SpineWeek 2020 has received enquiries from delegates about the impact of Australia’s bushfire season on Melbourne and SpineWeek 2020.

Bushfires have impacted some parts of Victoria – including East Gippsland, High Country and Upper Murray regions. However, many parts of the state, including Melbourne are safe, unaffected and welcoming visitors.

Delegates visiting regional Victoria as part of pre-and-post conference touring are encouraged to seek the most up to date information prior to departure from their accommodation and tourism provider.

We’ve tried to answer the most frequent questions below, but if your query isn’t covered here please don’t hesitate to contact spineweek@medicongress.com.

Is SpineWeek 2020 still going ahead?
Yes! The conference is going ahead as planned and we are looking forward to seeing you there.

When did the Australian bushfires occur and was the State of Victoria impacted?
Late December 2019 to January 2020 bushfires impacted some regional areas in Australia, including parts of east and north-east of Victoria. These bushfires were hundreds of kilometres from Melbourne.

Are the fires threatening Melbourne?
Melbourne is not under any immediate fire threat and it is safe to travel to Melbourne.

Is Melbourne still experiencing smoke from the bushfires?
There is currently no hazardous smoke or haze in Melbourne or regional Victoria.

Are there regions in Victoria outside of Melbourne we can visit as part of our pre-and/or-post conference touring itinerary?
Yes. We encourage you to start planning your trip by visiting www.visitvictoria.com

Are airports open?
The Melbourne Airport and Avalon Airport in Victoria are both open. On the ground travellers are encouraged to speak with tourism operators to book a trip to regional Victoria or visit www.visitvictoria.com.

However, The Australian Government announced as of 1 February 2020, all travellers arriving from mainland China (who are not Australian citizens or permanent residents) will not be granted entry due to the unfolding situation of the novel coronavirus. These measures are temporary and being reviewed regularly. You can read more about travel restrictions form China here: https://www.abf.gov.au/news-media/archive/article?itemId=354
How can I help contribute to the bushfire recovery efforts in Australia?
There are several ways delegates can show their support for those directly and indirectly impacted by the Victorian bushfires. For a full list, please visit the Victorian Government’s website on ‘how you can help.’

The best way to directly help the communities affected by the bushfires right now is through financial donations and when fire affected communities are ready to welcome visitors again, tourism will play an important role in supporting their recovery.

I’m still considering cancelling my travel, what’s your advice?
The best way to show your support is to continue your trip as planned to Melbourne and travel into regional Victoria this year – we are welcoming visitors and there are many nature-based tourism experiences, events, culinary delights and more on offer to travellers.

Where can I find latest information about bushfires and current warnings for Victoria?
Victoria is safe and welcoming visitors. If you have any concerns relating to travel to our state visit:
- Visit wwwemergency.vic.gov.au for up to date information on warnings.

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