

Agriculture Recovery Guide

AGRICULTURE VICTORIA

East Gippsland Fires

30th Edition - 01 February, 2021

PLEASE NOTE INFORMATION CONTAINED IS A GUIDE FOR ORGANISATIONS SUPPORTING RECOVERY ACTIVITIES - IT IS NOT INTENDED FOR PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION

Your input, feedback and suggestions are encouraged and appreciated. The Guide relies on you for monitoring the evolving recovery needs, so thank you!

Objectives

- Monitor fire recovery activities in farming communities across East Gippsland and identify issues for action
- Collate information to inform regional recovery and support planning processes
- Assist with coordinated development, promotion and delivery of events and support services
- Enhance communication across agencies and support groups working in fire recovery across East Gippsland

Context

The East Gippsland fires started mid-November and moved onto private land due to extreme weather in late December 2019. As of Monday 17 February 2020, Agriculture Victoria had visited or made phone contact with 907 properties and confirmed approximately 1,152 livestock losses in the East Gippsland and Wellington Local Government Areas. Agencies have been working collaboratively to provide ongoing support for a sustained recovery effort.

Intent

This recovery guide assists with communication, development and promotion of support services in the region. [Table 1](#) outlines support strategies that will evolve as required. The approach utilises a broad suite of activities to get support service information to farmers and their support networks. Several existing support mechanisms and activities have been complemented by new services and initiatives.

[Tables 2](#) and [3](#) outlines planned and completed events to support the farming community. [Table 4](#) identifies emerging issues for action, [Table 5](#) provides information on indicators that assist to monitor and plan, [Table 6](#) details the agriculture recovery timeline, planning and services strategy, whilst [Tables 7](#) summarises information on communication channels and media.

Delivery

This guide continues to evolve and will be updated regularly. **New information appears in red text.** Updated information was prepared by Agriculture Victoria Recovery Manager [Keren Walker](#) (phone (03) 5159 5118) and the Agriculture Recovery Team. The guide is distributed to a list of stakeholders including Bushfire Recovery Victoria, Shires and members of the Agricultural and Economic Recovery Pillars. Please feel free to reply to this email with suggestions, additional information or for others to be included in the 'recovery space'. Feedback is welcomed and encouraged!

Disclaimer

This publication may be of assistance to you but the State of Victoria and its employees do not guarantee that the publication is without flaw of any kind or is wholly appropriate for your particular purposes and therefore disclaims all liability for any error, loss or other consequence which may arise from you relying on any information in this publication.

For more information about DJPR go to www.agriculture.vic.gov.au or phone the Customer Service Centre on 136 186.


Table 1: East Gippsland fire recovery - farmer support services



Business management – technical info (feed, finance, people)


Information package – support service info, media

Health and well-being – programs & social events

This is a short list of available support programs - a detailed list can be found [here](#) or on Bushfire Recovery Victoria's [website](#)

Support strategies	Who	Information and how
Bushfire Recovery Support A new, permanent and dedicated Victorian Government agency working directly with local communities to listen, help and deliver what they need.	Bushfire Recovery Victoria (BRV)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A new, permanent and dedicated Victorian Government agency working directly with local communities to listen, help and deliver what they need. Includes an information hub pertaining to programs and initiatives designed to assist with bushfire recovery spanning: clean up, case support, fencing, community recovery packages, the Victorian bushfire appeal, tax relief and savings, tourism and regional events, back to school, emergency payment and wildlife. Call 1800 560 760. No request is too small or large or visit www.vic.gov.au/bushfire-recovery-victoria The Case Support Program's support coordinators are a single point of contact, working with local residents to link them directly with vital support, such as information and advice, mental health support or financial counselling. They also help with practical things like filling out paperwork, accessing grants and financial claims, and navigating services. People in fire-affected areas in Gippsland and North East Victoria are eligible. The program also includes support for people who may have been impacted by the bushfires in these areas but live in other parts of Victoria. To access this service, contact 1800 560 760 Community Recovery Hubs that provide local access to vital services and a long-term presence in town are across Victoria's bushfire-affected communities. The hubs, delivered and operated by BRV, are an important community meeting place linking locals to practical support, planning and rebuilding advice, case support for individuals in need, government and non-profit service providers and small business advice. Recovery Hubs are entering 'safe mode' during Stage 3. Hub staff are still working hard and can assist you by phone or email. For more information about how to access Hub services, please see the 'Hubs under Stage 3 COVID Restrictions' section. Hubs are located in Mallacoota, Buchan, Sarsfield, Cann Valley, Orbost, Bright, Bairnsdale and Corryong. For more information for hub contact details and locations click here: BRV
Disaster Services/Appeals	GIVIT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> GIVIT provides a virtual warehouse platform through which people and organisations can donate goods and services to individuals and communities. The GIVIT virtual warehouse connects donors with charities and other organisations supporting bushfire affected communities and individuals. The GIVIT platform is free to use and makes giving easy by allowing you to see exactly what is required by bushfire affected communities. Click here: http://www.givit.org.au/faq
Bushfire Case Support The Bushfire Case Support program can provide support for people who have been affected by the Summer 2020 East Gippsland bushfires.	Windermere  Windermere - Bushfire Case Supp	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Bushfire Case Support program can provide support for people who have been affected by the Summer 2020 East Gippsland bushfires. Case Support Coordinators can: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Discuss needs and what next steps might be appropriate ✓ Provide a range of information and link with local support services and clean up information ✓ Assist to complete paperwork or applications for financial grants or claims ✓ Case Support Coordinators will be a single point of contact for those who need it. To enquire phone: 0414 384 512 ✓ For more information, click here; https://www.windermere.org.au/services/east-gippsland-bushfire-recovery-support
BizRebuild BizRebuild is a business-led initiative	Business Council of Australia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Business Council has established BizRebuild, a five-year recovery and rebuilding fund run by business. It is a charitable trust and has Deductible Gift Recipient status: https://www.bizrebuild.com.au/donate BizRebuild provides practical and on the ground assistance to small and local businesses (including farmers with an ABN) left devastated by the bushfires to <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Provide a team of experts who can work with affected businesses getting back on their feet ✓ Help by providing replacement tools, office equipment, laptops and other practical things lost in the fires that small businesses need to get back to work. Supplying vouchers worth up to \$2,000 per small business to replace equipment. ✓ Business Recovery vouchers are available worth \$500 for professional services such as local lawyers and accounting services. This is to help draw up business recovery plans. For more information, click here: https://www.bizrebuild.com.au/need-help
Farm Household Allowance A payment for farming families in financial hardship	Department of Human Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Income support payment, available to eligible farmers & their families experiencing financial hardship Call 13 23 16 or visit: https://www.servicesaustralia.gov.au/individuals/services/centrelink/farm-household-allowance

