



Municipal Fire Management Plan

2023-2026

Wellington Shire
Municipal Fire Management Plan



WELLINGTON
SHIRE COUNCIL

The Heart of Gippsland

The Wellington Shire Municipal Fire Management Plan (MFMP) is a sub plan of the Wellington Shire Municipal Emergency Management Plan (MEMP).

It was developed by the multi-agency Wellington Shire Municipal Fire Management Advisory Group (MF MAG).

All efforts have been made to ensure the content is accurate at the time of publication.



Energy,
Environment
and Climate Action



Photo credits

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Document Control

Version	Author	Amendment Date	Summary of changes
3.0	MF MAG	25/02/2022	Update to HVP description.
3.1	MFPO	13/09/2022	Update AFDRS & FARRS info
3.2	MF MAG	16/05/2023	Update to DEECA from DELWP name and badge Remove FARSS program Remove GAPP Program
3.3	MFPO	10/11/2023	Add LEARN Program Add Fire Permits Victoria

Administrative updates

Where a minor administrative change that will not alter the purpose of the plan is needed, such as a name change by a member agency, these changes will be made by the administrative custodian. Changes will be made at the next MF MAG meeting and noted in the document control.

Where changes will alter or impact the content or scope of the plan, these changes will be made in draft form and presented to the MF MAG for review. Upon acceptance of these changes, the MF MAG will refer the modified document to a meeting of the MEMPC for review and endorsement. This process will be recorded in the document control.

Once any changes are made, the new version will be circulated electronically to member stakeholders and made available for download on the Wellington Shire Council website.

Any questions relating to the content of this plan, or its administration should be directed to:

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Acronyms that may be used throughout this plan

AV	Ambulance Victoria
CERA	Community Emergency Risk Assessment
CFA	Country Fire Authority
CBBM	Community Based Bushfire Management
DEECA	Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action
DFFH	Department of Families, Fairness and Housing
DHS	Department of Human Service (Commonwealth)
EMV	Emergency Management Victoria
ERC	Emergency Relief Centre
FIB	Forest Industry Brigade
FFMV	Forest Fire Management Victoria
HVP	Hancock's Victorian Plantations
GW	Gippsland Water
ICC	Incident Control Centre
MFMP	Municipal Fire Management Plan
MFMAG	Municipal Fire Management Advisory Group
MEMP	Municipal Emergency Management Plan
MEMPC	Municipal Emergency Management Planning Committee
MFPO	Municipal Fire Prevention Officer
PV	Parks Victoria (Parks Vic)
RAAF	Royal Australian Air Force
RCC	Regional Control Centre
RFMP	Regional Fire Management Plan
RRV	Regional Roads Victoria (VicRoads)
RSFMWG	Regional Strategic Fire Management Working Group
SES	Victoria State Emergency Service
SGW	South Gippsland Water
SRW	Southern Rural Water
VFRR-B	Victorian Fire Risk Register – Bushfire
VicPol	Victoria Police
VPR	Vulnerable Persons Register
WSC	Wellington Shire Council

Preface – The fires of 1965

Historic summary of the events from February to April 1965 by Peter McHugh



The Blanket Hill fire north of Glenmaggie. Photo courtesy Maurie Killeen

On Tuesday 16 February 1965, a summer storm approached from the south-west bringing lightning to the mountains with only a sprinkle of rain.

The great fire began as two small spot fires on a ridge north of Briagolong.

Forest Commissions Victoria (FCV) deployed crews and machinery to the difficult and rocky terrain. Works continued until the fires broke their containment lines at 11:45am on Sunday 21 February.

The fire made an almost 24km run to the south-east toward the boundary of the State forest and private property on Beverley's Road near Glenaladale

A typical strong south-westerly change later that afternoon zig-zagged the fire back into the bush towards Cobbannah when fingers of fire and thousands of embers crossed the Dargo Road. Buildings and a bridge were lost at Cobbannah with the fire also spotting into Glenaladale.

FCV crews withdrew from the forest and began new works on the public land interface. The community also now reacted to a fire which up until that point had been small, remote and largely unknown.

The CFA set up its operational HQ at the Valencia Soldiers Memorial Hall and Glenaladale Hall. Avon Shire works crews constructed firebreaks adjoining houses and communities. Hundreds of volunteers from local businesses and prisoners from Sale (given special leave) came to help.

Protection works focused on building containment lines along the southern boundary of the State forest from Valencia Creek, Briagolong, Stockdale, Cobbannah and as far as Roderick's Road north of Flaggy Creek near Bairnsdale. A control line was also cut from Coongulla along the forest boundary to Wombat Crossing and then as far as the settlement of Morgan on the Moroka Road.

The "Great Southern Break" was taking shape with backburning accompanying the machines to thicken the defences. CFA Tankers and hundreds of volunteers toiled behind to blackout the hotspots.

By around 10am on Wednesday 3 March, after another hot night, the temperature had already risen to 36 degrees when another fire started in grassland on the road to Licola at Blanket Hill. Many believe it was deliberately lit.



Convoy crossing Valencia Creek on the Moroka Road after leaving the New Place Creek fire on 21 February 1965. Photo courtesy Michael Gardiner

The Blanket Hill fire took-off and ran hard and fast with the strong northwest wind behind it, quickly engulfing Coongulla on the eastern edge of Lake Glenmaggie. It then continued over parched farmland towards Tinamba, Boisdale and Newry in the general direction of Maffra. Spot fires were thrown into paddocks and remnant forest well ahead of the fire front.

Then later in the day around 3 pm, there was another strong south-west wind change and the Blanket Hill fire zig-zagged rapidly back into the bush for about 24kms towards Ben Cruachan.

On the same morning fire on the south-east corner of the Great Southern Break near Mt Ray and Iguana Creek broke away and crossed the Mitchell River heading towards farmland around Lindenow. The tongues of fire running across the paddocks split in two as they ran into an area near the Fingerboards that had been burnt in a 700-acre grassfire only a few weeks earlier on 3 February. Thankfully this run stopped when it reached the irrigated dairy pastures.

There was a lull in the weather on Thursday 4 March, which is typical after a hot day accompanying a strong south-west change. Blacking out continued.



View from the top of the water tower at the Forest Commission Depot in Avon Street, Briagolong. The town was surrounded by fire on 5 March 1965. The iconic RSL log cabin on the right was saved by the CFA. Photo courtesy John Booth

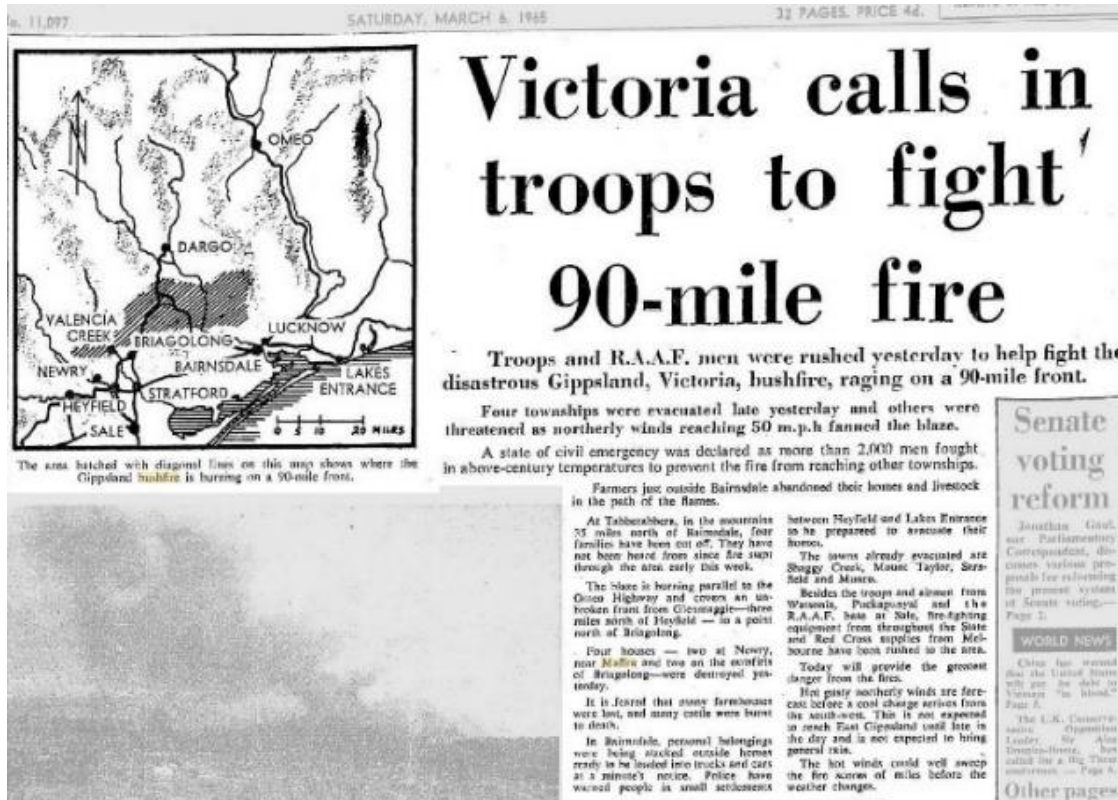
Friday 5 March was declared a Total Fire Ban (TFB) with hot daytime temperatures, strong north-west winds and a late afternoon south-west change forecast.

The Victorian Government declared a State of Emergency, allowing military resources to be deployed. The Red Cross sent 400 volunteers to establish four major relief centres. Men from the RAAF base at East Sale along with their DC-3 aircraft were made available as were 500 Army soldiers from Puckapunyal and Watsonia.

The strong north wind again pushed the fire towards Upper Maffra and Newry. Flames snuck through the dry ridge between Boisdale and Newry near the motocross track, jumping the Boisdale/Newry road. The fire skirted the irrigated farmland near Boisdale township and went around the Boisdale Consolidated School.

Evacuations for women, children and the elderly were in place for Briagolong, Fernbank, Valencia Creek, Boisdale, Upper Maffra, Glenaladale and Newry. Some refused to leave their homes and farms, preferring to stay and defend. Several houses and the historic Delta Bridge were lost at Briagolong.

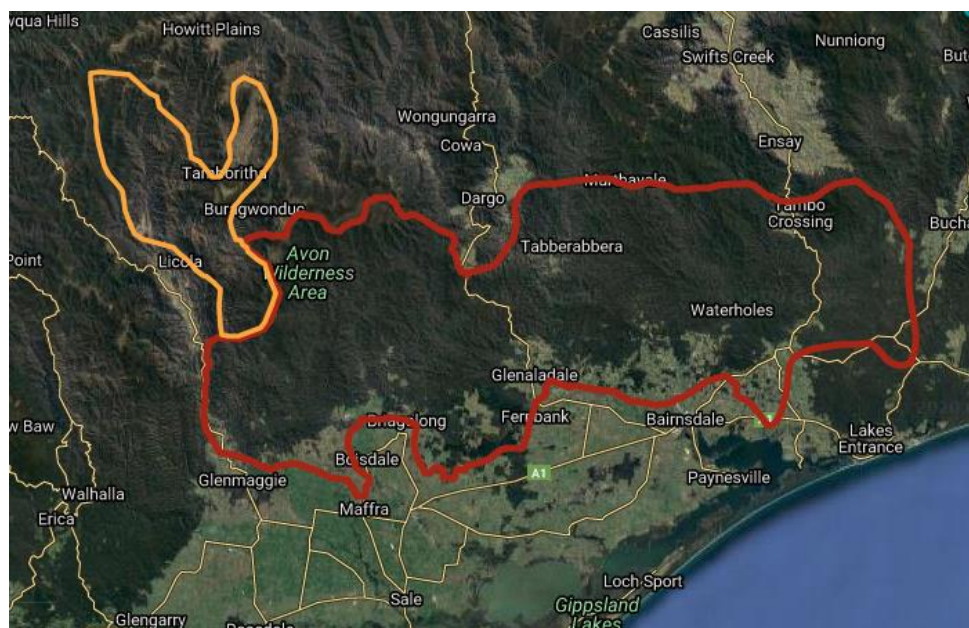
Saturday 6 March saw no respite with hot daytime temperatures, strong north-west winds and a late afternoon south-west change. The fires continued their steady zigzag and expansion towards East Gippsland.



The Age 6 March - reporting on the State of Emergency

The late weekend brought rain and by Monday 8 March up to half an inch fell in many areas, dampening the southern edge. The rain was not enough to completely extinguish fires deep in the forest and FCV crews were kept busy for several more weeks building control lines, blacking out and removing dangerous trees.

At midnight on Sunday 14 March, the emergency provision was revoked allowing most responders to go home, leaving only about 100 FCV crews behind. Fires continued in State forest at Dargo for another few weeks.



The Great Fire of Gippsland fire was finally declared safe on 4 April 1965, nearly two months after it started. It swept from Lake Glenmaggie to beyond Bruthen.

The final perimeter is shown here in red with another major bushfire a year earlier shown in yellow.

