

Rural Recovery Services For landholders affected by Gippsland fires July 2009

For more information visit: www.dpi.vic.gov.au

Pasture Management

Fire changes the botanical composition of pastures and can lead to reduced growth rates and a reduction in carrying capacity. For advice on pasture recovery, seed mixes and establishment techniques contact:

Frank Mickan, Dairy – Ellinbank, 5624 2259
David Shambrook, Dairy – Leongatha, 5662 9913
Ross Batten, Meat & Wool – Leongatha, 5662 9910
Fiona Baker, Meat & Wool – Ellinbank, 5624 2234

Weed and Pest Animal Management

For advice on control measures to minimise the likelihood of weeds becoming established on your property following fire, or pest animals impacting on livestock, contact:

John Balfour, DPI Ellinbank, 5624 2242

Stock Containment Areas

Post fire, a well designed stock containment area can assist with temporary hand feeding of stock while pastures recover, reduce soil erosion and better control weed contamination from imported feed. During a fire they can be used as a safe area for stock so constructing one now is a good investment for the future. A grant of \$1600 per containment area is now available, to a maximum of \$5,300 per landowner. For more information on stock containment areas and their benefits contact:

Nick Dudley, DPI Leongatha, 5662 9924

Whole Farm Planning

Fences may have to be replaced as a result of the fire. Landholders now have the opportunity to reflect on their current farm layout and make changes for improved management. Whole farm planning can assist in developing a new farm layout. For advice contact:

Joan Wallis (Part Time) DPI Leongatha, 5662 9916

Livestock – Feed Planning

Managing livestock with reduced feed supplies is an enormous challenge. For advice on feeding strategies to get stock through, contact:

Ash Michael, Dairy – Leongatha, 56629901
Ross Batten, Meat & Wool – Leongatha, 56629910
Other dairy and meat and wool staff at Ellinbank and Leongatha can also offer assistance.

Livestock – Animal Health

Issues or concerns about livestock affected by the fire can be directed to: District Veterinary/Animal Health officers

Ellinbank, 5624 2222
Leongatha, 5662 9900
Maffra, 5147 60800

Soil conservation - Erosion Control

With large areas of bare ground, the potential for erosion of valuable topsoil is great. For information on soil protection measures, contact:

Nick Dudley, Leongatha, 5662 9924
Les Kewming, DPI Maffra, 5147 0853

Water supplies – Farm Dams

Rainfall on paddocks with minimal ground cover can lead to siltation of farm dams, reducing their capacity and contributing to water quality problems. For information on protecting your water supplies, contact:

Barrie Bradshaw, DPI Ellinbank, 5624 2235

Crown Land Boundary Fencing

Reimbursement of insurance excess to the value of \$400 is available for claims made for Crown land (Park and State Forest) boundary fences that have been damaged or destroyed by the 2009 bushfires (wildfire or fire suppression back-burn). For an application form, contact:

David Shambrook, DPI Leongatha, 5662 9913

If you would like to receive this information/publication in an accessible format (such as large print or audio) please call the Customer Service Centre on 136 186, TTY 1800 122 969, or email customer.service@dpi.vic.gov.au.

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