

SOUTH-EASTERN VICTORIA REGION



Department of Education and
Early Childhood Development

SEVMail

MEMORANDUM

SEV: 2014-008

TO: All Principals, Rural Schools and Early Childhood Centres

FROM: John Allman, Regional Director

DATE: 12 February 2014

SUBJECT: School and Early Childhood closures due to impact of fires

Summary

Update on impact of Schools and Early Childhood Centres in the rural area of SEVR

It is pleasing to note that the number of Schools and Early Childhood Centres are now returning to normal. There are still some bus route closures which are listed below.

Central office provided a Circular yesterday to all schools regarding Bushfire smoke advice and EPA air quality reports. The link is attached for the EPA, however unfortunately the link for the bushfire smoke and health information is incorrect. A new link will be updated today.

Check EPA's air quality report at: www.epa.vic.gov.au/our-work/monitoring-the-environment/air-quality-bulletins

Support Services

Schools are reminded that support is available for students and staff through the Employee Assistance Program (PPC Worldwide) on 1300 361 008.

<http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/principals/management/Pages/employeeservices.aspx#link4>

<http://www.education.vic.gov.au/Documents/school/principals/management/eapflyer.pdf>
and their Student Support Services Network.

Student Support Services have been providing support to many schools across the networks. Schools should contact their Student Support Services Coordinator for advice and support to assist them during the response and recovery period in relation to psycho-social issues that may arise both now and in the coming weeks.

Schools can access DEECD support materials on the DEECD website

<http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/principals/health/pages/emergenciesschools.aspx>

Water Tanks

A reminder regarding procedures for schools and early childhood services and their water tanks:

Rural schools should be vigilant in ensuring that a clean supply of drinking water is available following the fires over the past week and for those schools in areas where fires are still active.

A number of schools have rainwater tanks for drinking water. It is important that schools check this supply for ash contamination.

Schools should check and clean the roof catchment area, roof gutters and downpipes to ensure that these components are clean and that no ash enters the drinking supply.

If the drinking water is found to be contaminated then schools should immediately arrange for the roof area, gutters and tank to be cleaned out and water replaced immediately.

Schools are to arrange and pay for this work in the first instance and advise Peter Trevena or Kevin O'Rourke at the Regional office. The region will arrange reimbursement of the cost of this water supply maintenance.

The following **schools** and **Early Childhood Centres** are closed today:

- Goongerah/Tubbut P-8 school (both campuses) – will be closed until 14 February
- Goongerah ELC

The following **Bus Routes** are cancelled:

Bairnsdale

Woodglen Phelan
Fernbank Carrison

East Gippsland

Flaggy Creek

Lindenow Primary School

Dargo-Lindenow run
Fernbank-Beverly Road run

Lowanna College

Hearne's Oak/McDonalds Track, Newborough

Yarram SC

Hiawatha – Yarram

School Buses

If a bus route is to be closed, or if a route is to remain closed, this must be confirmed to Kevin O'Rourke at orourke.kevin.j@edumail.vic.gov.au, SEVR Dandenong Regional office by **2.00pm each day**. Please take into account all local information and utilize the VicRoads website. Where possible, confirmation of road conditions should be validated with your local police.

Bus coordinators are to ensure that all parents are notified and that other users travelling on that route are also notified accordingly of any cancellation.

For further information, please contact Mr Kevin O'Rourke, SEVR Emergency Management Coordinator on 0447 019 887 / 8765 5761 or orourke.kevin.j@edumail.vic.gov.au or Peter Trevena, Senior Provision & Planning Officer on 0477 734 019 / 5127 0488 or trevena.peter.a@edumail.vic.gov.au

JOHN ALLMAN

Regional Director
South Eastern Victoria Region