Author Peter Mc Hugh's detailed review of the 1965 fires can be found at <https://nla.gov.au/nla.obj-2510902110/view>

Part 1. Introduction

The Wellington Municipal Fire Management Plan (MFMP) describes the efforts of stakeholder agencies working toward a shared objective - the protection and preservation of life, property and the environment.

The MFMP 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) under an “all hazards” approach.

Plan Aim

This plan aims 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
- Increase community resilience by improving overall awareness and preparedness

Authority for Plan

The Wellington MFMP is a sub-plan of the Wellington Municipal Emergency Management Plan (MEMP). It has been written to comply with the guidelines and governance arrangements of the *Emergency Management Legislation Amendment Act 2018* and applicable parts of the *Emergency Management Act(s) 1986 & 2013*.

Period of Plan

This plan will remain current for a period of three years commencing from the date of adoption by the Wellington MEMPC.

Links to other Plans

The content of this plan aligns with the State Emergency Management Plan and its [Bushfire Sub Plan](#), the Gippsland Regional Strategic Fire Management Plan (RSFMP) and considers the content of other agency specific internal plans.

Where an objective is met by the content of a State or Regional plan, there is no requirement to duplicate this information within the MFMP. In these cases, reference will be made to the location of this content and where possible a hyperlink will be provided to allow the reader easy cross-referencing.

	Community resilience	Emergency Management Plans	Operational arrangements, and agency-specific plans
National	National Strategy for Disaster Resilience		Agreements for resource sharing Australian Disaster Resilience Handbook Collection
State	Bushfire Safety Policy Framework	State Emergency Management Plan SEMP Bushfire Sub-Plan (this Plan)	Joint agency SOPs Interagency MOUs
Regional		Regional Emergency Management Plans (REMPs) Optional: Regional Fire Management Sub-Plans (sub-plans of REMPs)	CFA/DELWP Local Mutual Aid Plans CFA Regional Operational Management Plans CFA/DELWP Regional Bushfire Management Strategies CFA/DELWP Joint Fuel Management Program
Municipal		Municipal Emergency Management Plans (MEMPs) Optional: Municipal Fire Management Sub-Plans (sub-plans of MEMPs)	
Community	Community Information Guides	Optional: Community emergency management plans	Pre-incident Response Plans
Household		Household Plans	

Table: Plans and documents for the State's bushfire context – [SEMP Bushfire Sub-Plan](#) 2021

Part 2. Engagement and Communications

Community led risk identification and risk management are critical elements of any fire mitigation strategy.

Wellington's MFMAg recognises that people living in the Shire have considerable local knowledge about the area's fire history and potential hazards. These valuable insights can be used when developing robust fire plans at all levels.

Several agency managed programs are specifically developed to engage and partner with communities.

A good example is the Safer Together funded Community Based Bushfire Management program (CBBM).

This program engages communities through facilitated conversations that include the key topics of local risk identification, mitigation strategies and community level emergency planning. Information provided by locals can then be incorporated into agency planning strategies to give stakeholders a clear understanding of community priorities for risk mitigation.



CBBM bushfire awareness session in Briagolong – photo courtesy FFMV

Fire in the Foothills film competition – CBBM in action

Briagolong joined the Community Based Bushfire Management (CBBM) program in 2018 due to its high bushfire risk profile and the community's demonstrated interest in fire related topics.

Strong levels of community cohesiveness and participation, combined with the flexibility of the CBBM program, enabled the community to tailor activities that addressed the issues most important to them, in ways they knew would work best. They wanted to do something 'different' and creative which would reflect its community values.

Briagolong is already well-known for its annual Film Festival held every June featuring Australian content, film-making classes, workshops and competitions. The local film-makers club and the Briagolong Community House (BCH) Movie Crew arose out of the festival. The community therefore saw it as a logical step to hold a film-making competition based on Briagolong's bushfire risk, aptly named "Fire in the Foothills".

Local residents and schools were invited to produce short films highlighting bushfires experiences, risk, planning and preparedness which were then shown at the film festival.

The short films can be viewed online at <http://bit.ly/BCHYoutube>

This idea proved to be an entertaining way to deliver short, sharp messages that could then be posted to social media and websites to reach more viewers. The format also reached audiences who may not normally engage in traditional discussions around bushfire threats.

The CFA's Community Bushfire Exercise (CBX) is another ongoing program aimed at community education and engaging with individuals about their specific bushfire risk. The sessions focus on local risks, how they can impact specific communities, mitigation work that individuals can do and how individuals and families can plan for high fire danger days.



CFA conducts annual winter awareness campaigns focussed on home fire safety, including the proper use of smoke alarms and electric appliances.

The CFA's Plan & Prepare webpage is a great online resource for community member wanting to know more about bushfires and fires in the home. Visit www.cfa.vic.gov.au/plan-prepare

About us | Publications | Contact us | CFA members

IN AN EMERGENCY DIAL 000

WARNINGS & RESTRICTIONSPLAN & PREPAREVOLUNTEER & CAREERSNEWS & MEDIASCHOOLS

Plan & Prepare for Fires

CFA Home > Plan & Prepare for Fires

Am I at risk?

Your Local Area - Info and Advice

Before and During a Fire

How To Prepare Your Property

Fires in the Home

Building, Planning & Regulations

My CFA

Deaf Emergency Info

Plan & Prepare

State government restrictions are in place due to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. This may affect how you follow CFA's fire safety advice. You can find up to date advice on your Bushfire Safety Plan and COVID-19 or on the Coronavirus Victoria website.

How To Prepare Your Property

Everyone in Victoria who lives near forest, bush, grassland or the coast needs to prepare their property for bushfire.

See Also

Register Your Burn-Off>

Planned Burns>

Planning Controls>

CFA Publications>

What's On>

In this section

Am I at risk?

Understanding your level of risk is the first step in knowing what to do before and during a fire.

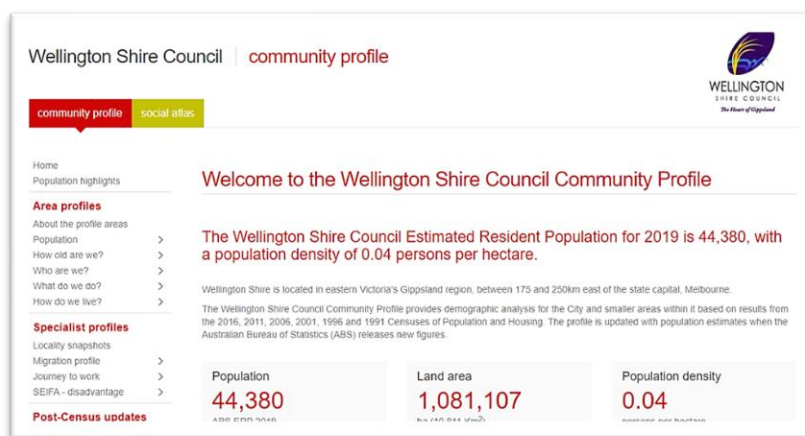
Your Bushfire Safety Plan and COVID-19

Leaving early during COVID-19 will be a little different this summer. Find out more.

Part 3. Summary of Environmental Scan

An extensive and regularly updated environmental scan and community profile is contained in the Wellington Municipal Emergency Management Plan (MEMP), the parent plan to this document. To view or download a copy of the MEMP, visit www.wellington.vic.gov.au/community/emergency-management

Wellington Shire Council uses a website called Profile ID to publicly display an up to date online community profile, broken down by townships. To view the latest data visit www.profile.id.com.au/wellington-vic



Land tenure and susceptibility to bushfires

Wellington Shire is the third largest municipality in Victoria. More than half of the 1.09 million hectares are public land areas including National Parks and State Forest. Most of the public land is remote, mountainous and difficult to access making it prone to summer bushfires that can burn for weeks or even months.

Land tenure	Area (Ha)	% of Shire footprint
National Parks	268,120	24.4%
Other Conservation Reserves	28,530	2.6%
State Forests	298,000	27.1%
Commonwealth Land	3,820	0.3%
Plantation	46,000	4.2%
Freehold	388,450	35.3%
Other Public Land	63,350	5.8%
Total	1,096,270	

Gippsland is one of the few places in Australia where forests extend unbroken from the mountains to the sea. Other landscape features that distinguish this area and strongly influence bushfire behaviour include:

- remote, sometimes inaccessible, heavily forested mountains and snow-capped alpine peaks which rise steeply from the hinterland and foothills
- major river valleys including the Macalister, Avon, Mitchell, Wonnangatta and Dargo Rivers that are generally orientated north-south and tend to funnel prevailing weather patterns
- the Great Dividing Range and the strong northerly winds that tumble over the ridges, often bringing bushfires from the northeast of the state
- the blocking effect of the Strzelecki Ranges which influences rainfall patterns and creates rain shadows
- rivers and valleys that empty out onto the flat fertile plains, wetlands and the inland Gippsland Lakes
- the exposed southern coastline of Bass Strait from Wilsons Promontory to Point Hicks

Impact of lightning in the landscape



Most bushfires in Wellington Shire's State forest and National Parks are started by lightning. This is usually with a south-westerly change after a hot day. Source: ABC

Typically, dry lightning storms without significant rainfall will cross the landscape from the south-west with a strong cool change. These storm patterns begin before Christmas and continue well into autumn.

Depending on fuel dryness the lightning often starts numerous small fires on ridgetops as they strike dead trees. These trees ignite and fire spreads slowly for a while under the cooler conditions.

It is not uncommon for a single summer lightning storm to start as many as 50 to 100 small fires across the remote forests and mountains of eastern Victoria.

Critical infrastructure/assets

All critical infrastructure facilities and major asset managers are required to maintain their own internal fire and emergency plans in accordance with relevant legislative guidelines.

Identified critical infrastructure/assets that could result in broader impact, including economic or social impact, if damaged or destroyed by fire include:

Asset	Location
Major arterial roads & road infrastructure	Various throughout municipality
Railway tracks (V/Line Bairnsdale Line)	Various throughout municipality
Railway crossing signals/gates/misc. infrastructure	Various throughout municipality
GEO medium security correction centre	Fulham
Municipal airports/aerodromes	West Sale, Yarram
Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) Base	East Sale
Dept. of Defence weapons training range	Dutson Downs
ESSO Gas Facility	Longford
ESSO Gas Pipelines	Various throughout municipality
Jemena gas transmission facility	Longford
Dutson Downs waste treatment facility	Dutson Downs
Council waste transfer stations	Various throughout municipality
FFMV Fire Towers	Mt Moornapa, Mt Useful and Mt Blackwarry
SRW water distribution infrastructure	Lake Glenmaggie, Cowwarr Weir
HVP hardwood and softwood plantations	Various throughout municipality
Australian Sustainable Hardwoods sawmill	Heyfield
AKD Sawmill	Yarram
Council owned halls and recreation reserves	Various throughout municipality

Central Gippsland Essential Industries Group (CGEIG)

Private industry investing in community safety

For more than 20 years the Central Gippsland Essential Industries Group (CGEIG) has been an emergency management and security preparedness forum for the region's electricity, oil, gas and water supply networks as well as its paper producers. The group includes representatives from these private industries along with emergency services and government agencies.

