

Cudlee Creek fire recovery newsletter



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Image: Nicole Mankowski Photography

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New hours for Recovery Centre

The opening hours of the Lobethal Recovery Centre are changing.

From **Monday 16 March** the centre is open at the following times:

Monday - Friday: 9:00am to 5:00pm

Saturday: 9:00am to 1:00pm

Sunday: Closed

Public holidays: Closed

Alternatively, you can now phone the recovery centre on **0418 213 269** if you are unable to visit the centre in person.

Mental health support

There are a number of mental health support networks available to you.

SA Regional Access is a free professional telephone and online counselling service available 24 hours a day, seven days a week for people 15 years and older living or working in regional South Australia.

For more information and support visit saregionalaccess.org.au or phone **1300 032 186** (24/7).

Alternatively, you can phone Lifeline's Bushfire Recovery Line on **13 43 57** (24/7).

The Country SA Public Health Network has a number of resources available at: countrysaphn.com.au/bushfire-response

Rural and Remote Mental Health Service is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week for people who feel at risk or in need of immediate mental health support. To speak with a team member phone **13 14 65** (24/7).

Join our Facebook group



We have a dedicated Facebook group for people impacted by the Cudlee Creek fire.

This private group is for those directly impacted by the fire rather than the general public.

It is a place to receive important updates, ask questions, share information and resources, and connect with your local community during the recovery phase.

To join visit facebook.com/sarecoveryinfo and click on 'Groups' to the left of the page.

Waste clean-up

The Federal Government and the South Australian Government are funding a coordinated clean-up of bushfire related waste.

Green Industries SA is coordinating the efficient and safe clean-up and removal of this waste.

The removal of debris will be provided at no cost to those affected by fire.

If you have not already registered your waste needs, fill out the registration form here greenindustries.sa.gov.au/register-your-waste-needs

Whilst the urgent areas for priority response are the safe management and removal of asbestos, CCA treated timber (permapine) and ash and hazardous chemicals like pesticide, herbicide and fertiliser, the clean-up will also include the removal of household bricks, rubble and demolition waste, e-waste, metals, vehicles as well as poly-pipe and irrigation used by growers and farmers in the fire affected areas.

If you have already paid for waste removal, please retain evidence and documentation and contact the Local Recovery Coordinator for more information on **0418 258 304**.

For more information on waste management, visit greenindustries.sa.gov.au/bushfires

Reimbursement of costs for clean-up already undertaken

Anyone affected by the bushfires who has incurred costs for clean-up can discuss potential reimbursement with the Local Recovery Coordinator.

For reimbursement of clean-up costs to be considered, property owners will need to:

- Have sustained damage to physical building structures or vehicles on their property (not green waste)
- Demonstrate that the materials were bushfire-affected
- Provide evidence of the *costs and payment* associated with the clean-up
- Provide all this information to the Local Recovery Coordinator.

Please read the detailed information at greenindustries.sa.gov.au/managing-bushfire-waste-clean-up-next-steps

Safety equipment for ash piles

Green Industries SA (GISA) has supplied the Recovery Centre with a number of safety equipment kits to assist with containing small quantities of ash from burnt Copper Chrome Arsenate (CCA) timber.

The CCA ash contains high concentrations of arsenic, copper and chromium that requires careful handling and storage to protect human health and the environment.

The kit contains Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and other tools to allow safe movement of ash into 20 litre buckets for interim containment prior to off-site disposal (to be arranged by the Lobethal recovery centre).

The kit includes a coverall and boot covers, mask, gloves, safety glasses and other protective equipment.

There are a limited number of kits available however more can be sourced if required.

Visit the centre during opening hours to collect your kit.



Removal of polytanks

Damaged and destroyed polytanks continue to be an issue in the community.

Green Industries SA (GISA) can arrange removal for you. To register your waste needs visit greenindustries.sa.gov.au/bushfires

GISA also wishes to find out if the community needs additional support in removing unwanted rolls of fencing wire. If you need assistance, please email Mike Haywood from GISA at mike@mikehaywood-srs.com.au with your volume and your location.

Tax on insurance claims

Some questions have been raised about the impact of tax on insurance claims.

Below is advice from the Australian Tax Office (ATO) regarding this matter:

“Insurance payouts for damaged or destroyed business assets are generally taxed unless, for example, a replacement asset is bought and paid for within a certain timeframe. For businesses whose assets were damaged or destroyed in the 2019/20 bushfires, they have until 30 June 2021 to buy a replacement business asset and access the concession.

