The 2020 Clean-Up Program covers the demolition and disposal of all buildings destroyed or damaged beyond repair by this season’s bushfires (including residential homes and sheds, commercial and public buildings, and other out-buildings). This may include the removal of fencing, trees and vehicles but only where it is necessary for the safe clean up of destroyed buildings.

The government-funded clean-up program is provided to property owners free of charge. You can participate in this program regardless of whether you are insured.

Registration

Property owners can register by visiting brv.vic.gov.au or by phoning 1800 560 760. Registration closes for properties in East Gippsland and Towong shires on June 30. Registration closes for other shires (including Alpine Shire) on May 31.

Process and timeline

Grocon will contact each registered property owner, send out a questionnaire to be returned, and arrange an appointment/inspection of the property. At the appointment, Grocon will discuss the scope of the clean-up with the property owner, and arrange the signing of a consent form.

Property owners will be provided at least 72 hours’ notice of clean-up commencing.

The statewide clean-up program is on track to be complete by August.

Communities can have a clearer picture of when works will be completed in their local area by viewing the project’s local area work plan at brv.vic.gov.au.

Timelines can change in the event of prolonged inclement weather, further COVID-19 restrictions or other variables such as the statewide supply of Class A subcontractors or an addition of new clean-up registrations, which are still open.

Fencing, trees, cars and septic tanks

These items will be included in the clean-up only where it is necessary for the safe clean-up of destroyed buildings on a property. For example, a tree may be required to be removed if deemed to be a safety risk for works to be undertaken.

Hazardous materials

The clean up program covers the safe removal of hazardous materials like asbestos. Licenced contractors engaged in clean up activities are subject to a compliance code for removing asbestos, which includes strict measures to reduce risks.

Local contractors

Grocon will be seeking to use as many qualified local subcontractors as possible. All bushfire waste is considered asbestos contaminated and can only be handled by Class A contractors. With clean-up works increase, the local supply of crews licensed to handle this waste is maxing out. Grocon and BRV continue to prioritise and engage local subcontractors where possible across the project, including the engagement of plumbers, surveyors, arborists, electricians and other services.

Contractors are encouraged to register their interest by visiting www.grocon.com/bushfire-recovery-2020 or calling 03 9631 8833.

Project offices

Grocon project offices are located at:

- Buchan – 43 Main Road
- Mallacoota – Shop 2, 57 Maurice Avenue
- Bairnsdale – 15 Hosie Street
- Corryong – 2-10 Towong Road

At this time with COVID-19 restrictions in place, the project offices will remain open, but we request community members make contact by phoning 03 9631 8833 in the first instance.

Items on your property

All bushfire clean-up sites are hazardous. Grocon has developed safe solutions for property owners to undertake ‘discovery’ of lost items on your property. Property owners can discuss this process with Grocon during site inspection.