Support strategies	Who	Information and how
Private Overhead Electric Line (POEL) Scheme - Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP)	DELWP  Update-POEL-Application-FAQs-Nov	<p>Victorian Government has allocated \$5 million to replace bare-wire private overhead powerlines in Victoria's highest risk bushfire areas. Interested applicants who wish to apply for the POEL Scheme must meet the following requirements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Own a property within the LGAs of either: Alpine, East Gippsland or Towong, and within the following postcodes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Alpine 3740, 3744 – East Gippsland 3875, 3882, 3885, 3887, 3888, 3889, 3890, 3891, 3892, 3895, 3898, 3902 – Towong 3691, 3705, 3707, 3708, 3709 • The POEL must be bare-wire, the type of conductor which presents the highest risk (not insulated more than 50 per cent). • There must be no defect notice attached to the POEL, except where the defect notice relates to damage caused by the 2019/20 bushfires. <p>This scheme closes on 30 April 2021. Further details and the application guidelines can be found at: https://www.energy.vic.gov.au/electricity/powerline-replacement</p>
Country Women's Association (CWA) Drought Relief Grants	The Country Women's Association of Victoria Inc	<p>The CWA Drought Relief Grants are designed to help people still experiencing the financial impact of drought with household needs and expenses</p> <p>Those that have previously received a Drought Relief Grant from CWA of Victoria can reapply if they are continuing to experience drought-related financial stress and live in one of the four Local Government Areas (LGAs) of East Gippsland Shire, Wellington Shire, Latrobe City Shire or Baw Baw and have current bills or those back to 1 July 2020.</p> <p>Grant payments are up to a maximum of \$3000 per individual applicant and/or household and are available for farming families, farm workers and contractors that are drought-affected and reliant on farming as their primary source of income.</p> <p>Information, criteria and application forms are now on the CWA website https://cwaofvic.org.au/drought-assistance-available/</p>
Small Business Recovery Adviser's Program	Small Business Victoria	<p>A Business Recovery Advisory Service for business owners in East Gippsland and North East Victoria that have been impacted by the 2019-2020 bushfires.</p> <p>Book a free, one-on-one session with a Business Recovery Adviser for help with business impact assessments, developing recovery plans and resilience mentoring. These strategies can help you reactivate your business and develop sustainable business models to strengthen and grow through the recovery period and beyond.</p> <p>To make a booking and find out more information, click here: Business Victoria</p>
Disaster Resilience Toolkit for small business	Small Business Victoria	<p>An easy to use small business disaster resilience and recovery kit for emergency preparation. Available on the Business Victoria website.</p>
Rural Health Connect Assisting farmers with well-being support	Rural Health Connect  RHC_Flyer.pdf	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access up to 20 free sessions with a psychologist - via phone call or video call. No General Practitioner (GP) referral necessary. www.ruralhealthconnect.com.au - sign up under bulk billing. For more information enter your details in the Contact page and we will give you a call, email info@ruralhealthconnect.com.au or call 0427 692 377.
Wellbeing Support A range of options are available to provide support at this challenging time.	DHHS and others	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If you or a loved one need support during this difficult time, visit your GP or call the Victorian Bushfires Case Support Program on 1800 560 760 for more information about the mental support services available in your area • 24 hours Helplines include: LifeLine – 13 HELP (13 43 57) a dedicated support line for people living through bushfire recovery. Talk to a crisis supporter and receive information on services in your local area. Beyond Blue: 1300 224 636 MensLine: 1300 78 9978. Kid's Helpline: 1800 551 800. Nurse on Call: 1300 60 60 24.
Partners in Wellbeing Hotline Providing mental health support to Victorians dealing with the challenges of running a small business to help them navigate through the impacts of coronavirus (COVID-19).	Business Victoria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Through this program, Victorians dealing with the challenges of running a small business can get the mental health support they need to navigate through the impacts of coronavirus (COVID-19). • Free, confidential wellbeing and mental health support is now available to business owners, their employees and family members as part of the Wellbeing and Mental Health Support program. • The Partners in Wellbeing hotline provides one-to-one support to improve wellbeing, as well as free access to business advisers and financial counsellors. • Call 1300 375 330 from 9 am to 10 pm weekdays or to read more, click here

