

APPROVED: Public Information Document – January 2019 Bushfires

TUESDAY 12 FEBRUARY 2019 – 11.30am

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I GENERAL INFORMATION AND UPDATES

I.1 RECOVERY INFORMATION

The Tasmanian Government has established a Bushfire Recovery Taskforce to oversee the medium and long-term recovery from the current bushfires.

Michael Stevens, formerly a senior public servant and Coordinator of the 2013 Bushfire Recovery Taskforce, has been appointed to lead the Taskforce.

The Taskforce can be contacted on **1800 567 567** or recovery@dpac.tas.gov.au. Recovery information is available at tasalert.com/recovery

I.2 SAFETY IN FIRE AFFECTED AREAS

Tasmania Fire Service is advising the community to avoid fire affected areas where possible.

If you're driving, bushwalking, fishing or camping in these areas please take extra care as trees and other obstacles that have been impacted by fire are extremely dangerous and may continue to fall over the coming weeks.

Tasmania Fire Service also remind the community to take care after heavy rainfall in fire affected areas as it can lead to minor flooding or landslips due to run-off.

I.3 INJURED AND ORPHANED WILDLIFE: WHAT TO DO IF YOU FIND A SICK, INJURED OR ORPHANED ANIMAL

If you find a sick, injured or orphaned animal as a result of the recent bushfires, please contact the Injured and Orphaned Wildlife Program on 6165 4305 (business hours) or Bonorong Wildlife Rescue* on 0447 264 625 (all hours).

Alternatively, if you are able and it is safe to do so, wildlife may be taken to a veterinary practice.

These four steps will increase the chances of successful release back into the wild:

1. keep the animal warm, dark and quiet
2. do not feed it anything, as often this can do more harm than good
3. keep handling to a minimum
4. keep away from people and domestic animals.

It is in the best interests of the animal for it to be looked after by an experienced wildlife rehabilitator with experience, skills, capacity and appropriate facilities to rehabilitate it for release back into the wild. If you would like to become a wildlife rehabilitator, please contact the Wildlife Management Branch (6165 4305).

Please note: it is important that you do not enter an area that has been fire-affected until the public is advised that the area is safe.

* Bonorong Wildlife Rescue is a privately run, volunteer-based rescue service operating Tasmania-wide.

2 ACCESSING INFORMATION

2.1 SOCIAL MEDIA HASHTAGS

#Tasfires

#Southwest

#Westcoast

#CentralPlateau

2.2 ACCESSING WHOLE-OF-GOVERNMENT INFORMATION

TasALERT is the Tasmanian Government's official emergency information website.

If you are affected by the fires in Tasmania you can access all emergency information from the Tasmanian Government in one place on the TasALERT website www.tasalert.com

You can follow TasALERT on social media by searching 'TasALERT' on Facebook and '@TasALERT' on Twitter.

In an emergency, call Triple Zero (000). Do not seek assistance through the TasALERT website or social media channels.

2.3 HOW TO ACCESS INFORMATION ABOUT FIRES/WARNINGS

Visit the Tasmania Fire Service website www.fire.tas.gov.au for current Bushfire Warning Messages for fires affecting the State, or call the Fire Information Line on 1800 000 699.

Report any unlisted fires to the Tasmanian Fire Service by calling Triple Zero (000).

You can also stay up-to-date by listening to ABC local radio.

2.4 ROAD, TRACK AND SITE CLOSURES

2.4.1 ROAD CLOSURES

Visit the Tasmania Police website www.police.tas.gov.au/community-alerts for information about current road closures. Do not rely on navigation systems, such as Google maps, to provide road closure information.

Do not travel on or enter any closed roads. Motorists should avoid driving through smoke affected areas unless absolutely necessary.

If you have to travel, please drive to the conditions with your headlights turned on, obey all road closures and be aware of reduced speed limits.

2.4.2 PLAN TO REOPEN ROADS WHEN SAFE

Emergency services and other State Government Agencies are working to assess the safety of bushfire-affected roads so that road closures can be lifted as soon as possible.

