

Issued 7am

Latest updates

Charleroi

A new fire started at Hardys Road, Charleroi on Friday. This was brought under control just before 5pm. There is currently no fire activity and local crews will be on scene today patrolling the area.

Walwa River Road

Updated aerial line scans of the fire have been completed on Friday evening. This has provided an updated burnt area of **106,692** hectares.

Operations have focused on back burning and strengthening containment lines on the southern front of the fire. More than 50km of backburning has been prepared using existing strategic fuel breaks.

The backburning operations are expected to continue for the next 4-5 days. This may result in additional smoke in the area.

Hazardous tree assessments and treatment are continuing. The Murray River Road is likely to remain closed over the weekend and open early next week.

AusNet has been working to restore power in the area. Due to weather conditions and safety concerns late yesterday, power restorations have been delayed for Koetong, Bullioh and Shelley.

Community meetings

Further community meetings will be held over the coming week and will be advertised in the newsletter and via [VicEmergency – Hume Facebook page](#).

VicEmergency – Hume Facebook page

Watch updates from the Incident controller and find current warnings and information.

Recordings of the past community meetings are available on the [Towong Shire Council Facebook page](#).

The temporary Corryong Information Hub open today from **10am to 2pm**. The hub is located in front of the IGA supermarket.

Officers from the Department of Families, Fairness and Housing will be present and can take applications for financial assistance.

Officers from AusNet will be available to answer questions about electricity and Towong Shire Council officers will be at the Information Hub also.

Road closure information

 13 11 70  traffic.vicroads.vic.gov.au

Weather

Favourable weather conditions will continue with southerly winds for the next few days.

Air Quality Poor or Very Poor

Minimise time outside, exercise indoors and wear a P2/N95 mask when working outside. Close windows, set air-con to recirculate.

Use a HEPA air purifier if you have one. Bring pets inside.

Call **Triple Zero 000** for trouble breathing or chest pain/tightness.

 <https://www.epa.vic.gov.au/check-air-and-water-quality>

Drinking water remains safe after bushfires

The Walwa River Road fire has understandably raised concerns about water quality, but NE Water reassures residents that tap water is safe to drink

Find your local water supply point:

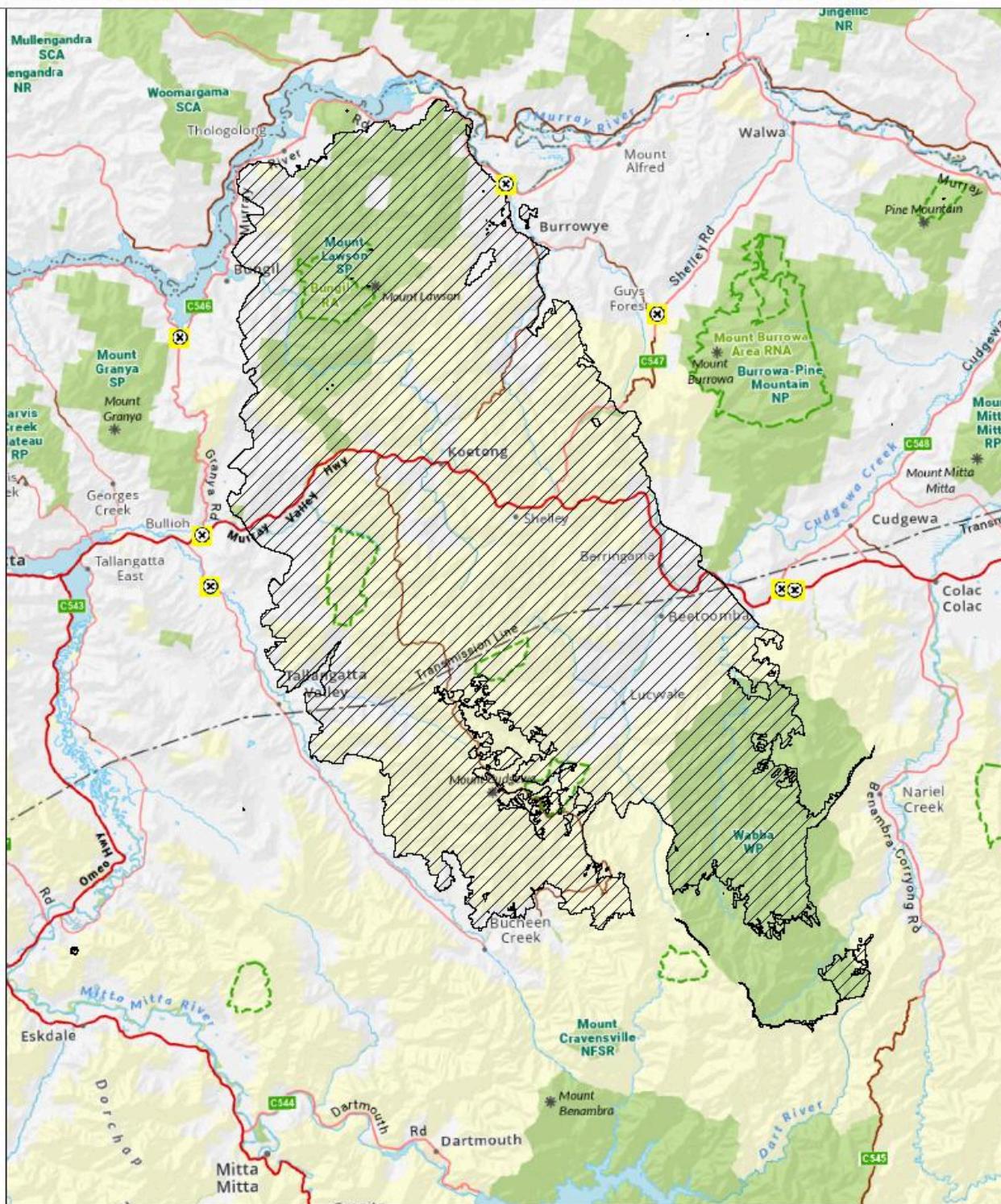
 www.water.vic.gov.au/for-agriculture-and-industry/emergency-water-supply-points

