

Foster Emergency Planning Information



2023

Local Township Area Information for Emergency Planning for Communities

Background

This Plan was developed as an outcome of the 2023 Foster RediCommunities sessions which identified opportunities for emergency services agencies, essential infrastructure owners and South Gippsland Shire Council to share information on planning completed in relation to emergency incidents.

The document also contains community information taken from a variety of sources and tested with members of the Foster community. The Plan will be used to help integrate planning for emergency events and to support resilience-building activities in Foster. The Plan will be recognised as a Community Emergency Management Plan in the Municipal Emergency Management Plan (MEMP) and will be reviewed as part of the MEMP three-yearly review cycle.

Feedback on the document can be provided to em@southgippsland.vic.gov.au

Local Area Information

Name of Community:	Local Government Area:	South Gippsland Shire Ward:
Foster and District	South Gippsland Shire Council	Coastal Promontory

Foster is located in the South Gippsland Shire Coastal Promontory Ward.

- 174 kilometres south east of Melbourne.
- 39 kilometres south east of Leongatha.
- 14 kilometres west of Toora.

Foster Community Profile

How many people live here? Where can people stay here?	Identify any peak periods for tourists and/or visitors
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Prom Country Lodge.• Prom Central Caravan Park.• Wilson Promontory Motel.• Various B&Bs and self-contained accommodation venues.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Summer (school holidays – December to January).• Labor Day long weekend (March).• Easter School Holidays (April).• Prom Country Farmers Markets / Foster Craft Market (November to March).• Foster Agricultural Show (February).

Tourism

Foster has one hotel and several dining options. Because of the scenic beauty of the surrounding area and its proximity to Wilson's Promontory and mountain areas inland, Foster is a popular destination for international visitors as well as Melbourne residents. In summer, the town's temporary population can increase by as much as two and a half fold due to tourism, equating to a population of 5,000 people.

Employment

The top industries of employment include:

- Health Care.
- Dairy and Beef farming.
- Government agencies (Parks Victoria, DEECA, South Gippsland Water, South Gippsland Shire Council).
- Supermarket and grocery stores.
- Education services (kindergarten to Year 12).
- Childrens care.
- Aged care residential services.

Roads and Transport

Foster has one primary access road and two secondary access roads.

Primary Access / Egress Roads

- South Gippsland Highway.

Secondary Access / Egress Roads

- Fish Creek - Foster Road.
- Foster - Promontory Road.

Transport Services

- V/Line bus services – Yarram to Melbourne.
- Butterfly Passenger Service.
- South Gippsland Taxis.
- Royal Flying Doctors Service (RFDS) community transport.
- School buses.

What services exist in this community to support local residents and visitors?

e.g. medical centre, local hospital, police station, primary school, community house etc.

Supermarkets and Food

- Foodworks.
- Ahearns Greengrocers.
- Various cafés, restaurants and pub.
- IGA.
- Butchers.
- Fishmonger.
- Bakeries.

Pharmacy

- Foster Pharmacy.

Banks

- Bendigo Community Bank.
- Commonwealth.
- Australia Post banking services available.

Medical

- Foster Medical Centre.
- South Gippsland Hospital – Acute Care and community services (including Allied Health and District Nursing services).
- Maternal and Child Health Centre – located at the Prom Coast Centre for Children.
- Foster Youth Clinic.

Fuel Supplies

- BP Service Station.
- Murray Goulburn.
- Endeavour Petroleum.

Emergency Services

- Foster Police Station.
- Foster Fire Station (CFA).
- Ambulance Victoria.
- Foster SES.
- Forest Fire Management Victoria (FFMV) response staff.

Schools / Education

- Foster Primary School.
- Foster Kindergarten.
- Foster Secondary College.
- Prom Coast Centre for Children.

Accommodation

- Prom Country Lodge.
- Prom Central Caravan Park.
- Wilson Promontory Motel.
- Various B&Bs and self-contained accommodation venues.

Other Services and Facilities

- Post Office.
- Newsagency.
- Various sporting clubs and recreation venues.
- Real Estate agencies.
- Foster Cemetery Trust.
- Library (Myli).
- Art galleries.
- Homewares and Hardware store.
- The Mirror local newspaper.
- Parks Victoria.
- Manna Gum Community House.
- South Gippsland Water.
- Veterinary services.
- Wineries.
- Legal services.
- Visitor Information Centre.

Describe the economic / social / educational / sporting / community networks that connect this community.

This is a representative list – check local websites/social media for more information.