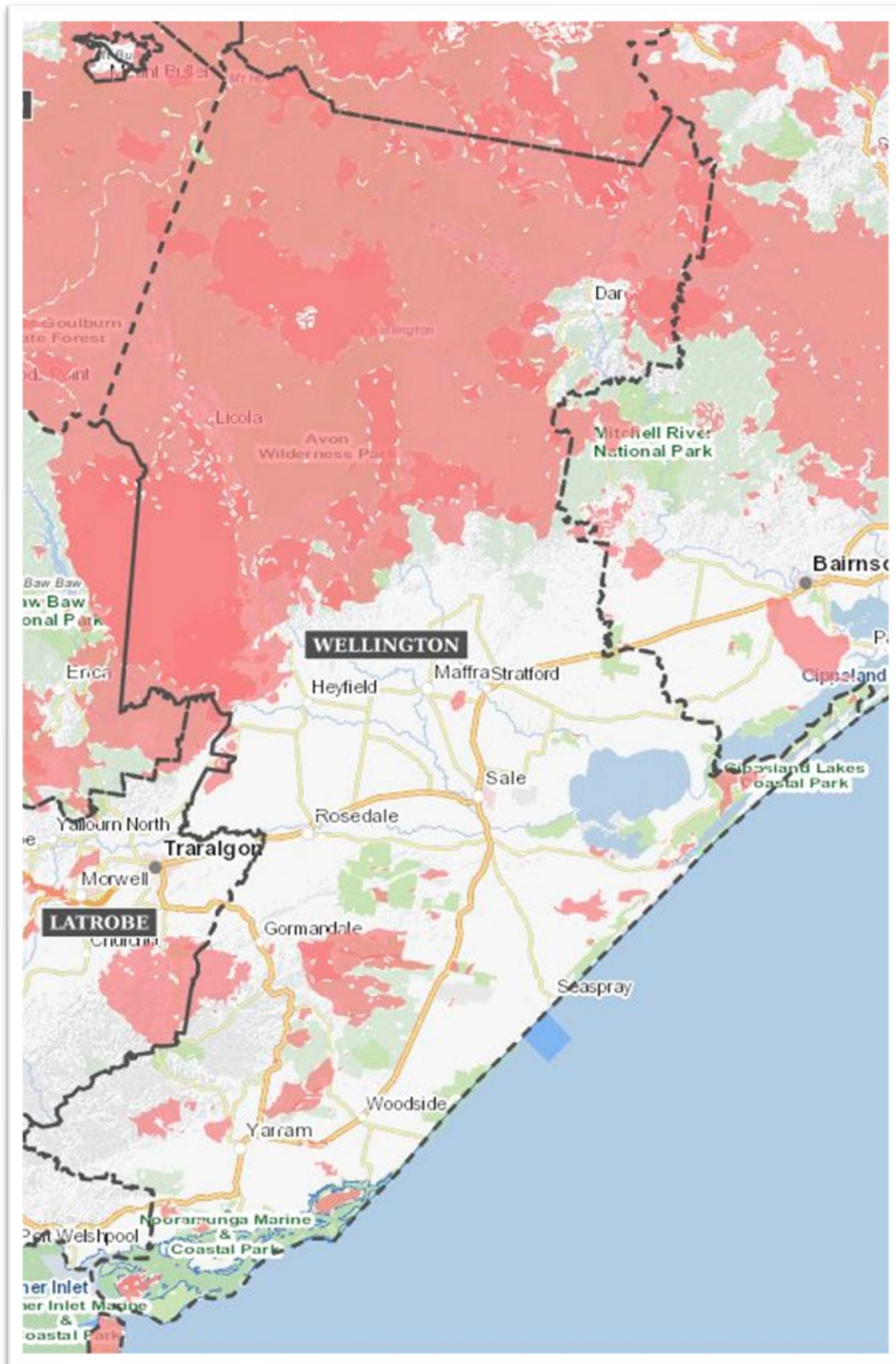
CGEIG takes a regional approach to ensure stakeholders are better prepared for a range of potential threats, including fires. The Group's activities are funded by the member companies with the key aim being to foster and promote the sharing of knowledge, experience, innovation and training.

The CGEIG member businesses see this as a valuable investment toward the safety of Gippsland.

Part 4. History of significant bushfires

Year	Started	Incident Name	Areas Affected	Cause	Size (ha)
2019	28/2/19	Licola – Mt Margaret Track	Boisdale, Briagolong, Coongulla, Glenmaggie, Licola, Newry, Stockdale, Valencia Creel and various smaller settlements	Lightning	80,732
2019	28/2/19	Mt Darling – Cynthia Range Track	Black Snake Creek, Dargo, Crooked River, Waterford and various smaller settlements	Lightning	28,790
2019	30/1/19	Walhalla – Stoney Creek	Cowwarr, Glengarry, Glenmaggie, Heyfield, Tinamba, Toongabbie	Lightning	8,755
2019	4/1/19	Rosedale – West Boundary Track	Rosedale, Fulham, Giffard West, Kilmany, Longford, Nambrok, Sale, Stradbroke, Willung, Wurruk and various smaller settlements	Unknown/suspicious	12,148
2018	27/2/18	Tamboritha – Dingo Hill Track	Remote areas of Alpine National Park, Tamboritha, Glencairn and Licola	Campfire	10,839
2017	12/3/17	Crooked River Wonnangatta Rd	Black Snake Creek, Crooked River, Dargo, Waterford and various smaller settlements	Lightning	3,066
2014	9/2/14	Jack River	Jack River, Madalya, Stacey's Bridge	Power line	2,870
2014	17/1/14	Tomboritha – Carey River	Remote areas within Carey State Forest NE of Licola	Lightning	625
2014	16/1/14	Dargo – Danes Track			1,878
2013	22/2/13	East Caledonia-Howitt Track	Remote country away from communities	Lightning	600
2013	15/2/13	Dargo – Matherson Track	Dargo, Dargo Upper	Lightning	1,111
2013	17/1/13	Aberfeldy – Donnelly's	Aberfeldy, Dawson, Seaton, Coongulla, Glenmaggie, Licola, Heyfield, Upper Maffra West and various smaller settlements	Illegal burn off	85,193
2012	27/9/12	Loch Sport – Spoon Bay Track	Loch Sport	Suspicious	700
2009	23/2/09	Won Wron – Napier Road	Won Wron	Part of Black Saturday fires	1,365
2007	11/01/07	Seaton	Seaton		650
2006	1/12/06	Great Divide South	Alpine National Park South	Lightning	677,638
2004	6/01/04	Bombing Range	RAAF Bombing Range	Burn Off	500
2003	5/09/03	Golden Beach	Golden Beach	Burn Off	2,000
2003	5/02/03	Emu Track	Stradbroke	Lightning	500

Year	Started	Incident Name	Areas Affected	Cause	Size (ha)
2003	8/01/03	Mullundung	State Forest, grazing land & private plantation		7,500
2000	3/01/00	Snake Island	6km SE Port Welshpool	Relight of Wildfire	830
1997	31/12/97	Caledonia	11km N Licola, Alpine National Park	Campfire	32,000
1997	20/02/97	St Margaret Island	700m E of Mann's Beach	Lightning	1,400
1997	13/01/97	Golden Beach	Dutson Downs wastewater facility		500
1992	11/03/92	Won Wron	8km NE of Yarram	Prescribed burn escape	1,000
1985	14/01/85	Heyfield	Heyfield		2,200
1983	10/03/83	Loch Sport	Loch Sport		2,000
1982	4/11/82	Seaton	Seaton		13,500
1972	5/09/72	Perry Bridge	Perry Bridge		1,133
1965	3/3/65	Blanket Hill	Glenmaggie, Coongulla, Maffra, Upper Maffra, Newry, Boisdale, Valencia Creek, Briagolong, Dargo, Stratford, Licola and Stockdale	Deliberately Lit	303,515 (two fires merged)
1965	24/2/65	New Place Creek	State Forest North of Valencia Creek	Lightning	
1957	17/04/57	Yarram	Yarram	Burn Off	4,856
1955	22/11/55	Briagolong	Briagolong	Arson	1,012



Overlay map showing 50 years of fire history combined – Source EMV

Part 5. Agency profiles and responsibilities

Municipal Fire Management Advisory Group (MF MAG)

The MF MAG plays a critical role in local fire risk management as a forum for participating member agencies to share knowledge, strategies and coordinate mitigation activities. The MF MAG is also responsible for the development and maintenance of this Municipal Fire Management Plan (MFMP).

The activities and roles undertaken by each agency vary based on their legislated responsibilities and capacity. Each agency's role is detailed in this section along with a range of specific risk treatments currently in use.

The guiding principle for all fire management activities is the protection of life, property and the environment.

Wellington Shire Council hosts the quarterly meetings of the Municipal Fire Management Advisory Group (MF MAG) and is the administrative custodian of the Municipal Fire Management Plan.

Country Fire Authority (CFA)



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

The footprint of CFA's District 10 matches the Local Government Area boundaries of Wellington Shire. 1,445 volunteers make up the Shire's 40 fire brigades, operating a fleet of 74 appliances. These volunteer brigades are supported by career staff working out of the District Headquarters in Sale.

CFA brigade locations across Wellington Shire			
Alberton West	Boisdale	Briagolong	Carrajung
Clydebank	Coongulla	Cowwarr	Dargo
Devon North	Giffard West	Glengarry East	Glenmaggie
Golden Beach	Heyfield	Jack River	Licola
Loch Sport	Longford	Maffra	Meerlieu
Munro	Nambrok	Newry	Perry Bridge
Port Albert	Rosedale	Sale	Seaspray
Seaton	Stradbroke	Stratford	Tinamba
Valencia Creek	Willung	Willung South	Winnindoo
Won Wron	Woodside	Woranga	Yarram

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

The Risk Intelligence Unit based at State Headquarters in Burwood administers and publishes the Victorian Fire Risk Register – Bushfire (VFRR-B). CFA also conducts annual assessments and recertification of Wellington's Bushfire Places of Last Report (BPLR).

During the FDP, 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.

Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA)

DEECA brings together Victoria's climate, energy, environment, water, forestry, planning and emergency management functions into a single department, maximising connections between community, industry and economy.

The Macalister District sits within the boundaries of Wellington Shire, with its main office located at Heyfield.

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 hundreds of recreational sites from the coast to the higher Alpine areas with 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 as part of FFMV.

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.

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, FFMV firefighters are easily identifiable by their distinctive green overalls.

FFMV is the lead agency for public land bushfire response, allowing for a unified command structure and joint public messaging under a single brand.



Photo courtesy FFMV

Response resources within the Macalister District include:

Location	G-Wagens	Slip ons/Fuel	Wagons/Dcabs	Unimogs	Tankers	Dozers
Briagolong	5	0	2	1	0	0
Dargo	4	0	1	1	0	1
Heyfield	11	2	14	1	0	2
Loch Sport	0	3	1	0	1	0
Sale	0	1	2	0	0	0
Yarram	5	0	4	1	0	1
Macalister Total	25	6	24	4	1	4

FFMV's fire prevention activities include planned burning, preparedness activities (slashing, mulching, mowing), creating fuel breaks on public land and maintains water points and fire towers in forests and parks. It also plays a key role in managing community and environmental recovery post fire or other emergency.

Parks Victoria (Parks Vic)

Under the *Parks Victoria Act 2018*, Parks Vic has legislated responsibilities for fire prevention and response efforts within State Parks and reserves it manages in the country areas of Victoria. 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.

Royal Australian Air Force/Defence

RAAF Base East Sale can accommodate Large Air Tanker (LAT) firefighting aircraft operations for fires anywhere in Gippsland, allowing reduced flight times and faster aircraft turnaround.

On base fire prevention and response is managed by Broadspectrum, which provides coverage through a 24/7 staffed fire station. These fire crews can respond to grass, structure, vehicle, aircraft and hazardous material fires within RAAF Base East Sale.



Photo courtesy Broadspectrum

Defence also manages fire prevention activities at the Dutson Downs weapons training range. Fire breaks are maintained along the facility boundaries and internal fuel reduction burns are conducted based on need, managed by specialist contractors due to the hazardous nature of the land use.

Hancock's Victorian Plantations (HVP)

Hancock's Victorian Plantations (HVP) has high value commercial softwood and hardwood plantations in the Wellington Shire. The plantations have different fuel structures and have more complex fire behaviour characteristics compared with traditional rural environments like farmlands, grasslands, and scrub.

HVP takes fire prevention very seriously from both a commercially prudent need to protect its investment, but also to meet its corporate commitment to community safety. HVP crews are trained and accredited as CFA Forest Industry Brigades (FIB) that can seamlessly come under the control of fire agencies if required for a major bushfire response. While FIBs are only required to protect plantation assets, HVP's Brigades regularly operate alongside CFA and FFMV crews outside the estates.

The company owns a fleet of forest firefighting vehicles, operates a range of heavy plant, including dozers and has lease arrangements for a dedicated quick response helicopter during the FDP. Crews establish and maintain fire breaks around most larger estates and maintain stored water dams on other estates. A company owned and operated fire lookout tower in Flynn and Stockdale is also used to keep watch over nearby assets during summer.

Around 40% of fires within plantation estates across Victoria are deliberately or carelessly lit, making surveillance and regular patrols an essential part of overall prevention efforts. HVP is also a core member of the Gippsland Arson Prevention Program (GAPP), strengthening ties with other arson prevention stakeholder agencies throughout the region.

HVP conducts silvicultural and fuel reduction burns for hazard reduction purposes.

More information about HVP's role in fire mitigation and response is at www.hvp.com.au/hvp-forest-management/hvp-fire-management

Regional Roads Victoria (RRV)

The road network is recognised as being vital to the community when deciding how they will respond to any bushfire threat. Regional Roads Victoria (RRV) 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.

Core bushfire prevention efforts include RRV's annual pre-season slashing, spraying and other mitigation works to reduce fuel loads within road reserves.

During a major fire, RRV's focus is to ensure the road network effectively supports both community and response agency needs. Should the fire cause major road disruptions, RRV will assist the Control Agency with advice on:

- management of available road links
- alternate route selection
- traffic management points
- route conditions, engineering and transport matters
- provision of information, warnings and advice to the media and public on road status, closures and conditions

Recently installed Variable Messaging Signs (VMS) along the Princes Highway are also available to broadcast important incident specific safety messages to road users.

After an event RRV may need to undertake impact assessments or to carry out restoration works on infrastructure associated with roads, bridges and culverts within the arterial road reserve. RRV also works with local government on longer term recovery efforts for impacted local roads, including advice on rebuilding or upgrading roads and associated infrastructure.

Victoria Police (VicPol)



Photo courtesy 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. This strategy has proved successful in other parts of Victoria, with Region 14 reporting a 95% drop in turnouts to illegal fires.

