



Community Meeting

Boolarra Community Development Association – town meeting will be held on Thursday 6th February 7.30 pm at the Boolarra Hall, Tarwin St Boolarra.

Recovery Office

Latrobe City has established a Recovery Office at the Boolarra Multi Purpose Centre in Church St. The Office will be staffed from 9am until 5pm, Monday to Friday. The recovery office will be open until 7pm on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday this week. No appointment is necessary. Staff in the Recovery Office will be able to provide advice and support.

Representatives from the Department of Human Services, Lifeline and Centrelink will also be available in the Recovery office for urgent assistance and advice.

The Recovery Office can be contacted by telephoning on 1800 017 777 during business hours. Latrobe City's recovery team are happy to meet with you at an alternative location, including your property, if you prefer.

The recovery team is undertaking field visits to meet with affected families.

Financial Assistance

Latrobe's Recovery Office can assist you in contacting those departments or agencies responsible for providing financial assistance.

Emergency Grants and Temporary Living Grants are available from the Department of Human Services. Please contact the Recovery Office on 1800 017 700 for further information.

Garbage Collection

Residents who have bins which have melted or been damaged can contact Cleanaway on 1800 007 543 and a replacement bin will be provided.

What: Garbage collection
When: Thursday 5th February.
Where: Boolarra and Yinnar

For Thursday's collection waste will be accepted in the waste, recycling and green waste bins. Waste collection will revert to normal collections from next week.

Council Rates and Property Valuations

Letters and/or notices have been sent to many residents who had property damaged or lost as a result of the bushfires. If you need information or assistance regarding potential change in your property valuation, as a result of damage, please contact the Recovery Office.

Roadside Debris and Dangerous Trees

Latrobe City has begun a major clean up of the roadsides and the roads themselves after the fires. If you require assistance, please contact the Recovery Office.

Latrobe City is not able to remove burnt trees and debris from private property.

Water Issues

Water Replacement Scheme

The State Government has initiated a schedule to replace private water from tanks and dams that was used in the fire fighting effort by either DSE or CFA. This does not at present extend to your own private usage of water for fire fighting initiatives. If you believe water from your tank or

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dam was used by the DSE or the CFA please ring 1800 017 777 and we will assist you.

Water Tanks and Quality

Your water tanks may be contaminated by ash, debris and fire retardants.

If you are concerned about the quality of the water in your tank following the bush fire, there is a fact sheet on Latrobe City's website www.latrobe.vic.gov.au which provides information in regards to water quality. Alternatively, Latrobe City Health Officers will be able to provide you with information on water testing and usage by ringing 1300 367 700.

DHS Information Kit

An information kit, 'After the Fires' has been developed by DHS. Many of the sheets contained in this kit were distributed following the bushfire emergency in Toongabbie. The entire package of information is now available at the Recovery Office in Boolarra.

Farming

The DPI are currently assessing farm properties affected by fire. Please contact the DPI 136 186 on or visit their website www.dpi.vic.gov.au for further details or visit the Recovery Office.

Rebuilding

Latrobe City Council is already starting to receive calls from owners of fire affected properties, requesting permission to build/rebuild. To assist with the recovery effort, the Planning and Development Team will implement a system to:

- Provide an integrated planning and building advisory service
- Waive planning application fees
- Fast track planning applications in fire affected areas

- Liaise with CFA planning staff to ensure that any referrals triggered by Wildfire Management Overlay are also fast tracked.
- Liaise with private building surveyors to encourage quick turnaround of building permit applications.

Requests for assistance can be directed to Robert Dunlop, Latrobe City Senior Statutory Planner on 5128 5469 or 0407 505 029.

Insurance

The RACV has established an advisory caravan adjacent to the Boolarra Recovery Office.

Mr Laurie Ratz, Special Risks Manager with the Insurance Council of Australia will be attending the Boolarra community meeting on Thursday 5th February.

Boolarra Preschool

The Boolarra preschool will open for business Thursday 5th February. Session times will be from 9am - 2pm.

Parent interviews which were to be held on Tuesday 3rd February will be held on Thursday 5th February.

Bottled water will be provided for the staff and children.

Cleaning up your property after a bushfire

Houses, sheds and other buildings or structures that are burnt in a bushfire can leave potential health hazards in the remaining rubble and ash.

Hazardous household materials that may be present after the fire include asbestos, ash from burnt treated timbers (i.e. copper chrome arsenate or 'CCA timber'), medicines, garden or farm chemicals, other general chemicals (e.g. cleaning products, pool chlorine, etc.), metals and other residues from burnt household appliances as well as ash and dusts.

Agencies that can help you

Latrobe City	1300 367 700	www.latrobe.vic.gov.au
Centrelink	13 28 50	www.centrelink.gov.au
Department of Human Services	5177 2500	www.dhs.vic.gov.au
Department of Primary Industries	13 61 86	www.dpi.vic.gov.au
Water Management Authority- Gippsland Water	1800 066 401	www.gippswater.com.au
Personal Support: Lifeline Gippsland	13 11 44	www.lifeline.org.au/gippsland
Department of Sustainability & Environment	13 61 86	www.dse.vic.gov.au
Bushfire Information Hotline	1800 240 667	www.cfa.vic.gov.au