

SOUTH-EASTERN VICTORIA REGION



Department of Education and
Early Childhood Development

SEVMail

MEMORANDUM

SEV: 2014-006

TO: All Principals, Rural Schools and Early Childhood Centres

FROM: John Allman, Regional Director

DATE: 11 February 2014

SUBJECT: School and Early Childhood closures due to impact of fires.

Summary

Update on impact of Schools and Early Childhood Centres in the rural area of SEVR

Water tanks

Rural schools should be vigilant in ensuring that a clean supply of drinking water is available following the fires over the past week and for those schools in areas where fires are still active.

A number of schools have rainwater tanks for drinking water. It is important that schools check this supply for ash contamination.

Schools should check and clean the roof catchment area, roof gutters and downpipes to ensure that these components are clean and that no ash enters the drinking supply.

If the drinking water is found to be contaminated then schools should immediately arrange for the roof area, gutters and tank to be cleaned out and water replaced immediately.

Schools are to arrange and pay for this work in the first instance and advise Peter Trevena or Kevin O'Rourke at the Regional office. The region will arrange reimbursement of the cost of this water supply maintenance.

School / Early Childhood Centre Closures

A number of Schools and Early Childhood Centres, and their communities, are continuing to be impacted by road closures and smoke infiltration. All school and early childhood personnel should take appropriate precautions regarding their health and the impact the smoke may be causing.

The following **schools** and **Early Childhood Centres** are closed today:

- Goongerah/Tubbut P-8 school (both campuses) – will be closed until 14 February
- Goongerah ELC
- Dala Lidj Woollem Bellum Pre school

The following **Bus Routes** are cancelled:

Bairnsdale

Flaggy Creek

Baringa School

Churchill-Morwell

Traralgon-Morwell

Buchan

Butchers Ridge

East Gippsland

Flaggy Creek to Bairnsdale

Lindenow Primary School

Dargo-Lindenow

Fernbank-Lindenow

Lowanna College

McDonalds Track, Newborough

Yarram SC

Binginwarri-Yarram

Hiawatha – Yarram

Tarra Valley bus run

School Buses

If a bus route is to be closed, or if a route is to remain closed, this must be confirmed to Kevin O'Rourke at orourke.kevin.j@edumail.vic.gov.au, SEVR Dandenong Regional office by **2.00pm each day**. Please take into account all local information and utilize the VicRoads website. Where possible, confirmation of road conditions should be validated with your local police.

Bus coordinators are to ensure that all parents are notified and that other users travelling on that route are also notified accordingly of any cancellation.

For further information, please contact Mr Kevin O'Rourke, SEVR Emergency Management Coordinator on 0447 019 887 / 8765 5761 or orourke.kevin.j@edumail.vic.gov.au or Peter Trevena, Senior Provision & Planning Officer on 0477 734 019 / 5127 0488 or trevena.peter.a@edumail.vic.gov.au

JOHN ALLMAN

Regional Director

South Eastern Victoria Region