The Arson and Explosive Squad have produced a Bushfire Initial Action Guide for General Duties and Highway Patrol members, who are generally the first to come across or be dispatched to bushfires. The guide provides advice on how their actions can directly impact the emergency response and contribute to a successful investigation and prosecution of the offender. Sale police station also has a dedicated Arson & Explosive Liaison Officer (AELO), responsible for VicPol's local commitment to the prevention, detection, investigation and management of fire, arson and explosives events.

Operation Safeguard is VicPol's state-wide Prevention, Detection and Emergency Management Fire Strategy. It recognises that focusing solely on bushfire arson does not reflect other risky activities by community members. A police review of fire incidents identified the most significant risk is more likely to be the result of misadventure, accidental, negligent or reckless fire-lighting activities, rather than deliberate acts of arson.

VicPol's Prevention Detection & Emergency Management Fire Strategy 2019-2020 focused on:

- Developing a better understanding of bushfire arson
- Building effective cooperative partnerships and networks
- Delivering state-wide, coordinated, intelligence led responses
- Using local prevention and detection strategies to inform best practice
- Creating increased organisational capacity and capability

Wellington Shire Council (WSC)

Council has several defined fire prevention roles outlined in *Country Fire Authority Act 1958*, the Emergency Management Manual Victoria (EMMV) and other relevant legislation.

The *CFA Act* requires Council to appoint a Municipal Fire Prevention Officer (MFPO) responsible for all aspects of fire hazard mitigation, enforcement and community awareness. The MFPO's key legislated duty is to manage the annual private property fire hazard inspections across the Shire to determine any additional vegetation reduction works needed to reduce the local risk to life and property.

Council's road maintenance crews conduct fire hazard reduction works by slashing or spraying specific roadsides in advance of the Fire Danger Period. Council's Park and Environment teams also maintain two open space Bushfire Places of Last Resort (BPLR) in Loch Sport and Port Albert.

Gazetted Local Laws restrict the burning of green waste outside the fire danger period, with permits needed to burn in some areas. Council does not issue permits to burn during the Fire Danger Period, instead referring applicants to Fire Permits Victoria. <https://firepermits.vic.gov.au/>

Municipal and State planning schemes outline how townships can grow and change in line with their bushfire threat. Building regulations are monitored and enforced to ensure structures meet mandated fire safety standards, including resistance to likely forms of bushfire attack. The Municipal Building Surveyor also attends structure fires to assess if a building is safe to reoccupy or to arrange the structure secured pending repairs.

Council's Communications and Media Team supports fire prevention awareness through media releases, website updates and social media postings. The team also supports agency provided media campaigns and repeats official alerts and warnings from [VicEmergency](#) before, during and after significant fires.

During a major fire, Council will deploy an Emergency Management Liaison Officer (EMLO) to the Incident Control Centre to support overall response activities. Council can then offer a range of support from road closures to staging areas.

Where community members have been affected or displaced by either structure or bush fires, Council is the legislated lead agency for coordinating the provision of relief services. This can range from connecting affected

people with support agencies through to temporarily sheltering community members in an Emergency Relief Centre. Council will then work with multiple agencies on longer term recovery needs.

Various Council business units may also be involved in post fire recovery activities from repairing damaged roads and replacing signage to assisting with community recovery events.

VicTrack

VicTrack slashes over 8 million m² of grass each year across Victoria, mostly in and around townships and built-up areas. Numerous closed lines are also treated by spraying the track formation and crossings.

Works generally start in September or October (depending on treatment type) and finish before Christmas. Follow up works occur between February to March if required.

VicTrack works with the CFA and DEECA in areas where a planned burn is the recommended management treatment. These burns are done by local CFA brigades and take place only when safe and within the CFA rules.

Both Public Transport Victoria (PTV) and VicTrack conduct random audits on the effectiveness of fire prevention activities throughout the season to ensure works are consistent with Fire Prevention Plans.

V/Line

V/Line is responsible for vegetation maintenance on land under its control, including along rail tracks and rail reserves. The program runs according to a fixed schedule and includes a combination of slashing, track spraying and herbicide treatments (on areas where environmental approval has been granted).

Most fuel reduction work is scheduled between September and December, with follow up work in February based on observed need.

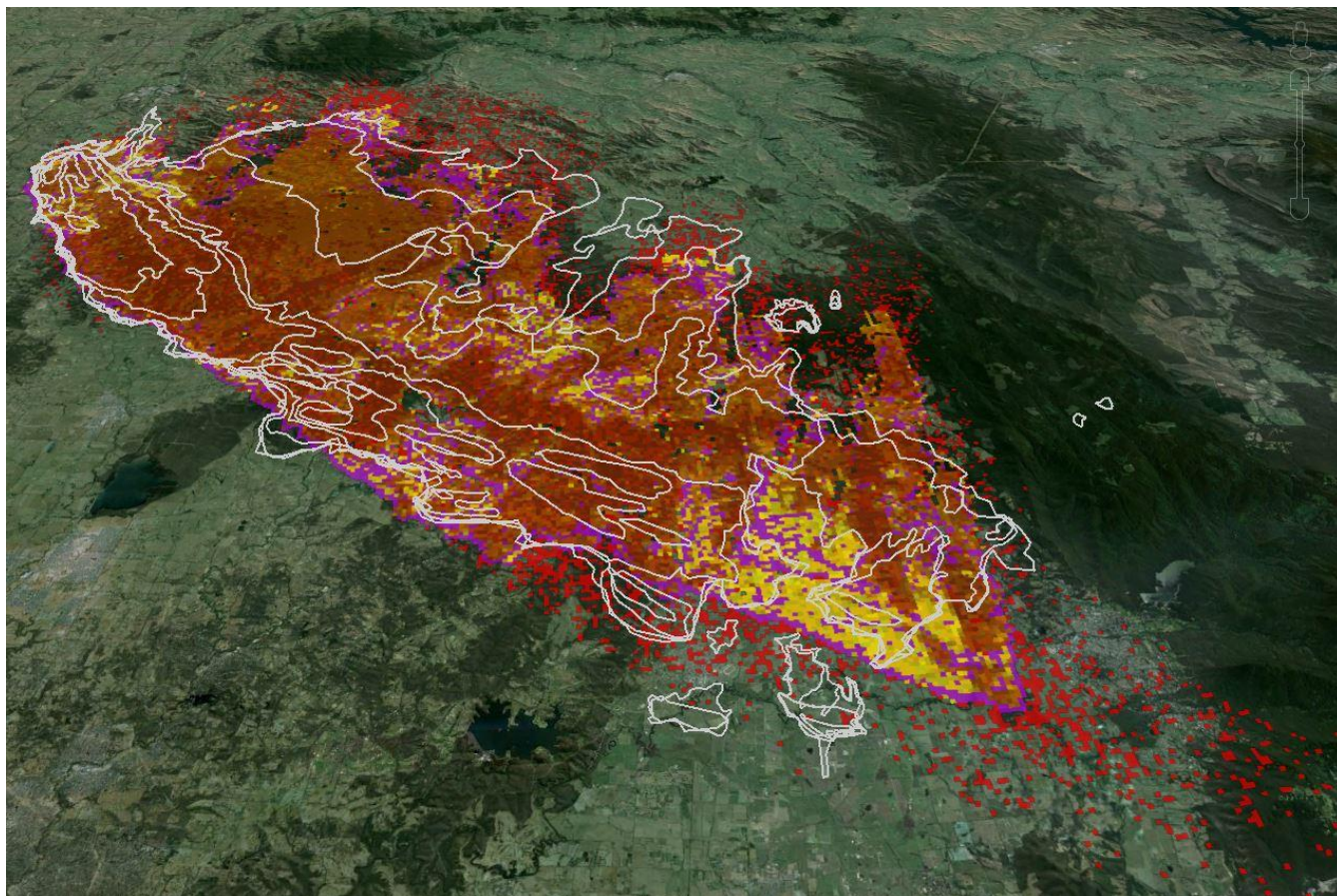


Track spraying - photo Courtesy V/Line

Part 6. Bushfire Mitigation Strategies

Phoenix RapidFire modelling

Phoenix RapidFire is a computer modelling application used to simulate potential fire spread in a given landscape. Users can input local details such as topography, fuel types, weather conditions and a range of other factors that influence fire behaviour. Simulation results can include prediction on flame heights, fire size and intensity, ember density and likely asset impacts.



Simulation output showing fire size, intensity (colour variation) and spot fires (red dots)

Source: www.bushfirebehaviour.net.au/research-themes/

During an active bushfire response, Phoenix models will be used to simulate likely fire behaviour based on actual conditions and weather patterns. These simulations can help identify potential threats to settlements and infrastructure, allowing more relevant community warnings and evacuation planning.

Simulations can also be used for preparation and prevention activities, such as planned burning and community education programs.

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, utilities and community groups map assets at risk from bushfire, then assess the perceived level of risk to the asset.

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.

The Municipal Fire Management Advisory Group (MF MAG) should review the registered assets at least once every three years, or more often if deemed appropriate. Through this consultative process, new assets can be added and those deemed to no longer require their own rating can be removed. The Municipal Fire Prevention Officer is the administrator of Wellington's VFRR-B profile.

Reviews during 2019 specifically look at human settlements, adjusting based on current risks. The following table is a graphical representation of Wellington Shire townships or areas and the VFRR risk level. Areas not shown are deemed to be low risk.

Extreme		
Coongulla	Balook	Seaton
Carrajung	Dargo	Upper Dargo
	Licola	
Great Dividing Range- Briagolong North Interface		
Great Dividing Range - Briagolong Woolenook Interface		
Great Dividing Range - Newry Interface		
Great Dividing Range - Maffra West Upper Interface		
Great Dividing Range - Valencia Creek Interface		
Lake Glenmaggie South Rural Living Zone		
Very High		
Langsborough	Port Albert	Seacombe
Mann's Beach	Woodside Beach	Robertson's Beach
Glomar Beach	Golden Beach	Paradise Beach
Loch Sport	McLoughlin's Beach	Glenmaggie
	Tarra Valley	
Great Dividing Range - Coongulla Interface		
High		
Woodside	Devon North	Won Wron
Munro	Alberton	Gormandale
Seaspray	Briagolong	Valencia Creek
Longford	Kilmany	
Heyfield North Rural Living Zone		
Great Dividing Range - Munro Interface		
Great Dividing Range - Briagolong Stockdale Interface		
Medium		
Tarraville	Heyfield	Cowwarr
Wurruk	Sale Interface	Stratford Interface
Rosedale North Interface	Rosedale South Interface	Maffra Interface
	Yarram Interface	

A map showing these current VFRR risk levels for human settlements can be found at Appendix 3.

Responsible agencies: WSC, CFA, MF MAG stakeholder input

Fire Danger Period (FDP)

In the lead up to summer, the CFA examines predicted weather and actual environmental conditions in each municipality and determines when to declare the annual Fire Danger Period (FDP).

Local inter-agency agreements have determined that during the fire danger period any open air burning without a permit will result in a CFA Brigade response and attendance or investigation by Victoria Police.

For more information visit www.cfa.vic.gov.au/warnings-restrictions/total-fire-bans-and-ratings

Responsible agencies: CFA (*District ACFO to confer with WSC MFPO*)

Fire Danger Index (FDI) and Fire Danger Ratings (FDR)

The Fire Danger Index (FDI) rating system takes account of four factors: temperature, relative humidity, wind speed and 'drought factor'. Traditionally the FDI has used a scale up to 150 for Grassland Fire and 100 for Forest fire.



The Australian Fire Danger Rating System was updated and came into effect on 1 September 2022.

The index is used to produce a Fire Danger Rating to indicate how a fire would behave under forecast weather conditions and how difficult it would be for fire agencies to control a fire in these conditions.

FDR indicator signs are located throughout Wellington Shire to advise commuters of the day's rating. Local CFA Brigades are responsible for manually updating signs by 6:30am.



Fire Danger Rating sign – Golden Beach

Responsible agencies: CFA (Ratings produced in association with the Bureau of Meteorology)

Total Fire Ban (TFB)

When predicted weather conditions elevate the FDR to such levels that the danger of fire occurring is extremely high and/or any fire would be extremely difficult to control, section 40 of the *CFA Act 1958* provides the CFA Chief Officer power to declare a Total Fire Ban (TFB).

The declaration of a TFB imposes strict rules and regulations governing the permitted use of fire and makes lighting a fire outside those guidelines a potential criminal offence.

TFBs can be declared by district or for the entire state, based on consultation with CFA Officers at the Regional level. Wellington Shire sits within the West and South Gippsland fire district.

Several agencies will increase fire prevention patrols on TFB days.

For more information visit www.cfa.vic.gov.au/warnings-restrictions/total-fire-bans-and-ratings

Responsible agencies: CFA

Land and Fuel Management

Responsibility for the management of fuels varies depending on who is the landowner or manager for that piece of land. Section 2.2 of the [SEMP Bushfire Sub-Plan](#) outlines some of these responsibilities.

Roadside vegetation management

Regional Roads Victoria, DEECA and Wellington Shire Council all have roadside vegetation maintenance responsibilities under the *Road Management Act 2004*.

