

South Gippsland

# Municipal Fire Management Plan

---



This document is a sub-plan to the Municipal Emergency  
Management Plan



### **Acknowledgment of Country**

The South Gippsland MEMPC's Fire Management Working Group acknowledges and pays respect to the Traditional Owners of this land and its Elders, past and present and is committed to working with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities to achieve safer and more resilient communities.



## **Acknowledgements**

The Municipal Fire Management Working Group acknowledges the member agencies and individuals for the work and commitment in developing this plan, along with the use of the photographs in this publication.

## **Approval**

The Municipal Fire Management Plan has been prepared in a collaborative manner by the South Gippsland MEMPC's Fire Management Working Group and was presented for feedback to and subsequently assured by the Municipal Emergency Management Planning Committee on the 25 November 2025 and passed for assurance by the Regional Emergency Management Committee.

Updates to this documents Appendices can be made by the Working Group without the need for MEMPC approval.



## Contents

Foreword .....	5
Introduction .....	6
Working together .....	8
Municipal Fire Management Plan Vision, Purpose and Principles .....	12
Themes, Goals and Actions .....	13
Part 1 Context and Fire Risk .....	15
Environmental scan .....	16
Insights into Major Fire Risks .....	20
Part 2 Municipal Fire Management Planning .....	33
Fire Management Planning Working Group .....	34
Community and Fire Planning .....	35
Plan Assurance and Approval .....	35
Exercise, monitoring, evaluation, and review process .....	36
Appendices .....	37
Appendix 1 – Amendment History .....	37
Appendix 2 – Action Plan 2025-26 .....	37
Appendix 3 – Bushfire/Grassfire - What is being done (agencies) and What community members can do .....	39
Appendix 4 - Fire- Commercial/ Industrial/ High-rise (commercial) - What is being done (agencies) and What community members can do .....	42
Appendix 5 - Acronyms .....	43
Appendix 6 - Support Material .....	44
Appendix 7 – Statement of Assurance .....	45



## Foreword

This Municipal Fire Management Plan (MFMP) has been developed under legislation introduced in Victoria in 2018 to provide greater cohesion through integrated arrangements for emergency management planning in Victoria at the state, regional and municipal levels. It is a sub-plan to the Municipal Emergency Management Plan (MEMP).

Through the development of the Plan, the South Gippsland Municipal Emergency Management Planning Committee (MEMPC) - Fire Management Working Group (the working group) undertook a collaborative process to explore the fire-related challenges, risks and opportunities within the municipality in order to apply a coordinated approach to managing these risks.

This Municipal Fire Management Plan takes an integrated approach across agencies and partners to the identification and management of fire risks within the municipality. It recognises the shared responsibility between government, agencies, business and community in reducing those risks.

The experience and knowledge of the Working Group members and partner agencies has been integral in confirming the focus of the themes and the actions to be undertaken. The Plan will be monitored by the Working Group and reported to the MEMPC, and identification of improved treatments or activities will be a key deliverable of the Plan.

This sub-plan does not conflict with or duplicate other plans with response, relief and recovery elements relating to fire management included in the South Gippsland MEMP which considers where emergency management capability would be drawn from that cannot be met from within the municipality and mechanisms to escalate requests for emergency management capacity.

**Chair Fire Management Working Group**



## Introduction

Fire and emergency events impose significant social, environmental and economic costs on Victoria including injury and loss of life, damage to property, infrastructure and facilities, financial costs, ecosystem and biodiversity loss, and social and cultural losses. Challenges such as the impact of climate change, the increasing occurrence of major fires, population and residential growth all increase the need for a coordinated and collaborative approach to strategic fire management planning.

Victoria has emergency management arrangements that require and encourage agencies to work collaboratively alongside state and local government, community and business before, during and after emergencies. The South Gippsland MEMPC - Fire Management Working Group will support this integration and the intent of the Municipal Fire Management Plan is to provide a strategic focus for fire management in the municipality.

The Community Emergency Risk Management (CERA) is a process which aims to reduce risks within a community. This is done by identifying the risks that a community faces, assessing the vulnerability of the community to those risks and providing options to reduce or eliminate the risks. The South Gippsland MEMPC have identified Bushfire/Grassfire and Fire - Commercial/Industrial/High Rise, as risks that may impact broadly on the community and visitors of South Gippsland. The South Gippsland Fire Management Plan has been developed reflecting this to recognise the efforts of stakeholder agencies working toward a shared objective across & Bushfire/Grassfire and Fire - Commercial/Industrial/High Rise - the protection and preservation of life, property and the environment in South Gippsland.

The Plan covers both public and private land tenures with a focus on actions to be taken before a fire. Planning for activities during and after a fire are addressed in the Municipal Emergency Management Plan (MEMP). The South Gippsland Fire Management Plan is a living document and will assist emergency management agencies in relation to fire management planning at the local level and community resilience building activities.

The Plan was developed by the Fire Management Planning Working Group of the South Gippsland MEMPC with the following membership

- Country Fire Authority [CFA] – Chairperson
- CFA Vegetation Management Coordinator and CFA Community Engagement Coordinator
- Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action [DEECA]
- Parks Victoria
- South Gippsland Shire Council
- Department of Transport and Planning
- Other relevant specialist staff from these agencies as required and other organisations as required



## This Plan

The Municipal Fire Management Plan is prepared and maintained as a sub-plan to the South Gippsland Municipal Emergency Management Plan to ensure that the linkages across fire prevention, preparedness, response and recovery programs are consistent and holistic.

This plan has been developed in line with the:

- Emergency Management Act 2013 which provides the authority under which Municipal Emergency Management Planning Committees (MEMPC) operate
- Ministerial Guidelines for Preparing State, Regional and Municipal Emergency Management Plans
- State Fire Management Planning Guidance to Regional and Municipal Fire Management Planning Committees.

This Plan is risk informed, having regard for the social, economic, built and natural environment aspects of fire, and functions as a guide for participants involved in fire management planning activities.

This Plan does not intend to override or contradict individual agency or local government plans, or legislated responsibilities of any individual agency. It is designed to complement and enhance planning undertaken at a Regional and State level within emergency management arrangements.

The audience for this Plan is the South Gippsland MEMPC and its agencies, the Fire Management Working Group and members of the community wanting to know more about fire management planning in South Gippsland.

The period of this Plan is 3 years from its approval date.



## Working together

Fire is one of the most common emergencies individuals and communities can face, and the impact of fire on lives and property can be devastating. Working together is essential for good community outcomes relating to the occurrence of fire and is a shared responsibility between communities, government agencies, land managers, organisations and businesses. The State Emergency Management Plan (SEMP) provides roles and responsibilities that are individually outlined here - [Role statements](#) | [Emergency Management Victoria](#)

### **CFA**

The Country Fire Authority (CFA) is responsible for bush and grassfire suppression activities on private land, public roadways and rail lines throughout South Gippsland. CFA is also the primary response agency for structure fires, fire involving motor vehicles and fires involving hazardous materials.

CFA is heavily involved in community education and awareness activities both at a corporate and local level.

The Risk Intelligence Unit in CFA administers and publishes the Victorian Fire Risk Register – Bushfire (VFRR-B). CFA also conducts annual assessments and recertification of Bushfire Places of Last Report (BPLR).

During the Fire Danger Period, the District Management Team assess applications to conduct burns on private land for agricultural purposes and issue Permits to Burn if the application meets all requirements.

Detailed role and responsibilities are outlined in the SEMP's CFA role statement.

### **Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA)**

DEECA brings together Victoria's energy, environment, water, agriculture, forestry, resources, climate action, and emergency management functions into a single department, maximising connections between community, industry and economy. They are responsible for the prevention and suppression of fire in State forests, national parks and on protected public land and for developing policy and regulation to mitigate bushfire through land use planning, building and heritage. They also coordinate recovery of the natural environment, public land and waterways following bushfires.

DEECA has road management responsibilities for a network of tracks throughout State parks and forests, including mitigation of hazardous roadside vegetation. Other land management responsibilities include recreational sites, walking tracks, campgrounds and day visitation sites.

The Department undertakes a wide range of community engagement, education and compliance activities that contribute to fire prevention and stands ready to respond to fires.

Detailed role and responsibilities are outlined in the SEMP's DEECAs role statement.

### **Forest Fire Management Victoria (FFMV)**

FFMV is the public face of fire prevention, planning and response for State managed land. Its aim is to reduce the risk





and impact of bushfires in Victoria's parks and forests.

FFMV is comprised of specialist staff from the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA), Parks Victoria (PV), Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions (DJPR), Vic Forests and Melbourne Water.

### **Parks Victoria (Parks Vic)**

Parks Vic is responsible for managing an expanding and diverse estate covering more than 4 million hectares, or about 18%, of Victoria.

