

Fencing assistance

March 2009



What assistance will government provide for damage to fences from bushfires or fire suppression activity?

Contact the **Victorian Bushfire Information Line (VBIL)** on **1 800 240 667** for advice and access to any of the help and services detailed below.

Damage to fences caused by fire suppression agencies

Government will repair or pay 100% restoration costs of fences destroyed or damaged on private land as a result of machinery used in the control of bushfires by fire suppression agencies (this includes damage to fences to enable access by emergency vehicles).

The fire agency will pay for repair to or replacement of fences upon agreement with the landholder before works begin (excludes emergency repair to contain stock in which case the fire agency may inspect the repairs after the emergency works).

Damage caused by individuals or corporations to their own or other's property as part of their own fire suppression activities (for example construction of their own fire control lines) will not be paid for by the fire agency.

Other damage caused by the creation of fire control lines

Government will fully fund the repair of fire control lines created as part of bushfire suppression activities, regardless of the origin of the bushfire. This includes the re-establishment of top soil and undertaking of erosion control measures so that the landholder can replant pasture or trees. Government will also provide pasture seed for the re-sowing of pasture by the landholder where the control line was established.

Call the (VBIL) on 1 800 240 667 or visit these websites:

www.dpi.vic.gov.au
www.dse.vic.gov.au
www.cfa.vic.gov.au

Damage to private fences by bushfire

Primary producers – whose income from farming accounts for greater than 51% of their total income – are eligible to seek assistance in the form of grants and/or concessional loans including the Commonwealth and State Government's Cleanup and Restoration Grants, which can be used to assist with restoration of fences destroyed or damaged as a result of bushfire.

All landholders are expected to have insurance cover for boundary and internal fences, in the same way any business venture or private householder should protect and insure their assets.

Call Rural Finance on 1 800 255 925 or visit www.ruralfinance.com.au

The Victorian Government has provided direct financial support to the Victorian Farmers Federation (VFF) to employ coordinators in each of the fire affected areas and to support the volunteers who are helping rural landholders in restoring boundary fencing.

Damage to fences adjoining Crown land by bushfire

Government will reimburse reasonable insurance excess to a maximum of four hundred dollars (\$400) on all insured Crown land boundary fences destroyed or damaged by bushfires (bushfire or fire suppression backburn) regardless of the tenure of the land where that fire originates. If you have a no excess policy you will also be eligible for reimbursement. Government will also repair or replace crown land boundary fences burnt by the fire agencies undertaking backburning during a bushfire emergency.

Call the VBIL on 1 800 240 667 or visit www.dpi.vic.gov.au

How do I volunteer to help or donate materials?

The VFF is registering details of volunteers willing to help with fencing activities and donations of fencing materials. To register call the VBIL on 1 800 240 667 or VFF on 1 300 882 833 or go to www.vff.org.au

Published by the Department of Primary Industries, 1 Spring Street, Melbourne, Victoria 3000 Australia March 2009

© The State of Victoria, 2009

This publication is copyright. No part may be reproduced by any process except in accordance with the provisions of the *Copyright Act 1968*.

Authorised by the Victorian Government, 1 Spring Street, Melbourne, Victoria 3000 Australia

ISBN 978-1-74217-405-1 (print)

ISBN 978-1-74217-406-8 (online)

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.

If you would like to receive this information/publication in an accessible format (such as large print or audio) please call the Customer Service Centre on: 136 186, TTY: 1800 122 969, or email customer.service@dpi.vic.gov.au