It is important to note that even when an environment may appear safe, there could be other risks that are not clearly evident that need close consideration.

There is still a large amount of potential damage to be assessed and repaired as necessary to ensure roads are safe.

A number of roads across the state are still considered unsafe and are closed as a result of factors such as:

- Dangerous driving conditions because of smoke, debris, escaped animals;
- Fire;
- Electrical or infrastructure damage;
- Trees that are still standing with potential to fall;

- Burnt and partially burnt trees and obstructions, and;
- The need for further assessment in relation to unidentified damage.

While road surfaces are not often damaged as a result of fire, there is still a large amount of potential damage to be assessed and repaired as necessary to ensure roads are safe.

These repairs can include:

- Guideposts;
- Re-instatement of mandatory warning signs;
- Repairs to culverts/bridgeworks; and
- Power poles.

Keep up to date with changing closures by checking the Tasmania Police website at <https://www.police.tas.gov.au/community-alerts/>

2.4.3 HUON HIGHWAY REOPENED

Tasmania Police has reopened the Huon Highway to all travellers after it was closed due to the threat posed by bushfires.

The road had been open to residents and service vehicles south of Huonville but restrictions have been lifted, along with those on Glen Huon Rd, after they were declared safe.

However, there are a number of smaller roads leading into burnt areas that are still to be assessed. “Road closed” signs are being placed on these roads near the burnt areas and these will remain in place until they have been declared safe through expert advice.

There are also likely to be temporary speed limit changes in some areas because of emergency services activities.

2.4.4 REOPENING OF HIGHLAND LAKES RD

Tasmania Police has reopened Highland Lakes Rd on the Central Plateau now that it has been declared safe following closure due to bushfires.

Highland Lakes Rd is the key north-south link through the Central Plateau and was in the path of the Great Pine Tier fire.

While the road is now open, there may be temporary speed limit changes in some areas because of emergency services activities. It is also important to note that the threat isn't over and roads may be closed again if public safety is at risk.

2.4.5 ADVICE TO MOTORISTS

Over the past month, certain areas of Tasmania have experienced severe bushfires. Motorists need to be aware of the impact that these bushfires have had on our roads.

The bushfire threat has not passed completely, and everyone must remain vigilant in affected areas.

Motorists are advised to stay away from burnt areas and to stay on main roads ONLY in the following areas:

- Central Highlands
- Huon Valley
- Zeehan/Roseberry
- Maydena/Strathgordon

At all times, motorists must:

- Obey “Road Closed” signs;
- Obey posted speed limits, including temporary additional speed limits;
- Give way to emergency vehicles; and
- Drive to the conditions

2.4.6 SUPPLY OF ESSENTIAL GOODS AND SERVICES TO THE HUON AREA

Tasmania Police has assured the community that arrangements are in place to ensure that goods and services are getting through to the Huon area.

2.4.7 TRACK CLOSURES (NATIONAL PARKS) – PARKS AND WILDLIFE

For the latest information about track closures, visit the Tasmania Parks and Wildlife Service Facebook page or website: www.parks.tas.gov.au

2.4.8 SCHOOL CLOSURES – DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION (LIBRARIES, CHILD AND FAMILY CENTRES AND SCHOOLS)

For information about Department of Education site closures due to fire danger, check the latest information at: <https://www.education.tas.gov.au/about-us/alerts/>.

This information includes Child and Family Centres, Libraries and Schools.

Due to the current bushfire situation, some Department of Education sites have been closed to ensure safety of the students, staff and the community.

On **Tuesday 12 February** the following sites have reopened:

- Geeveston – wayraparattee Child and Family Centre
- Geeveston Library

On **Wednesday 13 February** the following site will reopen:

- Dover District School

On **Thursday 14 February** the following site will reopen:

- Geeveston Primary School

On **Monday 18 February** the following sites will reopen:

- Franklin Primary School
- Glen Huon Primary School

For the schools listed above alternative arrangements have been put in place for students and will remain until these schools recommence operation, details on these are available at: <https://documentcentre.education.tas.gov.au/Documents/Bushfire-Support-Alternate-Provision-Arrangements-Fact-Sheet.pdf>

2.4.9 SCHOOL BUS SERVICES

With the re-opening of a number of roads, but with school closures still in place, some school bus routes have been amended by Department of State Growth to deliver students to the alternative school sites.