Support strategies	Who	Information and how
Dedicated Agricultural Recovery Manager and Technical Advice	Agriculture Victoria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Agriculture Victoria staff are providing specialist technical advice on pasture recovery, stock feeding advice, sediment fencing, stock water and associated issues to primary producers via one-to-one farm visits, workshops, field days and through the BBV Community Recovery Hubs Currently Agriculture Victoria has modified its program to phone and virtual based activities. These can be found in Table 2 Contact Regional Recovery Manager – Keren Walker on (03) 5159 5118 A range of assistance is available for primary producers, including beekeepers and the wine grape industry. Visit Agriculture Victoria's bushfire recovery page for details: http://agriculture.vic.gov.au/agriculture/emergencies/bushfires
The Break Newsletters	Agriculture Victoria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regular updated information about oceanic and atmospheric climate driver activity, along with summaries of the model predictions rainfall and temperature for Victoria, for read more, click here
AgVic Talk Podcast Series	Agriculture Victoria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This pilot podcast series delivers knowledge and information in a format that suits the way farmers and agricultural professionals work and live today. Ten podcasts are currently available including Episode 3 “Spring pasture management of fire affected pastures.” For more information and to listen, click here
Farm Business Planning Support Free rural financial counselling – we work with primary producers and small rural business to resolve financial challenges and plan for the future	Rural Financial Counselling Service	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If confidential farm business analysis support is required, then contact Rural Financial Counselling (RFCS) Eastern Victoria (Gippsland) on 1300 045 747 (toll free) or the RFCS Network Contact on 1300 771 741 RFCS provides free financial counselling to farmers and small related businesses who are in, or at risk of, financial hardship Counsellors can provide referrals to other professional services including accountants, agricultural advisors, education, or counselling. Counsellors can also assist applicants to apply for grants or organise financial supports.
Recovery Coordination The Shires play a key role in assisting with recovery	Shires	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> East Gippsland Shire can be contacted on (03) 5153 9500 (including emergency after hours enquiries) The Shire also produces a newsletter, a key information source for support services as well as community recovery committees.
Fire Damaged Agricultural Fencing on Public Land Boundaries	Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Victorian Government will help landholders in bushfire-affected communities repair damaged or destroyed fences between private land and National Parks, State Parks and State forests A dedicated Fencing Coordinator in DELWP will help landowners decide what option will suit them and arrange payment. An assessment of the property and the fence damage must be completed before works are undertaken or any payments can be made, and landholders contribute labour costs and half the cost of materials Landholders can contact Bushfire Recovery Victoria on 1800 560 760 who can connect landholders with DELWP to initiate the application process. They will help landholders connect with the DELWP Fencing Coordinator in your region, who will assist you with fencing options available, and the funding and procurement process Alternatively, Landholders can contact BRV on 1800 560 760. BRV can connect landholders with DELWP to initiate the application process. More information about public land recovery, click here. Repairing and rebuilding fences damaged during bushfires can be costly and time consuming. The attached document from BRV lists potential fund sources and practical support that is available for farm fencing support after the Upper Murray fires 2019-20.
Rural Aid Disaster Assistance for farmers	Rural Aid  RA_DisasterAssistance_June2020 V2 .pdf	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Register with Rural Aid for disaster assistance, available for farmers affected by drought, fire and floods. The assistance program includes domestic water deliveries, fodder deliveries, financial assistance, subject to meeting Rural Aid criteria and Farm Army volunteers to help on your farm Rural Aid also supports eligible farmers with pre-paid gift cards and provides confidential counselling assistance. Learn more at ruralaid.org.au or call 1300 327 624.
Trillions of Paddock Trees – pilot program East Gippsland	BlazeAid	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> BlazeAid are seeking one or more farms registered with these BlazeAid bases; Bruthen, Buchan, Cann River, and Wulgulmerang to have paddock trees planted and guarded by volunteers at no cost as a pilot program. For more information and details click here: BlazeAid Facebook Page or BlazeAid Website.
AgriStarter Loan	Rural Investment Corporation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Regional Investment Corporation (RIC) AgriStarter Loans are now open. The AgriStarter Loan has two uses, supporting new farmers to purchase, establish or develop their first farm business, or assist existing farm businesses with succession planning arrangements. The AgriStarter Loan allows up to \$2 million to be borrowed over 10 years with at least 50 per cent of an applicant's total debt required to be held with their existing bank. The first five years of an AgriStarter Loan are interest only, then the remaining five years are principal and interest repayments. The current variable rate is 1.92 per cent. Further information can be found on the RIC website, click https://www.ric.gov.au/agristarter




Support strategies	Who	Information and how
Rainwater & Septic Tank and Geotechnical Assessment Rebate Programs	Victorian and Commonwealth Government	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> These programs will support households to replace rainwater and/or septic tanks on their primary place of residence (Rainwater and Septic Tank Replacement Program) or undertake geotechnical assessments (Geotechnical Assessment Rebate Program – East Gippsland and Towong Shire Councils only). Submit applications by 31 May 2023, visit https://www.melbournewater.com.au/rainwater-septic-tank-and-geotechnical-assessment-rebate-programs
Working for Victoria Employment Program	Victorian Government East Gippsland Shire	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Working for Victoria initiative is helping Victorian jobseekers find work and employers find workers. This includes people who have lost their jobs, or businesses who need more workers due to the impacts of coronavirus (COVID-19). As part of this, the Agriculture Workforce Plan will provide dedicated support for our agriculture, food processing and critical food supply chain businesses. It will support jobseekers to find work, jobseekers to access online training, employers to find workers fast, with the skills and experience they need. Click, here for more details East Gippsland Shire Council under the Victorian Government's Working for Victoria fund will provide jobs for 60 unemployed people. Through the program the Shire will establish three teams who will work on assessing environmental issues brought on by drought and the fire. For further information click here: East Gippsland Shire Council or: Working for Victoria : Working for Victoria
Harvest Trail Services	Australian Government  Harvest Trail Services.pdf	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Harvest Trail Service is an Australian Government program linking workers with employment and assisting employers with advertising and recruiting for seasonal horticulture work. For further information visit https://jobsearch.gov.au/harvest or call the Harvest Trail Information Service on free call 1800 062 332.
Agribusiness Program	Regional Development Victoria and East Gippsland Shire Council  Agribusiness summerised Flyer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> East Gippsland Shire Council is seeking expressions of interest from small farms and micro-agribusinesses to participate in an Agribusiness Program. The Agribusiness Program is funded by Regional Development Victoria and East Gippsland Shire Council, and delivered by ION Group, South Gippsland. The program will assist small farms and micro-agribusinesses to consider diversification and/or value adding to increase income and income security from the land For further information please see attached flier

Table 2: Planned activities supporting farmers and farm businesses

Date	Time	Location	Event Name	Contact	Summary	Flyer (click on icon or link to open)*
04/02/2021	1.00 pm – 2.00 pm	Statewide	Across the seasons – summer into autumn	Agriculture Victoria Keren Walker (03) 5159 5118	A free seasonal webinar to discuss seasonal animal health and farm management issues and discussion about the season ahead.	 Across the Seasons_Webinar
04/02/2021	6.00 pm - 8.00 pm	Statewide	Digital Harvest - a training program to take your agri-food business online	For more information and details about the program email accelerator@latrobe.edu.au .	<p>La Trobe University is inviting farmers, agri-producers, distributors and sellers to apply for Digital Harvest, a free online program designed to help adapt and grow, as a response to the events of 2020.</p> <p>The commitment for this program will be 13 online workshops delivered over 12 weeks.</p> <p>Workshops will run for 2 hours on Wednesdays and Thursdays 6pm - 8pm, commencing early February and conclude April 2021.</p> <p>Registrations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Registrations close on Thursday 4 February 2021, 11:59pm • Program starts week commencing Monday 8 February 2021 • On-boarding session Wednesday 10 February 2021, 6pm - 8pm • Program concludes on Friday 30 April 2021 <p>For more information and to register for the program, click here: Digital Harvest</p>	
24/9/20 - ongoing	9.00 am – 5.00 pm	Gippsland	Summer follow-up phone calls to landholders on fire recovery referral list	Agriculture Victoria Keren Walker (03) 5159 5118	Phone calls to landholders on fire referral list to offer Agriculture Victoria technical advice, link to support information/services where required and to identify any recovery issues.	
25/03/20 – ongoing	9.00 am – 5.00 pm	Gippsland	One-on-one phone consultations	Agriculture Victoria Keren Walker (03) 5159 5118	One-on-one phone consultations to discuss agricultural recovery decisions and available support.	