Parks Vic staff support the planning and delivery of fuel treatment programs across public land, but overall responsibility for planned burning remains with DEECA. Parks Victoria manage Wilsons Promontory National Park as well as other land across South Gippsland including the Cape Liptrap Coastal Park.

Detailed role and responsibilities are outlined in the SEMP's Parks Victoria role statement.

### **South Gippsland Shire Council**

Council has several defined fire prevention roles outlined in *Country Fire Authority Act 1958*, the State Emergency Management Plan and other relevant legislation.

The *CFA Act* requires Council to appoint a Municipal Fire Prevention Officer (MFPO). Fire Prevention Officers have the power to assess fire threats to life or property in their municipal district, and if necessary, issue fire prevention notices on owners or occupiers of land requiring them to take specified steps to remove or minimise that threat.

Council maintain a number of nature reserves across South Gippsland with Fire Management Plans for high risk reserves having annual actions implemented. Council's road maintenance crews conduct slashing or spraying of specific roadsides. Electric Line Clearance is also conducted by Council in certain areas across the municipality.

Councils play a key role in designating and recording Neighbourhood Safer Places-Bushfire Places of Last Resort (NSP-BPLRs) as last resort shelter options during bushfire. The Sandy Point Community Centre is a Bushfire Places of Last Resort (BPLR) in Sandy Point.

Local Laws restrict open air burning in some areas – see General Local Law 2024 [Open Air Burning | South Gippsland Shire Council](#). Council does not issue permits to burn during the Fire Danger Period, instead referring applicants to CFA for review.

Municipal and State planning schemes outline how townships can grow and change in line with their bushfire threat. Building regulations are in place to ensure structures meet mandated fire safety standards, including resistance to likely forms of bushfire attack. Council supports fire prevention awareness through media releases, website updates and social media postings. Detailed role and responsibilities are outlined in the SEMP's Councils role statement.



## HVP Plantations

HVP Plantations is a commercial landholder in South Gippsland Shire, with multiple hardwood and softwood plantations located throughout the municipality. Plantations have different fuel structures and more complex fire behaviour characteristics compared with traditional rural environments like farmlands, grasslands and scrub. HVP have a Forest Industry Brigade under the CFA Act.

More information about HVP's role in fire mitigation and response is at [www.hvp.com.au/hvp-forest-management/hvp-fire-management](http://www.hvp.com.au/hvp-forest-management/hvp-fire-management)

## Department of Transport and Planning (DTP)

The road network is recognised as being vital to the community when deciding how they will respond to any bushfire threat. The Department of Transport and Planning ensures the network continues to function efficiently before, during and after a fire by embedding emergency management and fire prevention into its core business practices.

DTP's statutory responsibilities under the Road Management Act 2004 and Transport Integration Act 2010, and its broader emergency management role in:

- Maintaining critical infrastructure (arterial roads, bridges, culverts).
- Supporting consequence management during fires (road closures, detours, traffic management)
- Integrating roadside fire treatments into the Joint Fuel Management Program and regional bushfire strategies.
- Engage in planning, mitigation and consequence management to protect their assets from bushfire and other hazards.
- Supporting evacuation and traffic management operations in partnership with Victoria Police (who hold the formal traffic management role, with DTP in support).
- Coordinating with councils and other road managers to ensure consistency of road closures, detours and public communication.
- Annual pre-season slashing, spraying and other mitigation works to reduce fuel loads within road reserves.

A summary of activities undertaken by DTP to reduce bushfire risk can be found here - [Department of Transport and Planning | vic.gov.au](http://www.vic.gov.au/Department-of-Transport-and-Planning). Detailed role and responsibilities are outlined in the SEMP's DTP role statement.

## Victoria Police

Victoria Police fire prevention efforts cover education, awareness, investigation, prosecution and support to other agencies. Both the Municipal and Regional Emergency Response Coordinators (MERC & RERC) provide ongoing training to personnel to ensure response to emergency events, including fires, are robust and contemporary with ongoing development and planning with a focus on evacuation and traffic management.

Local police have a Zero Tolerance approach to illegal fires lit during the Fire Danger Period. Police will attend and investigate any illegal fires reported by responding fire brigades, with prosecution at the discretion of the attending police members.



### **Ausnet Services**

Electricity powerlines contacting vegetation is one cause of bushfire. The Electricity Safety Act 1998 requires electricity distribution companies to prepare bushfire mitigation plans, which are audited by Energy Safe Victoria.

Energy Safe Victoria works with power companies to install new protection mechanisms to reduce the risk of starting fires, and work closely with fire agencies to review expected conditions to assist in identifying priority areas over high-risk periods. The bushfire mitigation programs of electricity distribution companies typically include activities such as asset inspection, maintenance, construction, upgrading, replacement, vegetation management, performance monitoring and auditing.

### **Individuals and households**

Individual community members are responsible for learning the risks of their environment and making decisions about how to respond to risks commensurate with their risk appetite. Owners and occupiers of land are responsible to manage their properties to reduce the risk of bushfire.

Each household is responsible for preparing their property for bushfire for example, retrofitting existing dwellings and clearing vegetation around the house, in accordance with State planning controls for the clearing of native vegetation and planning scheme requirements.

Driving during a bushfire is extremely dangerous and can result in serious injury or death; always plan to leave early to avoid this situation. Leaving early is the safest option to protect yourself and your family. Leaving early means leaving the area before there are any signs of a fire – not when you can see flames or smell smoke. Leaving early means avoiding panic, being trapped, making the wrong choices and risking serious injury and death.

In bushfires roads may be closed or access may be restricted. For information during an emergency see [emergency.vic.gov.au](https://emergency.vic.gov.au). To find out which roads are reported closed in 'real time' at [traffic.transport.vic.gov.au](https://traffic.transport.vic.gov.au) or call the VicRoads Transport Operations Centre at 13 11 70 if you do not have internet access.

Information to assist householders and landowners to prepare their property for bushfire can be found on the CFA website. Every household should have a well-practiced written bushfire survival plan.

# Municipal Fire Management Plan Vision & Purpose



## Vision

To provide a strategic focus for fire management in the South Gippsland shire.

## Purpose of the Plan

The Plan's purpose is to

- Recognise the roles played by stakeholder agencies and highlight opportunities for multi-agency works
- Identify critical infrastructure and at-risk communities
- Identify mitigation treatments for bushfires, structure fires, other fires to reduce their impacts on the community
- Reduce effect and consequences fire related emergencies have on communities by increasing community resilience through improving overall awareness and preparedness



## Themes, Goals and Actions

Through the planning process the South Gippsland MEMPC - Fire Management Working Group has established a number of focused themes and under each theme sits an overarching goal and a number of high-level actions. These actions are further explored in the Fire Management Committee's Fire Management - CERA Action Plan which is maintained and updated regularly and can be found in Appendix 2.

### **Theme 1**

Recognise the roles played by stakeholder agencies and highlight opportunities for multi-agency collaboration

Goal:

- Annually review the South Gippsland Municipal Fire Management Plan

Challenge/Opportunity:

Continuity of agency representation on the South Gippsland Municipal Fire Management working group, appropriate proxies to attend when required and handover provided by regular members. Sharing relevant information back and forth between agency representatives and their organisations.

### **Theme 2:**

Identify critical infrastructure and at-risk communities

Goal:

- Regularly review the Victorian Fire Risk Register to ensure critical infrastructure and at-risk communities are appropriately recognised

Challenge/Opportunity:

Dedicate sufficient time to review VFRR data starting with highest risk assets to support agencies to identify where mitigation treatments for bushfires should be focused and supports targets resilience and engagement activities.

### **Theme 3:**


Review mitigation treatments for bushfires, structure fires, other fires to reduce their impacts on the community

Goal:

- Twice a year discussion relating to integrated fire management planning between agencies

Challenge/Opportunity:

Sharing of relevant information back and forth between agency representatives and their organisations. Ensure those



agencies with mitigation treatments are engaged with and treatments incorporated where relevant into business plans. To communicate with community on treatments being implemented by agencies in high risk locations.

**Theme 4:** Reduce effect and consequences fire related emergencies have on communities by Increasing community resilience through improving overall awareness and preparedness

Goal:

- Build the resilience of at-risk cohorts through education and collaboration

Challenge/Opportunity:

Break down silos to ensure integrated engagement activities occur with the community in relation to fire and consider all hazards approach to engagement. Find new ways of identifying and engaging with at-risk cohorts.





# Part 1

## Context and Fire Risk



## Environmental scan

### Summary

Located 90 minutes south east of Melbourne, the South Gippsland Shire has an expanding population of almost 30,455 (estimated resident population 2021). It occupies an area of 3,300 square kilometres with substantial coastal frontage.

The Shire is bordered by Latrobe City Council, Baw Baw Shire Council, Cardinia Shire Council, Bass Coast Shire Council and Wellington Shire Council and form part of the Gippsland regional LGA which encompasses East Gippsland, Baw Baw, Latrobe City, Bass Coast, Wellington and Alpine Shires.

