



MUNICIPAL RECOVERY PLAN
ENABLING COMMUNITY RECOVERY and RESILIENCE
2019-2020 Bushfires:

Ovens Complex Fire
Upper Murray 3
Upper Murray 26
Tambo 60

Alpine Shire Communities acknowledges Taungurung and Gunai-Kurnai, as well as other Traditional Owner groups without formal recognition, as the First Peoples and Traditional Custodians of the Alpine Shire.

*We pay our respect to their Elders, past, present and emerging.
May their wisdom and practices be strengthened and help build the resilience of this ancient continent, its peoples and its indigenous flora and fauna.*

The Alps are traditionally of great cultural and spiritual significance to our Shire's First Peoples. The Alps marked the central point where it was believed the sky was held up by wooden pillars carefully maintained by supernatural beings.

They were also home to spiritual elders living in stone houses, who dedicated themselves to ceremonial song-making and storytelling.

Each summer, the Alps were an important site for harvesting and feasting on Bogong moths. The First Peoples of the Alpine Shire possessed a deeply-held spiritual belief that the world was created by ancestral beings, the signs of which could be seen all around. They saw themselves as active participants in ongoing ancestral processes, in a world which was one interconnected whole, and in which the past, present and future were bound together.

Today, Alpine Shire recognises the ancient and on-going presence of its First Peoples and acknowledges their unique and continuing connection to the lands and waters of the Shire.



Foreword from the Minister, Police and Emergency Services

The Eastern Victorian Fires 2019–20 had a devastating impact on the Alpine Shire community and the environment. I am committed to ensuring that the right support is provided to the community to help with recovery and rebuilding.

Homes were lost, farms destroyed, businesses affected, and the natural environment ravaged. Tragically, five lives were lost, and I join all Victorians in extending my sympathies to their families, friends and work mates.

I want to acknowledge the hard work and efforts of emergency workers and volunteers, many from the Alpine region, who over many days and nights fought to bring the fires under control, supporting residents and visitors to protect their lives and livelihoods. I also extend my thanks to the many volunteers who stepped up to provide support in response to the fires and who continue to give their support today. We have seen the best of humanity in action.

In the months since the fires, Victorians have demonstrated extraordinary strength and community spirit as they start to rebuild their lives.

The Victorian Government is dedicated to standing shoulder to shoulder with communities to ensure people can access the immediate, medium and long-term support that will help them to recover and rebuild.

Our approach to recovery is guided by the principle that a locally-led and locally-driven recovery will ensure the best outcome. The Alpine Shire community and other affected communities should be confident they will be not only empowered to lead recovery efforts but also well supported over the long haul.

The road to recovery is long and while much has been done since the fires were contained there is still a long way to go. The Victorian Government has invested more than \$347 million towards bushfire recovery and established Bushfire Recovery Victoria (BRV) as a permanent agency to support the long-term recovery journey. BRV is working closely with the Commonwealth Government and Alpine Shire Council to streamline assistance and support individuals, businesses and communities to get back on their feet.

The 2019-20 Victorian fire season was unprecedented and caused devastation and loss in communities across East Gippsland and Northeast Victoria. These communities have since been subject to the compounding impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. The Victorian Government will continue to stand with these communities every step of their recovery.

Together we will work to ensure these communities emerge stronger, better and more resilient in the future.

Hon Lisa Neville

Minister for Police and Emergency Services

Foreword from the Mayor

We recognise the devastating economic impact that the 2019/20 bushfires and added effects that the COVID-19 pandemic, has had on our community. This includes our social, economic and environmental values, along with the broader systems that support us.

We are focused on overseeing bushfire recovery, focusing on the well-being of our community as we plan, rebuild and develop new economic opportunities for the future.

We are here to help the community to identify key strengths, needs and priorities and to develop initiatives and activities which will enable us all to work together through this difficult time to be safer, stronger and more resilient.

This plan will evolve over time and is designed to create coordinated and well managed recovery processes to build upon combined community and organisational strengths.

The Alpine Shire was fortunate to have sustained relatively limited physical damage to homes and infrastructure.

Despite this, the impacts on people and our social, economic and environmental landscapes have been dramatic. These will continue to affect individuals and our communities in different ways as we recover.

Council continues to work with and advocate on behalf of Alpine communities through these processes.

This includes working with the Victorian and Australian governments and other organisations to provide appropriate types and levels of support and aligning funding opportunities to assist in recovery and build community resilience.

Alpine Shire Council Mayor

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Photo – Cam Walker

Introduction

The purpose of this document is to articulate the impacts and consequences of the bushfire events of 2019 and 2020; to identify the needs and priorities of the community (*refer to Appendix A*); and provide strategic direction, goals and an Action Plan (*refer to Appendix B*); to enable a community-led recovery following the Bushfires. It includes working together with the surrounding Alpine resorts and considers the additional impacts of COVID-19.

Recovery will be underpinned by the National Principles for Disaster Recovery, recognising the key role of community, together with the support of non-government organisations, Alpine Resilience Committee, community groups, businesses and others in supporting long term recovery.

The Alpine Community Recovery Committee (CRC) will play a pivotal role in helping us connect with, learn from, and identify the needs of our unique communities.

The overarching objective is to enable community-led recovery wherever possible, to create community centred outcomes and benefits.

With the appropriate levels of support from all tiers of Government, the recovery process can strengthen the entire community.

It is essential to build safety and resilience levels to better manage stresses, shocks and emergencies in the future, including climate change, without promoting a greater reliance on agencies, government and other service providers.

This plan combines the governance structures which are required by legislation, with those that are guided by the emergency management arrangements.

It also draws on community approved structures for guiding recovery within the unique communities of the Alpine Shire and Alpine resorts.

The development and implementation of actions in this document will require the cooperation of communities, all levels of government, agencies, businesses, Traditional Owner groups, and other organisations to be successful.

It is intended that this will be a live and evolving document to enable community recovery and serve as a record of the impacts and recovery outcomes. This document should be read in conjunction with other recovery working groups' sub-plans and the Alpine Shire 2030 Community Vision Plan.

Responsibilities

Under the *Emergency Management Manual Victoria (EMMV)*, Municipal councils are responsible for coordinating recovery at the local level for affected individuals and communities. Municipal councils will work with local partners to determine local arrangements to manage relief and recovery activities.

