



Department of  
Environment and  
Primary Industries



## Community Information Newsletter No 2 Issued by Bairnsdale Incident Control Centre

Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> Feb 2014 5 pm East Gippsland Fire Danger Rating for today: HIGH

**Everyone should stay aware of their local weather conditions and have a bushfire survival plan ready. Existing fires are still being controlled and conditions could change quickly.**

### OVERVIEW

With milder weather conditions, Fire agencies are focussing on containing fires, blacking out hotspots and making areas safe. Work continues to clear hazardous trees, along fire-affected roads. Falling trees will remain a hazard in fire-affected areas.

MFB Rapid Impact Assessment and DEPI Animal Health teams are currently working their way through areas affected by the fires. These teams help determine the number of impacted homes, buildings, stock and farm losses and where support, urgent animal welfare needs and grants may be required.

In this area two houses in Glenaladale and one in Walpa are confirmed destroyed. Five other homes affected by fire and 123 undamaged houses.

Confirmed reports of other losses to date advise over 270 cattle, 130 goats, 500 sheep, 2 vehicles and over 70 kilometres of fencing. Any further confirmed losses will be reported as specialist crews complete their assessments.

A base camp at Gelantipy has been established to accommodate firefighters and support personnel.

### CURRENT FIRE INFORMATION

While some rain is forecast later this week, it will not have a significant impact on the current fires, this fire campaign will continue until we get considerable rainfall.

Backburns are underway at the Gil Groggin and Jacksons Crossing Track fires. Extra smoke may be visible from these fires.

Fire Name	Warning Level	Size (ha)
Dargo – Danes Track	All Clear	1,878
Mt Ray – Boundary Track (formerly Fern bank–Glenaladale Rd fire)	Advice Status: Going	6,872
Nowa Nowa - Hospital Creek	All Clear	4.5
Timbarra- Gil Groggin	Advice Going	7,000
Other nearby significant fires:		
Buchan – Jacksons Crossing Track	Advice Status: Going	29,209
Goongerah – Deddick Trail	Watch & Act Status: Going	80,044
Mt Jersey fire (Goongerah complex includes Joy's Creek and BA Creek fires)	Watch & Act Status: Going	13,364

*\*Going can also be defined as Not Yet Under Control*

Mt Ray – Boundary Track Fire (formerly the Ferndale- Glenaladale fire)

- Air observation of this fire has been delayed due to smoke haze.
- Crews continue to black out pockets of hot spots.

Buchan-Jacksons Crossing Track Fire

- Fire has grown significantly in size.
- Fire is heading NNW within the control lines west of the Snowy River
- Crews continue to black out pockets of active fire.
- Backburning underway today.

### WEATHER SNAPSHOT

Smoke haze will remain today. Victoria is heading back into dry, warmer temperatures, ranging from 28-35°C toward the coast and Gippsland. There will be light winds inland and afternoon coastal sea breezes.



## GENERAL INFORMATION

If you don't need to be in a fire affected area - please stay away.

Smoke haze will be visible across most of the state. Unless you see a column of smoke or flames do not call 000 to report the fire.

## PARK and ROAD CLOSURE INFORMATION

Mitchell River National Park is closed until further notice. Information about park and forest closures, including forest roads and tracks can be found at: <http://www.depi.vic.gov.au/forestry-and-land-use/visiting-parks-and-forests/closures-of-parks-and-forests/>

ONLY emergency service vehicles are allowed to drive past or around "Road Closed" signs. They are put there for public safety and to reduce traffic in a dangerous area.

Smoke from the fires could affect roads at any time. Drive carefully, slow down and turn your headlights on.

There will be many firefighting vehicles and heavy machinery using roads in and near fire-affected areas. Please slow down and take extra care.

Updated information on road closures is available via 13 11 70 or the VicRoads website [www.vicroads.vic.gov.au](http://www.vicroads.vic.gov.au)

## SCHOOLS UPDATE

A number of schools and early childhood centres in parts of Gippsland are closed today. Many school bus runs have also been affected. Visit the Education Department's website for more information <http://www.education.vic.gov.au>

## STAY INFORMED

For current fire information and general fire safety advice, please contact the Victorian Bushfire Information Line (VBIL) on freecall 1800 240 667. Callers who are deaf, hard of hearing, or have a speech/communication impairment can contact VBIL via the National Relay Service on 1800 555 677.

Check for the latest warnings and advice messages at either [www.depi.vic.gov.au/fires](http://www.depi.vic.gov.au/fires) or [www.cfa.vic.gov.au](http://www.cfa.vic.gov.au) Facebook([facebook.com/cfavic](https://www.facebook.com/cfavic)) or Twitter ([@CFA\\_Updates](https://twitter.com/CFA_Updates))

## STAY INFORMED (continued)

Local ABC Radio: **828 AM 97.1 FM 104.9 FM or 106.1 FM**

TRFM Commercial Radio: **99.9 FM**

Gold 1242: **1242 AM**

## HEALTH INFORMATION

Smoke will be present across most parts of East Gippsland for some time dependent on fire activity and wind direction.

For information on how smoke from bushfires can affect your health, and emergency assistance availability go to the Department of Human Services website: [www.health.vic.gov.au/environment/bushfires-smoke.htm](http://www.health.vic.gov.au/environment/bushfires-smoke.htm)

Nurse-on-Call on 1300 60 60 24 (this is a phone service that allows you to discuss any health related issue with a registered nurse, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week for the cost of a local call from anywhere in Victoria).

## RELIEF and RECOVERY

**East Gippsland Shire** have a direct Recovery Information Line: 1800 100 298

Information on relief and recovery support, including emergency financial assistance from the Victorian and Commonwealth governments, is available at [www.recovery.vic.gov.au](http://www.recovery.vic.gov.au).

People affected by fires can also contact the Red Cross on 1800 727 077.

Lifeline Gippsland 131 114

***For more information contact Bairnsdale Incident Control Centre on(03) 5152 0635.***

***Please see the map attached.***