

The road to recovery

Access to roads impacted by bushfire

We know that roads are the lifeline for many of our regional communities.



Clearing fire affected roads of fallen trees and other hazards.

With bushfires impacting over 900km of roads in Gippsland and North-Eastern Victoria, our number one priority is providing safe access for people to return to their homes and communities as soon as possible.

Bushfires damage roads in different ways. They can severely damage the road surface, compromise structures such as retaining walls and bridges, and destroy signs and line markings. In some cases, roads have been burned multiple times and fires can cause damage that may not be obvious.

Tens of thousands of trees have been burned and must be individually assessed by arborists and if needed removed, as they may be at risk of falling onto the road or vehicles.

Clearing and re-opening these roads requires a multi-agency effort. We're working with DELWP Forest Fire Management, Parks Victoria, Vic-Forests, and the Australian Defence Force (ADF) to clear roads and then undertake emergency repairs to enable safe access for the community.

This work doesn't stop until services are restored, roads are reopened, and communities are reconnected.

We're listening. Call 133 778

Safe road access

During an emergency such as significant bushfires, road access is managed by an Incident Control Centre (ICC) that has been set up to coordinate the emergency response.

Each road must be inspected to ensure it's safe for all vehicles to travel on, including trucks and buses, before being reopened under the direction of the ICC.

Different levels of access are put in place to ensure safety while also enabling access for emergency services and agencies to inspect and repair roads, deliver supplies and provide relief, as well as for local residents and business owners to reach their properties.

ROAD CLOSED

No entry - Emergency services access only

Road access may be blocked by debris and hazardous trees, and the bushfire emergency may still be underway.

The ICC may deploy powerful logging skidders to clear debris and create critical access routes for emergency services to respond to the emergency.

ROAD CLOSED

Restricted Level B - restricted access for essential services

Although the road may not be currently impacted by an emergency, burnt trees and other hazards make it unsafe to access.

Logging harvesters are deployed to safely remove hazardous trees. This specialist machinery weighs over 30 tonnes and is fitted with

certified fall protection, creating a safe environment for operators to enter the area.

In steep terrain, specialist tree-climbing arborists are required to individually fell hazardous trees.

ROAD CLOSED

Authorised level C - Authorised access managed by ICC

When hazardous trees and other dangers have been removed, the ICC authorises safe access for our crews to bushfire-affected road to assess the damage and impact to the road.

Our crews work to restore the road, installing guideposts, warning signs and safety control signs such as Stop and Give Way signs, repair damage and clear remaining debris from road surfaces, and inspect critical infrastructure such as bridges, culverts and retaining walls.

Local residents, business owners and relief and recovery services may be provided with authorised access by emergency services, when it is safe to do so.

Residents may be required to pass through traffic management points and show proof of residence.

Authorised level D – Authorised access managed by road authority

Once all fire hazards have been cleared, the ICC hands management of the road back to us as we continue to restore the road to a safe condition for everyone to travel.

We provide local residents, business owners and relief, recovery and supply services with authorised access when it is safe to do so.

Residents and services may be required to pass through traffic management points and show proof of residence.

We may reopen the road in stages with restrictions in place such as reduced speeds and lane closures, until all safety features are fully restored.

ROAD REOPENED

Once the road has been safely restored, we'll reopen access to the community.

We'll also reinstate public transport services across Eastern and North-Eastern Victoria as soon as we can.

For more information

For the most up-to-date information on road closures in bushfire affected communities visit [traffic.vic.gov.au](https://www.traffic.vic.gov.au)

If the road to your property is closed, we recommend you visit your local relief centre until the road reopens. The nearest relief centre can be found at [emergency.vic.gov.au/relief](https://www.emergency.vic.gov.au/relief)