Its major centres are Leongatha, Korumburra, Mirboo North and Foster, and other significant townships include Nyora, Toora, Venus Bay, Sandy Point, Poowong, Port Welshpool, Loch, Dumbalk, Welshpool, Meeniyar, Fish Creek, Port Franklin, Koonwarra, Kongwak and Tarwin Lower.

The Shire has approximately 16,500 dwellings, with around 70% owner occupiers and almost 20,200 rateable properties. South Gippsland Shire's population is estimated to increase to around 50,000 during the peak summer season due to a large number of holiday homes and caravan parks.

A significant number of dwellings in Venus Bay and Sandy Point are holiday homes which causes the area's population to grow considerably on weekends, public and school holidays with holiday home owners and guests coming to stay.

During peak periods Tidal River at Wilsons Promontory National Park can have up to 3500 overnight visitors staying in campgrounds or other accommodation and 7500 day visitors. Visitation is concentrated in the 'peak' period from September to April, peaking in January. Visitation patterns seem to have changed since CoVid19, with a significant increase in day visitor numbers and an expansion in the day visitor period from November to earlier in September. Approximately 5,500 school children camp in Tidal River per year, mostly during school terms, representing nearly 300 schools from all over Victoria.


### Tourism and Visitation

Tourism is one of South Gippsland's emerging sectors, with approximately 1 million visitors to the region annually. Tourism contributes over \$114 million to the local economy and supplies approximately 650 direct jobs. Wilsons Promontory National Park (Parks Victoria) is a key tourist attraction for the region, with over 500,000 visitors per annum. Visitors to the park enjoy the walks, beaches and beautiful scenery. The natural disasters that have occurred within Wilsons Promontory National Park have included bushfires in 2005, 2009 and 2019 and a significant flood events in 2011 and a minor event in 2021.

These events can have a significant impact on the region, including:

- The closure of the Prom, in some instances for extended periods of time.
- Immediate booking cancellations within the Prom and the wider region, especially properties in the direct vicinity or on route to the Prom.
- Loss of income for businesses



- 
- Decline in future bookings
  - Extended periods of park closure lead to a greater impact directly on businesses and flow on effect to other businesses within the region who do not necessarily have a direct benefit from the visitor economy.
  - If the media depicts the region as being closed and impacts on visitor's decisions, it can take some time for a region to recover from an event.

It is important to consider messaging during the response and recovery phases of an emergency and their impact on tourism and visitation.

## Public Events That May Affect Emergency Management

South Gippsland hosts numerous events throughout the year involving one or more outdoor activities. These events typically attract between 50 and 5000 people as participants and spectators. Examples of these events include:

- Music events
- Community events
- Sporting events

Representatives from the MEMPC are part of the South Gippsland Shire Council Major Events Working Group that meets as required to provide input into the safe planning for events that fall in to more than one of the following categories

- The event to attract more than 1000 people
- Event will be held in a remote location
- High risk group i.e. age, youth, disability
- There will be known resource implications on an agency

Relevant information on these events is included in EM COP (Gippsland Calendar).

## Recent trends and fire risk

The following population trends have relevance to fire risk within the Municipality. Broadly they encompass increased consequences of urban and peri-urban development including changing demographics and diversity, as well as the change in working habits and locations.

- The South Gippsland Shire population forecast for 2024 is 31,391, and is forecast to grow to 35,869 by 2036.
- South Gippsland Shire had a total population of 30,577 and 17,153 dwellings in 2021.
- In 2021, South Gippsland Shire had lower proportion of children (under 18) and a higher proportion of persons aged 60 or older than Regional VIC.
- The three largest ancestries in South Gippsland Shire in 2021 were English, Australian and Scottish.
- 23.9% of people in South Gippsland Shire had a Vocational qualification in 2021, higher than Regional VIC. This represents an increase of 533 people since 2016.

- In 2021, 1,962 people (or 6.4% of the population) in South Gippsland Shire reported needing help in their day-to-day lives due to disability. This was a percentage increase from 2016.
- In South Gippsland Shire, the most common long-term health condition was arthritis, while 37.4% of the population reported one or more health conditions, a higher rate than in Regional VIC (37.2%).
- Analysis of car ownership in 2021, indicates 60% of households in South Gippsland Shire had access to two or more motor vehicles, compared to 57% in Regional VIC
- On Census day 2021 in South Gippsland Shire, 61.4% of people travelled to work in a private car, 0.3% took public transport and 4.8% rode a bike or walked. 18.6% worked at home. - WARNING: Method of travel to work relates to Census day, which for the 2021 Census occurred during COVID-19 lockdowns for large parts of Australia. In lockdown, many occupations were required to work from home if possible, and some industries were closed, so people did not go to work
- In South Gippsland Shire there were 101 residential dwellings approved to be built in the financial year 2023-24 FYTD (March).
- SEIFA Index of Disadvantage for South Gippsland Shire in 2021 was 1,003. - A SEIFA score is created using information about people and households in a particular area. This score is standardised against a mean of 1000 with a standard deviation of 100. This means that the average SEIFA score will be 1000 and the middle two-thirds of SEIFA scores will fall between 900 and 1100

Economy - [Industry sector of employment | South Gippsland Shire | Community profile \(id.com.au\)](#)



## Fire in the Municipality

The following table include recent history of Fire in the Municipality

Emergency	Name/Date	Impacts	Date
Bushfire	Wilsons Promontory	270-hectare fire closes park for a number of days including Labour Day long weekend	2019
Bushfire	McDonalds Track	ICC in Leongatha was activated to provide assistance. approximately 100ha of private land and 140ha being eucalyptus plantations. No houses have been damaged.	2018
Bushfire	Hallston	Burnt 562 hectares. Losses included public land (267 Ha), pine and blue gum plantations (151 Ha), private forest (95 Ha) and private pasture (49 Ha).	2013
Bushfire	Delburn Complex Fire	128 properties directly impacted by fire. Significant relief and recovery provision.	2009
Bushfire	Wilsons Promontory Fire	affected businesses throughout the Shire, due to the closure of the park	2009

The following table include recent history (5 years) of significant storms in the Municipality which may be increasing fire risk through increased fire fuels.

Emergency	Name/Date	Impacts	Date
Storm	14 February 2024	Roads closed and over 200 roads impacted. Public and Privates bushland significant impacted with windthrown timbers. Significant number of tree down jobs for both Council and SES. Electricity supply impacted. 70+ houses damaged significantly.	2024
Flood/Storm	9/10 June 2021	Flooding, landslips, debris and fallen trees and powerlines, causing extensive damage to private property, blocking roads and tracks and extended power and telecommunications outages.	2021



## Insights into Major Fire Risks

### Risk Assessment Process

The Community Emergency Risk Assessment (CERA) provides the South Gippsland MEMPC and the Fire Management Working Group with a framework for considering and improving the safety and resilience of the community from hazards and emergencies.

The CERA approach aims to understand the likely impacts of a range of emergency scenarios upon community assets, values and functions. As such, CERA provides an opportunity for multiple community impacts and consequences to be considered enabling collaborative risk treatment plans and emergency preparedness measures to be described.

The Fire Management Working Group undertook a process to understand the relevant fire risks within the municipality and current and available treatment options by developing information and presenting information as part of the Community Emergency Risk Assessment process associated with the development of the Municipal Emergency Management Plan in relation to the risk of

- **Bushfire/Grassfire**
- **Fire – commercial/Industrial/Highrise**

To support Bushfire/Grassfire risk the Victorian Fire Risk Register - Bushfire (VFRR-B) was also completed. The Municipal Emergency Management Planning Committee (MEMPC) used risk assessment processes consistent with ISO31000 which produced the following outcome:

Hazard	Hazard Category	Description	Confidence in Risk Rating	Residual Risk Rating
Fire- Commercial/ Industrial/ High-rise (commercial)	Technical	Significant commercial or industrial fire	High	Medium
Bushfire/ Grassfire	Natural Disasters	Bushfire/ Grassfire	High	High

An overview of the information presented and issues are identified below. Current Agency actions and What community members can do to be better prepared for these emergencies is included in Appendix 3

