

## **Frequently Asked Questions**

**17 September 2011, 1700 hrs**

### **Mitchell access**

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#### **Is the fire under control?**

The Fire Brigade has advised the fire is out and mopping up activities will occur in Mitchell throughout the weekend.

#### **How long is Mitchell closed for?**

The Mitchell exclusion zone will remain over the weekend to allow for testing and incident recovery.

#### **What is the exact exclusion zone?**

The entire suburb of Mitchell.

#### **When can I access my business in Mitchell?**

Business owners who have enquiries regarding their premises should contact Canberra Connect on 13 22 81 for further information.

#### **What roads are closed?**

The exclusion zone around Mitchell remains in place over the weekend.

Roads closed include Sandford Street, Flemington Road from Randwick Road to Wells Station Drive and the intersection of Old Wells Station Road and Morisset Road.

#### **Where can I get traffic updates?**

At [www.esa.act.gov.au](http://www.esa.act.gov.au) or on Twitter by following @ACT\_ESA

### **Environment**

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#### **Has the fire brigade completed testing? Air and water testing**

Atmospheric testing is being undertaken in the area by Fire Brigade Hazmat Officers. Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) is conducting testing of soil, residue and waterways in and around the Mitchell area as well as waterways feeding Lake Burley Griffin.

#### **Is environmental testing taking place?**

Investigations to identify potential chemicals in the environment are being carried out by the ACT EPA. The ACT Fire Brigade is continuing to undertake atmospheric monitoring.

#### **What has been the impact on waterways in the Mitchell precinct?**

A small amount of fire fighting foam and other material has entered Flemington Road ponds but this has been isolated. Potentially affected waterways are being sampled regularly by the ACT EPA.

#### **Will Lake Burley Griffin remain closed?**

Yes, ACT EPA will continue precautionary testing with results to be made available on [www.esa.act.gov.au](http://www.esa.act.gov.au)

**Is Sullivans Creek safe?**

Sullivans Creek is safe and ACT EPA is conducting ongoing water testing.

**Is any wildlife at risk?**

There is no known risk to local wildlife. Public are encouraged to contact Canberra Connect on 13 22 81 to report injured wildlife.

**Health**

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**Are there any health risks to the community?**

While the risk is low, it is possible that some toxic residue may have been deposited along the path of the smoke, with comprehensive testing currently being undertaken by the ACT EPA.

As a precaution people are advised to take the following steps:

- not collect drinking water from roofs or other catchments until these surfaces have been washed down;
- drain or service 'first flush diverters' if they are part of a rainwater collection system;
- wash fruit and vegetables picked from gardens before eating; and
- where possible, provide bore water or town water for stock rather than dam water or other exposed water.

**Is it safe to go outside?**

There is no risk to the Canberra community and public should continue outdoor activities as usual. However the Mitchell area remains closed to the public until further advice.

**Is the tap water safe?**

Yes.

Residents using rainwater should not collect drinking water from roofs or other catchments until these surfaces have been washed down.

**Does the warning for Campbell/Downer/Dickson/Hackett/Braddon/Watson remain?**

No, there is no danger for these areas.

**Services**

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**Will ACTION buses be operational over the weekend?**

Yes, all ACTION services are operating as usual apart from services to the exclusion zone in Mitchell. For updated information visit [www.action.act.gov.au](http://www.action.act.gov.au)

**Will all schools resume on Monday?**

Yes, schools will resume as normal on Monday 19 September.