School bus services will be in place on Tuesday 12 February in an amended state to cater for the reopening of all schools.

A new plan for school buses has been developed by the Department of State Growth. For information about these arrangements, please visit: <https://documentcentre.education.tas.gov.au/Documents/Bushfire%20affected%20school%20bus%20services%20-%2012%20February.pdf>

If you have any specific queries in relation to bus services please contact your local bus operator or Department of State Growth – Passenger Transport Division on: 6166 3343.

2.4.10 HYDRO TASMANIA SITES

For information about Hydro site closures visit: <https://www.hydro.com.au/things-to-do/visitor-information-and-safety/alerts-for-visitors>

2.5 MAIL IN BUSHFIRE AFFECTED AREAS

All mail and parcels are being delivered – service in all areas is back to normal.

2.6 COMMUNITY MEETINGS AND BUSHFIRE BRIEFINGS

Check the TasALERT website or Facebook page – or council websites and Facebook pages – for the most up to date messages about community meetings, bushfire briefings and/or information sessions.

2.7 INFORMATION AND SERVICES HUB

A temporary combined information and services hub at the Huonville Library will be open to the public from 10am-5pm Tuesday 12 February to Friday 15 February.

As communities recover, other types of assistance remain available. Recovery and Restoration Grants are available to eligible Tasmanians who have suffered property damage, and Freight Subsidies can be accessed by eligible farmers and primary producers.

The Commonwealth Government is also offering the Disaster Recovery Allowance to provide short-term support to those who have suffered income loss as a direct result of the bushfires. More information on the available financial assistance can be found at www.tasalert.com/recovery.

3 PUBLIC HEALTH MESSAGES

3.1 SMOKE WARNING

Bushfire smoke is likely to continue to affect Tasmania during February. The smoke will vary – it may be light or heavy and may last from several hours to a day or more. Smoke may affect places that are far away from fire.

Parts of southern Tasmania experienced extremely high and potentially harmful levels of smoke in late January. Smoke levels are now lower, but smoky conditions are likely to occur from time to time in the coming weeks.

People returning to areas that were recently affected or threatened by fires should keep in mind the risk to their health from smoke.

Most healthy people can cope with periods of moderately poor air quality but may experience itchy eyes and throat irritation.

Some people are more at risk of health harms from smoke. Pregnant women, infants and children, elderly persons, smokers, and people with chronic medical conditions (especially lung and heart conditions) are more sensitive to the effects of smoke.

If you can see and smell smoke, follow the action plan for your health conditions. This may mean staying indoors.

Public health advice about managing smoky conditions is to:

- Avoid physical activity outdoors when it is smoky.
- Close doors and windows when it is smoky; air the house when it clears.
- Switch home air conditioners to 'recycle' or 'recirculate'.
- Consider visiting a nearby air conditioned, space such as a shopping centre, library or cinema.

If you have chest pain, difficulty breathing, or other symptoms related to the smoke or heat, get urgent medical care. In an emergency call 000.

Useful links:

- Smoke and health information:
www.dhhs.tas.gov.au/publichealth/alerts/air/bushfire_smoke
- Hot weather and health information:
www.dhhs.tas.gov.au/publichealth/alerts/standing_health_alerts/extreme_heat
- Monitoring the air quality in your area:
www.dhhs.tas.gov.au/publichealth/alerts/air

4 POWER AND WATER UPDATES

4.1 TASWATER – WATER CONSERVATION

TasWater encourages all Tasmanians, even in areas not currently affected by fires, to conserve water to make sure water is available in the system to protect properties and life.

