

East Gippsland Bushfires 2019-20



Waste disposal explained

The East Gippsland bushfires have generated a significant amount of waste, from building materials, green waste, metal and waste related to the response effort.

Council has been proactive in preparing our waste facilities prior to the event and post-fire. This includes the earlier-than-anticipated opening of Cell 3B at the Bairnsdale Landfill.

To prepare Cell 3B for an influx of 'hard' bushfire building waste, we have been adding a layer of soft waste to the bottom of this new cell.

Our staff have put in a considerable amount of work to accommodate bushfire waste at other sites, and the collection of material that can be kept out of landfill, such as metal and wire.

The extra influx of waste is likely to take some years of the life of our landfills.

Council is working with agencies such as the Victorian Government, Environment Protection Authority, Bushfire Recovery Victoria, Grocon and contractors to ensure the community has access to safe and timely waste disposal with the smallest amount of financial impost on fire-impacted residents.

We understand the clean-up is paramount to the community recovery process and the steps we are taking are to make this as easy as possible for our customers.

Grocon clean-up program

- Grocon is undertaking the Bushfire Clean-Up Program works in East Gippsland Shire and across Victoria on behalf of the Government.
- The Bushfire Clean-Up Program is free of charge for all property owners, regardless of whether they are insured, and is jointly funded by the Victorian and Commonwealth governments.
- Clean up works will commence the week of 9 March 2020. Waste from the initial clean-up works will be taken to the Bairnsdale Landfill.
- All bushfire waste is classified as asbestos contaminated. Only Class A subcontractors / supervisors are certified and licensed to handle this waste.
- Partially burnt houses and structures may be eligible for Grocon clean up or may need to be cleaned up by other suitably qualified contractors. It is recommended that property owners register with Grocon to assess their eligibility for clean-up. Call 1800 560 760- or visit brv.vic.gov.au.

Prescribed waste – houses and structures

- Houses and structures (prescribed waste) can only be removed by Grocon or private contractors. Private contractors must be licensed asbestos removalists and in Environment Protection Authority registered vehicles.
- Waste must all be treated as contaminated and triple wrapped.
- Cost of prescribed waste is \$286 per tonne.
- 24 hours' notice must be given to nominated sites. The Bairnsdale Landfill – 5152 6535 – is the only site in East Gippsland accepting this waste at present.

Please contact us

Please contact Council's waste department directly on 03 5153 9500 or feedback@egipps.vic.gov.au for clarification on any detail about any waste query.

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- Council is working on the approvals and site preparation to open a section of the former Orbost Landfill site to accept prescribed waste. This is about four weeks from being available.
- At this point in time only the Bairnsdale Landfill is accepting prescribed waste.

Green waste

- Burnt green waste can be taken for free to the sites listed below until further notice.
- Tree prunings / branches / grass cuttings / stumps and logs less than .3m diameter can be taken to waste site for free.
- Pine posts, treated pine and chipboard can be taken to waste sites but will need to be separated and will be charged for at our normal landfill rates unless presented with a bushfire waste voucher.

Metal

- Burnt metal waste can be taken for free to the sites listed below until further notice.
- Clotheslines, white goods, trampoline frames, play equipment, water tanks, scrap metals are all accepted.
- Boats - no fibreglass boats accepted.
- Trailers with melted fibreglass are not accepted as scrap metal but will be accepted into landfill at the normal charge.

Green waste or household metal as described above will be accepted at:

- Bairnsdale Landfill – 5152 6535
- Lakes Entrance Landfill – 5155 2148
- Mallacoota Waste Transfer Station – 0427 144 002
- Orbost Waste Transfer Station – 0429 412 833
- Omeo Waste Transfer Station – 0429 865 358

- Buchan Waste Transfer Station– 0419 359 763

Full addresses and hours of operation for all these sites are available on the East Gippsland Shire Council website. Please note that normal operating hours for all these sites still apply.

Green waste and / or metal as described in this newsletter will not be accepted at:

- Bruthen Waste Transfer Station
- Any other site not listed above, due to limited space.

Wire fencing, cars and tractors

Council has negotiated with a private contractor to collect waste metal from stockpile sites.

Farmers/landowners with agricultural waste metal Farm fencing wire / metal, including cars, tractors, plants can dispose of this waste at stock sites.

Please note: Cars with LPG tanks are not accepted.

Fencing wire stockpile locations:

- Buchan: Buchan-Bruthen Road opposite the waste transfer station
- Wairewa: Waste Transfer Station
- More sites are currently being finalised and will be advised soon.

Stockpile collection points will be ongoing until further advised. Please do not leave fencing wire in road reserves or other public land, as this is considered illegal dumping which is a fineable offence.

Free bushfire waste vouchers

- Council will be offering extra free waste vouchers to properties within the bushfire areas that have burnt items that are not

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included in the categories covered in this newsletter.

- These vouchers can be used to dispose of any bushfire waste, excluding prescribed waste as per the Grocon / private contractor clean-up requirements.
- Access to vouchers is through contacting any Council Customer Service Centre, and can either be posted to landowners or collected in person. Please call 03 5153 9500 and register your name and property details.

Please note that the vouchers can be used at any nominated landfill or waste transfer station site during the normal operating hours of individual sites.

Those presenting bushfire waste without a voucher will be expected to pay the normal fees and charges for the items brought in.

Vouchers are redeemable until 31 August 2020.

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