## Background to Bushfire/Grassfire risk

Hazard	Bushfire/Grassfire
<b>Description</b>	<p>Victoria, including South Gippsland, is among the most bushfire-prone areas in the world. This high risk of bushfire is due to combination of factors including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• areas of highly flammable eucalypt forest, pine plantations, coastal scrub and heathland vegetation and grassland</li> <li>• climatic pattern of mild, moist winters followed by hot dry summers</li> <li>• protracted droughts</li> <li>• increasing population density in bushfire-prone areas, such as in the rural-urban fringe and significant increases in population in coastal townships during the summer.</li> </ul> <p>The potential consequences of a credible worst- case bushfire in South Gippsland will lead to loss of life and injury, damage infrastructure such as electricity transmission lines, water supply assets including mature forests in water catchments, transport links such as roads and bridges and cause permanent environmental damage. Prolonged smoke from bushfire causes significant respiratory and other health concerns.</p>
<b>Rationale</b>	<p>South Gippsland Shire has a significant amount of public land along with significant tracts of private bush that generates a risk to a number of communities.</p> <p>Destructive bushfires can be caused by a combination of natural events such as severe heat wave, drought, strong winds and lightning strikes. It can also result from damaged infrastructure (such as power lines), accidental lighting via campfires, cigarettes or car fires, or from arson.</p> <p>The risk of bushfires is increasing due to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• increased population density on urban fringe</li> <li>• Future climate predictions of increased temperatures and decrease in rainfall</li> </ul> <p>South Gippsland Shire's population is estimated to increase to around 50,000 during the peak summer season due to a large number of holiday homes and caravan parks. A significant number of dwellings in Venus Bay and Sandy Point are holiday homes which causes the area's population to grow considerably on weekends, public and school holidays with holiday home owners and guests coming to stay.</p> <p>South Gippsland Shire has been impacted by significant bushfires that have impacted on public and</p>

	<p>private assets over the years. This included the devastating 2009 bushfires. CFA also responds to numerous smaller fires on an annual basis.</p> <p>There are a number of locations in the Shire where major events are held during the summer and the population of many coastal towns increases significantly during December and January.</p>
<b>Causes</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Deficiencies caused by historic land use planning decisions and previous and historic building regulations, standards and codes</li> <li>• Interface of human settlement into a natural environment that is conducive to carrying fire to extreme intensity. High fuel loads and large areas of urban/rural interface.</li> <li>• Human activity - deliberate arson, unattended campfire, escaped burn off during restrictions/ on TFB day</li> <li>• Lightning strikes</li> <li>• Electrical - faulty or fallen powerlines</li> </ul>
<b>Impacts</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Social - Loss of life/Property, Impact the health of people and cause death, injury and/or serious illness. Requirement for impact assessment across residential and rural areas. Need for material aid, food, financial assistance, psychological support services, need for accommodation, fodder and fencing supports. Impact air quality from smoke, affecting nearby and distant communities, with implications for public health. Impacts on health system. Impact private buildings and contents, resulting in financial losses and impact the wellbeing of the community.</li> <li>• Built - Loss of or impacts on community and/or essential Infrastructure. Impact, roads bridges and other transport infrastructure resulting in financial losses and disruption to supply chain. Impact critical infrastructure, impacting the ability to maintain core services (power, water, telecoms), resulting in community impacts and increased recovery costs and/or financial losses. Impact water quality, causing contamination and increased treatment costs.</li> <li>• Economic - Damage to, or loss of key infrastructure/livelihoods – road, public buildings, utilities – power, water, gas, telecommunications, private property, industry / business, agriculture – crop and livestock. Impact commercial buildings and contents, resulting in financial losses and impact the wellbeing of the community. Impact, roads, bridges and other transport infrastructure resulting in financial losses and disruption to supply chain. impact livestock and crops/cropping/plantations resulting in financial losses. Disrupt business activities, resulting in service disruption and /or financial losses. Inability for community to purchase goods (power outages and supply disruption) leading to short term relief needs.</li> <li>• Environment - Damage to the natural environment which may impact on tourism and the economy as a well as the natural ecosystem. Impact flora, fauna and ecosystems. Significant environmental values including Wilsons Prom and Corner Inlet Ramsar site.</li> </ul>



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Public Administration - Struggle to provide critical service, Loss of public confidence in governance, public alarm and unrest. Cause an increased demand (surge) on emergency services at the local level, impacting their ability to maintain core services. Require recovery works to be undertaken by local government, impacting on their ability to maintain core services.</li><li>• Social Setting - Disruption to community wellbeing and social networks, adverse emotional and psychological impacts, reduced services within community, damages to objects of cultural significance. Short-medium term displacement due to evacuation away from people's homes and workplaces, impacting community wellbeing Impact listed heritage artefacts, places or buildings resulting in a loss of cultural significance. Isolation of remote communities, leading to re-supply efforts of basic needs, food, water, medical and fuel, affecting the ability to function as a community</li></ul>
Relevant agencies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action</li><li>• Forest Fire Management Victoria (FFMVic)</li><li>• Parks Victoria</li><li>• Country Fire Authority (CFA)</li><li>• Victoria Police</li><li>• Council</li><li>• Department of Transport and Planning</li></ul>



## Bushfire - Victorian Fire Risk Register – Bushfire (VFRR-B)

The Victorian Fire Risk Register - Bushfire (VFRR-B) is a process allowing representatives from local government, fire services, public land managers and utilities to map assets at risk from bushfire, then assess the perceived level of risk to the asset. The VFRR is a more detailed risk assessment process than CERA that considers the municipality's risk of bushfire/grassfire more broadly.

Assets may include townships, residential areas, hospitals, critical infrastructure, commercial industry, economically significant landholdings, environmentally sensitive areas and those that are culturally significant.

Agency representatives can use these rating to determine what type of mitigation activities may be used to reduce the risk, such as fire prevention inspections, community education activities and hazard reduction. It will also be used by the Fire Management Planning Working Group to identify opportunities for coordinated activities to take place with a focus on vegetation management and community education.

The Fire Management Planning Working Group of the South Gippsland MEMPC have agreed to review the registered assets once every three years, or more often if deemed appropriate.

Through the working group, new assets can be added and those deemed to no longer require their own rating can be removed. The following table shows townships or areas and the VFRR risk level of extreme or very high.

Areas not shown in the table can be seen on the map and may have high/medium/low risk. Remember not all locations have been assessed, if you live in one of the following environments, you need to plan and prepare before the fire season.

- **Close to or among grass or paddocks** - Grassfires can be extremely dangerous – people can die in grassfires
- **Close to or among dense or open bush** - Risk is most extreme if you live surrounded by or near forest that is difficult to see through. However, all dense or open bush presents a fire risk
- **Near coastal scrub** - Burning scrub, heath or other coastal vegetation can create hot, dangerous bushfires. If you live by, work by or travel to the coast you are at risk. Beaches, foreshores and shallow waters may not be safe or protect you from radiant heat. A fire may be burning between you and the beach.
- **Where suburbs meet the bush or grasslands** - You do not have to live in the bush to be at risk of bushfire. Suburban homes can burn in bushfire too.

For more information on identifying your risk visit [Am I at Risk? | CFA \(Country Fire Authority\)](#)



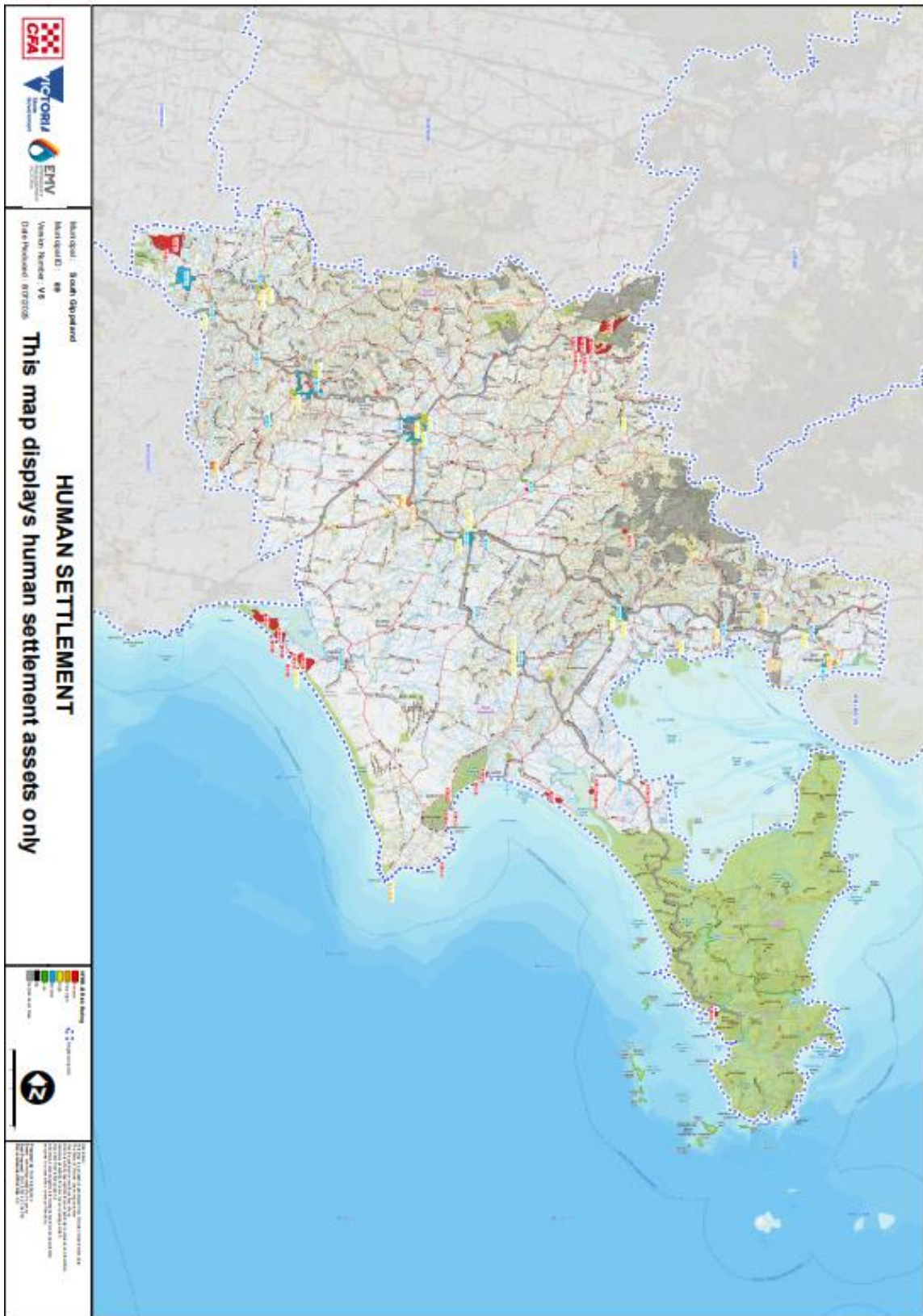
## Human Settlement Assets in VFRR with Extreme and Very High Risk Ratings

