

# Bushfire recovery



## Managing animal welfare

NSW bushfires have fast-tracked the need for landholders to make tough decisions. If you need advice to help you make decisions about whether to feed or sell your livestock, please contact Local Land Services for assistance.

Fire affected landholders can also call Local Land Services to request animal assessment and welfare assistance, veterinary advice and, if needed, euthanasia.

### Assess your livestock

Following a bushfire, it is important to assess and manage burnt livestock.

Burns and other smoke related animal health issues may be difficult to detect in the early stages post-fire. Your Local Land Services district veterinarians are available to help with this assessment.

The following signs can be an indication that livestock have been affected by fire or smoke and need veterinary assessment:

- livestock that are down and unable to rise
- severe charring or swelling of limbs, face or mouth
- laboured breathing, frothing at the mouth and/or coughing
- severe burns to udders, vulva, testicles and prepuce
- burns to the feet causing separation of the hoof at the coronary band
- singed wool (sometimes these sheep are not severely injured).

Be aware that power outages can affect the regularity of milking times which can lead to mastitis in lactating dairy cattle.

We recommend continued monitoring of stock in the weeks that follow a fire event as respiratory and secondary health issues can take several days to appear.

### Ensure access to feed and water

Make sure your animals have ongoing access to good quality feed and water.

Check your infrastructure for damage, including pipes, pumps, tanks and troughs. Be aware that your water may be contaminated by ash or soil following a fire.

Livestock feeding is a significant consideration following fire. The quantity and type of feed required will depend on numerous factors. For more detailed information on feed and water requirements, visit [www.lls.nsw.gov.au/bushfire-recovery](http://www.lls.nsw.gov.au/bushfire-recovery)

### Fire ants can spread in hay

You may bring in hay from Queensland if it comes from outside the fire ant biosecurity zones, and it comes with a vendor declaration. If it comes from the fire ant known infested area, it will need a Plant Health Certificate.

Find out more at [www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fire-ants](http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/fire-ants)

**For assistance,  
call Local  
Land Services  
1300 795 299**

**We understand it's hard  
for you as well as  
your stock**

For information on personal hardship and distress assistance, contact the Disaster Welfare Assistance Line on **1800 018 444** from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm Monday to Friday.

If you or someone you know needs extra support, call the Mental Health Line on **1800 011 511**. Available 24/7 across NSW.

For further information on disaster assistance, visit:  
[www.disasterassist.gov.au](http://www.disasterassist.gov.au)  
[www.nsw.gov.au/bushfire](http://www.nsw.gov.au/bushfire)