



Mhairi Roberts - Animal Welfare Policy
Manager
Lara Griffin – Continuous Improvement
Manager

RSPCA 
for all creatures **great & small**

RSPCA considerations

- Fire effects all animals not just threatened species
- *The RSPCA believes that wherever human activities have the potential to have a negative impact on wild animals, whether directly or indirectly, we have a duty to ensure that they are conducted in a way that causes as little injury, suffering or distress to animals as possible.*

Planned burns

- Protocols are needed that incorporate animal welfare
 - How will animal welfare impacts be minimised?
 - How will affected animals be cared for?
- Is a risk assessment conducted that includes minimisation of animal welfare risks?
- DEDJTR should be involved
- DELWP should provide more information to the public

Fire emergencies

- Protocols and procedures are needed for:
 - on the ground response
 - the assessment and treatment of livestock, horses and companion animals
 - establishment and support of triage sites, data recording, decision-making and responsibilities.
- Provision of adequate resources for animal welfare support organisations is needed, to undertake required activities as part of the Victorian Emergency Animal Welfare Plan.
- Provision of annual training updates

Resources

- Lack of resourcing for organisations that may be required to assist in emergencies
- Non-Government personnel who assist in emergencies are not insured

Recommendations

- DEDJTR must develop protocols and procedures for 'on the ground' animal welfare support activities (including triage sites), livestock, horse and companion animal rescue.
- Publicise protocols and procedures for preventative/planned burns which include minimisation of animal welfare impacts.
- Resolve the gap regarding provision of indemnity insurance for non-government personnel