Under the Victorian Local Government Act and the Victorian Planning and Environment Act, councils have further responsibilities during recovery. Please refer to Victorian Local Government Act 2020 and Victorian Planning and Environment Act for further details.

This document is guided by:

- National Principals for Disaster Recovery
- Australian Institute of Disaster Resilience (AIDR) Community Recovery Handbook
- Emergency Management Manual Victoria (EMMV)
- Emergency Management Victoria (EMV) Disaster Recovery Toolkit for Local Government
- Bushfire Recovery Victoria (BRV) Recovery Planning Guidelines
- Alpine Shire Emergency Management Plan (MEMP)
- Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan
- Resort Emergency Management and Recovery plans
- Community plans

Background

The Alpine Shire boasts 4,787 square kilometres of spectacular scenery in Australia with 92% public land. The remaining 8% is geographically clustered, consisting of some remote communities, towns, villages and farming land in the Ovens, Buffalo, Buckland, Kiewa Valleys, and on the Alpine ridge southeast of Mount Hotham.

The First Peoples of the Alpine Shire include the Taungurung and Gunai-Kurnai, who are both Registered Aboriginal Parties, as well as other Traditional Owner groups who are not yet formally recognised. Taungurung cover much of central Victoria, which, in the Alpine regions, includes the Mount Buffalo National Park over to Bright and Harrietteville and down to Abbeyard and beyond. Gunai-Kurnai cover some of the Alpine National Park, including Mount Selwyn, down to the border of the Alpine Shire and Wellington Shire. The other Traditional Owner groups, yet to be formally recognised, cover the remaining land of the Alpine regions.

The Alpine peaks and high plains within the Alpine Shire comprise the central location where traditional lands belonging to each of its First Peoples meet up.

Major towns within the Shire are either located in the Ovens or Kiewa Valleys. The valleys are separated by hills which rise approximately 600 metres above the valley floor with two major (bitumen) roads and numerous 4WD tracks connecting the two valleys.

The Great Alpine Road is the major road link for the majority of visiting or passing traffic and the road runs from Wangaratta through the Shire, and provides the only access to Mount Hotham, Dinner Plain and Mount Hotham airport. The road connects two of Victoria's main tourist regions, the Lakes and Wilderness region in Gippsland and the North East. The Great Alpine Road is sometimes impassable due to heavy snowfalls, floodwaters or bushfires.

Land Use

The Alpine region is predominantly rural, with significant areas of national park, and snowfields at Dinner Plain and Mount Buffalo. The Shire includes the key townships of Bright, Mount Beauty, Myrtleford, Harrietteville and Dinner Plain (please refer to Appendix A: *"strengths, Needs, and Priorities"* for a more comprehensive list of smaller communities) and surrounds the two major ski resorts of Falls Creek and Mount Hotham. Rural land is used

largely for agriculture, particularly dairy farming, hop farming, and fruit and nut growing, with some beef farming, forestry and viticulture. Hydroelectricity and tourism are important industries. The Shire encompasses a total land area of about 4,800 square kilometres.

Major features

Major features of Alpine Shire include Mount Buffalo National Park, parts of Alpine National Park, Lake Buffalo, Lake Catani, Lake Guy, Rocky Valley Lake, the Kiewa River, the Ovens River, Buffalo River, Bogong Alpine Village, Dinner Plain Alpine Village, Murray to Mountains Rail Trail, various accommodation places, Alpine Health (Bright, Mount Beauty and Myrtleford), recreational tourism attractions, numerous wineries and microbreweries, and several niche farming activities and farm gates.

Community Profile

The Shire services 12,800 residents with an older than average population (more than 50% of the population are over the age of 45 and 24% are aged over 65), and 9.1% are Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD), which is less than half of the population's state average (28.4%) CALD population. The predominant CALD language is Italian, with the majority residing within the Myrtleford area. 0.8% of residents in the Alpine Shire identify as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander, which is on par with the state but less than the national average of 2.8%. However, it is to be noted that this number is unlikely to be accurate due to the number of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander peoples who have not identified for reasons of their own.

The Alpine Shire has lower than average local household incomes when compared with regional Victoria as a whole, partly due to the age profile of the population.

The Shire provides outstanding liveability with recreational facilities covering four snow destinations and two National Parks: Mount Buffalo and Alpine National Parks. It is popular for activities such as sightseeing, eating out, visiting wineries, microbreweries and coffee roasters, shopping, rail and road cycling, mountain biking, hang gliding, hiking, holidays, visiting craft and art galleries and snow activities. It is a great attractive destination for all demographics.

Tourism Profile

During peak periods the population in the Alpine Shire almost doubles, growing to 25,000 people, with more than 1 million visitors per annum. The busiest times are Christmas/ New Year, Easter holiday periods, public holidays, and major events. During peak visitation periods, commercial accommodation is fully booked, with a large proportion of the shire consisting of commercial property owners.

The Alpine region is a seasonal destination with summer, autumn and spring being the most popular seasons to visit for the valleys, and winter being the most popular season for Mount Hotham, Falls Creek and Dinner Plain. In addition to this, Alpine Shire hosts many events (140 in 2019), including several high-profile events and some larger events attracting in excess of 5,000 people.

These seasonal fluctuations and periods of increased visitation mean that the Alpine Shire consists predominantly of a large hospitality, casual work force to accommodate the

variations created by tourism. Accommodation and food services is the largest employer in the Alpine Shire.

Economic Profile¹

Key Statistics

- Gross Domestic Product (GDP): \$556m as of 30 June 2019 (NEIR 2019)
- Population: 12,814 (ABS ERP 2019)
- Local jobs: 5,021 (NEIR 2019)
- Largest industry (by employment): Accommodation and Food Services is the largest employer in the Alpine Shire, making up 14.2% of total employment (NEIR 2019)
- Local businesses: 1, 573 (ABS 2019)
- Employed Residents: 6,031 (NEIR 2019)
- Resident location of workers: Of the 4,582 local workers in the Alpine Shire, 4,038 or 88.1% also live in the area (ABS 2016)
- Resident place of work: 1,114 or 20.5% of the Alpine Shire's resident workers travel outside of the area to work (ABS 2016)

Dominant groups

An analysis of the jobs held by the local workers in the Alpine Shire in 2016 shows the three most popular industry sectors were:

- Accommodation and Food Services (653 people or 14.2%)
- Retail Trade (513 people or 11.1%)
- Health Care and Social Assistance (499 people or 10.8%)

In combination these three fields accounted for 1,665 people in total or 36.1% of the local workers. In comparison, Victoria employed 6.6% in Accommodation and Food Services; 10.2% in Retail Trade and 12.5% in Health Care and Social Assistance.

