



BUSHFIRE STABILISATION ASSISTANCE February 2026

for the Longwood - Berrys Lane Fire

Fences, Essential Water & Control Lines

Information for private landholders affected by bushfires

Country Fire Authority (CFA) and Forest Fire Management Victoria (FFMVic) can assist landholders impacted by a bushfire event.

CFA is the **Fire Control Agency** for the *Longwood – Berrys Lane fire* and is coordinating the stabilisation works with the support of **FFMVic**. The Victorian Government has policies in place to help properties recover from the fire response impacts* caused by the fire response operations.

CFA or FFMVic may provide the following assistance to private property landowners:

- Stabilising dozer and grader control lines on private property by pushing back soil and applying erosion-control measures to protect the land and water quality. Reseeding and crop replacement are not included.
- Replacement of essential water* that has been taken by fire services from domestic tanks and stock or irrigation dams for firefighting purposes.
- Repairs to fences cut or damaged (including fallen trees) during fire response and subsequently not impacted by fire.
- Fences damaged by bushfire on the private/public land boundary only (and not covered by insurance).

If you believe you are eligible, please fill out the attached form by 30th March and email to:

emergency.recovery@deeca.vic.gov.au

An Assessor will be in contact to discuss eligibility and to arrange an on-site inspection.

- Other fire affected impacts, damaged property, assets (i.e. crop loss) and internal fences are not covered by this assistance.

Private Land / Public Interface

FFMVic can connect the applicant to the relevant land manager, to provide financial support for materials to replace or repair fences located on the boundary of private land and public land interface (i.e. National Parks, State Parks and State Forests). The cost of materials will be based on replacement of the fence type and condition that existed before the fire. **For detailed advice and support, please visit FFMVic [‘Public Land Recovery’ website](https://www.ffm.vic.gov.au/recovery-after-an-emergency/public-land-recovery)** <https://www.ffm.vic.gov.au/recovery-after-an-emergency/public-land-recovery>

***Response impacts** are impacts undertaken to contain a fire, such as – cutting fences, damaging fences with machinery, installing mineral earth breaks with machinery, taking water (vehicles and aircraft).

***Fire affected impacts** are the impacts to the land and assets caused by the fire and are not covered by the fire control agency.

***Essential water** is water required to sustain:

- The health of affected residents and pets.
- The health and productivity of their stock: and
- Agricultural and horticultural crops, permanent planting and intensive industries.



Example of Control line stabilisation



Image 1: Control line before stabilisation



Image 2: Control line after stabilisation



LANDHOLDER ASSESSMENT REQUEST FORM

- Repairs to fences cut or damaged by fire crews (CFA or FFMVic)
- Stabilisation of dozer and grader control lines
- Public land/private land Boundary Fence damaged by bushfire

CONTACT DETAILS			
First Name:		Last Name:	
Contact Home Phone:		Mobile:	
Email:			
Preferred method and time of contact:			
AFFECTED PROPERTY DETAILS			
Property Name:			
Property Address:			
REPORTED DAMAGE			
What type of assistance are you seeking, please tick the relevant box/es:	☐ Fencing damaged by response - approx. length _____ (m) ☐ Fire Control Lines created – approx. length _____(m) ☐ Number of fences cut _____ ☐ Public/private land boundary fence damaged - approx. length _____ (m)		
What was the damaged caused by, please tick the relevant box/es:	☐ Bushfire (relates to public/private boundary fence impacts) ☐ Bushfire suppression activities (machinery used by fire suppression agencies, or fire agency staff during fire suppression activities)		
Does the fence adjoin public land?		☐ Yes	☐ No
Type of fence damaged:	☐ Standard	☐ Exclusion (wild dogs, deer etc.)	☐ Riparian
Condition of fence before the fire:	☐ Poor	☐ Good	☐ New
Are stock currently contained?		☐ Yes	☐ No
Any safety issues for Assessor when accessing (e.g. fallen trees) <u>OR</u> any other comments :			

Submit this form to emergency.recovery@deeca.vic.gov.au

**Essential Water replacement request / authorisation form**

LANDHOLDER TO COMPLETE					
Name					
Address					
Phone Number					
Email					
Fire Name (If Known)	Longwood - Berrys Lane				
Municipality					
Details of Water Required				Date:	
Location of water source	Dam or Tank	Quantity of water required	Units of water (litres or gallons)	Date/s water taken for firefighting	

Submit this form to emergency.recovery@deeca.vic.gov.au

NOTE: It is a fraudulent activity to submit a false essential water replacement claim

DELWP/CFA USE ONLY				
Criteria		Confirmed by/Role/Agency		Date
Water used for firefighting?	x ☐ YES ☐ NO			
Water essential?	x ☐ YES ☐ NO			
Units of water confirmed?	x ☐ YES ☐ NO			
MUNICIPALITY USE ONLY				
Date request submitted				
Name of water supplier				
Name of water carter				
Date of delivery				
Landholder advised? Y / N	☐ YES ☐ NO			
Volume of water delivered				
Water delivery confirmed	Name	Signature	Date	
☐ YES ☐ NO				