VFRR Asset ID	Asset Class	Asset Name	Location	Risk Rating
6953004	Human Settlement	Agnes Falls Picnic Area	Agnes Falls RD	Very High
69044	Human Settlement	Bear Gully Camping Ground	Bear Gully RD Walkerville	Extreme
6953005	Human Settlement	Cape Liptrap Lighthouse	Cape Liptrap RD	Very High
69062	Human Settlement	Darlimurla Estate	Mirboo North Complex	Extreme
69055	Human Settlement	Kongwak	Kongwak	Very High
69083	Human Settlement	Kongwak Primary School	Government RD Kongwak	Very High
69019	Human Settlement	Koonwarra	Koonwarra	Very High
6951303	Human Settlement	Koonwarra Village School	20-26 Koala DVE	Very High
69053	Human Settlement	McDonalds Track Cherry Tree Road	Nyora	Extreme
6954329	Human Settlement	Mirboo North Calvary Strzelecki House – Aged Care	27 Giles Street, Mirboo North	Extreme
6951290	Human Settlement	Mirboo North St Andrew's Child Care Centre	32 Ridgeway ST	Extreme
69023	Human Settlement	Mirboo North	Mirboo North Complex West	Extreme
6951753	Human Settlement	Mirboo North East	Baromi	Extreme
6951291	Human Settlement	Mirboo North Kindergarten	8 Brennan ST	Extreme
69087	Human Settlement	Mirboo North Primary School	Balook ST Mirboo North	Extreme
69069	Human Settlement	Mirboo North Secondary College	Castle ST Mirboo North	Extreme
69033	Human Settlement	PGL Camp Rumbug	90 Dollar Woorarra West RD Foster North	Extreme
69016	Human Settlement	Port Welshpool	Port Welshpool	Very High
69005	Human Settlement	Promontory View Estate	Walkerville Complex	Extreme
6954330	Human Settlement	Red Bluff Foreshore	Red Bluff Rd, Yanakie	Extreme
69032	Human Settlement	REMAR - Addiction treatment center in Nyora	955 McDonalds Track Nyora	Extreme
69007	Human Settlement	Sandy Point	Sandy Point	Extreme



VFRR Asset ID	Asset Class	Asset Name	Location	Risk Rating
69036	Human Settlement	Sandy Point Caravan Park	Beach PDE Sandy Point	Extreme
69038	Human Settlement	Shallow Inlet Camping Ground	Lester RD Yanakie	Extreme
69039	Human Settlement	Shallow Inlet Caravan Park	350 Lester RD Yanakie	Extreme
69008	Human Settlement	Tidal River	Tidal River	Extreme
69045	Human Settlement	Venus Bay Caravan Park	113A Jupiter BLVD Venus Bay	Extreme
69001	Human Settlement	Venus Bay Estate 1	Venus Bay Complex	Extreme
69059	Human Settlement	Venus Bay Estate 1 Beach Access	Venus Bay Estate One	Extreme
69002	Human Settlement	Venus Bay Estate 2	Venus Bay Complex	Extreme
69060	Human Settlement	Venus Bay Estate 2 Beach Access	Venus Bay Estate Two	Extreme
69054	Human Settlement	Venus Bay Estate 3	Venus Bay Complex	Extreme
69004	Human Settlement	Walkerville	Walkerville Complex	Extreme
69043	Human Settlement	Walkerville Caravan Park	3 Loop RD Walkerville North	Extreme
69006	Human Settlement	Waratah Bay	Waratah Bay	Extreme
69035	Human Settlement	Waratah Bay Caravan Park	Waratah Bay	Extreme
69213	Economic	Bass HWY	Leongatha to Shire Boundary	Very High
6953020	Economic	Burra Foods	Station ST	Very High
69203	Economic	Foster Promontory RD	Foster	Very High
69214	Economic	Hardwood Plantations	South Gippsland	Extreme
69223	Economic	Holmes Hill and Foster North Communications Towers	Korumburra	Very High
6951791	Economic	Little Morwell Catchment	North of Mirboo North	Very High
69231	Economic	Meeniyan Promontory RD	South Gippsland	Very High
6953019	Economic	Murray Goulburn Milk Factory	Yarragon RD	Very High
69215	Economic	Softwood Plantations		Extreme
69212	Economic	South Gippsland HWY	South Gippsland	Very High
69202	Economic	Strzelecki HWY	Leongatha to Mirboo North	Very High
69216	Economic	Wilsons Promontory NP including Tidal River	Wilson Promontory	Very High

**Map** – The following map shows where these Human Settlement assets are located across South Gippsland.



## Links to key Fire Management documents

In Victoria agencies conduct fuel management activities like planned burning to reduce the risk of bushfires causing harm to things we care about. Each region of Victoria has developed a fuel management strategy that describes why, where and how often planned burning, other fuel management activities and supporting actions are needed.

Plan Name	Management Plan Owner	What	Link
Gippsland Bushfire Management Strategy 2020	Forest Fire Management Victoria (FFMVic), Country Fire Authority (CFA), Emergency Management Victoria (EMV), and local government in consultation with communities.	Gippsland Strategic bushfire management planning is about bringing together land and fire managers, communities and stakeholders to develop a common understanding of bushfire risk and determine strategies and actions to reduce that risk.	<a href="#">Regional Bushfire Management Strategies</a>  <a href="#">Gippsland</a>
Joint Fuel Management Program	FFMVic and CFA	The Joint Fuel Management Program is a state-wide program that manages fuel on public and private land over the next three years. The program integrates a risk-focused bushfire management approach.	<a href="#">Joint Fuel Management Program</a>
SEMP) Bushfire Sub-Plan	Emergency Management Victoria (EMV) on behalf of the Emergency Management Commissioner (EMC) coordinated the development of this plan in conjunction with the fire services agencies	(SEMP) Bushfire Sub-Plan outlines the current arrangements for the management of bushfires in Victoria. This supports a comprehensive, integrated and coordinated approach and reflects a shared responsibility for bushfire management. In alignment with the SEMP, this plan contextualises the current arrangements, roles and responsibilities for bushfire mitigation, planning, preparedness, response (including relief) and recovery.	<a href="#">SEMP Bushfire Sub-Plan   Emergency Management Victoria (emv.vic.gov.au)</a>



## Hazard Trees near Electric Lines – Identification and Notification Procedures

### What is a hazard tree?

According to the ES Act, a hazard tree is a tree which 'is likely to fall onto, or come into contact with, an electric line'. There are a range of factors which may indicate that a tree is a hazard tree. Some of these factors will be obvious when looking at the tree but many may only be apparent when the tree is assessed by a person with specific expertise and training, such as an Arborist.

The following criteria may be used to assist in identifying a hazard tree:

- The size of the tree suggests that it is likely to come into contact with the electric line, for example because it appears to be encroaching or growing into the line clearance space.
- There is an excessive lean on the tree, or branches' hanging off the tree and the tree is in proximity to an electric (power) line.
- The size or appearance of the tree suggests it could come into contact with the line including under foreseeable local conditions.

If a potentially hazardous tree is identified, the notification procedure outlined below should be followed. Where a responsible person becomes aware of a potentially hazardous tree for which they have responsibility, they must follow their own applicable internal procedure.