Road management responsibility within Wellington Shire	% of road network	Length (kms)
DEECA	45.8%	3,220
Wellington Shire	44.2%	3,110
Regional Roads Victoria	10.0%	700
Total		7,030

For most road segments this will involve slashing roadside grass, weed and bracken to a designated distance from the road edge. In other cases, more specific works such as hazardous tree removal may be required based on the observed risk.

Responsible agencies: WSC, DEECA, VicRoads, HVP

Rail land vegetation management

Responsibility for maintenance of rail corridors within Wellington Shire falls to both V/Line and VicTrack.

VicTrack is not a rail operator and has primary responsibility for land on closed lines, disused stations and odd lots adjacent to the operating rail corridors. Where trains are using rail lines or facilities, then the rail operator is responsible for that rail reserve under their lease agreement with the PTV.

Maintenance of land leased from VicTrack or V/Line becomes the responsibility of the lease holder.

Responsible agencies: V/Line, VicTrack, land lease holders

Private property vegetation management

Individual landowners are responsible for ongoing fire hazard reduction works on their property. This applies to occupied and vacant land whatever its current or intended use.

Owners of residential and commercial blocks need to manage fine fuel levels throughout their property by regularly slashing grass, weeds, bracken and trimming low hanging tree branches. Farms and other large rural blocks should slash a fire break along fence lines.

To allow fire trucks to safely enter properties, driveways need a 4-metre-high and 4-metre-wide clearance free of overhanging branches.

While vegetation maintenance is a year-round responsibility, owners can be subject of legal order (Fire Prevention Notice) to conduct necessary works during the declared Fire Danger Period.

Landowners can find advice on preparing their property at www.cfa.vic.gov.au/plan-prepare/how-to-prepare-your-property and downloading the "Your guide to Property Preparation" booklet.

Responsible agencies: Private landowners

Private property fire hazard inspections

The *Country Fire Authority Act 1958* specifies that municipal councils must appoint a Municipal Fire Prevention Officer (MFPO) responsible for fire prevention on private property. Wellington Shire Council meets this requirement by conducting annual fire hazard inspections across all private land.

Where land is deemed to have vegetation levels that pose, or have the potential to pose, a risk to life and property, the landowner will be served a Fire Prevention Notice (FPN) directing them to reduce or remove the

hazard by a specified date. If a property has multiple owners, each owner will be served their own FPN and is individually responsible for compliance.

Failure to comply with a Fire Prevention Notice is an offence punishable by a fine of 10 penalty units and/or prosecution in a Magistrates Court. Where multiple owners have been served individual FPNs, each owner will receive a penalty notice and is subject to individual prosecution.

Where a landowner fails to comply and the remaining hazard is deemed a significant risk, *section 117* of the *Local Government Act 1989* authorises Council to enter the land and clear the hazard without consent of the landowner and to invoice the full cost of this clearance to the landowner(s).

Responsible agencies: WSC

Lave Early Access Roads Network (LEARN)

A project was commissioned in late 2019 by Wellington Shire Council (WSC) to review its annual fire protection roadside slashing program. Emergency Management staff from the Shire worked closely with local CFA brigades, CFA District 10, DELWP and VicRoads to develop a new and innovative concept of:

1. LEARN Roads

2. LEARN Feeder Roads.

The main difference between **LEARN Roads** and **LEARN Feeder Roads** is their location in the landscape, the likelihood and consequence of being impacted by bushfire and the remedial vegetation treatment.

LEARN Roads have both hazardous roadside vegetation mulched once it reaches a certain threshold level as well as hazardous trees treated whereas **LEARN Feeder Roads** are only assessed for hazardous trees.

Put simply, the process is very straightforward ...

1. Identify the settlements at the highest bushfire risk.
2. identify the key roads that support residents and visitors leaving early and then return home after the danger has passed.
3. Consider those roads needed by emergency services to gain access.
4. Specify roadside remedial treatments such as mulching hazardous vegetation and treating hazardous trees
5. Set triggers for inspection and intervention.

Importantly, **LEARN Roads** are designed to **connect** onto **LEARN Feeder Roads** which then **connect** onto VicRoads highways.

This natural pathway funnels traffic away from the threat of bushfires and towards major centres.

E.g. Seaton → Heyfield → Sale or Traralgon...

A significant consequence of this new approach is a shift of the Shire's traditional investment in annual fence-to-fence slashing on roads previously designated as firebreaks or control lines in areas of lower bushfire risk.

The overall process of identifying these roads has proven scientifically robust, based on sound evidence, logical and repeatable and was widely supported by stakeholders during consultations.

The planning process is complete which has identified about 114 Km of **LEARN Roads** and 166 Km of **LEARN Feeder roads**, mainly in the northern part of the municipality.

Responsible agencies: WSC

Reticulated water supplies

The table below shows towns within Wellington Shire that have reticulated water supplies allowing the placement of either above ground fire hydrants or below ground fire plugs.

Townships with reticulated water supplies			
Briarolong	Coongulla	Cowwarr	Devon North
Glengarry	Glenmaggie	Heyfield	Langsborough
Maffra	Port Albert	Rosedale	Sale
Seaspray	Stratford	Wurruk	Yarram

Hydrants, subsurface pipes and all other hardware remain the property of either Gippsland Water (GW) and South Gippsland Water (SGW) as the relevant water provider. Hydrant leaks and other faults should be reported to the relevant water authority for initial assessment and repairs.

Wellington Shire Council is responsible for hydrant marker maintenance (posts, reflectors and painted road markings) on Council managed roads. Regional Roads Victoria maintains hydrant markers on VicRoads segments. Both road managers are also responsible for ensuring hydrants are fit for purpose following any road resurfacing works.

Damaged or missing hydrant markers should be reported to Wellington Shire Council. Damaged or leaking hydrant must be reported to the relevant local water authority in the first instance.

Responsible agencies: GW, SGW, WSC, RRV

Stored water supplies

Multiple stored water supply tanks have been placed throughout the municipality, generally in areas with higher risk profiles that also do not have reticulated water. These water tanks are intended to be reserved specifically to support firefighting operations.

Changes to Planning Regulations also require that private landowners in some areas install and maintain stored water tanks for firefighting use.



Static water tank reserved for firefighting – Golden Beach

A list of municipal stored water tanks can be found at Appendix 4.

Responsible agencies: CFA, DEECA, WSC, private property owners

Household planning and preparedness

Each household is responsible for preparing their own property ahead of the bushfire season. Individuals need to understand their personal level of bushfire risk and to undertake their own mitigation measures, including to prepare and plan for bushfires and act upon their plans when required.

CFA and Wellington Shire Council are working toward higher levels of community resilience by encouraging all residents to develop and practice their own home bushfire plans.

Responsible agencies: CFA, WSC, individual community members

Community information and warnings

Community information, alerts and warnings are available through EMV's "Vic Emergency" website and smartphone app. Visit www.emergency.vic.gov.au or download the app.

Community information boards

Starting in 2012, Community Emergency Planning noticeboards were placed in selected townships and remote tourism places of interest as part of a community recovery project. The notice board frames were built by Fulham Correctional Centre work crews at the facility's workshop, then installed at what grew to 24 locations across the Shire.

Each board features a map of the specific location highlighting major access roads, basic advice on anticipated hazards and a list of key contact numbers.

Contact information panels were updated in 2018 to reflect current agency names and phone numbers.



Community emergency planning board – Mann's Beach

Responsible agencies: WSC

Public awareness campaigns

The CFA conducts a range of targeted public awareness campaigns in line with the approaching season. Winter campaign will often focus on smoke alarms and safe use of heating devices while pre-summer campaigns will target bushfire preparedness.

Detailed information and a range of resources can be found at www.cfa.vic.gov.au/plan-prepare

DEECA and ParksVic run campfire safety campaigns in the lead up to and throughout the summer season and promote planned burning activities during the middle of the year.

Responsible agencies: WSC, CFA, FFMV

Powerline hazard tree identification and reporting

The *Electricity Safety Act 1998* Section 86B requires Municipal Fire Prevention Plans to specify procedures for the identification of trees that are hazardous to electric lines, including:

- (a) procedures and criteria for the identification of trees that are likely to fall onto, or come into contact with, an electric line (hazard trees); and
- (b) procedures for the notification of responsible persons of trees that are hazard trees in relation to electric lines for which they are responsible.

Under the Act, the person responsible for maintaining vegetation and clearance space around power lines is referred to as the 'responsible person'.

Each responsible person should have its own internal procedure regarding the steps that will be taken when it receives notification of a potentially hazardous tree.

See Appendix 1 for full details of the reporting process

Responsible agencies: WSC, SP AusNet

Planning scheme provisions

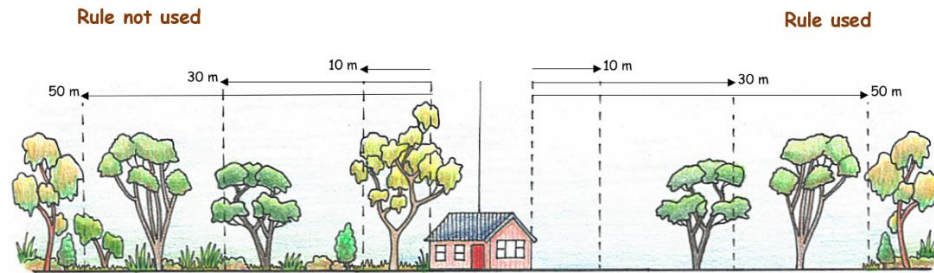
The Bushfire Management Overlay (BMO) is a planning scheme restriction applied to land that has potential to be affected by extreme bushfires. New developments and certain land use within a BMO may require a planning permit to ensure hazards such as vegetation, slope and site access are assessed and mitigation measures put in place.

New developments within a BMO must be located away from bushfire hazards, be built to bushfire construction standards, manage vegetation and fuel loads, install a water tank and provide fire truck access.

BMO regulations do not require changes to existing homes built or approved before 10 September 2009 to meet these standards. Regulations instead allow owners to manage and clear certain vegetation types that poses a bushfire hazard without needing a planning permit through the 10/50 rule.

The 10/50 rule only applies within a BMO and allows the clearing of:

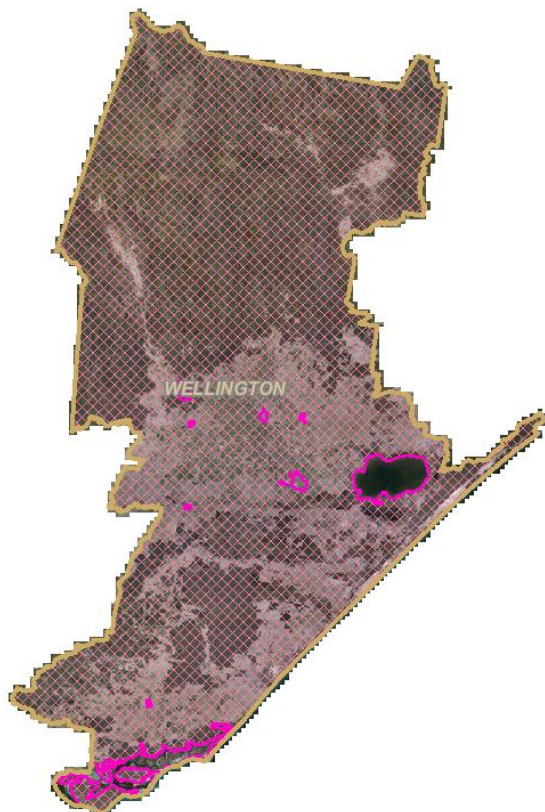
- Any vegetation (including trees) within 10 metres of an existing dwelling
- Any vegetation (excluding trees) within 50 metres of an existing dwelling
- Vegetation (including trees) for a combined maximum width of 4 metres on either side of an existing boundary fence between properties in different ownership. The extent of clearing along the fence needs to be negotiated with your neighbour.



A link to more information about the 10/30 and 10/50 rule can be found at Appendix 8.

For more information on BMOs see www.planning.vic.gov.au/policy-and-strategy/bushfire-protection/bushfire-management-overlay

Responsible agencies: DEECA, WSC



Building regulations within Bushfire Prone Areas

The Bushfire Prone Area (BPA) is another planning overlay designating areas of Victoria that have been deemed at risk of bushfires and has a direct relationship with construction requirements for any new building.

Australian Standards AS3959-2009 *Construction of Building in Bushfire Prone Areas* require that all new home developments within a BPA be built to a standard based on their potential exposure to the effects of a bushfire. The standards are known as the Bushfire Attack Level (BAL) rating.

A BAL is a means of measuring the severity of a building's potential exposure to ember attack, radiant heat and direct flame contact. The number represents the level of radiant heat in kilowatts per square metre (kw/m²)

The BAL level of a building will determine what level of protection must be considered when planning construction.

The majority of Wellington Shire, outside major towns, is designated as Bushfire Prone Area (*shaded pink area of map*).

For more information on BAL ratings see www.vba.vic.gov.au/consumers/bushfires

Responsible agencies: Private landowners (part of building permit process)

Joint Fuel Management Program

The Joint Fuel Management Program (JFMP) is a state-wide program to integrate the management of fuel on public and private land. It is a significant step toward an integrated and risk focused bushfire management approach. The JFMP demonstrates a joint commitment to working as one sector, planning and delivering fuel management activities across all land tenures.