***Attached fliers can be saved separately and shared with farmers. Please do not distribute this report in full**

Table 3: Completed activities supporting farmers and farm business (*estimate of farmer and service provider interactions with Agriculture Victoria)

Date	Location	Event Name	Farmers *	Service Providers*	Total *	Summary
28/1/2021	Gippsland	Ag Chat: Early Weaning	-	-	-	Webinar on early weaning of cattle. Session covered preparation, and the principles and practices of successful early weaning. Attendance data not available at time of guide collation.
Dec 2020-ongoing	Various	Farm Visits for 1:1 technical advice	2		2	Farm visits to provide one to one technical advice on post fire erosion control and management.
24/9/2020 - ongoing	Various	Spring follow-up calls to referral landholders	63	0	63	Phone calls to landholders on fire referral list to offer Agriculture Victoria technical advice, link to support information/services and to identify any recovery issues.
Jan2020-Ongoing	Various	Phone call enquiries with landholders not on referral list	50	0	50	Phone call enquiries from landholders seeking technical advice from Agriculture Victoria staff or information on grant assistance available.
23/06/20 - Ongoing	Various	BRV landholder referral phone calls	8	0	8	Landholder referrals from BRV Hubs for agricultural recovery advice and support.
16/12/2020	Various	Emails to fire-affected landholders	161		161	Recordings of all Spring AgChat sessions along with the Beef / Sheep statewide series emailed to fire-affected landholders on the email contact list
9/12/2020	Gippsland	Summer Newsletter mail out	445	0	445	A newsletter delivered to fire-affected landholders, with timely technical articles and Agriculture Victoria contacts for technical support.
09/12/2020	Gippsland	Ag Chat – Livestock Farm Monitor: Business principles and preliminary results	0	1	1	This event outlined farm business management principles used in the Livestock Farm Monitor program and the preliminary Gippsland results from the 2019–20 year.
02/12/2020	Gippsland	Ag Chat – Readiness planning for plague locusts	1	1	2	This presentation will focus on the potential of an Australian plague locust incursion in East Gippsland this season and animal health issues.
18/11/2020	Gippsland	Ag Chat: Farm Plans	14	2	16	Webinar session designed to help farmers understand what a farm plan is, its use, farm layout considerations and assessing land capability to assist farm management.
05/11/2020 22/10/2020 15/10/2020	Statewide	Beef Sheep Networks Webinar Series	7	3	10	Webinar series, attendees registered for this three part webinar series <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Soil test interpretation 2. Applying nutrients using soil test results 3. Stock containment areas
04/11/2020	Gippsland	Ag Chat: Setting up for summer feeding and animal health	7	0	7	Webinar session to assist farmers to manage late spring / summer animal health issues with a focus on worm control, summer feeding considerations including feed testing, feed quality and transitioning to new feeds.
26/10/2020 28/10/2020	Various	Farm Cash Flow 101 – Session 1 & 2	4	2	6	Webinar session designed to help farmers understand cash flow budgets, and develop confidence using spreadsheets for cash flow management
06/10/2020	Various	Spring Ag Chat – Session 3	10	0	10	Webinar session to assist landholders with managing soil fertility and soil production constraints
05/05/20 – 30/09/20	Various	MLA Back 2 Business - consultancy	7	0	7	Producers have access to a consultant who has an in-depth understanding of livestock farming systems from an integrated technical and financial perspective.
22/09/20	Various	Spring Ag Chat – Session 2	7	0	7	Webinar session to assist landholders with farm water planning and management.
17/09/20	Webinar	Beef Sheep Networks webinar series - Spring Pasture – session 3	24	0	24	Focused on replacing nutrients after fodder conservation and key grazing management practices for a successful spring.
09/09/20	Gippsland	Spring Newsletter mail out	470	0	470	A newsletter delivered to fire-affected landholders, with timely technical articles and Agriculture Victoria contacts for technical support.
08/09/20	Webinar	Spring Ag Chat – Session 1: Animal Nutrition	6	0	6	Webinar session to assist landholders with animal feeding requirements and weaning considerations.
03/09/20	Webinar	Beef Sheep Networks webinar series Fodder conservation session 2	18	2	20	Explored how much conserving fodder really costs and considerations for how much of the farm should be cut for hay.
18/8/20	Webinar / teleconference	Winter Ag Chat – Session three. Pastures and Crops	11	2	13	For drought and fire affected farmers in East Gippsland and Wellington LGAs on spring pasture management, planning for autumn resowing and summer crop options.
13/08/20	Webinar	Beef Sheep Networks webinar series - Animal health and nutrition session 1	25	0	25	Animal nutrition trace mineral deficiencies, winter/early spring feed budgeting and livestock health issues to watch out for.
12/08/20	Webinar	Aerial Agriculture, Managing steep hills and slopes with aerial technology	14	1	15	A panel discussed the big issues in aerial agriculture, including how to rehabilitate, manage and improve productivity on steep hill country.