### Reporting a hazard tree & recording action

Where any person becomes aware of, or receives a report of, a potentially hazardous tree within the municipality, this should be referred to AusNet Services in the first instance and South Gippsland Shire Council if the potential hazard tree is within the townships of Leongatha or Korumburra. AusNet Services or South Gippsland Shire Council must take all necessary steps to advise the person responsible for the tree that it may be hazardous where they are not the responsible person as soon as practicable.

Agency Name – AusNet Services

Position – Arborist

Telephone Number – 1300 360 795 or 13 17 99

Email - [customersupport@ausnetservices.com.au](mailto:customersupport@ausnetservices.com.au)

Agency Name – South Gippsland Shire Council

Position – Council Arborist


Telephone Number – 5662 9200 (24/7)

Email - [council@southgippsland.vic.gov.au](mailto:council@southgippsland.vic.gov.au)

It is recommended that AusNet Services and South Gippsland Shire Council maintain a register in which all notifications are recorded together with the date of receipt of the notification and the date the notification was reported to the responsible person and actions taken (details of the time and person contacted should be recorded). It is recommended that AusNet Services and South Gippsland Shire Council also maintain a register of notifications received of hazardous trees for which they are the responsible person and actions taken.

### Hazard Trees and the Victorian Arterial Road Bushfire Risk Assessment

DTP is updating the Victorian Arterial Road Bushfire Risk Assessment. This project will be conducted in partnership with



Safer Together agencies to examine bushfire risk along the arterial road network, including hazardous tree identification, to assist in prioritising roadside fuel management delivered for the purpose of bushfire risk reduction.

The project will link with existing risk assessment processes, such as the Victorian Emergency Risk Assessment, locations of Neighbourhood Safer Places, and produce data sets which can be used by fire agencies to enhance predictive modelling ahead of, and during, the high-risk weather season.

## Background to Fire – Industrial, Commercial, Highrise Risk

Hazard	Fire- Commercial/ Industrial/ High-rise (commercial)
<b>Description</b>	That a significant residential or industrial fire occurs causing damage to multiple properties, buildings with casualties/injuries. This event would cause significant disruption to a community and prevent the normal operation of that community.
<b>Rationale</b>	<p>CFA responds to numerous fires in residential, commercial and industrial buildings all year round. House fires occur in all parts of the municipality with the majority of commercial and industrial fires occurring in the main towns and farming properties which may include hay shed fires. In relation to structural fires, house fires are a common occurrence across all areas of the municipality. There are a number of aged care facilities across the municipality.</p> <p>Current identified mitigations include - Building Regulation compliance (new buildings) - ensuring all new buildings comply with current standards for construction and fire suppression/alerting, Building Regulation compliance - ensuring all new buildings comply with current standards for warning systems and ensuring ingress and egress routes are kept clear, audits and inspections of electrical/gas/solar equipment and systems, Community Education campaigns around structure fire safety including maintenance of electrical/solar/gas supplies and fire safety equipment, Staff Training in fire fighting first aid and use of fire equipment, Staff/resident Training on fire alarms systems and evacuation process and regular systems testing &amp; recruiting/retaining and Operational Training of firefighting personal and ensuring appropriate firefighting appliances are available.</p>
<b>Causes</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No adherence to building regulations, standards and codes (superseded building regulations - to retrospective requirements)</li> <li>• Lack of community education, awareness and engagement to prevent structure fires</li> <li>• Electrical safety standards not being followed</li> <li>• Lack of trained staff and equipment to respond to incident</li> <li>• Lack of planning to ensure ongoing critical service provision if impacted by structure fire.</li> </ul>
<b>Impacts</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Social - Loss of life/Property, need for material aid, food, financial assistance, personal support services, need for accommodation. Impacts on health system.</li> <li>• Built - Loss of or impacts on community or essential Infrastructure</li> <li>• Economic - Damage to, or loss of key infrastructure/livelihoods – road, public buildings, utilities – power, water, gas, telecommunications, private property, industry / business, agriculture – crop</li> </ul>





	<p>and livestock</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Environment - Damage to the natural environment which may impact tourism and the economy as well as the natural ecosystem</li><li>• Public Administration - Struggle to provide critical service, Loss of public confidence in governance, public alarm and unrest.</li><li>• Social Setting - Disruption to community wellbeing and social networks, adverse emotional and psychological impacts, reduced services within community, damages to objects of cultural significance.</li></ul>
<b>Relevant agencies</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Country Fire Authority (CFA)</li><li>• Victoria Police</li><li>• Council</li><li>• Water Corporations</li></ul>





# Part 2

## Municipal Fire Management Planning



## Fire Management Planning Working Group

The South Gippsland MEMPC supported the establishment of the Fire Management Planning Working Group with the following purpose, membership, and role:


**Purpose** - To review the planned and coordinated implementation of measures designed to minimise the occurrence, and mitigate the effect of fire in South Gippsland and ensure that the plans of individual agencies are linked and complement each other.

### Membership

- Country Fire Authority [CFA] – Chairperson
  - CFA Vegetation Management Coordinator
  - CFA Community Engagement Coordinator
- Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action [DEECA]
- Parks Victoria
- South Gippsland Shire Council
- Department of Transport and Planning
- Other relevant specialist staff from these agencies as required and other organisations as required (HVP Plantations, Utilities)

### Role of the working group

- Review the South Gippsland Municipal Fire Management Plan and Annual Works Plan
- Ensure the integration of existing municipal and agency plans and share knowledge or relevant planning processes and new studies completed.
- Provide opportunity for input into agency planning processes to support opportunities for collaboration including the Joint Fuel Management Program
- Collaborate with the community and other stakeholders to Identify critical infrastructure and at-risk communities
- Own the CERA sheets relating to Bushfire/ Grassfire & Fire – Commercial/Industrial/High Rise
- Undertake the annual review of the Victorian Fire Risk Register – Bushfire (VFRR -B)
- Provide advice to the MEMPC on fire related issues including Bushfire Neighbourhood Safer Places – Places of Last Resort and shelter options.

- 
- Report progress on relevant activities and actions to the Municipal Emergency Management Planning Committee (MEMPC)

## Community and Fire Planning

There is a limit to the capacity of agencies and our planning to effectively mitigate all risk. It is important that everyone who lives, works and visits the area considers the risks and works to build resilience at the individual, family, business, neighbourhood and community level, understanding that managing the risk of fire is a shared responsibility.

More resilient communities:

- Are mindful of the risks that may impact them and their vulnerabilities
- Use their abilities, experience and resources to prepare for, and manage the consequences of emergencies; and
- Work together to support each other and emergency service organisations before, during and after emergencies

The Fire Management Working Group and its member agencies have a role to play in supporting communities to build knowledge, capability, capacity and ultimately resilience. The more the Committee can guide community to support each other in mitigating risks, preparing for, responding to and recovering from fires the greater opportunity for a more resilient community.

Victoria's emergency management planning arrangements allow communities to undertake their own localised planning and connect their plans into Victoria's emergency management planning framework. Emergency Management Planning Information documents have been created by the following communities to support the creation of individual emergency plans. These documents contain information on community services, networks, communications channels and a disaster profile.

- [Foster Emergency Planning Information.](#)
- [Mirboo North and Surrounds Emergency Planning Information.](#)
- [Venus Bay Emergency Planning Information](#)
- [Korumburra Community Resilience and Emergency Plan](#)

## Plan Assurance and Approval

Under the planning arrangements, the Municipal Emergency Management Planning Committee is responsible for assuring any of its sub-plans, of which this Plan is one.

This Plan has been prepared in accordance with the EM Act 2013 and State Fire Management Planning Guidance to Regional and Municipal Fire Management Planning Committees.

A Statement of Assurance (Appendix 7) has been prepared and submitted to the Gippsland Emergency Management Planning Committee (REMPC) for plan approval. This Plan comes into effect when it is published and remains in effect until superseded by an approved and published update.

To ensure the Fire Management Plan provides for a current integrated, coordinated and comprehensive approach to effective fire management planning, it is to be reviewed at least every three years.



## Exercise, monitoring, evaluation, and review process

The Working Group will lead Municipal Emergency Management Planning Committee discussion exercises in relation to the risks of Fire- Commercial/ Industrial/ High-rise (commercial) and Bushfire and Grassfire. The aim of the exercises will be to improve the MEMPC's knowledge of these risks and response (including relief) and recovery activities that may be required in significant emergency events. Details of these exercises will be included in the MEMP and where appropriate will inform updates to this Plan.

This Plan will be reviewed every three years to ensure it is current, integrated, coordinated and comprehensive and it will be discussed at every meeting of the Working Group.

The Action Plan will be periodically updated to reflect the current status of identified risks as well as to reflect emerging risks and any strategies required to address them.

As well as having a standing agenda item at municipal fire management planning meetings, the Committee will periodically report to the Municipal Emergency Management Planning Committee on the Actions, and the Tasks identified against them.