The major differences between the jobs held by local workers of the Alpine Shire and Victoria were:

- A larger percentage of local workers employed in the field of Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing (10.2% compared to 2.2%)
- A larger percentage of local workers employed in the field of Accommodation and Food Services (14.2% compared to 6.6%)
- A smaller percentage of local workers employed in the field of Professional, Scientific and Technical Services (4.0% compared to 7.9%)
- A smaller percentage of local workers employed in the field of Financial and Insurance Services (1.4% compared to 3.9%)

¹ The information presented here is derived from official sources of information (Australian Bureau of Statistics) as well as Australia's leading economic modellers (NEIR).

Emerging groups

The largest changes in the jobs held by local workers between 2011 and 2016 in the Alpine Shire were for those employed in:

- Retail Trade (-96 local workers)
- Industry not classified (+91 local workers)
- Public Administration and Safety (-53 local workers)
- Administrative and Support Services (+45 local workers)

Agriculture

In 2015/16, the total value of agricultural output in the Alpine Shire was \$61m. The largest commodity produced was Livestock slaughtering, which accounted for 51.5% of the Alpine Shire's total agricultural output in value terms.

Alpine Resorts²

Alpine Resorts and Dinner Plain includes three separate sections: Falls Creek Alpine Resort (part of the locality of Falls Creek), the Mount Hotham Alpine Resort (part of the locality of Hotham Heights) and the Dinner Plain Alpine Village (the locality of Dinner Plain).

Key Statistics

- Population: 754 (2019 ABS ERP)
- 344 people in 2016 were employed, of which 74% worked full-time and 25% part-time
- More residents worked in accommodation and food services than any other industry in 2016
- There were more managers in Alpine Resorts and Dinner Plain in 2016 than any other occupation
- 9.5% of the population earned an income of \$1,750 or more per week in 2016
- 32.7% of households earned an income of \$2,500 or more per week in 2016
- 19.3% of people had a Bachelor or Higher degree qualification in 2016, higher than regional Victoria. This represents an increase of 27 people since 2011
- 3.7% of households were made up of couples with children in 2016, compared with 25.3% in regional Victoria

Context

Bushfire Overview

The 2019-2020 bushfire season began early for the Alpine Shire with 16 fires beginning in the Upper Murray from lightning on 21st November 2019. The Upper Murray 3 – Mongan's Bridge – Mt Tawonga and Upper Murray 4 – Mongans Bridge – York Fireline covered the Kiwa Valley communities in smoke and threatened to escape public land and impact private property.

² The information presented here is derived from official sources of information (Australian Bureau of Statistics) as well as Australia's leading economic modellers (NEIR).

The Upper Murray 26 bushfire started in NSW on the 29 December 2019 with the fire spotting into Victoria on the 30 December 2019 continuing to grow rapidly. This bushfire burnt 308,000ha with more than 80,000ha across the border in NSW. The fire was contained on 24th January 2020.

The Ovens NYE Complex fire – also known as the Ovens 41-Abbeyard-Yarrabarula South fire – 14 fires were ignited by lightning on December 31, 2019 in the King, Buffalo, Kiewa and Wongungarra River catchments. Over the coming days fires merged and breached control lines. The following week saw eight fires not able to be controlled despite determined suppression attempts, and subsequently spread and merged to form the Ovens NYE Fire Complex. The fire was contained on 5 February 2020.

On January 4, under extreme fire weather conditions, this fire increased rapidly in size and developed a convection plume and merged with five other fires in the Buffalo River and Buckland River catchments (Ovens Fires 36, 42, 43, 44, and 46). Private properties in the Abbeyard and Catherine River area were damaged by fire during this time.



Photo- Gary Weston

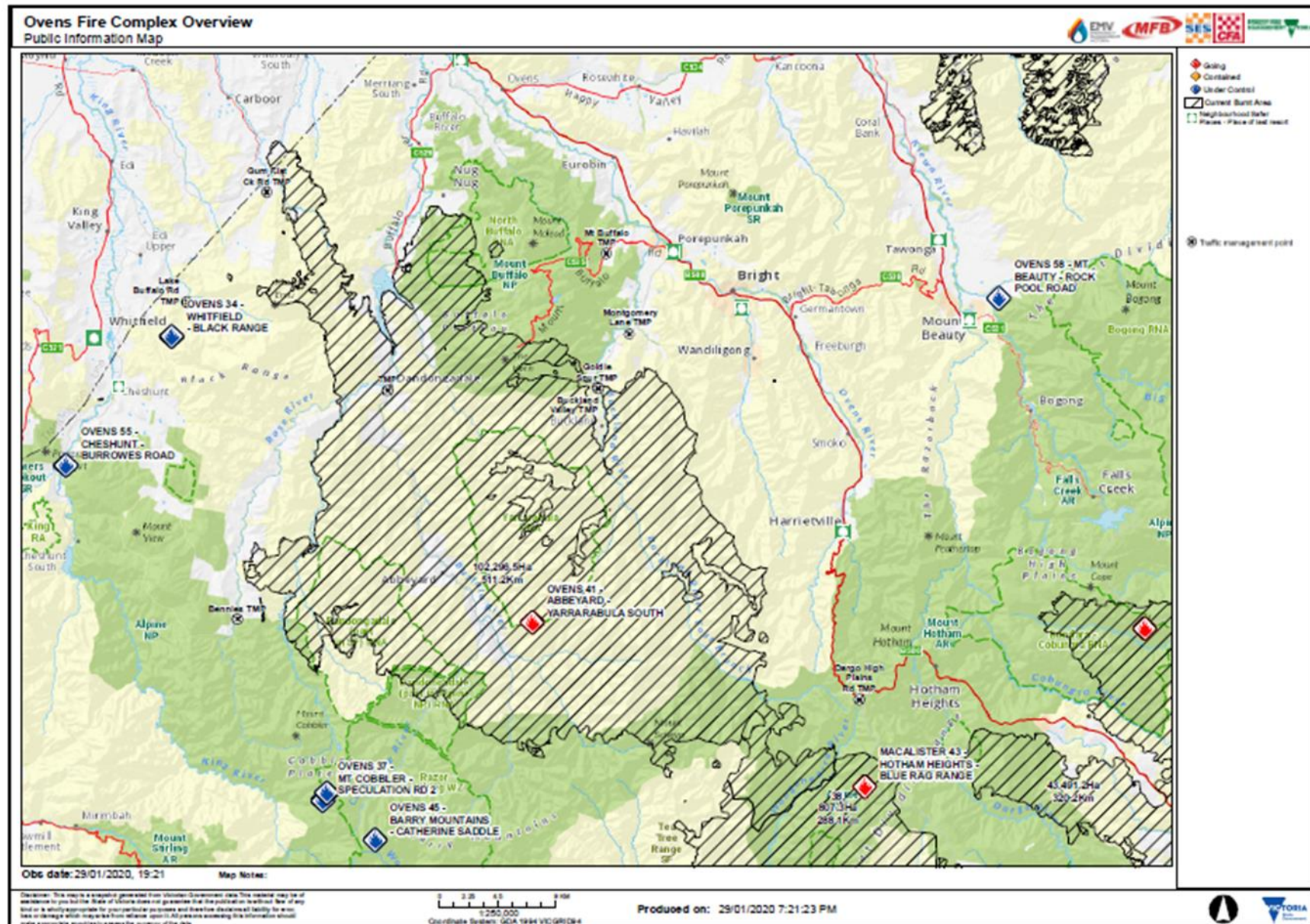
The Tambo 60 – Shannonvale – McNamara Hut fire started on 1st January 2020 from a lightning strike in the Alpine National Park. Significant fire weather increased the fire size to 22,000 ha.

