

## Community Newsletter

### Langkoop – Edenhope Penola Rd Fire

**Saturday, 1 January 2022**

#### Information about the Fire

A fire that started at 1.30pm on Friday 31 December 2021 near the South Australia border has now burnt over 7586 hectares. The fire has travelled from the South Australian border in an easterly direction, through the Poolaijelo area (south west of Edenhope) and is not yet under control. Overnight the fire burnt in a north east direction through plantations and is now burning in parts of the Meereek State Forest.

- **Weather conditions** forecast for today may cause the fire to become dangerous and unpredictable and it may impact properties.
- **There are power outages** in the Poolaijelo and Langkoop areas. Powercor are currently working on the ground reconnecting power to affected areas.
- **Fire Crews**, aircraft and heavy machinery continue to work in and around the fire ground.
- **Smoke from the fire** can be seen in surrounding areas, so residents are asked to remain vigilant when driving on roads
- **Stock & Livestock** - It has been reported that there have been large stock losses including sheep and cattle. Wildlife losses are also being assessed with some old native forest affected which is famous for its red-tailed black cockatoos. Assessments are being conducted today with Agriculture Victoria staff and wildlife officers.
- **Trees along Roadsides** - Assessments of trees is currently being conducted along roadsides due to a number of large gum trees continuing to burn. Local Residents should remain cautious in areas that have been fire affected.
- **Rainwater tanks** Residents - If you live in a bushfire-affected area you should be aware that your tank water could become contaminated from debris and ash or dead animals being flushed into your rainwater tank when it rains, or during fire protecting activity. Untreated water from these sources should not be used for drinking in any event.

#### Relief information

For relief support call Council on 13 99 72 and press option 3. The Relief centre has been operating in Edenhope at the Edenhope Senior Citizens Centre and will close at 5pm on Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> January.

#### Protect your health

Due to smoke from the fire, air quality may be very poor in the surrounding area. Consider actions to reduce your exposure. Close windows and doors and open them when air quality improves. Reconsider planned outdoor activities.

People with underlying respiratory or cardiac issues should avoid smoke.

Nurse-on-Call on 1300 60 60 24 (this is a phone service that allows you to discuss any health-related issue with a registered nurse, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week for the cost of a local call from anywhere in Victoria).

#### Road closures

Multiple Road closures are still in place including the Casterton-Apsley Road. Local roads including Ferguson Road are also closed.

These road closures are in place to keep the public safe due to the significant risk of large trees falling over the road.

Fire crews are currently assessing hazardous trees to re-open roads as soon as possible. Information on updated road closures is available via 13 11 70 or the Vic Traffic website [traffic.vicroads.vic.gov.au](http://traffic.vicroads.vic.gov.au)

#### Mental health

It is normal to have strong emotional or physical reactions following a distressing event. There is always help available through:

Your doctor  
Local mental health professionals  
Rural Outreach - 1300 688 732  
Lifeline - 131 114  
Beyond Blue - 1300 224 636  
MensLine - 1300 789 978  
Kid's Help Line - 1800 55 1800  
Parent Line - 13 22 89

### Useful information

More information is provided on your local council's website and social media channels  
<https://knowyourcouncil.vic.gov.au/>  
<https://www.facebook.com/westwimmerashire>  
[www.westwimmera.vic.gov.au](http://www.westwimmera.vic.gov.au)  
 Contact VicEmergency Hotline (1800 226 226) to speak to someone about recovering. They can connect you with people who can help.

### Stay informed

- [www.emergency.vic.gov.au](http://www.emergency.vic.gov.au).
- VicEmergency Hotline - freecall 1800 226 226.
- VicEmergency app.
- Facebook or Twitter (#vicHAZARD).
- Local radio ABC 594 AM or 1089 3WM

To access this information in other languages call the Translating and Interpreting Service on 131 450 (freecall) and ask them to call VicEmergency Hotline.

If you are deaf, hard of hearing, or have a speech/communication impairment contact National Relay Service on 1800 555 677 and ask them to call the VicEmergency Hotline.