The JFMP plan outlines areas targeted for fire management operations over the next three years to reduce bushfire risk and to maintain the health of native plants that rely on fire to survive. JFMP activities include planned burning, slashing, mowing and clearing works as well as creating and maintaining fuel breaks.

Responsible agencies: FFMV, PV, CFA, WSC



JFMP community meeting - photo courtesy FFMV

Fuel reduction burns (planned burning)



Planned burn ignition - photo courtesy FFMV

Planned Burning reduces bushfire risk over a larger area than is possible through mechanical methods such as slashing, mowing, mulching or creating fuel breaks.

Planned burns reduce the levels of grass, shrubs, bark and leaf litter, allowing the land to slowly and naturally regenerate over time.

This larger scale fuel management helps to reduce the spread and intensity of bushfires and makes fire suppression safer and more achievable. This helps reduce the impact on community and the environment.

While Planned Burning was traditionally conducted only on public land, Wellington's Joint Fuel Management model is moving toward managed burns across all land tenures.

Community members can register to receive planned burning notifications via www.plannedburns.ffmv.vic.gov.au

Responsible agencies: FFMV, PV, CFA

Community Fire Refuges

There are no Community Fire Refuges within Wellington Shire. Should a need be identified, the process will be managed through the MFMA.

Bushfire Places of Last Resort (NSP-BPLR)



A Neighbourhood Safer Place-Bushfire Place of Last Resort (NSP-BPLR) is a designated space that community members can attend when their individual bushfire survival plans fail. It is a building or open-air space that may afford some protection from radiant heat.

BPLR's should not replace having your own individual survival plan or influence your decision to leave early. They are a fall-back place when there is an imminent threat of fire and all other options are unavailable.

Wellington Shire has two designated BPLR locations. Both sites are reviewed annual by the CFA to ensure they meet required standards.

Both sites are clearly identified by Green and White signage at the location, with additional directional signage in surrounding streets.



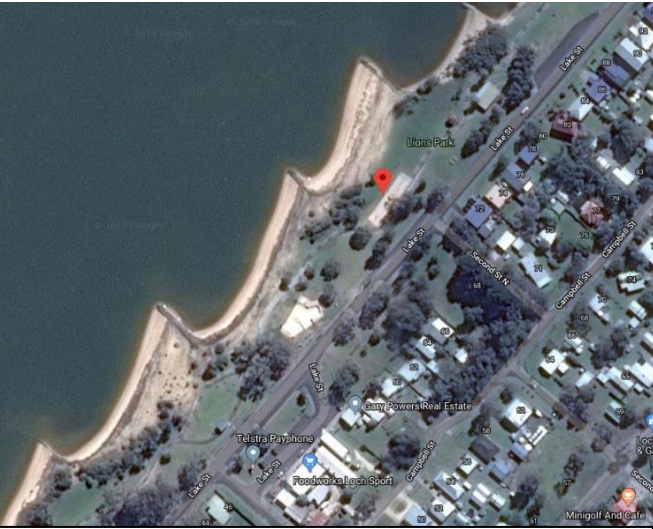

NSP-BPLR – Port Albert

The following risks are associated with BPLRs:

- Sheltering at a BPLR does not guarantee your safety. A BPLR may offer improved protection (e.g. a safer place) if caught in a fire but they cannot be considered as 'safe'.
- Travelling to and using a place of last resort is dangerous and can lead to mental trauma, serious injury or death. Traffic congestion, poor visibility, fire activity, heavy smoke and accidents or fallen trees may block the route.
- You are likely to experience extreme conditions such as heat, high winds, fire noise, and exposure to flying embers and may experience breathing difficulties due to smoke and ash.
- There is no guarantee that emergency services will be present.
- There will be no provision for pets.
- There may be no amenities (food, drinks, toilets).

For more information on NSP-BPLR's visit www.saferplaces.cfa.vic.gov.au

Wellington Shire Council’s Bushfire Place of Last Resort Policy detailing how sites are selected and managed can be found at www.wellington.vic.gov.au/fire

	
<p><u>Loch Sport</u></p> <p>Lion’s Park, Lake Street opposite Second Street North, Loch Sport 3851</p>	<p><u>Port Albert</u></p> <p>Port Albert Boat Ramp Car Park and surrounds, Corner Wharf Street and Bay Street, Port Albert 3971</p>

Responsible agencies: WSC, CFA

Part 7. Structure and Other Fire Mitigation Strategies



Photo courtesy CFA

Wellington Shire's built environment is a mix of residential, commercial and industrial premises, with the largest concentration of structures in Sale. Mid-sized towns including Maffra, Stratford and Yarram contain mainly residential and commercial properties with some commercial and agricultural industry.

Smaller towns such as Loch Sport and Briagolong are comprised almost entirely of residential properties, while a considerable number of more remote residential properties exist throughout the municipality.

All agency stakeholders work closely to ensure mitigation and community education strategies are consistent, relevant and tailored to the specific community.



Photo courtesy CFA

A range of general mitigation strategies aimed at reducing the occurrence and impact of structure fires are applied consistently across the state and municipality, including:

- provisions in the Victorian Building Act
- provisions the Victorian Planning Scheme
- compliance and enforcement of legislation
- Essential Safety Measures Procedures and audit inspections
- industry guidelines
- standards (eg electrical safety standards)
- engineered controls
- fire service response planning and training
- staff training (eg fire wardens)
- event permits and event management plans
- targeted education programs
- public awareness programs – multimedia communications

Working smoke alarms play a major role in preventing deaths and injury during a structure fire. Since 1 August 1997, Victorian law states that smoke alarms (complying with Australian Standards AS3786) must be installed in all homes, units, flats and townhouses. It is the responsibility of all owners and landlords to install working smoke alarms.

Homes constructed before 1 August 1997 need only standalone, battery powered smoke alarms. Homes constructed after 1 August 1997 must have smoke alarms connected to 240-volt mains power with a backup battery installed in case there is a loss of power.



The CFA's Plan & Prepare webpage has a specific "Fires in the Home" section detailing steps community members can take to reduce their own risks. Visit www.cfa.vic.gov.au/plan-prepare/fires-in-the-home

Certain critical infrastructure facilities require additional planning and mitigations works, including the ESSO Longford gas plant and associated pipelines, the Fulham Correctional Facility and RAAF Base East Sale. Close working relationships with these facilities ensures that internal mitigation strategies are supported by fire agencies and the municipality.

Other incident types including chemical fires, vehicle accidents, hazardous material spills are managed through specific fire agency policies and guidelines.

Appendices

1. Electrical line hazardous tree identification and reporting process
2. Bushfire History Map
3. VFRR Human Settlements Map
4. Stored water tank locations
5. Cowwarr-Bruthen Strategic Fire Break map
6. MFMP Stakeholder Annual Works Plan
7. Weblinks



Photo Courtesy FFMV

Appendix 1: Hazardous Trees Identification (*Electricity Safety Act 1998*)

Hazard trees – identification and notification procedures

What is a hazard tree?

According to the *Electricity Safety Act 1998 (ES ACT)*, a hazard tree is a tree which ‘is likely to fall onto, or come into contact with, an electric line’.

The Electricity Safety (Electric Line Clearance) Regulations 2010 further provide that a responsible person may cut or remove such a tree ‘provided that the tree has been assessed by a suitably qualified arborist; and that assessment confirms the likelihood of contact with an electric line having regard to foreseeable local conditions.’

Due to legal requirements which require a clearance space be maintained around an electric line, hazard trees are usually located outside the regulated clearance space. Despite being outside the clearance space, the tree may still have the potential to contact the line due to its size or because of a structural fault or weakness which renders part, or all, of the tree likely to contact or fall onto the line.

Who is responsible for hazard trees?

Under the *ES Act*, the person responsible for maintaining vegetation and clearance space around power lines is referred to as the ‘responsible person’. This includes responsibility for keeping the whole or any part of a tree clear of the line.

Under the *ES Act*, responsibility is allocated between distribution businesses and other owners of electricity infrastructure, landowners and occupiers for clearance of private power lines, public land managers where they are identified as the responsible person such as municipal councils, DEECA and VicRoads.

Responsible Persons within Wellington Shire Council

Responsibility for line clearance in Wellington Shire is shared between

- *AusNet Services*
- *Wellington Shire Council*
- *VicRoads*

There is only one electricity distribution business in Wellington Shire.

There are three declared areas (as per Section 81 of the *ES Act*) within the Wellington Shire Council in the settlements of Sale, Maffra and Heyfield, where the responsibility lies with the Shire to identify, assess and remedy any hazardous tree that is situated within the declared area.

Other relevant information

Responsible persons, other than an ‘Occupier’ of land, must have an electric line clearance management plan in place for areas for which they have responsibility (*refer Electricity Safety (Electric Line Clearance) Regulations 2010*)

Procedures and criteria for identifying hazard trees

While some hazards may be obvious others require assessment by a suitably qualified arborist who has:

- a) the qualification of National Certificate Level IV in Horticulture and Arboriculture, including the “Assess Trees” module, or an equivalent qualification; and
- b) At least 3 years of field experience in assessing trees:

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.
- The Quantitative Tree Risk Assessment used by Wellington Shire Council

If a potentially hazardous tree is identified a responsible person may cut or remove the tree provided that:

- a) The tree has been assessed by a suitably qualified arborist; and
- b) That assessment confirms the likelihood of contact with an electric line having regard to foreseeable local conditions.

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 and the notification procedure described below does not apply.

Procedures and criteria for notification of hazard trees

To ensure that information regarding potentially hazardous trees is captured in an efficient manner and, as appropriate, referred to the responsible person for action, the following procedure for the notification of hazardous trees should be followed:

- The organisation with responsibility for the highest percentage of lines within the municipality (the primary responsible person) is AusNet Services and therefore the person to whom potentially hazardous trees should be reported if the hazardous tree is identified outside of the declared area.
- The organisation with the responsibility for power line clearance (with respect to their obligations under the ES Act) that fall within the declared area on Council managed land is the Wellington Shire Council
- 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 Wellington Shire Council if the potential hazard tree is within the township of Sale, Maffra or Heyfield. Where the Committee becomes aware of, or receives a report of, a potentially hazardous tree within the municipality, this must be referred to AusNet Services or Wellington Shire Council.
- Reports of potentially hazardous trees must be provided to either AusNet Services or Wellington Shire Council (for example, if a potential hazard tree is in or outside of a Declared Area) for action as soon as practicable in accordance with their respective management plans. Reports must include, as far as practicable:
 - The name and contact details and any relevant qualifications where known of the person making the report
 - As much detail as possible about the location of the tree including but not limited to: nearest address, GPS coordinates (where known), details of numerical/name plate (referred to as camm or LIS number) on nearest pole, name of nearest road or crossroads, closest landmark, whether tree is on private land or road reserve etc.
 - A description of the tree (including, if known, the genus and species of tree)
 - The primary reasons given for the tree being identified as potentially hazardous e.g. tree is in proximity to an electric line and there is evidence of active failure (tree is lifting out of ground or separation of bifurcated leaders), tree roots have been compromised (through excavation

etc.), storm damage (torn limbs etc.), direct impact (vehicle collision etc.) and/or appears to be encroaching into line clearance space.

- An indication of whether or not urgent action is required.
- AusNet Services or Wellington 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.

Primary Responsible Person Representative (PRPR)

It is acknowledged that hazardous trees situated on land managed by WSC can be actioned by either WSC or AusNet Services at any time irrespective of the status of the area (declared or non-declared) in response to the urgency of the situation. An urgent situation such as this would be the exception to the norm by which this procedure otherwise details.

For the purpose of this part of the Plan (being executed under normal situation), the primary responsible person for potential hazardous trees within the Declared Area (also applicable to the entire municipality) is as follows:

Agency name	Wellington Shire Council
Position title of contact person	Open Space Arborist
Telephone Number	1300 366 244 (24 Hours)
Email address	enquiries@wellington.vic.gov.au

For the purposes of this part of the Plan (being executed under normal situation), the primary responsible person for potential hazardous trees outside of the Declared Area (and AusNet Services' entire network) is as follows:

Agency name	Select Solutions (A division of AusNet Services)
Position title of contact person	Deleted for public display
Telephone Number	Deleted for public display
Email address	Deleted for public display
After Hours Number	13 17 99

Procedures for notification of responsible persons

Where a potentially hazardous tree has been reported to Wellington Shire Council or AusNet Services, or another responsible person, the procedure outlined below should be followed.

AusNet Services and all responsible persons should have mutually agreed arrangements on how reports of potentially hazardous trees are passed on to responsible persons.

Flow Chart of the Hazard Tree Process

Wellington
Shire
Council
(WSC)

AusNet
Services

WSC via customer service desk receives a CAR or internal advice on a potential hazard tree (effecting electrical lines) either within a declared area or not.