The Tambo 58 Cobungra – Dinner Plain Track fire started from a lightning strike in the Dargo Catchment on 30th December 2019. On 4th January 2020, the fire moved up towards Dinner Plain village (see photo below). A late afternoon wind shift caused the fire to swing into the Victoria River towards Cobungra.

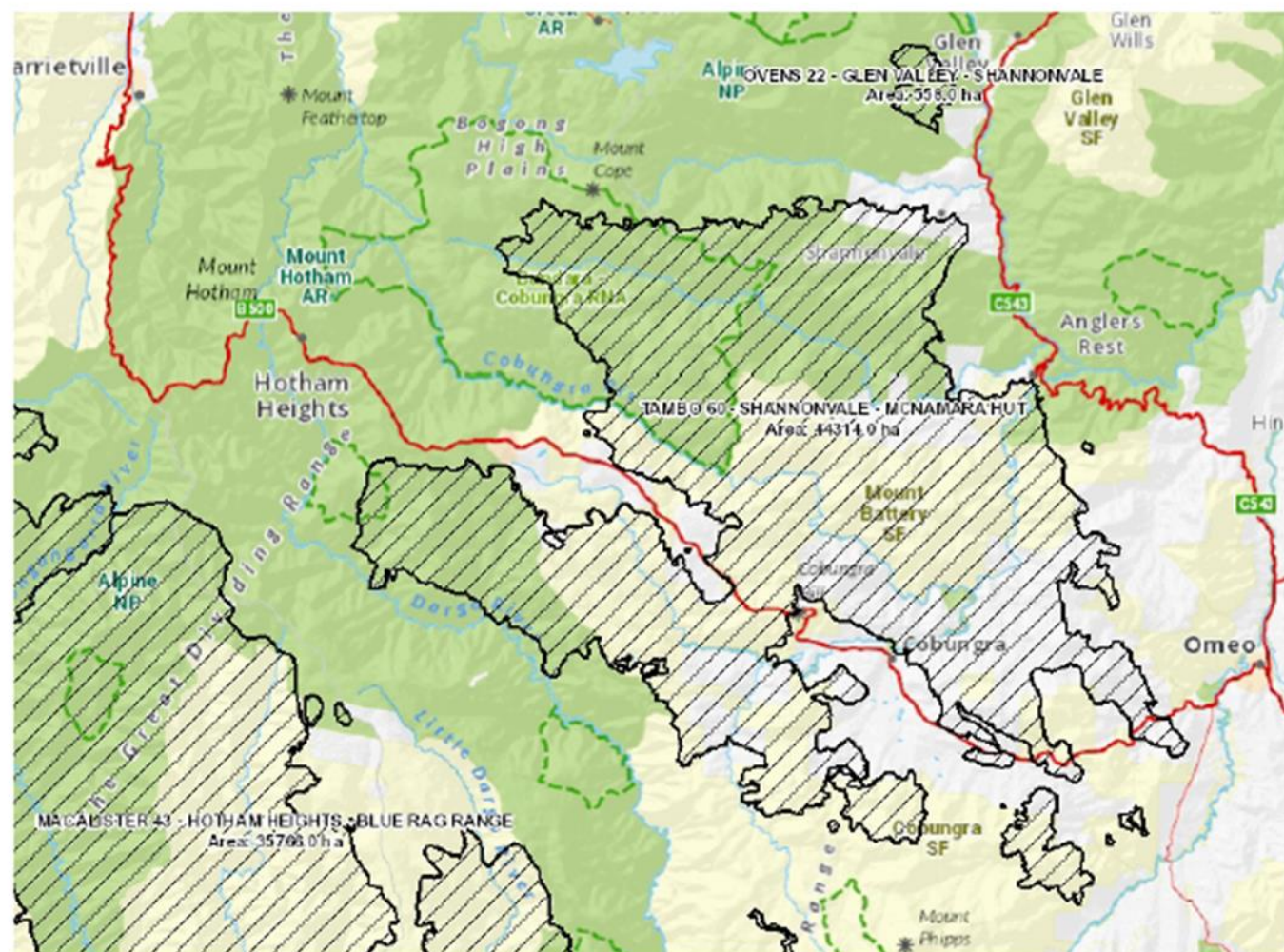
On the 17th January, the Tambo 58 – Cobungra – Dinner Plain Track fire (11,530 ha) joined with the T60 fire through back burning operations. Further back burning around Anglers Rest and Shannonvale increased the fire size to 44,308 ha. The fire was declared Contained on the 4th February 2020.