Reduce water use by:

- Turning off all sprinkler systems, including automatic sprinkler systems.
- Where possible, restricting hose use to essential purposes such as firefighting or prevention.
- Rescheduling chores that require water, such as watering plants, washing windows or vehicles.

TasWater has procedures in place in the event of power outages at water treatment plants and continues to monitor water systems and treatment plants via remote data systems.

For information about water conservation, see: www.taswater.com.au/waterwise

5 HEALTH AND WELLBEING – SUPPORT AVAILABLE

Natural disasters are traumatic and overwhelming events that can affect everyone in the community. Current bushfires have a widespread impact on the state and many members of our community have encountered emotional, physical and financial stress.

Everyone will feel different in the days, weeks and months that follow an event like this. It is important to take notice of how you and those around you feel and behave in case extra support is needed.

5.1 WHERE TO GET HELP

- Family and friends
- Your doctor
- Social Work Services at your local Community Health Centre

- Local community groups
- Employer assistance programs

5.2 WHO CAN I CONTACT?

You can speak to or see someone now:

Social Work Services

- South: 03 6166 8354
- North: 03 6777 4155
- North West: 03 6478 6119

Rural Alive and Well: 1300 4357 6283

Lifeline: 13 11 14 (24 hours / 7 days)

Beyondblue: 1300 224 636 (24 hours / 7 days)

Kids Helpline: 1800 55 1800 (24 hours / 7 days)

For more information about how to take care of yourself and others and where (and when) to get help, check out the following FACT SHEET on the TasALERT website (available from the Recovery tab>Bushfires 2019):

[Taking care of yourself and others](#)

6 FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

6.1 EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE GRANTS

Emergency Assistance Grants are no longer available as at **5.00pm Friday 8 February**.

6.2 RECOVERY AND RESTORATION GRANTS

Three Recovery and Restoration Grants are available to assist in meeting the longer term needs of people who have lost their homes or incurred property damage as a direct result of the bushfires.

The Recovery and Restoration Grants are targeted at individuals most in need who are unable to provide for their own recovery. Eligibility criteria is applied so that low-income households with no or inadequate insurance can be assisted. The three grants are:

- Temporary Living Expenses Grant: Financial assistance for temporary accommodation if a home is unfit to live in or inaccessible.
- Replacement of Household Items: Financial assistance for replacement of essential household items damaged or destroyed.
- Repair and Restoration Grant: Financial assistance for essential repairs to re-establish a home which has been damaged.

The grants are being provided through the jointly funded Commonwealth-State Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA).

If affected individuals wish to apply for a Recovery and Restoration Grant, they can do so by phoning the Tasmanian Emergency Information Service on **1800 567 567**. These grants will be available for three months after impact.

It is possible that additional financial assistance measures may become available to individuals as the recovery needs of impacted communities become clearer.

Residents of Cygnet meet the eligibility criteria for a grant because they are a) affected by the fires, and b) residents of the Huon Valley LGA.

Communities Tasmania is working on a solution to the issue of not being able to verify IDs when they can't meet with impacted people face to face. We will share any updates on the application process or new locations for applying for grants on TasALERT as soon as new info is available.

6.3 DISASTER RECOVERY ALLOWANCE

The Disaster Recovery Allowance is the latest measure made available by the Commonwealth Government to assist Tasmanians who have suffered financial loss as a direct result of the bushfires.

The Allowance will provide short-term income support to assist employees, sole traders and farmers who can demonstrate that the bushfires have affected their income, and will be payable for up to thirteen weeks from the date of impact.

The Allowance is being made available in addition to the financial support already being provided to Tasmanians under the jointly funded Commonwealth-State Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements. This includes Emergency Assistance Grants, Restoration and Recovery Grants and Transport Subsidies.

To lodge a claim for the Disaster Recovery Allowance contact the Department of Human Services on 180 22 66 or visit www.humanservices.gov.au/disaster

6.4 BANKS OFFER EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE FOR AFFECTED CUSTOMERS

Commonwealth Bank

Commonwealth Bank is providing its emergency assistance package for customers and businesses affected by bushfires in southern Tasmania. Special arrangements are in place to provide support to Commonwealth Bank and CommInsure customers should they need it.

