



## THE HON JACINTA ALLAN PREMIER OF VICTORIA



## THE HON KRISTY MCBAIN MINISTER FOR EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

### JOINT MEDIA RELEASE

Tuesday, 13 January 2026

#### **MORE SUPPORT FOR FIRE-AFFECTED COMMUNITIES**

The Albanese and Allan Labor Governments are delivering further support to Victorians affected by the devastating fires, helping communities begin the long road to recovery.

Premier Jacinta Allan today announced a new \$15 million recovery package focused on helping Victorians start the massive clean-up process following the devastating fires.

Residential waste from the recent bushfires presents immediate health and safety risks.

The Albanese and Allan Governments are helping keep communities safe and supporting residents to get back on their feet sooner by getting clean up started as quickly as possible.

The Bushfire Cleanup Program invests an initial \$10 million to support uninsured and underinsured Victorians to remove damaged structures and hazardous materials - easing the burden on families already facing enormous stress.

This support is jointly funded by the Albanese and Allan Governments under the Commonwealth-State Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA).

The Allan Government will also invest \$5 million towards waiving waste levies in eligible local government areas and fully cover landfill operator gate fees – ensuring all bushfire waste can be disposed of free of charge.

There are still significant fires burning across Victoria. Once it is safe to enter these areas, clean-up works may commence.

To help people navigate the recovery process, the Emergency Recovery Hotline is available from today and can be reached on 1800 560 760. Complementing the VicEmergency Hotline, the Emergency Recovery Hotline provides information about recovery programs and supports – including emergency accommodation and clean up information.

Recovery Officers continue to work across government, alongside emergency services, councils and community organisations to assess recovery needs and deliver support to affected communities.

While some communities are taking their first steps towards recovery, many others are still facing fires that are not yet under control.

Emergency relief payments remain available for eligible Victorians who have had their homes damaged or destroyed by the fires, or who were required to evacuate due to emergency warnings.

To find out if you are eligible for an emergency relief payment, please visit an Emergency Relief Centre or call VicEmergency on 1800 226 226.

The 2026 Victorian Bushfire Appeal is now open for donations to support fire-affected communities, with Victorians able to contribute via [vic.gov.au/2026-Victorian-Bushfire-Appeal](http://vic.gov.au/2026-Victorian-Bushfire-Appeal).

### **Quotes attributable to Premier Jacinta Allan**

*“These fires have devastated communities right across Victoria – that’s why we’re stepping in with more support to make recovery just that little bit easier for people who have lost so much.”*

*“By covering all landfill and waste disposal costs, we’re removing another financial burden for families and property owners – so they can focus on rebuilding.”*

*“Victorians always come together in times of crisis, and as recovery work continues, our government will keep delivering the help communities need.”*

### **Quotes attributable to Federal Minister for Emergency Management Kristy McBain**

*“These bushfires have caused immense damage and disruption for communities across Victoria. This support will help ease the burden as people begin the clean-up and focus on recovery.”*

*“The Albanese Government is working hand in hand with the Allan Government to make sure councils and communities have the resources they need to manage waste safely and efficiently.”*

*“Recovery takes time, but it starts with practical help on the ground. We’ll continue to stand with these communities every step of the way.”*

### **Quotes attributable to Victorian Minister for Natural Disaster Recovery Vicki Ward**

*“Victorians have been through an incredibly difficult few days, and this support will help ease the pressure on people who are now beginning the hard task of cleaning up their properties.”*

*“We know how overwhelming it can be to navigate the aftermath of a bushfire. That’s why the Emergency Recovery Hotline and our Recovery Hubs will be ready to support people with clear information, practical help and someone to talk to when they need it.”*

## **MEDIA CONTACTS**

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