- FAMDA (Foster Arts, Music and Drama Association).
- Foster and District Historical Museum.
- Foster and District Agricultural and Pastoral Society.
- Foster Anglican Church.
- Foster Apostolic Church.
- Foster Basketball Stadium.
- Foster Bowling Club.
- Foster Chamber of Commerce Inc.
- Foster Corner Inlet Mens Shed.
- Foster Country Women's Association (CWA).
- Foster Cricket Club.
- Foster Football Club.
- Foster Golf Club.
- Foster Library (Myli).
- Foster Netball Club.
- Foster Outdoor Swimming Pool.
- Foster and District Probus Club Inc.
- Foster Racecourse and Recreation Reserve.
- Foster Recreation Reserve and Showgrounds.
- Foster RSL sub-branch.
- Foster Senior Citizens Club.
- Foster Swimming Pool.
- Foster Tennis Club.
- Foster Uniting Church.
- Foster War Memorial Arts Centre.
- Great Southern Rail Trail.
- Manna Gum Community House.
- Mt Nicholl Lookout.
- New Zealand Hill Nature Conservation Reserve.
- Pearl Park.
- Prom Coast Community Church.
- Prom Coast Soccer Club.
- Prom Coast Visitor Information Centre.
- Rotary Club of Foster.
- South Gippsland Conservation Society (Foster branch).
- South Gippsland Landcare Network (SGLN).
- South Gippsland Shire Council depot.
- St Joseph's Catholic Church.
- St Vincent de Paul Society.
- Stockyard Gallery.
- South Gippsland Op Shop.
- Whipstick Gully Natural Features Reserve.

What communication channels and mediums are commonly used by the community?

e.g. local publications, community or local radio, newsletters, community Facebook page.

- Foster Mirror weekly newspaper.
- Foster Community Noticeboard (Facebook).
- Manna Gum Community House (Facebook).
- Community Noticeboards – outside Supermarket (no keys), two southern side of main street.
- Community Noticeboard on the website.
- Library (Myli).
- Manna Gum Community House.
- Manna Gum manage the Community Noticeboards for the Hospital, located in various locations across Corner Inlet – updated quarterly.
- Visitor Information Centre.
- Sporting groups or interest group social media pages i.e. football, cricket, schools.

Further information included in Foster Communities and Engagement Plan (see Attachment A).

Other Information

The [Foster Mobility Map](#) shows safe and accessible pedestrian routes and the facilities available in Foster.

Describe the community's disaster risk profile (including any relevant disaster history)

Flood History

February 2016

27 millimetres of rain fell in a matter of minutes causing flooding of many businesses.

July 2016

Stockyard Creek rises just north of Foster and runs south through the township and flooded earlier in July 2016 after the area received 79 millimetres of rain over a 24-hour period. Major roads affected were houses backing onto Stockyard Creek at Boundary Road and then reaching Boyd Court.

In 2012

Foster was subject to sudden onset flooding due to an upstream dam break, causing evacuations and over-floor flooding in the town.

Road closures can occur at Black Swamp Road due to flooding.

July 2011

57 millimetres was recorded at Foster, with the Foster Unit SES deploying sandbags to many homes to prevent flood water entering.

Fire History

1941 - 1942

Fires in South Gippsland killed one person at Foster and another at Hedley, destroyed several houses including 19 in Yarram, where fires burnt on a 60 mile front.

1930 - 1931

Fires at Wonthaggi, Koo Wee Rup, Foster, Haunted Hills at Yallourn, and Trafalgar.

1925 - 1926

Forest fires burned across large areas of Gippsland throughout February and into early March. Many lives were lost in addition to widespread damage to farms, homes and forests. In January, fires occurred at Leongatha, Wonthaggi and Foster. By the 10th of March, bushfires were within quarter of a mile of Wonthaggi Post Office and there was a large fire at Foster North.

1909 - 1910

Fires at Toora in February.

Severe Weather History

29 October 2021

Severe flooding and winds heavily impacted the Shire on 29 October 2021. Significant power outages occurred throughout the Shire. Properties were isolated, with some having no power for three plus days.

June 2021

A cold front crossing south eastern Victoria with damaging winds and heavy localised rainfall was forecast for Wednesday 9 June 2021. Severe flooding and winds heavily impacted the Shire over the 9th and 10th of June 2021. Significant power outages occurred throughout the Shire. Properties were isolated, with some having no power for three plus days.

Over 641 roads (essential public assets) were impacted by trees down, flooding and landslips impacted the Shire.

