

Recovery update for those affected by the Pigeon Valley Fire

5 April 2019

Sediment and ash

The risk of sediment and ash contamination of downstream waterways is being managed. A site visit was completed and expert advice has been given to determine methods that will reduce any negative effects. Funding is being sought to enable remediation.

Significant Natural Areas

Within the fire areas we have Significant Natural Areas of native bush. The largest significant natural area is 54ha. This has been inspected and has been found to be significantly burned. The area is to become covenanted conservation land, whilst remaining in ownership of Tasman Pine Limited. The second largest (10ha) on Carter Holt Harvey land has not yet been inspected.

Remediation

Property/land remediation visits commenced on 8 March 2019. All property visits have been completed. A preferred suppliers list was provided to landowners. Remediation work on many properties has been completed, other work is underway and others are about to start. The Land Remediation Team works through assessing the quotes received from the landowners (for the damage caused by firefighting) ensuring that quotes are reasonable and meet criteria before work commences.

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.

Fencing

Please come along to the Rural Support Trust fencing workshop Wednesday 10 April at 2pm at Tim King's property at 309 Eves Valley Rd. John Noakes from the Fencing Contractors Association will set up demonstrations on netting, stays and wiring which will take about 3 hours, to be followed by a BBQ.

Some information about funding for repair and replacement of fencing:

- Fencing that was damaged in controlling the fire i.e. during creation of firebreaks. We are trying to procure funding from the Government to fund this type of remediation.
- Fencing burnt by the fire. Funding for this should come via individual property insurance or if no insurance is available, a claim can be made to the Mayoral Disaster Relief Fund for consideration.

Reseeding

A pasture recovery blend recommended by Farmlands is provided at a subsidised rate to landowners whose properties have been affected by the fire. Reseeding will be done by helicopter tomorrow (Saturday 6 April). Please take care of your horses and other animals.

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)**.