“We understand that there will be circumstances where business are not able to replace an asset within this timeframe; for example, where there are delays in receiving an insurance payout to fund the purchase or where construction time for the asset is extensive. In these circumstances, the Commissioner’s approach will be to allow a reasonable extension of time for business to replace their damaged or destroyed assets.

“We will shortly be updating our website content to make clearer the timeframe to buy a replacement asset and the Commissioner’s approach to extensions for bushfire affected businesses.

In the interim, please assure bushfire affected businesses that they should not be concerned about adverse tax implications where they experience delays beyond their control in acquiring their replacement business assets.”

For any other tax-related information, you can call the ATO emergency support hotline on **1800 806 218**.

Tablets for small businesses

As part of its Green Shoots Grants program, Optus is offering telecommunications grants for small businesses which includes a complimentary tablet, \$100 per month recurring credit for 24 months on an Optus Small Business Account, and assistance from their tech support team.

To be eligible you will need to be a small business with an ABN or ACN and operate within a postcode affected by the fire.

Applications close 12pm AEST 31 March.

For detailed eligibility information, and to apply visit bit.ly/optusgreenshoots

Royal Commission

Public submissions are now open for the Royal Commission into National Natural Disaster Arrangements.

If you have information for the Royal Commission, there are four ways to make a submission:

- Complete an online submission: naturaldisaster.royalcommission.gov.au/submissions
- Download and email the form, together with any additional documentation to: rcnda.submissions@royalcommission.gov.au
- Phone the commission on **1800 909 826** or
- Download, print and post your form, together with any additional documentation, to: National Natural Disaster Royal Commission, Locked Bag 2000, Manuka, ACT, 2603.

Submissions close Friday 3 April 2020.

You can subscribe to important updates from the commission through the ‘subscribe to mailing list’ button at the bottom of the commission’s webpage.

Free home solar batteries

A free home solar battery will be offered to each householder rebuilding a home lost in the bushfires this summer.

Anyone who has lost a home in the fires will be eligible to claim a free battery if they rebuild and include solar panels in their development.

The batteries are available thanks to an arrangement between the state government and local manufacturer Sonnen.

To find out more, visit dhs.sa.gov.au/battery



Cash card from Tzu Chi Australia



If your primary place of residence was destroyed or suffered major damage during the Cudlee Creek fire, you

are invited to apply for a cash card from Tzu Chi Australia.

Cash cards of \$1600 per family are available and will be presented at a ceremony in Lobethal on Sunday 5 April.

Registration forms are available from the Lobethal Recovery Centre or via the recovery website at [dhs.sa.gov.au/cudlee creek](https://dhs.sa.gov.au/cudlee-creek)

Email your completed form to tcadelaide00@gmail.com or in person at the drop-off box at the Recovery Centre. You will then be contacted regarding the outcome.

For more information please ring David on **0412 398 771** or Jane on **0401 685 526** (Monday to Friday 9am to 5pm).

Applications close 30 March 2020.

New landscape recovery grants

The Adelaide and Mount Lofty Ranges and SA Murray-Darling Basin NRM Boards are pleased to announce the opening of the Cudlee Creek Landscape Recovery Grants to support communities affected by the Cudlee Creek fire in managing their natural resources.

Landholders can apply for up to \$5000 to undertake activities to manage pest plants and animals, protect soils, manage water quality, and protect biodiversity. Check the guidelines for a list of eligible activities.

To be eligible for a grant you need to have been directly impacted by the Cudlee Creek fire and not already funded to undertake the nominated activity from insurance or other grants. Note: you don't need to be earning an income from your property to be eligible for this grant.

Applications close 27 March 2020.

Guidelines and application forms are available at: tiny.cc/cudlee-creek-recovery

You may also be eligible for financial support from a wide range of other grants. You are strongly encouraged to visit [dhs.sa.gov.au/cudlee creek](https://dhs.sa.gov.au/cudlee-creek) to see what is available to you.

Farewell and thank you ADF

The emergency support from the ADF's 16 Regiment, Royal Australian Artillery has now concluded. The force has supported more than 500 affected residents since commencing work on 9 January.

They provided crucial support delivering stock water and fodder, felling fire-affected trees, and clearing debris and access routes to properties.