Date	Location	Event Name	Farmers *	Service Providers*	Total *	Summary
04/08/20	Webinar / teleconference	Winter Ag Chat – Session two. Business planning and accessing grant support for fire and drought recovery	16	5	21	Panel session for landholders in East and Central Gippsland to assist with fire recovery and drought support with Rural Assistance Commissioner Peter Tuohy.
21/07/20	Webinar / teleconference	Winter Ag Chat – Session one. Animal Health in Winter and Spring	14	1	15	Online webinar & teleconference session for drought and fire affected landholders in East Gippsland and Wellington LGAs to ask questions on animal health issues.
15/06/20 - Ongoing	Various	Support information phone calls to agricultural businesses and services	0	23	23	Phone call to stock agents, accountants and veterinarians who are in regular contact with fire-affected landholders to raise awareness of both the financial and technical support. Followed up with an email of the Gippsland Recovery newsletter to distribute to clients.
27/05/20	Webinar	The Occasional Counsellor	0	11	11	Run by David Cherry for service providers who are not employed in a counselling role but are called upon to give others emotional support.
22/05/20	Gippsland	Mail delivery	555	0	555	A mail delivery providing an update to landholders in the fire-affected areas on grant, rebate and loan information and direct contacts for Agriculture Victoria technical support via phone.
22/05/20	Gippsland	Emails to landholders	142	0	142	An update to landholders in the fire-affected areas on grant, rebate and loan information and direct contacts for Agriculture Victoria technical support via phone.
22/05/20	Webinar	East Gippsland Ag Chat Session Two	17	5	22	Panel session for landholders to ask Agriculture Victoria staff, Rural Financial Counselling and BRV Questions around fire recovery and drought support.
20/05/20	Webinar (State-wide)	Autumn Webinar Series - Planning and designing a five-star water supply	15	0	15	Planning for the future, stock water requirements, climate impacts and basic design. Estimated figures for interaction with fire affected farmers.
15/05/20	Webinar	East Gippsland Ag Chat Session One	4	1	5	Panel session for landholders to ask Agriculture Victoria staff, Rural Financial Counselling and BRV Questions around fire recovery and drought support.
13/05/20	Webinar (State-wide)	Autumn Webinar Series – Autumn Feed Budgeting	20	0	20	Provided a step-by-step approach to feed budgeting and other nutritional considerations. Estimated figures for interaction with fire affected farmers.
11/05/20 - Ongoing	Various	Phone calls to landholders on fire contacts list	29	0	29	Phone calls made to those on the referral list without email addresses to inform them of the GERF/VFF grant and other assistance available.
11/05/20	Various	Emails to landholders on fire contacts list	136	0	136	Emailed information regarding the VFF / GERF Fencing Grant to landholders on the fire contacts list.
06/05/20	Webinar (State-wide)	Autumn Webinar Series – Autumn Grazing Management	20	0	20	Covered: How do I determine if my pastures are ready for grazing? How much rest should pastures be given? What's the best grazing strategy to aim for? How long can I leave stock in the paddock for? Estimated figures for interaction with fire affected farmers.
22/04/20	Webinar (State-wide)	Introduction into Whole Farm Planning	5	0	5	Provided introductory information on whole farm planning. A follow-up session on land class fencing in relation to fire recovery is being planned with follow-up to be provided.
26/03/20 - 05/05/20	Various	Follow-up phone calls	73	0	73	Second follow-up phone call to landholders on Agriculture Victoria's referrals list to offer ongoing technical support and gather intel on current situation.
01/03/20 - 31/04/20	Various	Phone calls to Wineries	6	0	6	Phone calls to wineries in the fire-affected areas to ensure that they were aware of the smoke taint testing rebate and the other assistance available.
16/04/20	Webinar	Pasture Recovery - Sarsfield	7	2	9	Covered technical information about pasture recovery after fire such as weed management, feed value, fertilisers and reestablishment.
15/04/20	Webinar	Pasture Recovery - Gelantipy	5	2	7	This webinar covered technical information about pasture recovery after fire such as weed management, feed value, fertilisers and reestablishment.
07/04/20	Teleconference	Ensay BetterBeef Session	7	3	10	Teleconference for Better Beef members covering available recovery support.
20/03/20	Bairnsdale	Agricultural Service Providers Forum	0	16	16	An opportunity to coordinate support services for both Fire Recovery and Drought support.
19/03/20	Buchan	EG Shire Mobile Recovery Session	0	0	0	Ag Vic staff attended to provide fire recovery info and support fire impacted community.
05/03/20	Reedy Flat, Wiseleigh, Sarsfield	1:1 landholder discussion	8	0	8	On farm discussions around Agricultural recovery after fire. Ongoing assistance for landholder with challenging peat fire impacts, delivered collaboratively with DELWP.
01/03/20	Gippsland	East Gippsland Economic Working Group	0	9	9	Working group to implement support strategies to support economic recovery in Gippsland.
01/03/20	Gippsland	East Gippsland Natural Environment Working Group (Pillar)	0	17	17	Working group to implement plan and support strategies to support economic recovery in the Gippsland region.
18/02/20	Buchan South	Field Day - Recovery information session	11	3	14	Agriculture Victoria specialist staff provided information about pasture recovery and management, animal health and feeding, as well as fencing assistance available. A RFCS Gippsland counsellor answered questions about support and assistance packages.
05/02/20	Bete Belong Nth		8	3	11	
Feb 2020	Various	Initial Ag referral phone calls	94	0	94	Requests for agricultural support, with follow up phone calls made.

Date	Location	Event Name	Farmers *	Service Providers*	Total *	Summary
30/01/20	Tambo	Field Day - Pasture recovery and management following rain	5	3	8	Agriculture Victoria staff were on hand to answer technical questions about pasture, covering topics such as cropping, weed management, feed value, fertilisers and recovery times.
28/01/20	Crossing Cobungra		10	2	12	
14/01/20	East Gippsland	Community recovery meetings and drop-in sessions (43 events)	154	0	154	East Gippsland Shire organised to provide recovery info and support to fire impacted communities. Representatives from DHHS, Red Cross, Centrelink, Agriculture Victoria, RFCS, EPA and Grocon were on hand to provide advice and practical assistance.

