

# What to do after a bushfire has passed – advice for livestock producers

Considerations for livestock producers when caring for their animals and restoring their properties after bushfires.

## 1. Inspect livestock for burns or injuries

Animal welfare is the responsibility of the owner or the person in charge of the animals. When it is safe to do so, carefully inspect your livestock for burns or injuries. If animals are injured seek veterinary assistance as soon as possible.

PIRSA staff may provide assistance with:

- inspection and assessment of injured livestock and their welfare
- treatment of surviving animals
- humane destruction
- carcass disposal options.

## 2. Care for surviving animals

If you have experienced a power outage enact your plan for backup water, feeding, ventilation, milking etc..

Animals recovering from injuries should be isolated so they can be inspected regularly. Livestock that have survived will need access to good quality clean water\*, suitable fodder and shade if possible. You may need to monitor them for several days.

*\*Note: sheep consume up to 10 litres of water per day each, cattle consume up to 50 litres of water per day, stock will consume even more water in very hot weather.*

### 3. Disposal of carcasses

Disposal of animal carcasses is the responsibility of the animal owner. Disposal must be done in a way that minimises disease risks and impacts on the environment. For further information the Environmental Protection Authority has an information sheet outlining on-farm disposal guidelines:

[http://www.epa.sa.gov.au/files/7566\\_onfarm\\_disposal.pdf](http://www.epa.sa.gov.au/files/7566_onfarm_disposal.pdf)

### 4. Access to mental health resources

Most people will suffer stress and grief after living through a traumatic event such as a bushfire. Often the emotional impacts are relatively mild and reduce over the initial days and weeks. However, some people may need additional support to help them cope. For more information go to

<https://www.sa.gov.au/topics/emergencies-and-safety/recovery/health> or call 13 14 65

### Further information

For assistance with agricultural impacts or urgent animal issues that cannot be dealt with through normal veterinary or community services resulting from the December 2019 bushfires and other emergencies call **Agriculture and Animal Services Hotline 1800 255 556**

For issues such as feeding livestock, agistment of animals, accessing water resources and volunteering assistance of fodder, contact **Livestock SA 8297 2299**

For assistance with injured and stray wildlife and companion animals call **your local veterinary clinic.**