AusNet Services receives notification of a potential hazard tree within the WSC Declared Area

Parks Assets Officer to define an adequate name for this type electrical hazard trees within Conquest.

WSC to register CAR a potential electrical hazard tree in Dataworks/Conquest and Parks Assets Officer will allocate the work flow.

AusNet Services receives notification of a potential hazardous tree outside of the Declared area.

Yes

Is the reported potential electrical hazard tree within a declared area?

No

WSC Arborist (PPRR) (or WSC contracted arborist) to inspect, assess and record the tree assessment in line with Quantitative Tree Risk Assessment (QTRA) in Conquest against the trees asset number

WSC assess the potential electrical hazard tree as a electrical hazard tree

WSC assess the potential electrical hazard tree as a 'non' electrical hazard tree

If tree is on private property, the trees responsible person for treatment is to be determined by the *Electrical Safety Act 1998*, Part 8, Division 2, Section 84.

Parks Assets Officer to prepare a letter to go to the complainant advising the tree is the responsibility of AusNet Services, and advising them to contact AusNet Services directly regarding the concerned tree WSC to provide some preliminary advice to AusNet Services to the fact that a tree has been reported on an AusNet Services area and expect a call from the Complainant

Action the appropriate treatment for the identified electrical hazard tree

Action the tree as a 'non action' tree

Parks Assets Officer to mark the tree as complete in Conquest as a 'non WSC tree' in Conquest

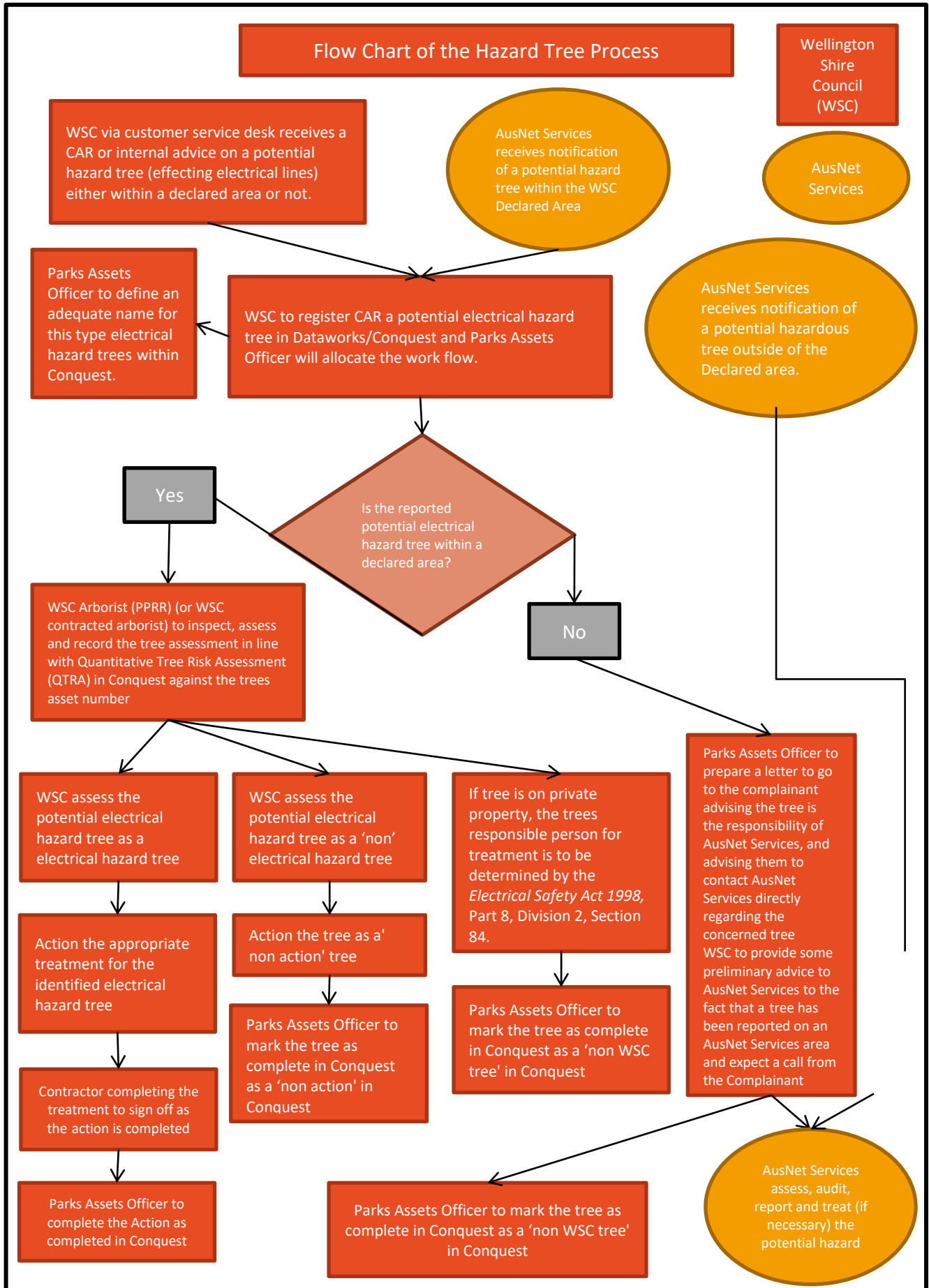
Contractor completing the treatment to sign off as the action is completed

Parks Assets Officer to mark the tree as complete in Conquest as a 'non action' in Conquest

Parks Assets Officer to complete the Action as completed in Conquest

Parks Assets Officer to mark the tree as complete in Conquest as a 'non WSC tree' in Conquest

AusNet Services assess, audit, report and treat (if necessary) the potential hazard



Reporting Timelines

AusNet Services should provide reports to the relevant responsible person as soon as practicable.

In circumstances where:

- the potentially hazardous tree is located within a high bushfire risk area (per s.80 of the ES Act) and the potentially hazardous tree is reported during the fire danger period declared under the Country Fire Authority Act 1958 (Vic); or
- the report indicates that there is an imminent danger that the tree will contact or fall onto lines as a result of minor environmental changes;

The potentially hazardous tree must be referred to the relevant responsible person for action as soon as possible, and by close of the next business day.

Each responsible person (other than the primary responsible person) must provide AusNet Services with contact details of the person (position title) who reports should be provided. It is the responsibility of each responsible person to ensure that AusNet Services is provided with up-to-date contact details.

Register

It is recommended that AusNet Services 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.

It is recommended that responsible persons also maintain a register of notifications received of hazardous trees for which they are the responsible person.

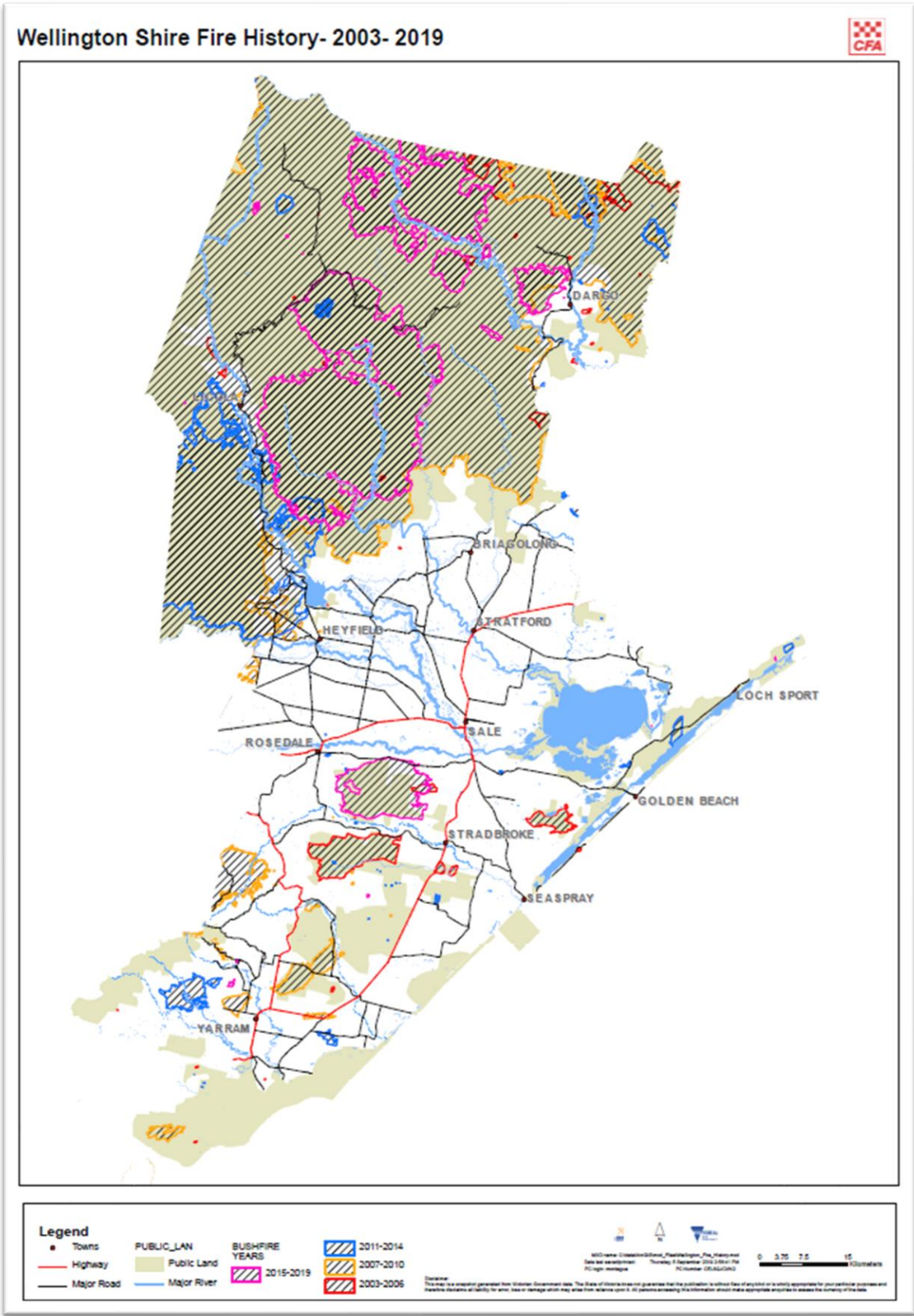
Primary Responsible Person Consultation

The Committee notes that AusNet Services as the Primary Responsible Person was consulted in relation to the development of these procedures.

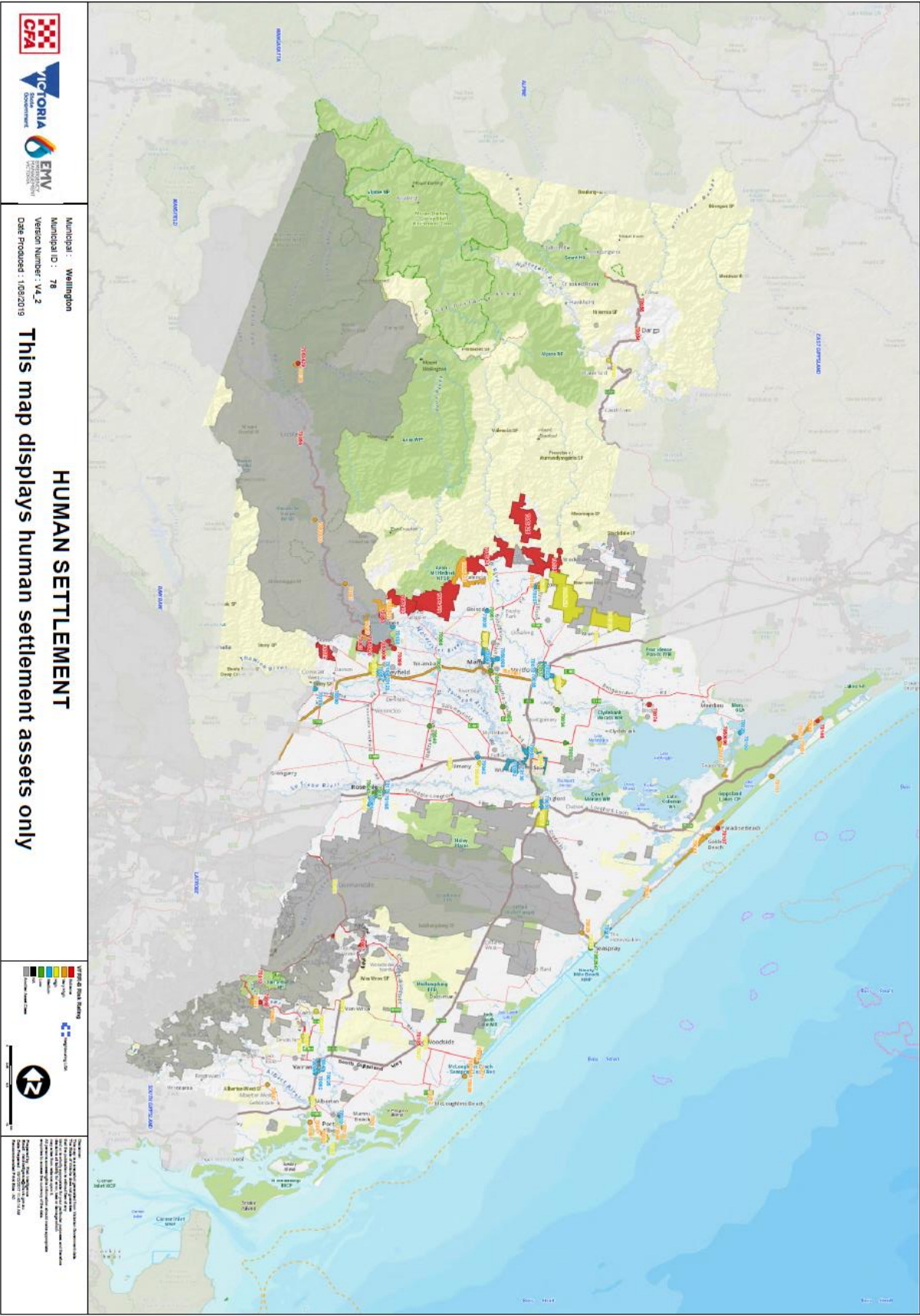
Procedure for WSC and hazard trees in the Declared Area

Please refer to flow chart above.