Table 4: Current and Emerging issues

Date	Reporter	Region	Idea /issue	Recommended Action	Progress
07/01/21	Agriculture Victoria	Gippsland	Reports that some landholders face ongoing issues with reinstating fencing, including lack of access to fencing /earthmoving contractors, hazardous trees on boundaries and high re-fencing costs (particularly in remote areas and fencing on steeper terrain.	Agriculture Victoria continues to gather intelligence around this issue and is collaborating with other organisations to identify solutions and sign post available support.	Agriculture Victoria continues to forward intelligence on this matter to other support organisations such as BRV Ongoing promotion of volunteer organisations that may provide assistance. Ongoing promotion of Primary Industry Grant.
25/11/20	Agriculture Victoria	North East and Gippsland	Significant grass growth over spring has some landholders concerned about the potential grass fire risk over summer.	Agriculture Victoria is promoting awareness of fire preparedness through Agriculture Victoria media channels.	Finalise your livestock fire plan now article distributed to landholder via Agriculture Victoria communication channels.
29/10/20	Agriculture Victoria	North East and Gippsland	Although restrictions relating to coronavirus (COVID-19) are starting to ease, the recovery journey of some producers has been impacted over the past 6 months. Priority seasonal farm management activities such as hay/silage making, shearing, harvest and school holidays over the next three months will impact the level engagement we receive with producers over this period.	Agriculture Victoria staff continue to provide technical advice on the management of these areas.	Spring/Summer Gippsland AgChat sessions continue to be rolled out along with statewide webinar sessions. AgChat session planned for 04.11.2020 will discuss setting up for summer feeding and animal health. Agriculture Victoria staff have shared resources (recorded webinars, The Break newsletters, AgVic Talk Podcast Series and technical advice). Agriculture Victoria Summer recovery newsletter development is underway.
17/09/20	Agriculture Victoria	Gippsland	Landholders in some areas of Gippsland are concerned about a lack of early Spring rainfall and/or below average winter rainfall resulting in reduced pasture growth and in turn limiting available stock feed. Some concerns remain about stock water and dam levels in these areas.	Promote Agriculture Victoria technical support services to individual landholders. Continue intelligence gathering to inform response and planning.	Further spring rainfall has resulted in good pasture and crop growth in most areas for hay and silage production. Agriculture Victoria continues to monitor localised areas of the Gippsland region where rainfall has been well below average. Recent rainfall has promoted pasture / crop growth and improved soil moisture in most areas. However, there are still areas that need significant rainfall for stock water and to extend the growing season. Agriculture Victoria staff are undertaking reconnaissance drives to assess the current situation. AgChat session planned for late spring / summer - animal health and summer feeding considerations. Further sessions to follow. Grant and one-to-one technical support continue to be available to landholders. Spring Newsletter has been mailed out to fire-affected landholders. Farmer Connect intelligence gathering phone calls continues. Spring AgChat sessions recently held on pasture and farm water management. Next session is on soil fertility and soil management.
03/09/20	Agriculture Victoria	Gippsland	COVID-19 restrictions impacting absentee landholders' ability to reach their properties to undertake recovery works such as refencing. Restrictions continue to restrict access to voluntary labour for fencing and contractors for recovery work.	Continue to promote extension of the fire recovery grants. Promote volunteer services/ assistance when they become available.	Gippsland AgChat session on farm layout and land capability will be held on 18/11/20 providing landholders with information pertinent to internal refencing. Spring Newsletter has been mailed out to fire-affected landholders. Spring follow-up phone calls to landholders on the referrals list are currently being undertaken to promote technical support and link

					landholders to support services where applicable.
22/07/20	Agriculture Victoria	Gippsland and North East	There is a need to maintain contact with individual landholders and the wider community to provide support and to gather intelligence on seasonal conditions, current issues and recovery progress.	<p>Maintain contact with Bushfire Recovery Victoria (BRV) recovery hubs.</p> <p>Promote Agriculture Victoria technical support services to individual landholders.</p> <p>Contact key landholders across region to gather intelligence to guide recovery support.</p>	<p>Fortnightly targeted phone calls have commenced to gather intelligence from landholders across the fire recovery area.</p> <p>Agriculture Victoria has allocated a staff member as contact for each of the BRV recovery hubs.</p> <p>Winter AgChat sessions have been held to provide technical support and increase awareness of Agriculture Victoria services in wider community.</p> <p>Technical support flier developed by Agriculture Victoria to increase awareness of support available to individual landholders through Agriculture Victoria.</p> <p>Targeted phone calls to Agriculture Victoria farmer clients will provide info about community needs and agricultural issues.</p>
09/07/20	Agriculture Victoria	North East and Gippsland	Working/community groups have raised concerns around landholder's mental health and capacity to engage with services.	<p>Greater development and promotion of emotional support.</p> <p>Continue with virtual service offer including a range of engagement methods.</p>	<p>Dr Rob Gordon, clinical psychologist, expert in mental health first aid and supporting people affected by bushfires is working alongside BRV on resources for bushfire affected people and communities, including free public webinars.</p> <p>BRV social media is promoting health and wellbeing and awareness of support services.</p> <p>Agriculture Victoria staff are maintaining connection with key farmer contacts to check in and provide support.</p> <p>Ongoing discussions between Agriculture Victoria and Social/Wellbeing agencies have identified training opportunities for agency staff and community members. Key contact details have been included in the Agriculture Victoria newsletter.</p>
04/06/20	Agriculture Victoria	Gippsland	Some landholders are reporting low levels of stock water in farm dams. Potential implications for livestock management.	Monitor with landholders and promote technical information for managing water supply.	<p>Intelligence gathering phone calls indicate that farm water supplies are no longer a concern for most landholders. However, rain shadow areas within the region still require further rainfall / runoff to ensure adequate supply for the coming summer.</p> <p>Agriculture Victoria will continue to monitor though the farmer connect phone calls.</p> <p>A Spring Ag Chat session will focus on farm water management and design for future drought preparedness. Assisting individual landholders with issues related to temporary flooding due to recent heavy rainfall.</p>