March 2018

South Gippsland experienced significant damage as a result of a wind event that occurred on Sunday 18 March 2018.

2015 - 2016

Drought – water restrictions in place.

2007 - 2010

Drought – water restrictions in place.

CFA Local Information – Local Bushfire Risk Information

[Local Information | CFA \(Country Fire Authority\)](#)

Select the 'Change Location' toolbar and set your location.

Municipal Emergency Management Planning Information – Municipal Risk Information

[South Gippsland Shire Council – Emergency Management Planning](#)

Foster Communications and Engagement Plan

The following table provides links to local community groups that can provide information before and after an emergency event. During the emergency event, it is advisable to source information from credible sources.

Using credible sources during a disaster is of utmost importance because the accuracy and reliability of information can significantly impact decision-making, public safety, and the effectiveness of response efforts.

Accurate Information Saves Lives: During a disaster, timely and accurate information can be a matter of life and death. Credible sources provide verified data on the magnitude, location and potential impacts of the disaster, allowing authorities to make informed decisions and issue appropriate warnings and instructions to the public.

Prevents Panic and Misinformation: Reliable sources help prevent the spread of rumors and misinformation, which can lead to panic and chaos. Clear and consistent information from credible sources helps maintain calm and ensures that people receive accurate guidance on what actions to take during the emergency.

VicEmergency App and Hotline

The **VicEmergency app** (available from the App Store or Google Play Store) aligns with the [VicEmergency website](#) to provide a centralised location for Victorians to access timely emergency information and warnings.

The **VicEmergency Hotline** (1800 226 226) also provides information during and after major incidents in Victoria. It offers information to help householders, landowners and small businesses plan for and recover from emergencies.

In a situation where you can see or smell smoke, the VicEmergency Hotline can also advise whether or not a planned burn is in progress.

Emergency Broadcasters

During emergencies, emergency broadcasters will broadcast information which will help you make decisions based on the advice of emergency services. If necessary, emergency broadcasters will interrupt normal programming on the radio or television station.

Radio – ABC 828AM, ABC 774 AM, ABC 100.7FM, 3GV GOLD 1242AM, Triple M 94.3FM, 3TR 99.5FM, 3GCR Gippsland Community Radio 104.7FM.

Television – SkyNews.

ABC Gippsland is also available to be listened to [online](#) or on the [ABC Listen app](#) if you have access to mobile data or WiFi.

It is important to understand that this is a guide only, as radio reception varies and may also depend on local weather and geographical conditions. In addition, you should always use more than one source of information to make sure you have the most accurate and up-to-date information possible.

Channels	Municipality	Foster / Foster North
Radio and Television	ABC – 828FM / 100.7FM ABC Radio Gippsland Live South Coast FM – 88.1 / 89.1 / 89.5	
Social Media	South Gippsland Shire Council Facebook page. CFA Facebook page. CFA District 9 Facebook page. CFA social media / Facebook – Brigades. Leongatha SES Facebook page. Foster SES Facebook page. SES East Region Facebook page. Bureau of Meteorology Facebook page.	Foster Facebook Community page. Foster CFA Facebook page. Manna Gum Community House Facebook page. Foster Mirror Facebook page. Foster SES Facebook page.
Websites	South Gippsland Shire Council. Vic SES. CFA. Australian Red Cross. VicEmergency. ABC Emergency. Bureau of Meteorology (BoM).	Foster Community Online Noticeboard. Foster Medical Centre. South Gippsland Hospital. Manna Gum Community House.
Newspapers	South Gippsland Sentinel Times. Foster Mirror.	Foster Mirror (weekly newspaper). Manna Gum eNewsletter.
Newsletters and Bulletins	South Gippsland Shire Council – In the Know.	
Local Noticeboards	N/A.	Manna Gum manage the Community Noticeboards for the Hospital, located in various locations across Corner Inlet – updated quarterly.
Public Meetings	Leongatha Council Offices.	Halls South Gippsland Shire Council.
Community Plans		
Other Resources	Community 55+ Resources.	

Information on agency-led and community-led emergency management engagement activities can be found in the [Municipal Emergency Management Engagement and Resilience Plan](#).

Acknowledgement – South Gippsland Shire Council was generously funded by the State of Victoria through Emergency Recovery Victoria's Community-led Recovery Support grant program in response to the June 2021 Storm Event which impacted Victorian communities in South Gippsland. The funds were used to run the Red Cross RediCommunities workshops in the Foster district to improve community disaster resilience planning and assisted with the development of this Plan.