Photo, Dinner Plain Alpine Village – Cam Walker



Harrietville to Omeo 2019/20 Fire Extent



Legend

- DELWP - CFA Bushfires
- Going
- Contained
- Controlled
- CFA Other Incidents
- GOING
- CONTAINED
- CONTROLLED
- SES Incidents - Going
- New
- Assessed
- On Scene
- Bushfire Observations - Area
- AIG Points < 3hrs
- Other
- PAWS
- THREATENED_ASSET
- POO
- FLOOD
- PLANT
- TRAFFIC_MANAGEMENT_POINT
- SMOKER
- PORTABLE_COMMS
- HELIPAD
- HAZMAT
- CONTROL_POINT
- HELICOPTER_WP
- FIRE_APPLIANCE
- ACCESS_POINT
- HS_TREE_BASE
- Hot Spot

Disclaimer: This map is a snapshot generated from Victorian Government data. This material may be of assistance to you but the State of Victoria does not guarantee that the publication is without flaw of any kind or is wholly appropriate for your particular purposes and therefore disclaims all liability for error, loss or damage which may arise from reliance upon it. All persons accessing this information should make appropriate enquiries to assess the currency of the data.
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0 5.0 10.0 Kilometers
1: 250,000



Evacuations

During the Ovens NYE Complex Fires the communities of the Alpine Shire experienced multiple evacuations during a 22-day period. The following communities received advice to **Leave Now**, **Evacuate Now** or **Stay** over 11 individual days.

ADVICE	NO OF DAYS	LOCATION
Leave Now	1	Buffalo Creek, Bright, Eurobin, Happy Valley, Havilah, Kancoona South, Ovens, Porepunkah, Rosewhite, Kancoona, Brookside, Buckland Junction
	3	Nug Nug, Buffalo River, Merriang South, Buckland
	4	Mount Buffalo
	5	Dandongadale
Evacuate Now	1	Dinner Plain, Falls Creek, Brookside, Buckland, Dunphys Hill, Mount Buffalo, Salt Log, Buckland Junction, Germantown, Eurobin, Selwyn
	2	Abbeyard, Bennies, Hotham Heights, Mount Buffalo
	3	Buffalo Creek, Merriang
	4	Freeburgh, Harrierville, Smoko, Wandiligong, Nug Nug, Buffalo River
	5	Dandongadale, Merriang South
Stay	1	Davenport Village, Dinner Plain, Flourbag, Hotham Heights, Dandongadale, Myrtleford, Brookside, Buckland, Buffalo Creek, Dunphys Hill, Harrierville, Salt Log, Wandiligong, Buckland Junction, Germantown, Eurobin, Freeburgh, Merriang, Selwyn, Smoko
	2	Merriang South
	3	Buffalo River, Nug Nug

The first **Watch and Act** message including "Don't wait, leaving now is the safest option - conditions may change and get worse very quickly" was issued to most visitors and residents within the Alpine Shire on 1 January 2020. Over the first few days all tourists were strongly advised to leave the area and return home. A State of Disaster was declared on 3 January 2020 for an initial period of 7 days further advising tourists to leave. This was later extended for an additional 2 days.

Emergency services advised on 23 January 2020 that it was safe for visitors to return to the area.

An **Evacuation Registration / Information Centre** was set up at the Myrtleford library to support evacuees and visitors leaving the Shire to make decisions to return home, stay with relatives or attend Emergency Relief Centres.

Communities within the Alpine region are often connected via one road of egress in emergency situations. During peak visitation periods this can be compromised by mass evacuations at the one time.

Emergency Relief Centres

Evacuees varied, with some staying for long periods of time due to fire or smoke, and others short term or experiencing multiple evacuations to multiple locations.

Evacuees were directed to Emergency Relief Centres in Wangaratta or Wodonga with some transferred after 4th January to Lachford Barracks in Wodonga. Evacuees were encouraged to return home with some evacuated again to Myrtleford when fire activity re-escalated later in January.

Many evacuees used the relief centre as an information point to learn about road closures, fire activity and communications from emergency services. They would stay elsewhere overnight but remain at the relief centre during the day as they could access the most up to date information. Plus be provided with tea/coffee making facilities and food.

Majority of evacuees stopped through the relief centre to register that they were leaving and continued on to family/friends in safer areas.

Consequences

Damages and Impacts

The Alpine Shire had 29% of its footprint directly impacted by the bushfire with 6% of the burnt area impacting private land and the balance in public land or plantations.

TENURE	AREA BURNT (HA)	AREA BURNT (%)
National Parks	20,408	19
State Forest	76,375	72
Plantations *	2,824	2
Other - Crown Land	520	0.5
Private land	6,119	6
TOTAL	105,854	100

*A small percentage of plantation loss is located in Wangaratta Shire

Using information and data from AgVic, DELWP's Initial Impact Assessment, and overlaying the map of the impacted area to show ratable properties, 49 cases were identified in Alpine Shire and logged into Crisisworks. Of these some owners owned multiple properties which resulted in 42 discrete people/families/ companies being impacted. Of these 42 cases, 7 were companies and/or corporate entities.

Secondary Impact Assessments (SIA) were conducted to confirm each case, ascertain the impact and provide support or referrals where required. Refer to Table below for impacts.

SIA Impact Statistics

ITEM	NO OF AFFECTED
Houses	1
Sheds and cattleman's huts	6
Cattle yards and loading ramps	4
Water tanks	2
Machinery	2 units (Telstra)

Farming Equipment	5 units
Caravan	1
Fencing – 25km (internal and external) of known damage across 5 properties and unknown kms of damage across 5 other properties	17 properties in total received assistance with fencing.
Pasture damaged requiring rehabilitation	6 properties
Dead livestock	63 cattle
Severe environmental impact including dangerous trees, land erosion and debris.	8 properties
Silting of dams and/or waterways	4 properties

Personal Impacts

In addition to the 42 individuals, families and businesses impacted by the bushfires most residents in the Alpine Shire were affected by the fires financially, psychologically or physically due to the fire risk, multiple evacuations and extended exposure to smoke, and required a range of assistance including:

- Personal support and debriefing
- Counselling
- Family violence, crisis support and counselling
- Department of Health and Human Services grants
- Centrelink grants
- Salvation Army grants and vouchers for petrol, meals, hardware, clothes and household goods
- Victorian Bushfire Appeal grants and assistance
- Case management
- Support for animal care
- Assistance with clean up
- Assistance with fencing reinstatement
- Legal advice – insurance assistance
- Financial management advice and assistance

Community Impacts

The bushfires had a significant impact on the health and wellbeing of the community due to:

- Length of time under state emergency – heightened awareness
- Large scale evacuations of tourists and local residents across multiple communities across the Alpine region
- Evacuation of hospitals, aged care facilities, community services, primary care services and general practitioners – both residents and family
- Subsequent evacuations (please refer to “evacuations” page 15)
- Poor air quality – high levels for long period of time
- Disruption to social connectivity due to prolonged length and multiple periods of alerts providing a major disruptor to towns and community life
- Lack or loss of – holidays and work

Cultural Impacts

It is recognised that Indigenous peoples have special connection and may have/be experiencing significant personal and community loss. There are 39 known/registered sites of Aboriginal and historical cultural sites of significance within the fire impacted area with damage unknown and a risk of damage or pilfering by treasure hunters/collectors.

