

Bush Fire Recovery NEWSLETTER



The Facts on the Lord Mayors Distress Relief Funding

The Lord Mayor Distress Relief Fund (LMDRF) is a WA emergency fund that is managed by the City of Perth. The fund is used to raise and coordinate donations to support the victims of natural disasters occurring in Western Australia. More than \$5.7 million has been raised as of 3rd February (excluding Skyworks & Telethon).

Any affected persons within the fire zone can apply including owners of rural properties. The funding categories do recognize losses such as fencing and water tanks. Donations from the LMDRF do not cover the cost of commercial enterprises that are designed as a profitmaking business.

Applications are available from the Shire of Waroona website or the Lord Mayor Distress Relief Fund website:

www.waroona.wa.gov.au

www.appealswa.org.au

To send a written application please post to the Shire of Waroona, PO Box 20, Waroona WA 6215 or email to warshire@waroona.wa.gov.au

If you require assistance in your application please call the Shire on 9733 7800.

Thank you to Waroona Volunteers

The Shire of Waroona would like to express our heartfelt appreciation to all the many volunteers who have worked so hard helping the community effected from January's bushfires. There are just so many wonderful people, organisations, community groups and sporting clubs that have all contributed to peoples safety and wellbeing during this dramatic event. There are also those committed to work at restoration throughout our rural community. Our thanks and gratitude to you all, we are so lucky to live among such an amazing community which of course includes all those from around the WA community who have come to aid.

Fire Affected Farmers

The Pinjarra Rotary Club is seeking expressions of interest for Rhodes grass hay (10% average protein) delivered to the Harvey Waroona area.



This may assist farmers for later in the season before your crop grows.

For Information, pricing and ordering please contact :

Murray Chapman, Coolup **0414 666 007**

Geoffrey McLarty, Pinjarra **0417 994 165**

Willie Brown, Coolup **0429 174 733**

Hay Deposit Locations

Waroona:	Lot 340 Coronation Rd	Mike Walmsley	0419 946 426
Wokalup:	Harvey Ag, Mornington Rd	Geoff Howell	0417 681 825
Cookernup:	Community Hall, Riverdale Rd	Malcolm Hayes	0427 335 361
Coolup:	Murray Equestrian Centre, Murray St	Natalie Barr	0407 219 552

For more information on stockfeed, donations and deliveries please contact;

Western Dairy: Dairy Farmers 0435 174 719

WA Beef Council: Other Livestock 0437 281 491



It's Okay Not to be Okay...

the power of humanity



Prioritise your wellbeing.

You are going through a highly stressful experience. It is normal that you might be having strong emotional reactions such as sadness, anger, anxiety and frustration. You may also be finding it hard to concentrate, think clearly or make decisions, this is also normal after an emergency event. It takes time, but stress reactions will fade if you have the right information and look after your wellbeing. Get more information by visiting:

<http://redcross.org.au/self-care.aspx>

Or if you feel you need more individual support contact the Emergency Service resilience officer on;

0417 457 583

Special Public Enquiry

On Wednesday 20 January 2016, the Premier directed the Public Sector Commissioner to arrange for the holding of a special inquiry to examine the organisation and management of the bushfire in the Harvey and Waroona area in January 2016.

Mr Euan Ferguson invites members of the public to make a submission to the special inquiry into the recent fires. Members of the public are encouraged to submit written submissions not exceeding 20 pages and with the author's full postal address and contact details.

The closing date for submissions is **4 March 2016**.

Any queries regarding the special inquiry should be directed to waroonalInquiry@semc.wa.gov.au or 9482 1750.

BLAZE Aid.COM

BlazeAid is ready to assist farmers and is calling for registrations from affected farmers.

BlazeAid teams are well equipped and ready, waiting to help you. Register online at www.blazeaid.com
For more information contact the coordinator on;

Brian Carr: 0428 984 117 or
blazeaid.waroona@gmail.com



Pasture Recovery

Fire changes the botanical composition of pasture and can retard the pasture leading to a reduction in the growth and carrying capacity in the following season. There are several possible courses of action after a fire. The appropriate one will depend on the intensity of the burn and the condition of the pasture prior.

'Cool-moderate' burn - the pasture should recover to its original density during the following year given adequate moisture and the absence of soil nutrient deficiencies.

'Hot' burn - in most cases it is probably best to wait a season and see how the pasture recovers before considering re-sowing.

'Very hot' burn - almost all plant material will be dead so the area should be cropped or re-sown to pasture following the fire.

The aim of pasture treatment following a fire is generally to speed up the return of the pasture to its original density and productivity. There are a number of management practices which may improve the recovery of pasture after fire:

- **Adding new pasture seed.** New pasture seed can be added to the new pasture in a variety of ways such as by direct drilling or chisel seeding. It is usually best to wait until there is a germination of annuals after the autumn break. If weeds are dense, chemical weed control may be necessary before sowing the seed.
- **Heavy harrowing.** Heavy harrowing can unearth buried seed and improve the germination, especially of subterranean clover.
- **Autumn saving.** Leaving stock off the burnt pastures for six or more weeks after the autumn break improves the vigour and the growth of surviving plants.
- **Fertiliser.** Where there is an adequate density of regenerating plants, or pasture seed has been sown fertiliser application will speed the growth and the recovery of the pasture.
- **Broadleaf weed control.** Where broadleaf weeds start to dominate the recovering pasture, control measures such as the use of herbicides or spray-grazing are recommended.
- **Seedset.** The pasture plants should be encouraged to set seed in the spring following the fire. This can be assisted by avoiding heavy grazing pressure in the mid-late spring period and not cutting the pasture for hay.

For more information visit www.agric.wa.gov.au or contact Phil Nichols, Senior Research Officer on 9368 3547

Get in Touch

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