

Community Newsletter

Dargo & Licola Fires

Please ensure you are accessing the most current information.
Latest newsletters can be found at www.emergency.vic.gov.au

Current Situation

The fires at Licola (Mt Margaret Track) and Hibernia (Black Snake Creek) have been contained.

The fire at Mt Darling (Cynthia Range Track) is not yet under control. There is some active fire in the remote areas and the remaining fire activity is well within containment lines and poses no threat to the community.

The fires have not grown in size.

The community can expect to see a lot of activity and movement of aircraft and heavy machinery around the area as they continue to consolidate containment lines.

Weather Forecast

Friday 29 March - Showers developing, possible storms. Max 28

Saturday 30 March - Shower or two – Min 9 – Max 17

Sunday 31 March - Possible shower – Min 9 – Max 19

Monday 1 April - Cloudy – Min 9 – Max 21

Tourism

All areas of the foothills and Southern Alps area of the Alpine National Park have been closed due to the fires and all camping areas remain closed in this area.

The majority of Gippsland and Alpine Region are open for business and the public are actively encouraged to visit and support local businesses in the region.

For further information on the area including road closures within State Forest, download the *More to Explore App* or visit MapShareVic @ <https://mapshare.maps.vic.gov.au/> and click on the *More to Explore* tab to display visitor sites and road networks.

For their own safety, members of the public are urged to observe state park closures and avoid fire affected areas.

For further information, call 131963 or visit www.parkweb.vic.gov.au/safety/fire-affected-areas

The road to Licola is open through to Jamieson.

The Dargo Road is also open as far as Dargo.

Road & Park Closures - Licola

The following road remains closed:

- Tamboritha Road, Licola access for residents only)

All 4WD Tracks will remain closed within the fire impacted area over the school holidays and Easter.

Road & Park Closures - Dargo

The following roads remain closed:

- Wonnangatta Road - Shortcut Road, Dargo
- Dargo High Plains Road at Mt Hurley track, Dargo

The Dargo High Plains Rd remains closed however this road and the Upper Dargo road are planned to re-open from Thursday 4 April 2019, subject to completion of necessary works.

No access is available to the Southern Alps and Foothill areas of the Alpine National Park and State Forest campgrounds.

All 4WD Tracks will remain closed within the fire impacted area over the school holidays and Easter.

Please ensure compliance with traffic management points and road closures. Parts of the Alpine National Park and neighbouring State Forest areas remain closed to the public.

Motorists are requested to keep an eye out for the extra heavy machinery, trucks and fire crews on the road and take it easy on your way up and down the hill.

Temporary Access passes available

If you are a resident who needs tradespeople or delivery truck access to your property past road closure points - please contact an Incident Control Centre for a Temporary Access Pass.

Heyfield – 5139 7778 or Bairnsdale – 5152 0488

For all road closures see <https://traffic.vicroads.vic.gov.au/>

Recovery services and information

Wellington Shire Council Pop-Up Recovery centres

A series of popup recovery centres are being scheduled to assist the community with obtaining information to help deal with any stresses around bushfires and drought in our landscape.

The sessions arranged so far are as follows;

- **Heyfield** Tuesday 2 April 11am -2pm @ Community Resource Centre, 5 George Street
- **Rosedale** 6-8pm Thurs 4 April @ Rosedale Neighbourhood House, 2/8 Cansick St Rosedale, tea/coffee and nibbles provided.
- **Loch Sport** 10am – 1pm Fri 5 April @ Loch Sport Public Hall

What will be on offer?

- Information on all the supports currently available for people who have been stressed by bushfire and or drought.
- A chance for people to provide any creative ideas for events or activities on how to help the broader community get through these challenging times.
- An opportunity for one to one conversations with various professionals experienced in insurance, counselling, creative recovery and keeping safe and healthy while bushfires and drought are active in our region.

Case Support – Recovery Assistance

The Victorian Government Bushfire Case Support Program is available for people significantly impacted by the fires in Gippsland. People can access a Case Support Worker through their local council, visiting one of the Bushfire Recovery Centres or by telephone 1800 560 760.

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 Lifeline - 131 114
Beyond Blue - 1300 224 636
MensLine - 1300 789 978
Kid's Help Line - 1800 55 1800
Parent Line - 13 22 89
Safe Steps – 1800 015 188 (24hr)

Warning about use of river water for domestic and stock purposes from Southern Rural Water

Many people in the Licola and Dargo fires area rely on river water for domestic and stock use.

Southern Rural Water reminds you that rivers are not treated and are not always suitable for humans or stock.

During and after fires, river water can be contaminated with fire-fighting chemicals, smoke and burnt material, making it toxic for humans.

The water in the recently refurbished bore at the Dargo Recreation Reserve is available for use but has not been tested or treated. If you wish to use this water, you must determine whether it is suitable for the purpose you need.

Call Southern Rural Water 1300 139 510 for more information

For information on private drinking water supply go to

<https://www2.health.vic.gov.au/public-health/water/private-drinking-water/about>

Drought & Financial Assistance

People who are suffering financial hardship due either to the fires or the drought can contact the Wellington Shire on 1300 366 244 who will put you in touch with the appropriate welfare agencies or drought assistance programs.

Wellington Shire - 1300 366 244

Gippsland Farmers Friend is a beneficial initiative in the Wellington and East Gippsland Shires for farmers and their families who are doing it tough due to the drought. It is a confidential service provided by people who have been involved in farming over many years.