Community Newsletter

Upper Murray Fires

17 January 2026

UM16 Walwa River Rd Fire - Public Information Map- 05:07hrs 17 Jan 2026 - A3P 1:220,000



Print Date: 17/01/2026
Print Time: 06:07:00

 Traffic management point

 Current Burnt Area



PROJECTION: Transverse Mercator
HORIZONTAL DATUM: GDA2020
COORDINATE SYSTEM: GDA2020 MGA Zone 55



Information about returning home

Before you return home stock up with basic items such as nonperishable food, bottled water, medications before you go back home.

Have suitable clothing, boots and necessary protective equipment to ensure your safety when moving around your home.

<https://www.redcross.org.au/emergencies/coping-after-a-crisis/returning-home-and-coping-after-a-crisis/>

Remember to check with your local emergency services that it is safe to return to your property. For more detailed information about returning to your home safely visit <https://www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au/health/healthyliving/bushfire-aftermath-safety-tips>

Water tanks

Water tanks can be contaminated after a fire. Disconnect your downpipes and clean your roof before reconnecting downpipes. Contaminated drinking water or use during preparing food should be avoided until it's safe.

<https://www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au/health/healthyliving/bushfire-aftermath-safety-tips>

Access to Drinking Water

Each household may be eligible to receive 20,000L of relief drinking water. Visit the water website to see if you are eligible and to fill out an online form.

<https://www.water.vic.gov.au/about-us/news/news-stories/emergency-relief-drinking-water-2026>

If you need assistance completing the form, call the DEECA Customer Contact Centre on **136 186**.

Essential water replacement

Water used for firefighting purposes can be replaced. Request within 3 months of it being taken from your property. If essential water supplies run out, urgent replacement can be

Register for water replacement

Customer call centre **136 186**

✉ emergency.recovery@deeca.vic.gov.au

🌐 <https://www.ffm.vic.gov.au/recovery-after-an-emergency/public-land-recovery>

Food spoilage

All foods perishable and non-perishable that has been fire-damaged or affected by heat should be thrown out. Including cans or packaged foods.

www.betterhealth.vic.gov.au/health/healthyliving/food-safety-and-storage

Wildlife Welfare

📞 Tallangatta Wildlife Coordinator **1300 322 061**
📞 Wildlife Victoria on **(03) 8400 7300**

Be conscious of your own safety when handling wildlife. Bites and stings have been reported in recent days.

Power and Telecommunications

Check websites for updates on outages and restoration timelines.

🌐 www.ausnetservices.com.au/outages

Mobile generators are being installed in some for the worst impacted communities where AusNet may not be able to restore power for some time.

Telstra have added additional data to mobile services automatically to impacted areas.

AusNet - EMMA (Emergency Management Mobile Assistance) – power and Starlink facilities for community use will be located:

Hansen Street Corryong near IGA
Saturday 17 January 2026
11.30am – 3.00pm

<https://www.ausnetservices.com.au/outages/emergency-response>

📞 Bushfire Support Line on **1300 561 171**

Telstra

Agriculture and Livestock

Emergency fodder is available for farmers in fire-affected areas.

To request fodder, contact the Victorian Farmers Federation VFF

- 1300 882 833 or www.vff.org.au
- <https://www.vff.org.au/vff-emergency-fodder-program/>

If you have urgent animal welfare needs, contact the **Agriculture Victoria** via the **VicEmergency Hotline** on **1800 226 226** then dial 0 (incident) then 3 (recovery).

Agriculture Victoria can help with information about how to assess stock welfare.