They are encouraging affected customers to discuss their individual circumstances with them by either phoning 1300 720 814 or visiting their nearest Commonwealth Bank branch.

Further information about the emergency assistance package available go to www.commbank.com.au/emergencyassistance

Westpac Bank

Westpac Bank's Disaster Relief Package is for customers affected by natural disasters.

Westpac are encouraging affected Tasmanian customers to discuss their individual circumstances with them by either phoning 1800 067 497 to apply for financial relief or call 1800 198 229 for home insurance claims.

6.5 FUNDING FOR COUNCILS

Funding is also being made available to eligible councils through the DRFA for activities such as delivering emergency assistance to individuals, restoring damaged public assets and undertaking counter-disaster operations.

Bushfire affected councils which may be eligible for Disaster Relief funding include Central Highlands, Derwent Valley, Huon Valley and West Coast.

6.6 INFORMATION FOR BUSINESSES

During bushfires or other emergencies, Business Tasmania can help impacted businesses access necessary information and services.

If your business has been affected by the current bushfires, contact Business Tasmania on 1800 440 026 to register your details. The Business Tasmania team will provide updates as new information comes to hand.

Small business owners can also visit the Business Tasmania team at the Huonville Town Hall weekdays from Monday 4 February to seek advice and discuss issues relating to the impact of the bushfires. You can also call Business Tasmania 9am-5pm weekdays and information sheets will be available on site after hours.

Business Tasmania advice @ Huonville Town Hall
40 Huonville Main Rd
11am-2pm Monday to Friday

If your business is in immediate danger phone 000.

During an emergency you can keep yourself, your staff and your customers updated by visiting www.tasalert.com or listening to ABC local radio.

Bushfire preparation resources for small businesses are available on the Business Tasmania website at [https://www.business.tas.gov.au/preparing_for_disasters/tools-and-checklists/checklist - bushfires](https://www.business.tas.gov.au/preparing_for_disasters/tools-and-checklists/checklist_-_bushfires)

Grocery and essential supplies retail businesses concerned about continuity of supply should liaise with their wholesalers to discuss arrangements and possible solutions.

6.7 FREIGHT SUBSIDIES

Freight subsidies will also be made available to eligible primary producers in affected areas that have suffered asset damage relating to the transportation of livestock. Individuals can contact AgriGrowth Tasmania on 03 6777 2233 or visit www.dpipwe.tas.gov.au for more information.

The subsidies are being provided through the jointly funded Commonwealth-State Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA).

For factsheets on transport subsidies, please visit: <https://dpipwe.tas.gov.au/about-the-department/bushfire-information/freight-subsidies-for-primary-producers>

7 HOW THE PUBLIC CAN HELP

7.1 VINNIES TASMANIAN BUSHFIRE APPEAL

Members of the public can also support those affected through the 2019 Vinnies Tasmanian Bushfire Appeal.

| No. of Donations Received | No. of Interstate Donations Received | \$ Total of Donations Received | As At |
|---------------------------|---|--------------------------------|------------------|
| 169 | 43 (Including money received from North Hobart Football Ground) | \$25,015 | 11/02/19 @ 10.30 |

Cash donations can be made at Vinnies shops throughout Tasmania, or by transfer through the donation hotline on **13 18 12** or the Vinnies website at <https://www.vinnies.org.au/donate#!state=tas>.

7.2 DONATIONS – GOODS AND ASSISTANCE NOT REQUIRED

While the goodwill and generosity of the community is very much appreciated, donated goods and assistance are not required at this stage.

Currently there is no public appeal for donations, nor any need to donate bottles of water or food to fire fighters. However, this situation may change in the future, so please keep informed through TasALERT www.tasalert.com for any updates.

7.3 VOLUNTEERING

If you're thinking about volunteering to help with the current fires, please be aware that only trained volunteers and emergency service workers will be able to assist in affected areas.