### Suggested information source for more:

Lessons management framework (EM- LEARN)	Emergency Management Victoria	<a href="https://www.emv.vic.gov.au/how-we-help/reviews-and-lessons-management/lessons-management-framework-em-learn">https://www.emv.vic.gov.au/how-we-help/reviews-and-lessons-management/lessons-management-framework-em-learn</a>
--	-------------------------------	---



## Appendices

### Appendix 1 – Amendment History

Version	Author	Update Details	Approval Date

### Appendix 2 – Action Plan 2025-26

Annually review the South Gippsland Municipal Fire Management Plan


- Include in meeting agendas specific and appropriate time to review aspects of the South Gippsland Municipal Fire Management Plan

Identify critical infrastructure and at-risk communities

- Seek input from MEMPC agencies to ensure new critical infrastructure is identified and recorded
- Collaborate with the community and other stakeholders to Identify critical infrastructure and at-risk communities
- Annual review of aspects of the Victorian Fire Risk Register by the South Gippsland MEMP Fire Management Working Group included in working group Agenda
- Provide input into the DTP Roadside Bushfire Risk Assessment Project as required and incorporate relevant risk maps and priority road classifications into future iterations of the South Gippsland Fire Management Plan

Review mitigation treatments for bushfires, structure fires, other fires to reduce their impacts on the community

- Planned Burning discussed - includes planning for and sharing of resources and information between agencies and advice to the community.
- Provide opportunity for input into agency planning processes to support opportunities for collaboration including the Joint Fuel Management Program

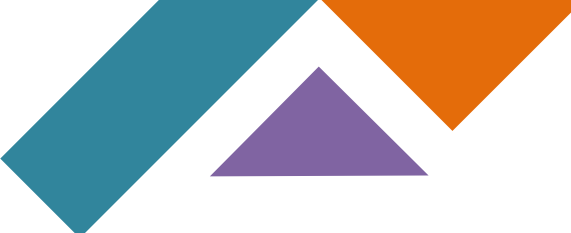
- 
- Deliver fuel management that addresses the challenges associated with bushfire/grassfire risk considering identified impacts to the community
  - Pre-Incident Planning for identified high risk structures considered and where appropriate discussed with other agencies considering interoperability and integration of emergency management systems
  - As required exercise Pre-Incident Planning for a high-risk structure with MEMPC members and report outcomes at MEMPC meeting.
  - Pre-Incident Planning for identified high risk VFRR Assets considered and where appropriate discussed with other agencies considering interoperability and integration of emergency management systems
  - Understand activities in place to mitigate fire ignition risks from industry and critical infrastructure

Reduce effect and consequences fire related emergencies have on communities through increasing community resilience through improving overall awareness and preparedness

- Annual agenda item relating to discussion on integrated fire management planning between agencies undertaken across prevention, preparedness, response (inc relief) and recovery considering VFRR assets or identified high risk structures.
- Council to undertake the annual review of the Bushfire Neighbourhood Safer Place in South Gippsland and South Gippsland MEMP Fire Management Working Group to provide advice to the MEMPC on fire related issues including Bushfire Neighbourhood Safer Places – Places of Last Resort and shelter options
- Share information on local bushfire studies completed that may support agency planning
- Work together to complete activities that increasing community resilience and improve awareness and preparedness in relation to bushfire/grassfire
- Support Community Emergency Management Planning processes where required

### Appendix 3 – Bushfire/Grassfire - What is being done (agencies) and What community members can do

Hazard	Bushfire/Grassfire
<b>What is being done (agencies)</b>	<p>Managing bushfire risk is an ongoing and shared responsibility and everyone has a role. Victoria is moving to a more integrated approach across public and private land, with fuel management just one of a range of different management actions taken to protect lives, homes, jobs and the environment.</p> <p>A range of bushfire mitigation strategies and treatments exist that are applied across the State and Municipality, these include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• provisions in the Victorian Planning Scheme &amp; the Building Code of Australia (BCA) &amp; Bushfire Attack Level assessments for new buildings proposals <a href="#">Planning for bushfire protection</a></li> <li>• Bushfire Management Overlays/Bushfire Prone Areas <a href="#">Planning and Bushfire Management Overlay   CFA (Country Fire Authority)</a></li> <li>• compliance and enforcement of legislation</li> <li>• declared Fire Danger Period and restrictions <a href="#">Fire Danger Period Restrictions   CFA (Country Fire Authority)</a></li> <li>• seasonal prohibited period (for Fire Protected Areas) <a href="#">Fire restrictions and regulations (ffm.vic.gov.au)</a></li> <li>• Total Fire Ban day declarations <a href="#">About Total Fire Bans   CFA (Country Fire Authority)</a></li> <li>• community information and warnings <a href="#">Warnings &amp; Restrictions   CFA (Country Fire Authority)</a></li> <li>• Incidents and Warnings <a href="#">Incidents and Warnings - VicEmergency</a></li> <li>• powerline hazard tree identification, management and reporting – see <a href="#">Hazard Trees near Electric Lines – Identification and Notification Procedures</a></li> <li>• fire hazard inspection program and issue of notices</li> <li>• public awareness programs – multimedia communications</li> <li>• Maintaining road and transport system functionality before, during and after emergencies including roadside vegetation management by DTP and municipal councils (a standard suite of treatments, broadly applied which includes: slashing, spraying and mechanical clearing)</li> <li>• emergency management signage</li> <li>• Event Management Plans</li> <li>• routine asset maintenance - slashing, spraying and mechanical clearing</li> <li>• coordinated planning between agencies across prevention, preparedness, response (including relief) and recovery</li> </ul> <p><b>Roadside Management</b></p> <p>Work was completed in 2014 at a Gippsland Regional level to establish a consistent, values-based</p>



	<p>classification of priority roads across Gippsland, supported by mapping, to help ensure that nationally, state, regionally and municipally significant roads are recognised in fire management planning. Through the VFRR the plan identifies the Bass Highway, South Gippsland Highway and Strzelecki Highway as Very High bushfire risk assets in the VFRR.</p> <p>In parallel, DTP has completed a statewide Roadside Bushfire and Grassfire Risk Assessment (2013) and is now leading an updated Roadside Bushfire Risk Assessment Project (2025). This project, delivered with multi-agency input and oversight, will provide refreshed spatial data and risk maps to support fuel management prioritisation, predictive fire modelling, and planning for evacuation and access routes. Updated mapping will be included in future iterations of this document.</p> <p>Typical roadside fuel management treatments in South Gippsland include mowing, slashing and spraying. Municipal councils and road managers may also work with fire agencies through an integrated planning process to identify, plan and deliver a planned program of works that aims to further mitigate the risks associated with fire and roadside fuels.</p> <p><b>Neighbourhood Safer Places/Places of Last Resort (NSPs/PLR)</b></p> <p>Neighbourhood Safer Places/Places of Last Resort (NSPs/PLR) are identified buildings or spaces within the community that may afford some protection from radiant heat, the biggest killer during bushfire. They are a place of last resort in emergencies only; to be used when individual Bushfire Survival Plans fail.</p> <p>NSPs/PLR do not offer guaranteed ultimate safety. Relocating to an NSP/PLR also carries a level of risk including death. NSPs/PLR have been assessed by CFA against NSP/PLR report assessment guidelines. It then becomes the responsibility of Council to endorse and maintain the NSP/PLR.</p> <p>NSPs/PLR are reviewed annually to ensure they still meet the municipal safer places criteria.</p> <p>There is currently one authorised Neighbourhood Safer Places - Places of Last Resort (NSF/PLR) within the Shire of South Gippsland.</p> <p><b>Sandy Point Community Centre: Corner Ocean View Parade and Church Parade Sandy Point 3959</b></p> <p>The Fire Management Planning Working Group will provide ongoing annual advice to Council in relation to the ongoing designation of this NSP.</p> <p><b><u>There are no Community Fire Refuges in South Gippsland.</u></b></p>
<b>What community members can do</b>	<p>Private landowners and occupiers are responsible for ensuring their activities, use of fire and the level of vegetation on their land does not present an unacceptable danger to life or property from the threat of fire.</p> <p>Landowners and occupiers are encouraged to remove fire hazards and manage fuels around their property before the Fire Danger Period. This routinely includes cutting long grass, removing fallen timber and rubbish, and clearing leaves and branches from gutters. Information on the clearing of native vegetation around houses can be found <a href="#">Clearing Trees and Vegetation   CFA (Country Fire Authority)</a>.</p> <p>To assist property owners in the management of vegetation on their land and mitigate their bushfire risk, specific planning permit exemptions exist in Victorian planning schemes to allow the clearance of vegetation around certain dwellings to create or maintain defensible space that assists bushfire</p>





protection.