Report fire impact online. If your property has been impacted by fire, you can report:

- Dead or injured animals
- Crop loss or damage
- Fodder and water needs

Fill in the Loss and Damage online assessment form. Your information helps us to direct recovery efforts to where they are needed most.

<https://agriculture.vic.gov.au/farm-management/emergency-management/bushfires>

Bushfires and Livestock Disposal

Disposing of deceased livestock is managed by the landholder as part of on-property recovery. Agriculture Victoria is available to support landholders disposing of livestock with guidance, information and technical advice.

Agriculture Victoria has established a Livestock Disposal Advisory service to assist landholders with advice to dispose of livestock

This service can be contacted on **0407 145 007** and livestock.disposal@agriculture.vic.gov.au

The Environment Protection Authority provides emergency approvals in line with the Environment Protection Act 2017.

Landowners are now advised that the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) does not have specific timelines on the burial of dead livestock due to

Before burial of livestock, Dial Before You Dig by calling 1100 or go to <http://www.byda.com.au/> to avoid damaging your infrastructure.

Relief and Recovery Information

 <https://emergency.vic.gov.au/relief/>

Emergency Recovery Hotline

- 1800 560 760 (9am to 5pm)
- <https://www.vic.gov.au/january-2026-victorian-bushfires>

Register.Find.Reunite

register.redcross.org.au

Let friends, family and emergency services know you are safe or where you are at.

Foodshare Services

There are Foodshare Services supporting people in Corryong, Wodonga and other nearby bushfire impacted communities.

Services include providing fresh fruit and vegetables as well as meat. For more information go to: corryong asn au or foodshare org au

Financial Assistance

Australian Government Disaster Recovery Payments. Eligible people may receive a one-time payment to cover essentials like food, clothing, medication and accommodation.

- \$1,000 per adult
- \$400 per child

Further funding is available for those that have lost their homes including those uninsured. Free confidential wellbeing support alongside financial and business counselling is available via  **Rural financial counselling** 1300 834 775

Financial Assistance for Farms

An initial \$40 million in grants of up to \$75,000 will be provided to eligible primary producers, to help cover the costs of clean up and reinstating their

Funding can be used for essential recovery activities such as disposing of stock, rebuilding or replacing damaged on-farm infrastructure and restoring operations.

[Financial assistance after a bushfire | Bushfires](#)
[Emergency management | Farm management](#)
[Agriculture Victoria](#)

Victorian Bushfire Appeal

Visit www.vic.gov.au/2026-Victorian-Bushfire-Appeal
1800 837 733 (9am to 5pm)

Donations over \$2 are tax deductible. 100% of funds raised go directly to those in need. Donations of food cannot be accepted, contact the Salvation Army if you wish to donate goods. Go to www.givit.org.au to donate funds or give specific items people have requested.

Bushfire Clean Up Program

The Bushfire Clean Up Program for households [has been announced](#). This program supports uninsured and underinsured Victorians to remove damaged structures and hazardous materials - easing the burden on families already facing enormous stress. Register for updates including when clean-up support is available here <https://www.vic.gov.au/recovery>

Business support

Information about support for businesses will become available in coming days.

Business Victoria website
<https://business.vic.gov.au/>

Health information

It is normal to have strong emotional or physical reactions following a distressing event. Look out for changes or signs of someone's mental health might be changing. There is always help available through your doctor – request a Medicare Mental Health Plan.

Access support by contacting
[Lifeline - 131 114](http://lifeline.org.au)
[Beyondblue - 1300 224 636](http://beyondblue.org.au)

[Kid's Help Line - 1800 55 1800](#)
[Parent Line - 13 22 89](#)
[National Centre for Farmers Health \(03\) 5551 8533](#)

Protect your health

Staying hydrated helps protect your physical and mental wellbeing. Dehydration can be dangerous. Drink plenty of fluids, ideally water.

You can speak to a registered nurse 24 hours a day by calling **Nurse-on-Call on 1300 60 60 24**. **Australian Red Cross** practical tips to help you cope physically and mentally after a crisis: <http://www.redcross.org.au/emergencies/coping-after-a-crisis/returning-home-and-coping-after-a-crisis/>

Stress management techniques are available <https://www.beyondblue.org.au/mental-health/what-is-stress#stress-management-techniques>

Family Violence

1800 737 732 (1800RESPECT)
Visit www.vic.gov.au/familyviolence
000: when urgent or immediate police assistance is required
131 444: Police Assistance Line to report a non-urgent crime and/or event
1800 333 000: Crime Stoppers. If you have information that could help solve a crime and do not need immediate police assistance.
Reports can also be made via Crime Stoppers Victoria website crimestoppersvic.com.au

Stay informed

VicEmergency Hotline 1800 226 226
www.emergency.vic.gov.au

Emergency Radio Broadcasters
Upper Murray Fires

ABC 106.5 FM	ABC 675 AM
ABC 99.7FM	2AY1494 AM

To Access the latest Community Newsletter on your device, scan the QR Code:

