.gov.au

- **Corryong Recovery Hub**
  Old Primary School, 2-10 Towong Road
- **Tallangatta Recovery Hub**
  Next to Council Offices, 34 Towong Street

Business Victoria Recovery Advisory Service
Experienced business recovery advisers will help you to understand the different supports available, manage issues with an insurance provider or landlord, to access support services and assist with planning your recovery including business continuity and contingency planning.

To access a Business Recovery Adviser, call 13 22 15 (Monday to Friday, 9:00am to 5:00pm) or complete the registration form: business.vic.gov.au/grants-and-programs/business-recovery-advisory-service-2026/business-recovery-advisory-service-2026-registration-form

Closes 31 October 2026.

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

DFFH Emergency Recovery Support Program (ERSP)
The Emergency Recovery Support Program helps people and families after the January 2026 bushfires.
The ERSP can help you with matters such as:

- health and wellbeing services
- financial advice and assistance
- finding local services
- insurance and legal questions
- registering for government services.

Support can include advice, referrals, or more involved help if needed. A recovery support officer will work with you to understand your needs and link you with the right supports.

They can help you navigate all the government supports made available after emergencies, and any supports local to you.

How to get help**:**

- Call the Emergency Recovery Hotline on 1800 560 760
- Visit services.dffh.vic.gov.au/january-2026-fires
- Contact Council
- Call VicEmergency on 1800 226 226

Financial Support Payments
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. You have until 21 July 2026 to make a claim.

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 death of immediate family. Payments are $1,000 per eligible adult and $400 per eligible child. You have until 5 August 2026 to make a claim.

To learn more visit: servicesaustralia.gov.au/vic-bushfires-jan-2026

COMMUNITY WASTE SERVICES

Hard waste collection dates
Hard waste and green waste collection dates for 2026 are listed on the Council website:
https://www.towong.vic.gov.au/2-residents/waste-and-recycling/hard-waste-and-green-waste

Bookings are essential and can be made by calling 02 6071 5100.

Bin and recycling collection
Bin and recycling collection services are operating as usual, if you have specific bin collection questions, contact Council on 1300 365 222.

Resource Recovery Centres
Council Resource Recovery Centres are currently operating as per usual business hours (Closed on public holidays). Fee waivers have been extended until end of June for bushfire-related material (proof of residence required).

Corryong Resource Recovery Centre:
289 Sugarloaf Road, Corryong.
Thursday: 3pm - 5pm (outside of daylight savings)
Sunday: 12pm - 4pm

Tallangatta Resource Recovery Centre
767 Murray Valley Hwy, Tallangatta.
Thursday: 3pm - 5pm (outside of daylight savings)
Sunday: 12pm - 4pm

towong.vic.gov.au/resource-recovery

Asbestos Containing Materials (ACM)
Towong Shire Council Resource Recovery Centres, recycling sheds, or bins do not accept asbestos or asbestos containing materials.

The closest licensed disposal options to residents in Towong Shire include:

- Rural City of Wangaratta Council, 5 Coleman Rd, North Wangaratta, (03) 5722 0888
- Albury Waste Management Centre, 565 Mudge St, Lavington, 02 6043 5860

For more information on safe handling, transport and disposal, visit https://www.asbestos.vic.gov.au/home

FIRE AND EMERGENCY UPDATE

CFA advised that the Fire Danger Period (FDP) would officially end at 1.00am on Tuesday, 7 April 2026 in several municipalities in CFA's Districts 17, 24, and 23 and this includes Towong Shire.

We encourage you to continue to follow the VicEmergency Facebook channel:
https://www.facebook.com/VicEmergencyHume

AgVic Support after a bushfire
Agriculture Victoria continues to support farmers impacted by the January 2026 bushfires.

This includes delivering technical information and events to support farm business recovery on a range of topics including:

- grazing, cropping, and pasture management
- irrigation and horticulture system rehabilitation
- soil erosion management
- land management
- animal health and nutrition
- farm mapping and planning
- water quality
- weed management

More information:
agriculture.vic.gov.au/farm-management/emergency-management/bushfires/what-to-do-after-a-bushfire

Water Quality Advice and Information
Water supplied to stock should be low in salt, organic matter, suspended clay and free of other toxic substances such as blue-green algae, heavy metals and chemical residues. If there is any question regarding its suitability, a sample should be collected from the water source and sent to an appropriate water testing laboratory for analysis.

More information on organic pollution of farm dams can be accessed at:
https://agriculture.vic.gov.au/farm-management/water/managing-dams/organic-pollution-in-farm-dams

Maintaining farm water quality and protecting surface catchment once the fire has passed:
https://agriculture.vic.gov.au/farm-management/emergency-management/bushfires/what-to-do-after-a-bushfire/stock-water-impacted-by-bushfire-ash-and-debris

If you have stock in a containment area in the aftermath of the fire, please see the following important information about water supply: https://agriculture.vic.gov.au/farm-management/water/managing-dams/water-supply-in-stock-containment-areas

VicEmergency Website and App provides official alerts and warnings for bushfires, floods, storms, and other emergencies across Victoria. Access real-time alerts at emergency.vic.gov.au

STORMS AND RAIN EVENTS

It is important that farmers and landowners prepare for potential flash flooding, soil erosion, and landslides in the event of significant rainfall.

