



Replacement of Essential Water Supply

7 February 2019

This scheme helps to relieve hardship in the community by replenishing essential private water supplies that have been used by fire services during bushfire emergencies.

The Victorian Government has a policy regarding replacing essential water used during bushfire fighting operations. CFA and Forest Fire Management firefighters have the legislative powers to take water from any waterway or water source for firefighting purposes.

The water owner can request replacement of essential water under this scheme. The water replacement scheme recognises that, while farmers understand the urgency of firefighting, their basic water interests have to be protected too.

If taken for firefighting purposes, a reasonable and sufficient volume of essential water will be provided to sustain the:

- health of affected residences and pets
- health and productivity of stock

Lodging a request for Essential Water Replacement

To lodge a request for essential water replacement, download and complete the Essential Water Replacement form from <https://www.ffm.vic.gov.au/recovery-after-an-emergency/public-land-recovery> then email it to bushfire.recovery@delwp.vic.gov.au

To lodge a request for water replacement, please contact your local municipality within three months of the water being taken. Essential Water Replacement requests must be submitted within 3 months of the essential water being taken for bushfire fighting operations. Water used by property owners may not have their water replaced through this scheme.

Contact us

We're here to help! For more information about water tanks please contact Council's Public Health team on 1300 BAW BAW (1300 229 229) or 5624 2411 or email bawbaw@bawbawshire.vic.gov.au