

BUSHFIRE INFORMATION

FACT SHEET - HOW TO PROVIDE ASSISTANCE TO COMMUNITY GROUPS AND ORGANISATIONS

You can help communities and animals affected by bushfires by donating to any of the following organisations.

NSW RURAL FIRE SERVICE

Monetary donations to the NSW RFS will assist by supporting volunteers. You can also call your local brigade to find out what they may need. Support your local brigade here:

<https://www.rfs.nsw.gov.au/volunteer/support-your-local-brigade>

DONATIONS TO CHARITIES

The best way to help communities impacted by fire is to donate money to one of the many charities or appeals that have been established. Money gives people the choice to buy things they need and support local businesses that have also been impacted.

Please do not donate physical goods such as toys, furniture and clothes at this time. They are usually not needed and can fill up vital community spaces, while taking volunteers away from other important tasks. If you have unwanted physical goods please consider selling them and donating the proceeds instead.

- The Salvation Army 13 72 58
- Vinnies 13 18 12
- The Red Cross 1800 733 276

DONATING GOODS:

FILL THE TRUCK

If you would prefer to donate goods, a local business, Winston Express Haulage, is calling for non-perishable foods, medical supplies (Dettol, wipes, asthma puffers etc.), nappies, water, baby formula, towels and pillows to deliver to the Shoalhaven region. You can drop items off to Winston Express Haulage at Bent St, St Marys by Friday 17 January.

For more information visit the Winston Express Haulage Facebook page.

https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story_fbid=2778063432259405&id=139186306147144&_tn_ =K-R

ORGANISATIONS HELPING ANIMALS:

RSPCA

The RSPCA is working with Petbarn to assist animals affected by the bushfires through treating them and rehoming them. The RSPCA are calling for monetary donations as well as a variety of animal products including animal food, collars and fly repellent. Find out more and donate here:

<https://www.rspcansw.org.au/bushfire-appeal/>

NSW WILDLIFE INFORMATION, RESCUE & EDUCATION SERVICE'S BUSHFIRE APPEAL FUND (WIRES)

Wires is asking for monetary donations to support trained volunteers to rehabilitate injured wildlife, it's also accepting donations to help pay for things including food, medical supplies and vet fees. Find out more and donate here:

<https://www.facebook.com/donate/1386120504919105/10158318179549750/>

HAWKESBURY REMAKERY

The Hawkesbury Remakery is assisting the Animal Rescue Craft Guild and calling for all sewers, knitters and crocheter's to make jumpers, pouches and blankets for animals impacted by the bushfires. To find out the shapes and sizes visit the Facebook page: Animal Rescue Craft Guild:

https://www.facebook.com/groups/arfsncrafts/permalink/2920337934685416/?_tn_ =CH-R

IF THE CURRENT FIRES HAVE IMPACTED YOU OR MEMBERS OF YOUR EXTENDED FAMILY, HERE ARE SOME RESOURCES THAT MAY BE ABLE TO HELP:

AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT - DISASTER RECOVERY ALLOWANCE

This allowance provides a short-term support payment to assist people whose income has been affected as a direct result of the bushfires.

- Call 180 22 66 or visit humanservices.gov.au

AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT - DISASTER RECOVERY PAYMENT

If your home has been damaged by smoke during the fires - including your clothes, furniture or carpets - you may be eligible for this payment.

- Call 180 22 66 or visit disasterassist.gov.au

NSW GOVERNMENT - DISASTER RELIEF GRANTS

Grants are available for eligible individuals and families whose homes and essential household contents have been damaged or destroyed by a natural disaster. Certain criteria apply.

- Contact the Disaster Welfare Assistance Line on 1800 018 444.

HOUSING ASSISTANCE

Department of Communities and Justice (DCJ) Housing can offer temporary accommodation, as well as interest-free bond loans and advance rent to eligible fire-impacted residents.

- Call the Housing Contact Centre on 1800 422 322 (available 24/7) for more information.

REPLACING PERSONAL DOCUMENTS

Service NSW can help replace many of your personal documents free of charge if they were damaged or destroyed.

This includes birth certificates, marriage certificates, licences and number plates.

- Visit your nearest Service NSW centre or call 13 77 88.

LEGAL ASSISTANCE

Legal Aid NSW can provide free legal advice and minor assistance to people affected by disasters on a range of issues, including insurance, tenancy, credit and debt problems.

- Call 1800 801 529 or visit legalaid.nsw.gov.au

IF YOU OR A FAMILY MEMBER ARE A LANDHOLDER OR A SMALL BUSINESS OWNER DIRECTLY IMPACTED BY THE BUSHFIRES, THERE ARE NSW GOVERNMENT SERVICES AVAILABLE THAT MAY BE ABLE TO PROVIDE ASSISTANCE:

PRIMARY PRODUCER GRANTS

Grants of up to \$15,000 are available for bushfire affected primary producers. Eligibility criteria apply. Applications can be made to the Rural Assistance Authority.

- Call the Rural Assistance Authority on 1800 678 593.
- Find out more at www.raa.nsw.gov.au/disaster-assistance/disaster-recovery-grants

ANIMAL WELFARE

Local Land Services can assist with:

- Emergency fodder
- Stock water
- Assessment of animals impacted by the fire.

Landholders are also encouraged to report damage to property, including any stock losses.

- Call the Agriculture and Animal Services Hotline on 1800 814 647.
- Visit www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/rrp

NSW DEPARTMENT OF PRIMARY INDUSTRIES AND LOCAL LAND SERVICES:

- Are providing assistance to fire affected landholders with emergency fodder and water, animal care, livestock or animal assessment.
- Where necessary, providing euthanasia and burial.

Producers can report stock losses and infrastructure damage, or request animal assessment, or emergency fodder or water for stock, by calling the Agricultural and Animal Services Hotline on 1800 814 647. People without phone access can send a direct message via the NSW DPI Facebook page.

For more information please see <https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/climate-and-emergencies/bushfires>

NSW RURAL ASSISTANCE AUTHORITY

Disaster relief low interest loans of up to \$130,000 are available to eligible primary producers and small businesses, and transport subsidies of up to 50% of the cost to transport livestock or fodder, to eligible primary producers.

- Call the Rural Assistance Authority on 1800 678 593.

SMALL BUSINESS GRANTS

Grants of up to \$15,000 are available if your business has been directly affected by bushfire. Eligibility criteria apply. Applications can be made to the Rural Assistance Authority (RAA).

- Call the Rural Assistance Authority on 1800 678 593 or visit www.raa.nsw.gov.au

BUSINESS CONNECT

A free mobile advisory service is available to small businesses. A local advisor can meet you at a convenient place and discuss your business needs. Advice is offered about managing cash flow, planning the next steps, accessing financial support schemes and connecting to additional support.

- Call 1300 134 359 or register at industry.nsw.gov.au/businessconnect

DISPUTE RESOLUTION SERVICE

A confidential and free dispute resolution service has been set up to help small businesses needing assistance to work through problems with other businesses or government.

- Call 1300 795 534 or visit smallbusiness.nsw.gov.au/dispute-resolution

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

The threat and impact of bushfires can cause distress and anxiety. If you think you need to speak to someone, you can call Likemind on 8880 8111.

If you are concerned for the welfare of family and friends, contact the Police Information Centre 1800 227 228.

Council also recommends that residents download the **Get Prepared app**, which will help you prepare physically and psychologically for emergency situations. It promotes making connections with your local emergency services organisations and will take you through the steps to create a simple but effective emergency plan.

Do this one simple thing to prepare for an emergency, disaster or unexpected event. <http://ow.ly/iacU50wRNOu>