To ensure there is not a mismanagement of Aboriginal cultures and heritages it is important to build and maintain relationships with open lines of communication with Traditional Owner Reconciliation Action Plan groups.

Economic Impacts

Early consideration of the economic impacts and consequences is critical for community recovery. The viability of affected communities can be dependent on the ability of local businesses and industry to recover. Closure of the National Parks had a direct impact of the viability of local businesses and industry within the Alpine and surrounding shires and Alpine resorts. Decisions should also consider the local and broader community to include the risks and opportunities associated with the return of visitors to the area.

The economic impact from the bushfires has been felt hard across the entire shire with losses reported to be as high as \$90million for the quarter and a visitation loss between 140,000 and 190,000 visitors. This amount equates to approximately 25% of the total tourism revenue for the year. Research indicates that over the 3 months following the bushfires, 70% of businesses have lost over 75% of revenue and job disruption was between 670 and 900 (FTE) equivalent.

(Please note: the above figures do not incorporate the Alpine Resorts of Falls Creek and Mount Hotham, whom both experienced additional economic impacts due to the bushfires)

Economic losses of this magnitude have an enormous impact on the social and psychological well-being of residents, businesses, employers, employees and the broader community. The onset of COVID-19 has compounded the situation.

Hancocks Victoria Plantation (HVP) has several long-term plantation timber assets located across North East Victoria which includes the Alpine Shire. HVP suffered a loss of 2,824ha estimating a \$18.2M loss within the Alpine Shire (please note: a small percentage of plantation loss is in Wangaratta Shire). Carter Holt Harvey (CHH) Mill in Myrtleford processes for HVP.

Carter Holt Harvey estimates \$2 million in additional costs for their business as a direct result of the subsequent requirement to process salvaged logs in the short term. The full impact and associated financial implications for the medium and long term are still being assessed. A flow on effect of timber loss could result in further losses and/or job losses in the area.

The impact of the 2019/2020 summer bushfire smoke on viability of the grape growers and wine producers in the North East zone has been substantial; with flow-on effect to the regional economy in the coming years through reduced sales volumes and sales of lower value wine. The value of the fruit that could not be harvested has resulted in an estimated loss to growers of 1,457 tonnes or \$2,254,600. The retail value of the foregone wine will result in an estimated \$11m loss to the economy.

Agricultural Economic Impacts

4,000 hectares of agricultural land was affected by the fires in the Alpine Shire. The major impacts from an agricultural perspective for the Alpine Shire are:

- Smoke taint for vignerons

- Pasture/ fence loss for primary producers/ farmers
- Water supply, due to damaged infrastructure and quality issues post rain
- Erosion post rain events
- Increase pest, plants and animals

The Hume Region Bushfire Economic Working Group liaised with landholders and industry groups to ascertain the impact within the Alpine Shire and Hume Region and to develop a Regional Recovery Plan to support the recovery of Agriculture. Impacts to the sector across the region, as identified in February 2020, are listed in the Impacts table on the following page.

Impacts

INDUSTRY	IMPACTS
Dairy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prolonged exposure to smoke and ash, low Vitamin D, disrupted feeding and stress may be significant and could impact on feed intake, reproduction and milk yields. • Interrupted milking in addition to the milk lost directly by not milking interrupted lactation could lead to reduced milk yields, premature drying-off and subsequent forgone milk yields, milk quality and herd health issues. • Superficial teat damage which can lead to permanently damaging milk canals may result in culling of non-viable animals, in some cases post feeding several months after fires. • Loss of feed reserves could reduce future business resilience • Potential for reduced ongoing animal performance due to the substantial change in diets. • Loss of permanent pasture – extra costs to re-sow, loss of standing feed, plus delay in response to autumn break (because need to re-establish pasture rather than what is there responding to rain). • On farm labour shortages. • Water quality. • Potential for immediate economic impact on processors having to dispose of milk due lack of access during fires and carting of water for customers.
Vigneron	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 25 grape and wine producers impacted. • Alpine Valleys grape growers were only able to pick 54% of fruit, with 1,457 tonnes left on the vine. • Lack of insurance for grape growers against smoke taint.
Horticulture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pumpkins have been impacted both by lack of pollination because of inactive bees, and poor seed development where pollination has occurred. • 100% write-off of pumpkins for snack food. • Financial loss for orchardists unable to conduct work due to smoke but still having to pay employees. • Insurance too costly to cover orchards against fire. • Smoke effect reduced light levels impacting on production. • Smoke and ash content of air resulted in additional cost to clean produce.

INDUSTRY	IMPACTS
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Potential smoke tainted products (e.g. tea leaves, apples, cherries).
Apiary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minimal loss of hives but significant loss of forest and floral resource. Forest that are burnt take around 10 years to recover if they recover at all, the issue for beekeepers is how they will offset their lost income for the next 10 years. Given bees pollinate two thirds of Australia's agricultural production worth \$14 billion this is an issue for food security. Beekeepers will need to shift longer distances and outside normal working zone resulting in additional costs and having to learn the ecology of these new areas. Some older beekeepers will consider an early exit, impacting pollination services.
Abattoirs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Loss of 10% of business due to loss of production days from smoke impact. Reduction in livestock supply and demand.
Livestock	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 63 cattle dead (data from SIA)
Aquaculture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Loss of production due to water quality.
General	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pests – wild dogs and deer numbers have increased. Increase in livestock and domestic animal attacks from wild dogs. Increase in weeds.

