

Recovery update for those affected by the Pigeon Valley Fire

28 March 2019

Water discolouration

Rain has arrived and as the Pigeon Valley fire left behind a very large amount of ash and debris, you'll most likely see discoloured water/waterways for a period of time.

The fire burned off significant areas of vegetation and firebreaks have also created areas of bare earth. This will increase sediment and ash levels in the waterways, which increases the risk of localised flooding, especially in areas prone to flooding.

Nelson Tasman Civil Defence Emergency Management are working with affected landowners to limit the effects as much as possible. Tasman District Council staff are monitoring the effects on the waterways.

The effects of additional sedimentation may be minor, but it's important that you take suitable precautions to protect your property and livestock if you think you may be affected. We will issue updates as and when we have them.

Local transition period

As the fire is now fully controlled and all initial visits to private properties affected by the Pigeon Valley fire have been completed, the recovery team no longer need the powers given to them for transition to recovery.

The Local State of Emergency covering the Moutere-Waimea Ward of Tasman District expired at 8am on 27 February 2019 and transferred into a local transition period for recovery. During the transition period the Recovery Manager had the powers to manage, co-ordinate, or direct recovery activities in the public interest, this was desirable to ensure a timely and effective recovery.

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Funding - Lotteries Commission

The Lotteries Commission have agreed to \$1M for the Mayoral Disaster Relief Fund (MDRF), to help fund works that benefit the community and remediation works caused by fire control measures. The specific criteria to determine which works qualify for this funding is still to be confirmed with the Lotteries Commission. Criteria should be confirmed within the next three weeks.

Community debriefs

We will be holding community debrief sessions in the coming months. But before we do, we would like your feedback on some key areas. Please take the time to complete this survey which asks for your feedback on five key areas. Thank you to those of you who have already filled in the survey.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/SKFJF77>



Compost

You can register your interest in getting some free commercial compost from Christchurch City Council. Contact Leon Austin via leon.austin@ccc.govt.nz. The brand of compost is All Living Earth and their products are tested throughout their life by their onsite lab. To ensure internal standards are met, as well as those set by organisations such as BioGro, samples are sent to Hill Labs for nutrient and other testing (heavy metals, pesticides, herbicides). In addition, Living Earth is audited by BioGro each year where they review our analysis and make sure it meets their specifications. For more information, visit <https://www.livingearth.co.nz/commercial-faq>

Mayoral Disaster Relief Fund (MDRF)

If you have costs from the fire event which are not covered by insurance or other means **put in an application to the MDRF**. When applying to the MDRF please make sure you attach any supporting documents, as applications cannot be processed until those documents are received. If you have applied but haven't already attached any supporting documents, please email them to Sandie.Hutchinson@tasman.govt.nz. If there are no supporting documents please explain why on your application.

So far payments from the Mayoral Disaster Relief Fund have been made for accommodation, loss of income, remediation works and financial hardship.

Reseeding

A pasture recovery blend recommended by Farmlands is provided at a subsidised rate to landowners whose properties have been affected by the fire. The Mayoral Disaster Relief Fund is providing a 50% subsidy on the already subsidised rate by Farmlands. The seed mix was chosen because it works well in suppressing gorse, which comes back after a fire. The date for the helicopter drop of seeds and fertiliser is yet to be confirmed.

Redwood Valley water scheme

Council has determined the need to replace approximately 3.5kms of Redwood Valley Water Supply pipeline along the Redwoods/Eves Valley ridgeline. The pipeline was damaged as a result of the Pigeon Valley firebreak earthwork activities and will continue to remain vulnerable unless it is replaced. The work is to commence on the 1st April. The Council is working with landowners that will be affected by the construction activities

Ministry of Social Development (MSD) payments

As at 22 March 2019 MSD had made 700 payments for a total of \$206,879. This number and amount is what MSD can accurately identify as a Civil Defence Payment to the Nelson-Tasman 2019 fires event. There may be additional payments related to, but not specifically coded to the event. Payment reasons include bedding, clothing, food, petrol, loss of income and other reasons. The number of payments identified to the event have tapered off significantly since the beginning of March.

Forest fire concert

A concert to give the community the opportunity to say thank you to emergency services and Civil Defence personnel involved with the Pigeon Valley fire will now take place on Saturday 13 April. Come along to listen to the Warratahs and friends and show your support for our hard-working first responders.



Saturday 13 April, Richmond Park Showgrounds, Lower Queen Street, 1pm.

Healthcare

Free GP visits for fire-related stress or anxiety: Free GP visits will continue to be offered for people seeking support for stress or anxiety relating to the fires.

Coping with stress and anxiety: Anxiety is a normal response to a very stressful situation. Talking to people and helping others can be both therapeutic and useful.

If you need further support for yourself or for others:

- free-phone or text 1737 to talk to a trained counsellor
- call your general practice, after-hours GP practice or Healthline on 0800 611 116
- in an emergency, call 111

Te Putahitanga o Te Waipounamu Whanau Ora Commissioning Agency based in Christchurch and Te Hauora o Ngati Rarua Ltd based in Blenheim have provided ongoing immense support throughout the State of Emergency and post Tasman Fires with huge thanks to local Wakefield based Navigator Tane Whaanga.

Other Iwi Whanau Wellness Services are also provided by:

• Te Piki Oranga Wellness Services: based at 281 Queen Street Richmond and also operate from Te Awhina Marae in Motueka and Whakatu Marae in Nelson phone: 543 7016 email admin@tpo.org.nz

• Whakatu Marae 99 Atawhai Drive Nelson Phone: 5469097 Email: kaiawhina@whakatumarae.co.nz Provide: Whanau Ora Services which extend across Nelson, Richmond, Wakefield, Tapawera and Motueka districts

The Ministry of Social Development can advise on financial support: 0800 779 997

The Ministry of Primary Industries can advise on animal welfare concerns: 0800 008 333 (option 4)

Sharing this update

Civil Defence is here to help, if you think there are other topics we need to cover in this newsletter let us know.

If you have family or friends that cannot access a computer, please share this information with them. Remember, it is ok to ask for help. If you need help and you're not sure who to ask, call Tasman District Council on **03 543 8400 (24 Hours)**.