However, additional volunteers may be required to help with recovery efforts when it is deemed safe.

The best way you can help is to register through Volunteering Tasmania's online system. EV CREW (Emergency Volunteering - Community Response to Extreme Weather) service will match your skills, availability and location with the needs of organisations supporting recovery efforts.

Volunteering Tasmania will contact you if and when your specific skills are needed, which may be days or even weeks after an emergency occurs.

If you would like to find out more about what the EV CREW do, or to register your interest in becoming an Emergency Volunteer, see

8 TOURISM

8.1 MESSAGES FOR TRAVELLERS

Tasmania is safe to visit and there are many areas of our State which are unaffected by fire that can be accessed and enjoyed, including many iconic attractions and experiences.

- Travellers to Tasmania are advised to keep up-to-date on areas that may be affected and avoid non-essential travel to those locations.
- View the Tasmanian Fire Service website www.fire.tas.gov.au, [TasALERT](#) website or listen to [ABC local radio](#) for community alerts or warnings.
- For information about current road closures, visit Tasmania Police website at <http://www.police.tas.gov.au/community-alerts>. Do not rely on navigation systems, such as Google maps, to provide road closure information.
- The majority of visitor destinations and attractions throughout Tasmania are not impacted by the fires and are safe to visit, but it is important that you check yourself before setting out.
- There are 18 accredited Tasmanian Visitor Information Network (TVIN) centres around the state, located here: <https://www.startwithi.com.au/centres/>.
- TVIN staff can provide advice to visitors on up to date and current warnings, road or track closures. They can also assist visitors to change their itineraries and can help find available accommodation should they need to change their plans.
- Travellers are advised to contact their insurance company for advice reading changes or cancellations to their travel plans.
- Tourists wishing to travel to Strahan are advised access is still available via Anthony Link Road (to Queenstown) and the Lyell Highway. TFS, in conjunction with Tasmania Police, continue to work towards reopening all roads in the area as soon as practicable and safe.

8.2 MESSAGES FOR TOURISM OPERATORS

Tourism operators should review their safety plans and stay up-to-date with the latest information.

Operators receiving enquiries from visitors should advise them of available options in regards to their booking, and direct them to:

- [TasALERT](#) for consistent and current emergency information and warnings
- [ABC local radio](#) for community alerts and emergency information, useful if on the road or outside internet access

- [Tasmania Police community alerts](#) page for road closure information.
- An accredited [TVIN](#) centre if they require assistance to change travel plans.
- The Parks and Wildlife [Facebook page](#) or [website](#) for the latest track, campsite and reserve closure information.

8.3 TOURISM BUSINESSES AFFECTED BY FIRE

If your business has been impacted by the current bushfires, please contact Business Tasmania for advice on 1800 440 026.

In times of extreme weather events or other emergencies, Business Tasmania can help impacted businesses access necessary information and services.

If your business has been affected contact Business Tasmania on 1800 440 026 to register your details.

The Business Tasmania team will keep you informed by providing updates as new information comes to hand.

If your business is in immediate danger phone 000.

During an emergency you can keep yourself, your staff and your customers updated by visiting www.alert.tas.gov.au or listening to ABC local radio.

9 RETURNING TO YOUR HOME AFTER A BUSHFIRE

If you have been evacuated from your home due to fire or smoke danger, please remember that you must not return home until authorities tell you it is safe to do so.

If you've checked with local emergency services that it is safe and you have permission to return, please take a moment to read the following advice and tips and be cautious when returning to your property:

- be aware of road hazards, such as trees or power lines on the road, damaged roads and bridges, or crews working on clean-up and repairs.
- if your property has been affected:
 - do not turn on gas and electricity until you are sure it is safe to do so
 - have all wiring, gas and electrical equipment tested by an electrician
 - wear strong boots, gloves and other protective clothing during clean-up.