Infrastructure Impacts

The Shire was fortunate to have minimal losses of infrastructure with the loss of one place of primary residence and damage to a section of Buffalo River Road, two bridges, guide posts, statutory signs and mountain bike trails around Dinner Plain. There was subsequent damage to Nug Nug Road after a rainstorm due to insufficient vegetation cover on the fire ground resulting in debris flow and landslips.

Council identified significant hazardous tree works which was completed by DELWP in conjunction with reinstatement of drainage and road works within the National Park area. Several landslides occurred on unsealed sections of Abbeyards Road restricting access to residents for a short period of time.

The bushfire Rapid Risk Assessment Team (RRAT) was tasked by the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning to assess and rank risks resulting from impacts on public land values, and report to the public land managers and Incident Management Team on:

- Biodiversity
- Built assets
- Catchment and water
- Cultural heritage
- Forest management
- Tourism and economic

Impacts to infrastructure on public land was captured by the RRAT under built assets on public land which included;

- Fire impact to 11 recreation areas, including multiple camp sites
- Minor damage to infrastructure, including replacement of fencing (20km of public-private land interface), picnic tables, barbecues, bollards, signage and walking tracks. Environmental impacts

Findings were that nearly 50% of the impacted areas were severely burnt in the 2019/2020 bushfire with many areas burnt multiple times - 2003 and 2006 fires impacted between 69% and 88% of the current fire area.

6 biodiversity risks identified:

NO	RISK	RISK LEVEL	THREAT
1	Spotted tree frog	Extreme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Burnt riparian veg • Sedimentation • Risk of extinction • Predation (exotic fish) • Grazing and trampling • Fish barriers
2	Threatened freshwater fish	High	
3	Threatened flora and alpine communities	High	
4	Long-footed Potoroo	High	
5	Threatened hollow-dependent fauna	High	
6	Too frequently burnt Ecological Vegetation Class (EVC) and burnt riparian zones	High	Vegetation burnt 3+ times in 20 years <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • < MIN Tolerance Fire Interval (TFI) • Failure to reproduce • Grazing by herbivores • Weed invasion

Key Strengths, Needs and Priorities

The strengths, needs and priorities of each community within the Alpine Shire will set the overall context for recovery. It is important to understand that each community situation and their needs will be different.

Throughout the recovery each community and the Shire as a whole, will continue to change as the recovery progresses and the context continues to change. This document will continue to evolve to enable community led recovery processes as the different community contexts continue to change.

Seven areas have been identified as groupings of towns and localities throughout the Alpine Shire and Alpine resorts for the purpose of identifying their strengths, needs and priorities. These community areas consist of the following:

- **Bright and surrounds** (including and not limited to the communities of Bright, Porepunkah, Buckland, Wandiligong, Eurobin)
- **Myrtleford and surrounds** (including and not limited to serving the communities of Myrtleford, Gapsted, Rosewhite, Ovens, Happy Valley, Buffalo River, Nug Nug, Abbeyard, Dandongadale)
- **Kiewa Valley and surrounds** (including and not limited to the communities of Mount Beauty, Tawonga, Tawonga South, Dederang, Gundowring, Gundowring Upper, St Albans)
- **Harrietville and surrounds** (including and not limited to the communities of Harrietville, Freeburgh, Smoko, Germantown)
- **Dinner Plain and surrounds**
- **Mt Hotham Alpine Resort**
- **Falls Creek Alpine Resort**

Representatives from each of these community areas form the Community Recovery Committee (CRC). As the context continues to change it will support decision making for the development of short, medium, and long-term goals and the actions for the recovery. Refer to APPENDIX A – Strengths, needs and priorities

Challenges

The Alpine Shire, Alpine Resorts and the CRC may face challenges throughout the recovery and will rely on external services, knowledge and support to assist communities to improve, learn and grow throughout the process. This may include the coordination of local community engagement, CALD communities and Traditional Owners Groups not yet formally recognised.

It is important to note that COVID-19 has added to the impacts, compounding the effects within the community, with:

- Further loss of income into tourism and hospitality
- Mental health issues
- Service delivery from supporting agencies

Some key challenges identified which may impact the ability to deliver recovery goals and strategies in the Alpine region are:

- Insufficient financial and human resources to undertake the recovery strategies and actions
- Inconsistent coordination between Communities, Council, Bushfire Recovery Victoria, National Bushfire Recovery Agency, and partner agencies
- Community capacity to meet the identified needs from within the community
- Recovery actions and strategies not supported by community members as they do not align with their individual agendas and aspirations
- Compounded impacts to Mount Hotham and Falls Creek following Vail Resorts closing lift operations four days into the declared 2020 snow season

Recovery Objectives and Processes

Council is committed to working with communities and stakeholders to enable a community led approach wherever possible. These will consider the strengths, needs and priorities in the context of individuals, communities and broader society.

This document is guided by objectives of the *EMMV* and the Natural Principles for Disaster Recovery. It will evolve over time and is designed to create a coordinated and well managed recovery that has the community at its core.

Objectives

The EMMV objectives of relief and recovery are to support communities to successfully deal with the impacts of an emergency in the social, built, economic, natural and agricultural environments (known as the four pillars). By doing so, they help build cohesion and resilience to future emergencies.

- Empower and engage individuals and communities to promote self-sufficiency and, where possible, meet their own relief and recovery needs
- Be coordinated and collaborative, jointly owned by affected individuals and communities – as well as the non-government organisations, businesses and government agencies that support them
- Be adaptive and scalable, recognising the unique, complex and dynamic nature of emergencies and communities
- Focus on consequence management, where everyone involved appreciates the potential consequence of their decisions and actions
- Be able to support the delivery of concurrent community, local, regional and state response, and relief and recovery activities.

The State Recovery Plan outlines five lines of recovery, including an additional line of recovery – Cultural (Aboriginal Culture and Healing).