Table 5: Indicators to assist with recovery planning**

Indicators	Progress						Comments
Uptake of fire recovery grants and loans (as of 20.01.2021)	Primary industries grant (\$75,000) 521 applications (217 in Gippsland shires) 449 approved (186 in Gippsland shires)	Emergency Transport subsidy (\$15,000) 195 applications (75 in Gippsland shires) 182 approved (71 in Gippsland shires)	Concessional loans applications (up to \$500,000) 147 applications (45 in East Gippsland shire) 12 approved (2 in East Gippsland shire) 57 of total applications are primary producers	Small Business Bushfire Support Grants (\$10,000) 3,076 applications (1,323) in Gippsland shires) 2,326 approved (1,020 in Gippsland shires) 521 of total applications are primary producers	Wine Grape Testing Rebate (up to \$1,200) 159 applications (5 in Gippsland shires) 151 approved (5 in Gippsland shires)	Wine Grape Smoke Taint Grants (up to \$10,000) 7 applications (2 in Gippsland shires) 3 approved (1 in South Gippsland, 1 in Baw Baw)	Primary Industries Grant – these grants are now closed Small Business Bushfire Support Grants (up to \$10,000) are available to eligible small businesses (including primary producers). Applications through Rural Finance. Eligible LGAs have been expanded to include Wangaratta, Mansfield, Indigo and Wellington (previously only available in Towong, East Gippsland and Alpine). – these grants are now closed Emergency Transport Subsidy – this program is now closed. Concessional loans available for primary producers, small businesses and not for profit organisations are now closed. Wine Grape Testing Rebate for Victorian wine grape growers on samples submitted for smoke testing between 1 January and 30 April 2020 – this program is now closed. Wine Grape Smoke Taint Grant program for wine grape producers <u>outside</u> of disaster declared LGAs and alpine resort areas – these grants are now closed.
Uptake of Back to Business Program	28 farmer applications for the Back to Business Program (statewide).						Back to Business allows producers in fire-affected regions to access up to three free one-on-one sessions with a local farm business consultant to help put their business back on track. Applications have closed.
Agriculture Victoria referral requests	94 requests for agricultural support. 94 phone calls have been made		Requests have been for: Technical advice (39), Feed Planning (27), Pasture advice (93), Water quality (23), Dam water quality (29), Pest plant control (14), Pest animal control (7) and on farm erosion (15). Landholders might have requested more than one issue.			Ag Referrals are an ongoing part of the recovery as farmers gain a clearer picture of overall impacts on farm pastures, water supplies and livestock. Post-fire localised storm events can create ash, silt and debris flows impacting farmland and water assets, requiring additional agriculture referrals.	
Agriculture Victoria BRV Hub requests	8 requests (Gippsland) for agriculture support completed		Agriculture Victoria can provide farm-related technical support in the following areas: Animal health, animal nutrition and feed budgeting, grazing and pasture management, farm water planning and management, soil erosion management, farm planning, livestock water quality, irrigation systems and management.			From May of 2020 Agriculture Victoria has filled the role of specialist expert for Agricultural referrals via the nine community recovery hubs (seven in Gippsland and two in the North East). BRV Recovery Hub Coordinators triage requests and forward to Agriculture Victoria.	
Agriculture Victoria engagement with the farming community	Event/activity			Gippsland	North East	Total	A total of 810 interactions have occurred with farmers through 1:1 farm visits, at community drop-in centres, field day events, virtual events and Ag referral phone calls. 120 interactions have taken place with service providers. A number of wineries have been engaged in phone calls to make sure they are aware of the smoke taint rebate and the small business support grant. 1470 farmers in the fire-affected areas have received a mail delivery providing an update on grant, rebate and loan information and direct contacts for Agriculture Victoria technical support via phone.
				Farmer interactions			
	One-to-one or farm visits for agricultural recovery advice			17	19	36	
	Farmers engaging with staff at community drop-in centres			154	220	374	
	48 Field days, workshops, webinars, teleconferences providing information on agricultural recovery and support services across Gippsland and the North East			312	294	606	
	Phone calls; technical assistance and support			327	161	488	
	Total			810	694	1504	
				Service Provider interactions			
	Field days, workshops, and webinars providing information on agricultural recovery and support services for use with clients			97	88	185	
	Phone calls; technical assistance and support			23	18	41	
	Total			120	106	226	
				Media and communications			
	Number of social media posted					261	
	Number of print media items and fact sheets developed					106	
	Letters regarding support and agricultural advice sent			1470	2152	3622	
	Emails regarding support and agricultural advice sent			439		278	

****Not for further distribution**

Table 6: Summary of the agriculture recovery timeline, planning and services strategy

Week # Date	Recovery Information Updates	Emerging agricultural Issues	Strategies	Events engaging landholders	Comments
46, 47, 48 & 49 2 Nov to 27 Nov	Relaxation of COVID-19 restrictions has allowed some events within communities to recommence.	Increased potential for significant grass fires this summer.	Agriculture Victoria to provide prompts through print and social media for farmers to have preparedness plans in place before the fire season.	Gippsland AgChat sessions continue to provide technical advice and support to landholders.	Agriculture Victoria is gathering seasonal intelligence via 'Farmer Connect', referral phone calls and ag recovery surveillance. Agriculture Victoria is promoting awareness of fire preparedness through Agriculture Victoria media channels.
42, 43, 44 & 45 5 Oct to 30 Oct	BlazeAid able to accept volunteers from across Victoria under certain conditions.	Seasonal conditions varied across the fire affected area. Recent rainfall has resulted in improved pasture/ crop growth and soil moisture across most of East Gippsland, however there are still some areas of concern.	Agriculture Victoria continues to provide technical information and support via virtual service delivery.	Gippsland AgChat series of webinars planned to provide ongoing technical advice to landholders.	'Farmer Connect' targeted phone calls and follow-up phone calls to referral landholders continuing to gather seasonal intelligence and to link to support services Agriculture Victoria team members undertaking reconnaissance drives to assess seasonal conditions including pasture growth, dam water levels and stock health.
38,39, 40 & 41 7 Sept to 2 Oct	Wine Grape Smoke Taint grant available. Seasonal conditions of concern in some areas.	Despite predictions of La Nina forming, some fire affected areas have received well below September average rainfall which has implications for the length of the Spring season and therefore on pasture growth and fodder conservation.	Agriculture Victoria continues to promote technical support services.	Spring follow-up phone calls initiated to landholders on the fire referrals list to promote Agriculture Victoria technical support, link landholders to other support services where applicable and identify any recovery issues.	'Farmer Connect' targeted phone calls continuing fortnightly to gather intelligence on seasonal conditions and emerging issues.

