

**EMERGENCY
MANAGEMENT**

**Redesdale Fire
Community Recovery
Update No 4
6 March 2009**

**RECOVERY
INFORMATION**

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Information for communities affected by the Redesdale Fire
Barfold / Baynton / Glenhope / Redesdale / Sidonia

Property access restrictions lifted

The Coroner's Notice that restricted access to properties affected by the Redesdale Fire was lifted on Friday 27 February – this means that there are no longer any restrictions regarding property access in place.

Property clean up service

There is now a free property clean up service available for fire affected properties. Call **1800 136 762** to register for this service (or talk to your Victorian Bushfire Case Management Service key contact person about accessing this service).

If you have started to clean up your property you may be eligible to claim back any costs you have incurred. Call **1800 136 762** for more information.

Please be careful when working in / around burnt or damaged infrastructure. We have some disposable personal protective clothing packs available to help protect you against the danger of possible asbestos dust. Call **5423 2571** if you would like some of these packs.

Stock water / feed

If water from your property was used by the CFA or DSE for fire fighting purposes you may be eligible to have it replaced. Call **5423 2571** to register your request for stock water replacement.

The Victorian Farmers Federation (VFF) is able to provide feed for stock – call **1300 882 833**. You do not need to be a VFF member to access this service.

RRR Equine Welfare is able to provide feed for horses – email

vicfirehorses@yahoo.com.au

Fencing

Council's Recovery Team, other agencies and volunteers are currently working together to provide fencing assistance on fire affected properties. Assistance can include the removal of damaged fences and labour to construct new fences. A very limited supply of fencing materials is also available. Call **5423 2571** for more information.

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Kennedy's Bridge

Kennedy's Bridge (Sidonia Road) was lost in the fire. A meeting of local residents was held at the Kennedy's Bridge site on Monday 23 February. It was agreed that a temporary side track be constructed without delay. The side track will provide access for vehicles up to and including semi-trailers. It will be of a gravel road standard (ie: unsealed) and signed under roadworks signage at 40km/h. It will be two lanes wide. Construction should commence after the Labour Day Public Holiday. Improved signage should also be on site by early next week to better indicate that the bridge is closed (ie: the road should be used by local traffic only).

Many thanks to Mr Peter White of Sidonia who has agreed to allow Macedon Ranges Shire Council to utilise a portion of his land for the side track. His land will of course be completely restored and the temporary road section re-fenced once the new permanent structure is in place.

The process of site investigations, design, tendering and construction means that it will be well over 12 months before the new permanent structure is completed. It is estimated that this project will cost in the vicinity of \$600,000 to \$750,000.

Community Recovery Committee

A Community Recovery Committee (CRC) has been established. The aim of the CRC is to understand the needs / priorities of communities affected by the Redesdale fire and develop / support local responses. Interested community members are encouraged to come along to CRC meetings and get involved in CRC activities. There were a number of local identities at the first CRC meeting held on Thursday 5 March. At that meeting it was decided to establish a number of initial CRC Working Groups that will focus on: fencing; mental health and wellbeing; roadside vegetation; local communication

As new needs / priorities are identified, new CRC Working Groups are likely to be formed.

The next CRC meeting is:

Thursday 19 March – 6pm to 7.30pm

Barfold Hall

ALL WELCOME

Light refreshments will be served at the meeting, so please let us know if you would like to attend to enable us to cater for you - call **5423 2571**.

Key Contact Person

There are a range of grants available to people who have been affected by the fire and negotiating your way through these can be time consuming and confusing. If you would like a key contact person to assist you with this (via the Victorian Bushfire Case Management Service), call **1800 050 400**.