For more information about the type of protective clothing you should wear and hazards to look out for, as well as tips about food safety, how to clean your property and your rainwater tank/s, check out the following fact sheet on the TasALERT website (available from the Recovery tab>Bushfires 2019):

[Returning home after a bushfire](#)

9.1 ELECTRICAL SAFETY AFTER A BUSHFIRE

If you're returning to your property in a bushfire affected area, make sure it's safe to do so.

If you experience tingling taps, flickering lights or notice any other indications that something might be wrong, please contact TasNetworks immediately on 132 004.

If your home or buildings like sheds and carports have been impacted by fire (including by embers and ash), your electrical wiring, circuit breakers and fuses will need to be confirmed safe to connect (or remain connected) to our network.

Have your property inspected by a licensed electrician and ensure repairs are carried out before contacting us to have a power restored. For safety purposes, an electrician will have to provide us with a Certificate of Electrical Compliance before reconnection if you have been disconnected for safety reasons.

Plug in your CablePI

When returning home, ensure your CablePI is plugged in and switched on. When it's working correctly it'll show a solid green light. An alarm of flashing amber light indicates a problem. If this occurs, stay away from sinks, taps or other metallic objects in your house immediately call TasNetworks on 132 004.

If you don't have a CablePI, order one at www.tasnetworks.com.au/cablepi

For more information go to: www.tasnetworks.com.au/outagesafety

10 KEEPING RAINWATER TANKS SAFE IN BUSHFIRE AFFECTED AREAS

Bushfires generate large amounts of ash and debris that can contaminate your rainwater supplies.

For more information about keeping rainwater tanks safe in a bushfire and reducing the risk of contamination, check out the following FACT SHEET on the TasALERT website (available from the Recovery tab>Bushfires 2019):

[Keeping rainwater tanks safe in bushfire affected areas](#)

11 LOOKING AFTER YOURSELF FOLLOWING A TRAUMATIC EVENT

Natural disasters are traumatic and overwhelming events that can affect everyone in the community. Current bushfires have a widespread impact on the state and many members of our community have encountered emotional, physical and financial stress.

Everyone will feel different in the days, weeks and months that follow an event like this. It is important to take notice of how you and those around you feel and behave in case extra support is needed.

For more information about how to look after yourself and others, and where (and when) to get help, check out the following FACT SHEET on the TasALERT website (available from the Recovery tab>Bushfires 2019):

[Looking after yourself following a traumatic event](#)

[Red Cross also has a range of free resources to help individuals, families and communities to deal with the impacts of emergency events:](#)

[Help in emergencies | Australian Red Cross](#)

12 AGRIGROWTH BUSHFIRE IMPACT RESPONSE

Are you a primary producer returning home after the bushfires?

The Department of Primary Industries, Parks, Water and Environment (DPIPWE) AgriGrowth Division would like to hear from you.

Any information you can provide about the impacts of the fires on your stock, produce or infrastructure will help us understand and assess the impacts of the current bushfires on the agricultural industry.

We know that this may be a difficult time for you and appreciate any information that you can provide.

Please contact DPIPWE's AgriGrowth Liason Officers on 6777 2233 or email Agrigrowth@dpiwpe.tas.gov.au

DPIPWE can also assist you with other information and support.

Livestock affected by fires

More information about what to do if your livestock have been affected by fire is available at: <https://dpiwpe.tas.gov.au/about-the-department/bushfire-information>

For assistance with livestock contact DPIPWE's Animal Biosecurity and Welfare Branch – Ph: 6165 3263 Email: AnimalWelfareEnquiries@dpiwpe.tas.gov.au

Freight subsidies for primary producers

As a primary producer you may also be eligible for a freight subsidy.

Freight subsidies are now available to assist primary producers impacted by the recent Tasmanian bushfire with the transport of livestock, fodder, water, equipment and materials directly associated with their business of primary production.

Freight subsidies are being jointly funded by the Commonwealth and Tasmania under the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements. For more information and to apply visit: <https://dpiwpe.tas.gov.au/about-the-department/bushfire-information/freight-subsidies-for-primary-producers>

**** Please note that eligibility conditions apply.**