Read more about preparing fire-damaged properties ahead of storms: agriculture.vic.gov.au/about/media-centre/media-releases/2026-releases/prepare-fire-damaged-properties-ahead-of-storms

Read more about managing and treating dams in fire affected areas: agriculture.vic.gov.au/about/media-centre/media-releases/2026-releases/managing-and-treating-dams-in-fire-affected-areas

Public Land and Recreation Closures
For current information on access to Crown land within fire impacted areas please visit:
parks.vic.gov.au and
ffm.vic.gov.au/permits-and-regulations/closures-of-parks-and-forests

ROADS

Residents and travellers in Victoria are encouraged to stay informed about road closures and traffic conditions.

VicTraffic: Offers information regarding current road closures, planned maintenance, traffic incidents and detours across Victoria. Check live updates at traffic.transport.vic.gov.au

Potholes and road damage continue to be a common problem on our roads. Many of the roads in the Towong Shire are VicRoads.

To report an issue, please lodge your concerns here:
https://www.vicroads.vic.gov.au/traffic-and-road-use/report-a-road-issue

Or here:
Road issues and enquiries | hazards, faults and licensing - Transport Victoria

SUPPORT

Fencing Assistance
You may be eligible for assistance if your fencing was damaged by firefighting operations or if you have fencing that borders public land.

Please reach out if you have missed a call from our team or wish to apply.

To apply, visit ffm.vic.gov.au/recovery-after-an-emergency/public-land-recovery or contact DEECA on 136 186.

Help if Your Property Has Been Damaged
Help to clean up your property is still available if you are uninsured or underinsured. Please contact Emergency Management Victoria to register vic.gov.au/register-for-clean-up or call the Emergency Recovery Hotline on 1800 560 760.

Emergency Fodder managed by the Victorian Farmers Federation (VFF) and Agriculture Victoria for fire affected farmers with livestock, contact the VFF: vff.org.au/vff-emergency-fodder-program

Business and Insurance Support provide fact sheets, insurance claim assistance, dispute guidance and financial support information.
business.vic.gov.au/business-information/disaster-resilience/how-to-recover/recovering-from-a-bushfire

EVENTS:

AgVic is hosting the following events for farmers.
https://agriculture.vic.gov.au/support-and-resources/event-listing

Council is hosting "Outreach Community Hubs" https://www.towong.vic.gov.au/2-residents/bushfire-recovery/bushfire-recovery-centres#toc-link-0

If you cannot attend the session closest to you, you're welcome to visit any of the other sessions listed below. All sessions run from 10.00am to 2.00pm.

June dates	Location
15, 22, 29 June	Burrowye CFA
16, 23, 30 June	Tallangatta Valley Hall
17 June	Granya Hall
17, 24 June	Lucyvale Hall
24 June	Bullioh Hall

July dates	Location
6 July	Burrowye CFA
7, 14, 21 July	Tallangatta Valley Hall
1, 15 July	Granya Hall
1, 8 July	Lucyvale Hall
8, 22 July	Bullioh Hall

GRANTS:

Over the Farm Gate Community Grants
Round 2 has been EXTENDED. Up to $5,ooo available for local community events.
https://farmerhealth.org.au/look-over-the-farm-gate/

Victorian Primary Producer Bushfire Recovery Grants
Up to $75,000 to assist with the costs of clean-up and reinstatement of primary production enterprises that have suffered direct damage as a result of bushfires.
Applications close at 4pm on 21 October 2026.
https://www.ruralfinance.com.au/grants/

Victorian Primary Producer Bushfire Recovery Concessional Loans

- Up to $250,000 are available to assist primary producers which have suffered significant damage to their assets as a direct result of the 2026 Victorian Bushfires.
- Up to $100,000 are available to assist primary producers which have suffered a significant loss of income as a direct result of the 2026 Victorian Bushfires.

Applications close at 4pm on 21 October 2026.
https://www.ruralfinance.com.au/loans/

Australia Post: Community Grants Disaster Impacted Communities (up to $10k, closing 6th July): https://auspost.com.au/about-us/supporting-communities/grants/community-grants-program

Foundation for Rural Regional Renewal (FRRR): Strengthening Rural Communities -Prepare and

Recover (up to $25k, current round closes 24th June, next round opens 25 June) https://frrr.org.au/funding/src-prepare-recover/

Stay tuned to our website and social media for updates:
Website:
https://www.towong.vic.gov.au/2-residents/bushfire-recovery/january-2026-fire-relief

Facebook:
facebook.com/towong.shire.council

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.