They supported local councils and the state government in restoration of community recreation areas such as the Lobethal Bushland Park and the Fox Creek Mountain Bike Trail and assisted in the recovery of native wildlife by building enclosures and helping to care for orphaned koala joeys at Cleland Wildlife Park.

On behalf of the community we thank the regiment who have played such a crucial role supporting the community.



Members of 1st Combat Engineering Regiment at the demounting parade for 16 Regiment Emergency Support Force. Image: Nicole Mankowski Photography

Tax assistance from UniSA

The UniSA Tax Clinic is available to help those affected by the bushfires with their tax issues. This is a free service for individuals and small businesses who do not have a tax agent.

The clinic may be able to assist if you are experiencing tax issues due to loss of records, destruction of assets, receiving government grants or insurance receipts. They can also help with lodging tax forms, providing general tax advice, advocating on behalf of a taxpayer to the ATO and more.

The clinic will be open until late May operating out of UniSA City West Campus. For enquiries and to make a booking visit bit.ly/UniSATax

Centrelink visiting Lobethal

A Centrelink mobile service centre will be in the carpark of Klose's Supermarket, 18 Main Street, Lobethal on Thursday 26 March from 10am to 4pm.

This is an opportunity for bushfire-affected families and individuals with accessibility issues to access vital government services closer to home. Australian Government Mobile Service Centres travel to rural and regional communities to provide community members with information and access to government services. They provide personalised face-to-face servicing to individuals and families who may not have easy access to a Department of Human Services office.

Staff from the Department of Human Services travel with the Mobile Service Centres and can help with Centrelink and Medicare payments and services. Information about Department of Veterans' Affairs programs and support services for veterans and their families is also available.

For more information visit:
servicesaustralia.gov.au/mobileoffice



Long-term landscape recovery

The Agriculture and Land Management Cudlee Creek Bushfire Subcommittee (pictured) is coordinating and assisting with agricultural and natural resources recovery, building on experiences from Sampson Flat and Pinery fire recovery efforts.

The committee has representatives from the Adelaide and Mount Lofty Ranges and SA Murray-Darling Basin Natural Resources Management Boards, Primary Industries and Regions SA, Environment Protection Authority, and Adelaide Hills Council.

Its primary task is to develop and guide landscape recovery for landholders during the next three months (immediate concerns i.e. health of stock and water), nine months

(intermediate needs, i.e. weed control) and one to four years (longer term needs with further land management and recovery works, including helping people restore home gardens). Activities have already targeted management of livestock, soils, erosion, native vegetation and horticulture; sessions are planned or underway for pests, water, native flora and fauna.

For more information visit tiny.cc/cudlee-creek-recovery or speak with an NRM team member at the Recovery Centre.



Events

Walk and Talk horse property visit

A free evening of information, networking and an opportunity to ask questions while viewing the recovery of a fire-affected property near the Woodside township.

Small landholders from non-fire affected areas or carrying other livestock species are welcome. Participants are invited to dress according to the weather, wear strong covered shoes and BYO water bottle if required. Fitness to walk up a moderate hill is required.

Registration essential.

WHEN: Thursday 12 March, 6.30pm – 8pm

WHERE: Woodside

REGISTRATION: trybooking.com/BIXPS

INFORMATION: Visit horsesa.asn.au, email

horsesa@horsesa.asn.au or phone

0402 488 306.

This event is jointly funded by the Adelaide and Mount Lofty Ranges and SA Murray-Darling Basin Natural Resources Management Boards and Horse SA.

Army Bushfire Relief Concert

A concert featuring the Adelaide Australian Army Band.

WHEN: Saturday 14 March, 2pm
WHERE: Woodside Institute Hall
30 Onkaparinga Valley Road, Woodside
COST: Gold coin donation

Supported by the Adelaide Hills Council and The Lions Club.

Thank you parade and street party

The Lights of Lobethal Committee and the Lobethal Community Association invite everyone to this event in appreciation of those who protected the Adelaide Hills community.

WHEN: Saturday 14 March, 6pm
WHERE: Main Street, Lobethal

After the fire: why it's a great time to control woody weeds NOW

This woody weed field day for fire-affected landholders presented by woody weed expert, Jim Donnelly includes a practical demonstration to help you learn about woody weed control after bushfire in watercourses, pasture paddocks and bushland areas. Dinner will be provided. Please RSVP for catering purposes.