Farmers Friend Gippsland – 03 5136 3500

Injured wildlife

Anyone seeing animals that appear caught, injured or distressed as a result of the fire should call Wildlife Victoria 24/7 on 1300 094 535

Useful Contacts

Insurance Council of Australia – 1800 734 621
Disaster Legal Help – 1800 113 432
Australian Rd Cross – 1800 232 969
Rural Financial Counselling Service – 1300 735 578
Farmers Assistance Hotline – 13 23 16
Farmers Friend Gippsland – 03 5136 3500
Lifeline Crisis Support 24/7 – 13 11 44

Stay informed

- www.emergency.vic.gov.au.
- VicEmergency Hotline - freecall 1800 226 226.
- VicEmergency app.
- Facebook or Twitter (#vicfire).
- Local radio **828am** or **ABC Gippsland 100.7**

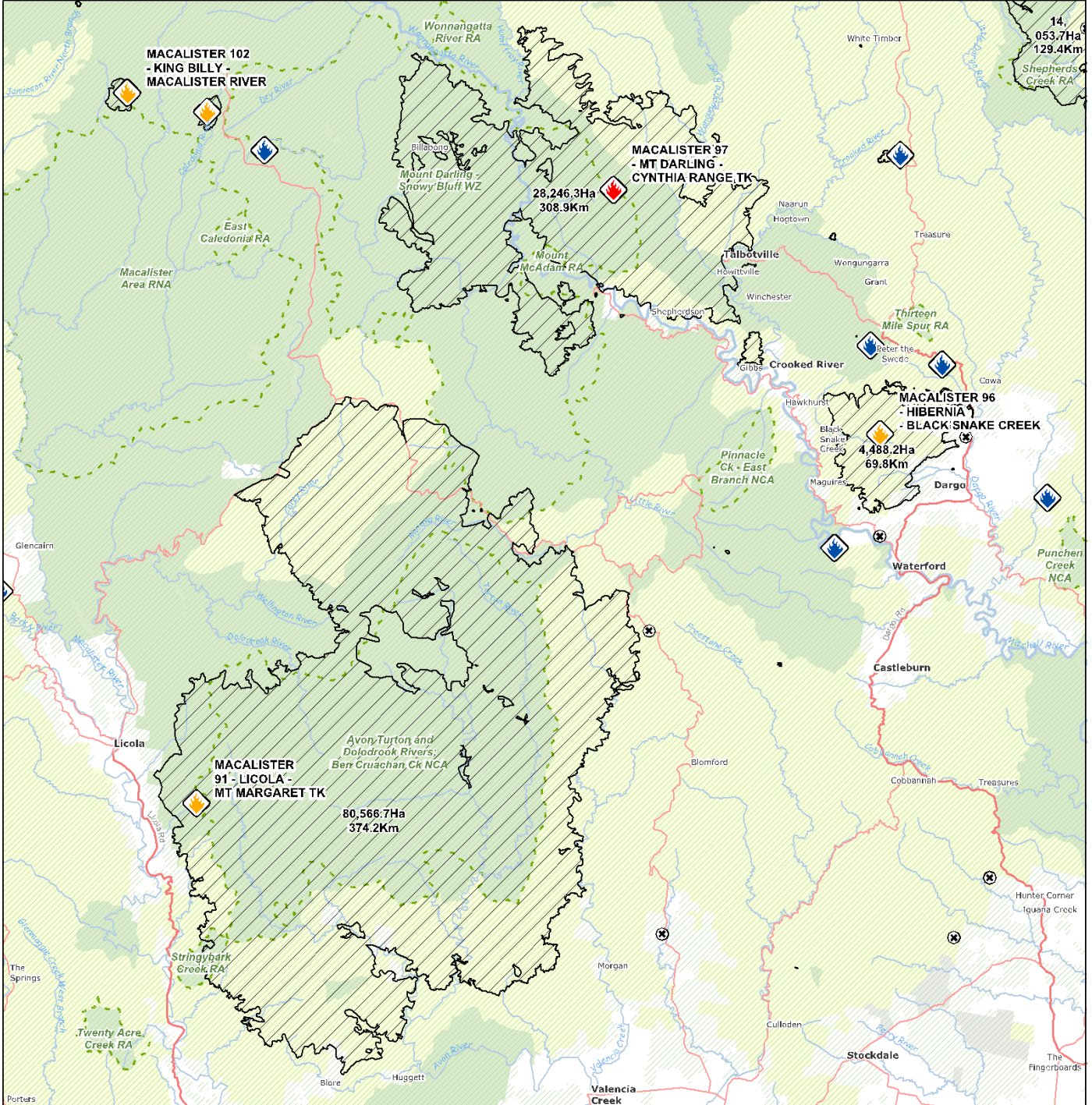
To access this information in other languages call the Translating and Interpreting Service on 131 450 (free call) and ask them to call VicEmergency Hotline

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






Future newsletters will be issued as and when the situation changes.

HEYFIELD ICC CURRENT BUSHFIRES

Public Information Map



Map Notes:

-  Going
-  Contained
-  Under Control
-  Current Burnt Area
-  Neighbourhood Safer Places - Place of last resort

-  Tree Cover
- Plantations**
-  Hardwood
-  Softwood
-  Unknown



0 2.5 5 10 KM
1:250,000
Coordinate System: GDA 1994 VICGRID94

Disclaimer: This map is a snapshot generated from Victorian Government data. This material may be of assistance to you but the State of Victoria does not guarantee that the publication is without flaw of any kind or is wholly appropriate for your particular purposes and therefore disclaims all liability for error, loss or damage which may arise from reliance upon it. All persons accessing this information should make appropriate enquiries to assess the currency of the data.

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