To read archived content from this table (weeks 1- 37) click here:



Table 6 Agriculture
Recovery Guide _Eas

Tables 7: Media and communications to inform farmers and service providers about support available

a) Media avenues and frequency of delivery

Frequency	Medium	Strategy	Details
Regular updates	Website	Information as required	The Agriculture Victoria website will be the central source of information for programs, initiatives and events available to fire impacted communities.
Ongoing	Social media	Information as required	Agriculture Victoria have Facebook and Twitter.
Ongoing	Information/event packs	Available at events and meetings	Distribute at various events and via service providers for farmers to take home with them.
Regular updates	General newsletters and community recovery newsletters	Provide information to stakeholders	Provide information for stakeholder newsletters such as those from Shire councils and community groups. For e.g. Community Newsletters Shire Newsletter.
Regular	Media (print, radio and TV)	Regular communication about programs, initiatives and events.	Media releases, interviews and media articles, including Agriculture Victoria weekly Ag News columns each Thursday.

b) Agriculture Victoria Social media and media quantitative data

Media Channel	Measure 1/01/2020 – 28/01/2021
Facebook (posts and shares)	142
Twitter (tweets and retweets)	119
Media releases and articles	61
Fact Sheets	45

c) Agriculture Victoria media/social media activities Victorian bushfires 2019/2020

Date	10/1/2020 – 28/01/2021		
Channel	Facebook	Twitter	Media release/article
Topic/Message	<p>Gipps Ag chat – summer to autumn webinar</p> <p>Recovering from bushfire starts with a practical plan (bushfire booklet update)</p> <p>Bushfire Recovery Victoria repost – extension of grants programs to 31 January 2021.</p> <p>Having a bushfire plan for your horses is essential.</p> <p>RAC – Peter Tuohey Gippsland visit.</p> <p>Get your livestock fire plan finalised now.</p> <p>Gipps Ag Chat - Farm plans – optimising layout changes and improvements.</p> <p>Gipps Ag Chat - Animal health and setting up for summer.</p> <p>There are flood warnings current for North East Victoria. Do you have your flood plans ready to activate? All livestock and pets should be included in your emergency plans, and fire-affected landholders</p> <p>The Victorian and Commonwealth Governments are continuing to support the agriculture business recovery from the 2019-20 bushfires, with additional support for both inside and outside the fire-affected areas.</p> <p>A new Smoke Taint Grant provides up to \$10,000 for business recovery and growth, improvements to make the business more resilient to future disasters, and marketing activities.</p> <p>A new Smoke Taint Grant is available to assist grape growers affected by smoke taint from the 2019-20 bushfires, but who are outside the Disaster Recovery Funding areas.</p> <p>Fire-affected landholders in hilly and mountainous terrain are being encouraged to check water catchment areas and prepare for possible erosion.</p> <p>With heavy rainfall predicted in the coming days and weeks, it's important landholders in flood-prone regions revise their flood plan. For info on what to include in the plan</p> <p>The beginning of spring is upon us, and now is the time to assess your pastures if you were affected by bushfires last summer. In this latest podcast episode of 'AgVic Talk', our Extension Officer Fiona Baker</p> <p>Grants and Concessional Loans supporting Primary Producers directly impacted by the Victorian fires of 2019-20 have now been extended.</p> <p>Tune in tomorrow night at 7.30pm for The Corner Post, a 30-minute phone call hook-up for farmers in the North East. This week's topic is Season Outlook with Graeme Anderson</p> <p>Dr Rob Gordon is a clinical psychologist and expert in mental health first aid and supporting people affected by bushfire.</p>	<p>Gipps Ag chat – summer to autumn webinar</p> <p>Recovering from bushfire starts with a practical plan (bushfire booklet update)</p> <p>Having a bushfire plan for your horses is essential.</p> <p>RAC – Peter Tuohey Gippsland visit.</p> <p>Get your livestock fire plan finalised now.</p> <p>Farm plans – optimising layout changes and improvements.</p> <p>Gipps Ag Chat - Animal health and setting up for summer.</p> <p>Flood warnings for NE Vic – be ready and have your flood plans ready to go. For info on what to include in your plan, visit</p> <p>A new Smoke Taint Grant is available to help grape growers affected by smoke taint from the 2019-20 fires.</p> <p>A new Smoke Taint Grant is available to help grape growers affected by smoke taint from the 2019-20 fires.</p> <p>A new Smoke Taint Grant is available to help grape growers affected by smoke taint from the 2019-20 fires.</p> <p>With heavy rainfall predicted in the coming weeks, it's important landholders in flood-prone regions revise their flood plan.</p> <p>Now is the time to assess your pastures if you were affected by fire last season. In this episode of 'AgVic Talk', our Extension Officer Fiona Baker talks about the key things to look for, consider this spring on fire affected pastures.</p> <p>Changes to Emergency Bushfire Primary Industries Grants Program mean more farmers have access and more time to apply. Check to see if you are eligible for up to \$75,000 to assist with recovery.</p> <p>Reminder: Phone in to tomorrow's The Corner Post chat on Season Outlook by Ag Vic Climate Capability Specialist Graeme Anderson. 7.30pm</p> <p>Dr Rob Gordon is a clinical psychologist and expert in mental health first aid and supporting people affected by bushfire.</p> <p>Changes to Emergency Bushfire Primary Industries Grants Program mean more farmers have access and more time to apply. Check to see if you are eligible for up to \$75,000 to assist with recovery.</p> <p>Reminder: Phone in to tomorrow's The Corner Post chat on Business and financial planning with Rural Financial Counsellor</p>	<p>Gipps Ag chat – summer to autumn webinar</p> <p>Recovering from bushfire starts with a practical plan (bushfire booklet update)</p> <p>Having a bushfire plan for your horses is essential.</p> <p>Get your livestock fire plan finalised now.</p> <p>Farm plans – optimising layout changes and improvements.</p> <p>Gipps Ag Chat - Animal health and setting up for summer.</p> <p>Be alert to weed seeds spread by brought-in feed.</p> <p>Farm Cash Flow 101</p> <p>Be ready – North East flood warnings</p> <p>Primary Producer Fire Recovery Support Expanded</p> <p>Native pasture recovery after fire</p> <p>Landholders warned to prepare for flash flooding</p> <p>Updated Victorian Fire Recovery Services Factsheet</p> <p>Fire Recovery Newsletter – Gippsland</p> <p>Fire Recovery Newsletter – North East</p> <p>The Corner Post Series II</p> <p>Videos to help as resource or refresher</p>

Many of these items also run each week in Ag News columns in Gippsland and Northern Victoria