WHEN: Monday 16 March, 5pm – 6.30pm
WHERE: Lobethal (location upon registration)
RSVP: Stacey.paterson@sa.gov.au
Information: **8336 0901**

This event is supported by the South Australian Murray-Darling Basin and Adelaide and Mount Lofty Ranges Natural Resources Management Boards through funding from the NRM levies.

Lenswood family fun and activity day

Enjoy a day out with the family with activities including tube slides, the labyrinth maze and Challenge Hill. A free lunch will be provided.

Please RSVP for catering purposes.

WHEN: Sunday 15 and 22 March, 9am
WHERE: Woodhouse Activity Centre.
37 Spring Gully Road, Piccadilly
RSVP: trybooking.com/BIDHE
INFORMATION: Phone Elena on **0400 293 908**, Andrew on **0408 681 813**, Pam on **0431 934 357** or John on **0419 841 040**.

Pasture renewal for small horse properties

A free evening of information, networking and the opportunity to ask questions. The event will cover post-fire evaluation of paddocks, soil testing for nutrients and soil acidity management, establishing pastures for grazing and/or hay production and deciding what pasture varieties to plant. Small landholders from non-fire affected areas or carrying other livestock species welcome.

WHEN: Tuesday 17 March, 7pm
WHERE: Adelaide Hills Business Centre
82 Onkaparinga Valley Rd, Woodside.
COST: Free.
RSVP: trybooking.com/BIKUW
INFORMATION: Visit horsesa.asn.au, email horsesa@horse.asn.au or phone **0402 488 306**.

This project is jointly funded by the Adelaide and Mount Lofty Ranges NRM Board, the South Australian Murray-Darling Basin NRM Board and Horse SA.

Gardening after fire with Sophie Thomson

If you are a gardener affected by the fire this free workshop with Gardening Australia's Sophie Thomson may be just what you need to help rebuild your garden and see it thrive.

Natural Resources Adelaide and Mt Lofty Ranges staff will be there helping to cover topics such as revegetation, weeds and the fire scar, how to restore damaged soil, plant choices, and sustainable garden design. The Australian Red Cross will be there to discuss community and self care. Refreshment and lunch provided.

Please RSVP for catering purposes.

WHEN: Saturday 21 March, 11am – 1.30pm
WHERE: Lobethal Centennial Hall
36 Main St, Lobethal
RSVP: tiny.cc/cudlee-creek-recovery

This event is supported by the Adelaide and Mount Lofty Ranges and SA Murray-Darling Basin Natural Resources Management Boards through funding from the NRM levies.

To stay up to date on all upcoming community events as they are announced visit the online events calendar at dhs.sa.gov.au/cudleecreek

Contact information

Recovery details

Local Recovery Coordinator Alex Zimmermann:
0418 258 304

Recovery Hotline: 1800 302 787

Lobethal Recovery Centre: 0418 213 269
Fabrik Arts + Heritage - Old Woollen Mill
1 Lobethal Road, Lobethal
Cudlee Creek Fire Recovery website:
dhs.sa.gov.au/cudleecreek

SA Recovery Facebook page:
facebook.com/SArecoveryinfo

Local Councils

Adelaide Hills Council: 8408 0400
ahc.sa.gov.au

Mount Barker District Council: 8391 7200
mountbarker.sa.gov.au

Mid-Murray Council: 8569 0100
mid-murray.sa.gov.au

Agriculture and livestock

PIRSA: 1800 931 314
pir.sa.gov.au/bushfires

Livestock SA: 8297 2299
livestocksa.org.au

Natural Resources
Adelaide and Mount Lofty Ranges: 8336 0901
naturalresources.sa.gov.au/adelaidentloftyranges

SA Murray-Darling Basin: 8391 7500
naturalresources.sa.gov.au/samurraydarlingbasin

Volunteering

Volunteering SA&NT: 1300 135 545
volunteering.sa.gov.au

Waste management

Green Industries SA: 7071 3723
greenindustries.sa.gov.au/bushfires

Counselling services

Available 24 hours, seven days a week

SA Regional Access: 1300 032 186
Lifeline - Bushfire Recovery Line: 13 43 57
Beyond Blue: 1300 224 636
Kids Helpline: 1800 551 800
1800Respect: 1800 737 732
Mensline: 1300 787 978



**Government of
South Australia**