The level of hazard reduction on private land can influence fire behaviour, survivability and can either complement or detract from the effectiveness of hazard reduction on adjoining land. Where unacceptable risks are identified, Municipal Fire Prevention Officers (MFPOs) enforce fine fuel hazard management on private land.

Farmers, farm managers and other primary produces have special need to consider fire safety, actively plan for and mitigate fire risk, manage vegetation and on occasion undertake farming activities that present a fire risk. On the Land - Agriculture Fire Management Guidelines have been developed for farmers and other rural landholders.

Notify Triple Zero Victoria of your planned burn (see above for South Gippsland Shire Council Local Laws restricts open air burning in some areas):

- **Online (Preferred)** - Register online through the [Fire Permits Victoria](#) website. You can do so if your burn-off commences more than two hours from now.
- **By Phone** - You may register your burn-off by calling [Triple Zero Victoria](#) on [1800 668 511](#), 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. National Relay Service Users can ring [1300 555 727](#) and ask for Information to be relayed to Triple Zero Victoria.

During the Fire Danger Period in Victoria, businesses or individuals needing to use fire in the open air for work or activities must apply for a permit. However, permits are not guaranteed, they will be assessed individually on their justification and needs and applications may be declined. Even if granted, permits can be suspended or cancelled by the CFA, the issuing officer, or during a Total Fire Ban declaration for details see [Fire Permits Victoria](#)

Residents should:

- Have a well thought out bushfire survival plan if you live or holiday in high-risk bushfire areas of Victoria.
- Know what to do if a fire starts.
- Monitor conditions outside. Make sure you're connected to all emergency information sources
- Follow all directions from emergency services
- Act early, even if you haven't received a warning. Plan to leave high risk bushfire areas early on high fire danger days.
- In bushfires roads may be closed or access may be restricted. For information during an emergency see [emergency.vic.gov.au](#). Find out which roads are reported closed in 'real time' at [traffic.transport.vic.gov.au](#) or call 11 70 if you do not have internet access.
- Prepare through the Bushfire Prepare Program or CFA's Community Fireguard program, available for residents in high-risk bush or grass fire areas. These are designed to help you:
  - Plan for a range of scenarios
  - Make informed decisions when it counts
  - Maintain a fire smart house and garden
  - Work together with your community to reduce everyone's bushfire risk
  - Further information on how to prepare for bushfires [www.cfa.vic.gov.au](#)

Appendix 4 - Fire- Commercial/ Industrial/ High-rise (commercial) - What is being done (agencies) and What community members can do

Hazard	Fire- Commercial/ Industrial/ High-rise (commercial)
<b>What is being done (agencies)</b>	<p>Structure fire risk in the South Gippsland municipality consists of a mix of residential, commercial and industrial premises with the large towns of Leongatha and Korumburra. Smaller towns such as Mirboo North and Foster contain mainly residential and commercial properties.</p> <p>A considerable number of residential properties exist in remote locations and small hamlets scattered throughout the municipality.</p> <p>A range of strategies and treatments exist which are applied consistently across the state and municipality to reduce the occurrence and impact of structure fires, these include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• provisions in the Victorian Building Act - <a href="#">Essential safety measures   Victorian Building Authority</a></li> <li>• provisions the Victorian Planning Scheme</li> <li>• compliance and enforcement of legislation</li> <li>• industry guidelines</li> <li>• Standards (i.e. electrical safety) <a href="#">Electricity safety general regulations   Energy Safe Victoria</a></li> <li>• engineered controls</li> <li>• fire service response planning (pre-incident plans) and training</li> <li>• staff training</li> <li>• event permits and event management plans</li> <li>• targeted education programs</li> <li>• public awareness programs</li> <li>• multimedia communications</li> <li>• Business Continuity Planning</li> </ul> <p>Certain critical infrastructure facilities require additional planning and mitigations works. Close working relationships with these facilities ensures that internal mitigation strategies are supported and understood by fire agencies.</p> <p>Other incident types including chemical fires, vehicle accidents, hazardous material spills are managed through specific fire agency policies and guidelines.</p> <p>Current localized actions – See action plan Appendix 2</p>
<b>What community members can</b>	<p>The CFA's Plan &amp; Prepare webpage has a specific "Fires in the Home" section detailing steps community members can take to reduce their own risks. Visit <a href="http://www.cfa.vic.gov.au/plan-prepare/fires-in-the-home">www.cfa.vic.gov.au/plan-prepare/fires-in-the-home</a></p>



do	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Adhere to provisions in the Victorian Building Act</li><li>• Adhere to provisions the Victorian Planning Scheme</li><li>• Adhere to industry guidelines</li><li>• Ensure that relevant standards are met on your property (i.e. electrical safety)</li><li>• Check and test engineered controls</li><li>• Ensure evacuation procedures of buildings are understood and tested</li></ul>
----	---

**Appendix 5 - Acronyms**

This section contains acronyms that are used throughout this plan.

<b>CERA</b>	Community Emergency Risk Assessment
<b>CFA</b>	Country Fire Authority
<b>DEECA</b>	Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action
<b>DTP</b>	Department of Transport and Planning
<b>EMV</b>	Emergency Management Victoria
<b>FFMVic</b>	Forest Fire Management Victoria
<b>LGA</b>	Local Government Area
<b>VBA</b>	Victorian Building Authority

## Appendix 6 - Support Material

Support material	Author	Location/link
Emergency Management Act 2013	Issued by the Victorian Government	<a href="http://classic.austlii.edu.au/au/legis/vic/consol_act/ema2013190/">http://classic.austlii.edu.au/au/legis/vic/consol_act/ema2013190/</a>
Guidelines for Preparing State, Regional and Municipal Emergency Management Plans	Issued by the Minister for Police and Emergency Services	<a href="https://www.emv.vic.gov.au/how-we-help/emergency-management-planning/planning-guidelines">https://www.emv.vic.gov.au/how-we-help/emergency-management-planning/planning-guidelines</a>
MEMPC and sub-plan assurance template	Emergency Management Victoria	<a href="https://files.emv.vic.gov.au/2021-05/Statement%20of%20Assurance%20advisory%20material%20MEMP%20or%20MEMP%20sub%20plan_0.pdf">https://files.emv.vic.gov.au/2021-05/Statement%20of%20Assurance%20advisory%20material%20MEMP%20or%20MEMP%20sub%20plan_0.pdf</a>
Assurance Framework for Emergency Management	Emergency Management Victoria	<a href="#">Assurance Framework for Emergency Management</a>
Community Emergency Risk Assessment (CERA)	State Emergency Service Victoria	<a href="#">Community Emergency Risk Assessment (CERA)</a>
Strategic Bushfire Management	DELWP (Safer Together)	<a href="https://www.safertogether.vic.gov.au/strategic-bushfire-management-planning">https://www.safertogether.vic.gov.au/strategic-bushfire-management-planning</a>
Regional Emergency Management Plans and sub-plans	Emergency Management Victoria	<a href="https://www.emv.vic.gov.au/responsibilities/emergency-management-planning/remps">https://www.emv.vic.gov.au/responsibilities/emergency-management-planning/remps</a>
State Emergency Management Plan	EMV	<a href="https://www.emv.vic.gov.au/responsibilities/semp">https://www.emv.vic.gov.au/responsibilities/semp</a>
Past bushfires - chronology	DELWP (FFMVic)	<a href="https://www.ffmpeg.vic.gov.au/history-and-incidents/past-bushfires">https://www.ffmpeg.vic.gov.au/history-and-incidents/past-bushfires</a>
Major Incidents Report	Australian Institute of Disaster Resilience	<a href="https://knowledge.aidr.org.au/resources/major-incidents-report/">https://knowledge.aidr.org.au/resources/major-incidents-report/</a>



## Appendix 7 – Statement of Assurance

I certify that the attached **Choose plan or sub-plan** complies with the requirements of the *Emergency Management Act 2013*, including having regard to any relevant guidelines issued under section 77 of that Act, to the extent outlined in the attached checklist.

<p><i>(For MEMP and MEMP sub-plans)</i></p> <p><b>On behalf of the Municipal Emergency Management Planning Committee:</b></p> <p>Insert signature here</p>     <p>Name of Chair</p> <p>Chair, Municipal Emergency Management Planning Committee</p> <p>Click or tap to enter a date.</p>	<p><i>(For sub-plans only, if prepared by an agency on behalf of the MEMPC)</i></p> <p><b>Nominated representative of preparer:</b></p> <p>Insert signature here</p>     <p>Name of nominated representative of preparer</p>  <p>Title and agency</p> <p>Click or tap to enter a date.</p>
<p><b>The Choose an item. Regional Emergency Management Planning Committee approves this plan.</b></p> <p>Click or tap to enter a date.</p>     <p>Insert signature here</p>     <p>Name of Chair</p> <p>Chair, Regional Emergency Management Planning Committee</p> <p>Click or tap to enter a date.</p>	