Appendix 2: Fire history map 2003 - 2019



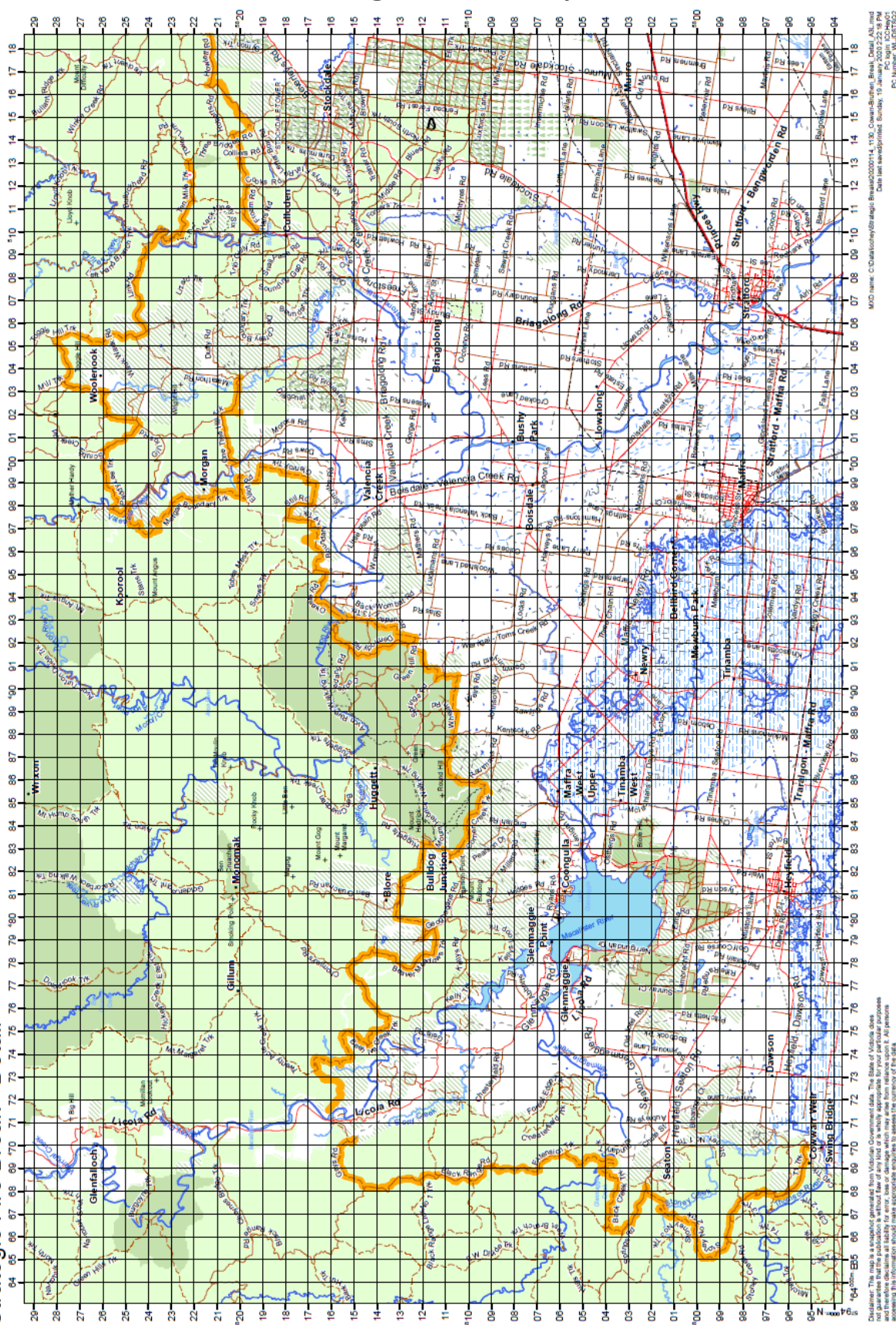
Appendix 3: VFRR-B Human settlements map



Appendix 4: Stored water tank locations

Area	Source	Purpose	Location	Volume (litres)	Construction	Fitting
Alberton West	Bore	Fire	333 Lanes Rd, Alberton West	50,000	Concrete	Thread
Boisdale	Tanker	Fire	361–383 Boisdale-Newry Road, Boisdale	50,000	Concrete	Unknown
Briagolong	Tanker	Fire	11 Coopers Rd, Briagolong	50,000	Concrete	Unknown
Briagolong	Tanker	Fire	Marathon Road near Duffy's Road	50,000	Concrete	Thread
Briagolong	Bore	Drought Relief/fire	1 Forbes St, Briagolong	22,500	Poly	Thread
Coongulla	Tanker Filled	Fire	307 Hodges Rd, Coongulla Fairs & Hodges Road Intersection	50,000	Concrete	Thread
Dargo	Bore	Drought Relief	158 Lind Ave, Dargo Recreation Reserve, Adjacent to tennis courts	4X 30,000	Poly	Overhead fill
Devon North	Tanker	Fire	3 Devon North Connection Rd, Devon North	45,000	Steel	Thread
Glomar Beach	Bore	Fire	4 Colony Place, Glomar Beach	46,400	Poly	Thread
Golden Beach	Bore	Fire	Golden Beach Community Centre Reserve - 1-19 Surf Edge Drive	50,000	Concrete	Thread
Jack River	Rain water	Fire	237 Albert River Rd, Stacey's Bridge	40,500	Poly	Thread
Loch Sport	Tanker	Fire	Track 10 – Just over causeway	40,500	Poly	Thread
Loch Sport	Bore	Fire	Lions Park-Ross Sayers Reserve - 4 Lake St, Loch Sport	40,500	Poly	Thread
Longford	Tanker	Landfill site	Former Longford Landfill - Longford-Loch Sport Road	50,000	Concrete	Thread
McLoughlin's Beach	Tanker	Fire	Beach Drive	50,000	Concrete	Thread
Meerlieu	Bore	Fire	Meerlieu Public Hall Reserve - 1455 Lindenow-Meerlieu Rd, Meerlieu	40,000	Poly	Thread
Munro	Bore	Drought Relief	162–174 Munro-Stockdale Road, Munro	50,000	Concrete	Thread
Newry	Bore	Fire	Newry Recreation Reserve - Three Chain Road	22,500	Poly	Cam Lock
Stockdale	Tanker	Fire	Cnr Briagolong Stockdale Road	50,000	Concrete	Thread
Stradbroke	Bore	Drought Relief/fire	4971 South Gippsland Highway at Hall	2X 45,000	Poly	Thread
Tarraville	Bore	Fire	31 Townsend St, Tarraville VIC 3971	45,000	Poly	Thread
Upper Maffra West	Tanker	Fire	350 Kentucky Road, Newry	50,000	Concrete	Thread
Upper Maffra West	Tanker	Fire	203 Millers Rd, Maffra West Upper	50,000	Concrete	Thread
Wonyip	Tanker	Fire	1536 Woorarra Rd, Wonyip	50,000	Concrete	Thread
Woodside	Bore	Drought	Woodside Recreation Reserve, 4-18 South Gippsland Highway	2X 22,750	Poly	Overhead fill
Woodside Beach	Bore	Fire/Council toilets	LOT 18J Richard Rd, Woodside Beach	2X 22,750	Poly	Thread
Woodside Beach	Bore	Fire/Caravan Park	Woodside Beach Caravan Park - Woodside Beach Road	50,000	Steel	Thread
Yarram	Bore	Fire/Airfield Services	186 Parkside Aerodrome Rd, Yarram	45,000	Poly	Thread

Strategic Fire Break - Detail



Appendix 6: Stakeholder annual works plan

EDUCATION / AWARENESS

TREATMENT TYPE	CATEGORY	MONTH	RESPONSIBLE AGENCY
Winter house fire awareness campaign	Education	March-September	CFA
Summer bushfire awareness campaign	Education	October-March	CFA, FFMV, WSC
Campfire awareness campaign	Education	October-April	DEECA, PV
Fire Ready Victoria info sessions	Education	October-April	CFA
Declaration of Fire Danger Period (FDP)	Awareness	Not fixed	CFA
Daily Fire Danger Rating declarations	Awareness	During FDP	CFA, BOM
Declaration of Total Fire Bans	Awareness	As required	CFA

PREPARATION / MAINTENANCE

TREATMENT TYPE	CATEGORY	MONTH	RESPONSIBLE AGENCY
Roadside vegetation reduction	Fuel Reduction	October-December	WSC, RRV, DEECA
Railway land vegetation reduction	Fuel Reduction		V/Line, VicTrack
Fuel reduction burns (planned)	Fuel Reduction	May-October	CFA, DEECA, PV, HVP
Home bushfire readiness plans	Preparedness	Ongoing	Community members
Electrical line clearance	Fuel Reduction	Ongoing	AusNet, WSC
BPLR Audit	Safety	August	CFA
BPLR Maintenance	Safety	Ongoing	WSC
Council land vegetation management	Fuel Reduction	Ongoing	WSC
Fire hydrant maintenance/repairs	Safety	Ongoing	WSC, GW, SGW
Static water tank maintenance	Safety	Ongoing	WSC, SRW

REGULATION / ENFORCEMENT

TREATMENT TYPE	CATEGORY	MONTH	RESPONSIBLE AGENCY
Private property fire hazard inspections	Fuel Reduction	November-April	WSC
Compulsory hazard clearance (pvt land)	Fuel Reduction	December-April	WSC
Fire patrols	Enforcement	FDP, TFB days	DEECA, PV, GAPP
Permits to Burn green waste (non-FDP)	Regulatory	May-October	WSC
Permits to Burn (during FDP)	Regulatory	November-April	CFA
Operation Safeguard	Enforcement	Ongoing	VicPol

Appendix 7: Weblinks

Agency	Website
Country Fire Authority	www.cfa.vic.gov.au
Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action	www.deeca.vic.gov.au
Fire Permits Victoria	www.firepermitsvictoria.com.au
Emergency Management Victoria	www.emv.vic.gov.au
Energy Safe Victoria	www.esv.vic.gov.au
Forest Fire Management Victoria	www.ffmpeg.vic.gov.au
Hancock Victorian Plantations Fire Management	www.hvp.com.au/hvp-forest-management/hvp-fire-management/
Parks Victoria	www.parks.vic.gov.au
Regional Roads Victoria	www.regionalroads.vic.gov.au
Victoria State Emergency Service	www.ses.vic.gov.au
Wellington Shire Council	www.wellington.vic.gov.au

Useful Information	Website
Prepare your property for bushfire season	www.cfa.vic.gov.au/plan-prepare
Home fire safety	www.cfa.vic.gov.au/plan-prepare/fires-in-the-home
CFA – Can I or Can't I have a BBQ/open fire?	www.cfa.vic.gov.au/warnings-restrictions/can
Victorian Building Authority factsheet - building in Bushfire Prone Areas	www.vba.vic.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0009/21321/Victorias-Bushfire-Mapping-System.pdf
Campfire safety and other regulations on public land	www.ffmpeg.vic.gov.au/permits-and-regulations/fire-restrictions-and-regulations
VicEmergency - Alerts and Warnings	www.emergency.vic.gov.au
Fire Bans & Restrictions - West and South Gippsland district	www.cfa.vic.gov.au/warnings-restrictions/west-and-south-gippsland-fire-district
Parks Vic - Bushfire Safety for visitors	www.parkweb.vic.gov.au/safety/be-safe-plan-ahead/bushfire-safety
Neighbourhood Safer Place- Bushfire Place of Last Resort (NSP-BPLR)	www.saferplaces.cfa.vic.gov.au
Planned Burn Notifications	www.plannedburns.ffmpeg.vic.gov.au
Vegetation clearing exemptions for bushfire protection	www.planning.vic.gov.au/policy-and-strategy/bushfire/your-property/vegetation-removal-for-bushfire-protection

