

# MEDIA RELEASE

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17 December 2013

## **Bushfires and your water supply**

East Gippsland Water is urging customers not to rely solely on town water to protect against a major bushfire this summer and to think about how they might manage without that supply.

Town water systems are designed to cater for everyday domestic drinking water needs and may not cope with bushfire events.

Said East Gippsland Water's Managing Director, Bruce Hammond: "We will do all we can to keep drinking water flowing to households wherever possible. Back-up generators are located at critical sites across the region, such as water treatment plants and pump stations, and these generators will come into operation should the electricity supply fail.

"Our water storages are also being kept as close to full as possible to cope with sudden increases in demand.

"Despite these contingencies, excessively high levels of water consumption, the competing needs of firefighters and residents, as well as any possible damage to the water supply network during an extreme fire event, will mean the town water supply is operating under extreme load. In addition, situations may prevent our staff from entering a bushfire zone to get to our infrastructure, which in turn may prevent us from maintaining normal drinking water pressure, quality or an uninterrupted water supply to every household."

Please note that in situations where a bushfire poses an imminent threat to property, any rules relating to water use are automatically waived.

Visit the CFA website [www.cfa.vic.gov.au/plan-prepare/](http://www.cfa.vic.gov.au/plan-prepare/) for free information and advice about preparing your family and property for a bushfire, or call the Victorian Bushfire Information Line on 1800 240 667.

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