Process

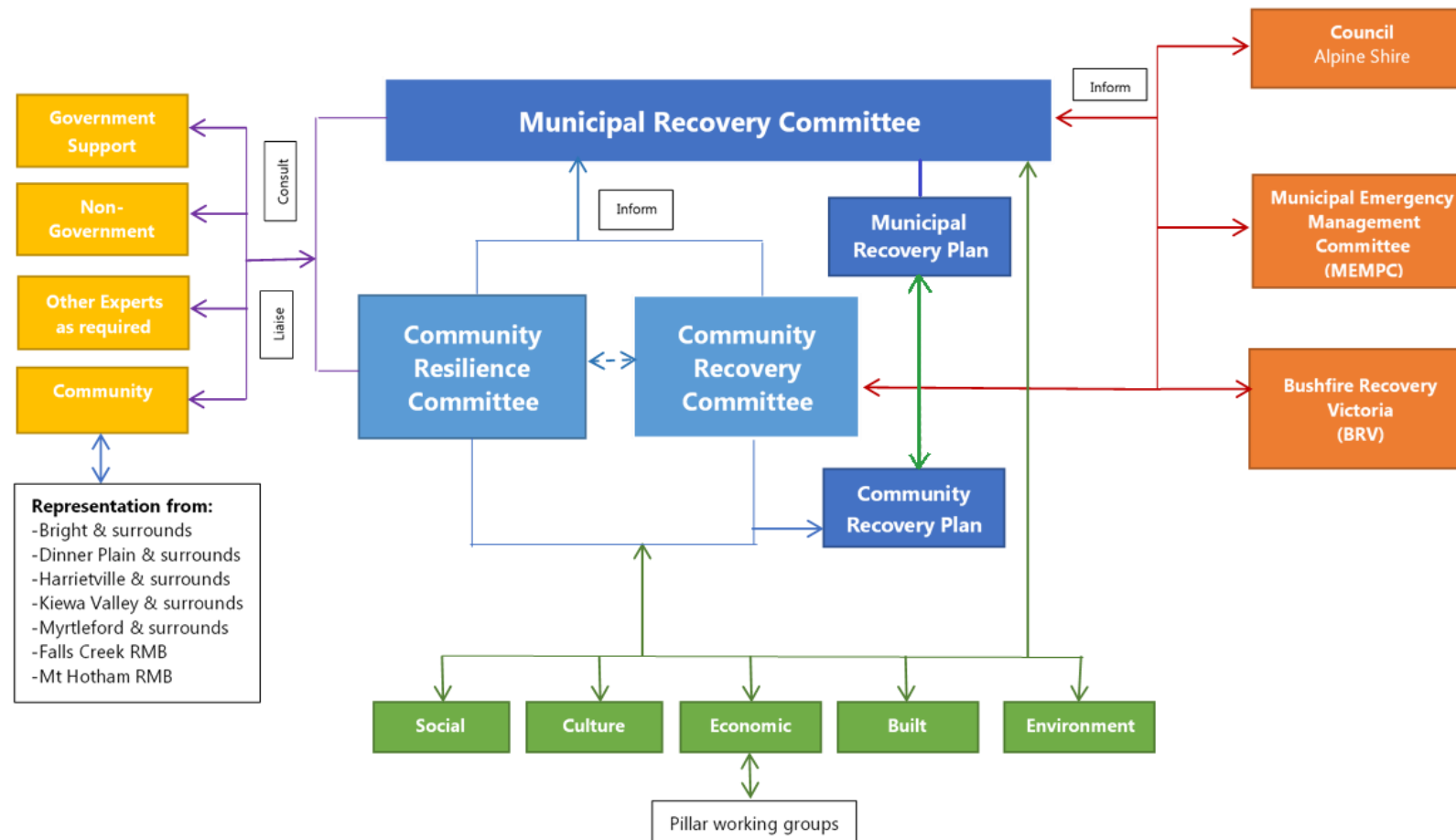
The recovery process will be guided by the National Principles for Disaster Recovery which are:

- Understanding Community context
- Recognising the complex and dynamic nature of emergencies and communities
- Using community led approaches that are responsive, flexible, engaging, and empowering
- A planned, coordinated and adaptive approach based on continuing assessment of impacts and needs
- Effective communication with impacted and affected communities and other stakeholders
- Recognising, supporting and building on community, individual and organisational capacity

Recovery process will take many years. Each individual, family, community group, town and business have been impacted and affected differently and will be on their own journey to recovery. For some, recovery will take longer, and the support services and recovery activities must be flexible enough to accommodate for people reaching various stages of their recovery over extended timelines. This may mean working with certain communities to a point where they feel comfortable to lead themselves as the context for them changes.

Governance

Local Coordination Structure-



Roles and Functions

Alpine Shire Council accepts responsibility for the coordination of community support to counter the effects of an emergency and recovery from emergencies. At the local level Council, in conjunction with stakeholders, coordinated the formation of the Municipal Recovery Committee (MRC) and Community Recovery Committee (CRC) to allow a community led process. Refer to Local coordination flowchart on page 25.

Municipal Recovery Committee (MRC)

The Alpine Municipal Recovery Committee (MRC) has been formed in response to the 2019-2020 bushfires to coordinate the recovery processes and support the affected communities of the Alpine areas. Alpine Shire Council and Bushfire Recovery Victoria lead the Alpine Municipal Recovery Committee. Membership includes the Chief Executive Officers (CEOs) of the Alpine Shire Council, Falls Creek Resort Management Board, Mt Hotham Resort Management Board, Bushfire Recovery Victoria (BRV) and key recovery partners, from a regional level, that can assist in the delivery of recovery activities.

The Committee will operate under the following Terms of Reference:

- Ensure effective collaboration and coordination between State Government departments and agencies, Alpine Shire Council, Falls Creek Resort Management Board, Mount Hotham Resort Management Board, working groups and affected communities.
- Identify recovery needs and resource requirements and provide input into the development of the Municipal Recovery Plan.
- Oversee the implementation of the Municipal Recovery Plan, monitoring recovery progress in the affected communities, gathering information and providing feedback.
- Monitor and mitigate known and potential risks to effective recovery.
- Advocate to the various levels of government on behalf of the community.
- Undertake specific recovery activities as determined by the circumstances and the Committee.

The Committee have agreed and endorsed a shared view of recovery goals, principles and an overarching framework for this plan based on the legislative and literature inputs to disaster recovery planning and implementation.

Community Resilience Committee

The Alpine Shire Community Resilience Committee was formed in response to the 2006 bushfires to support the building of resilience before, during and after emergencies at the community level. Membership consists of community members and stakeholders from various agencies and groups throughout the shire.

The Community Resilience Committee develops the community's self-awareness of the risks present within the community, to build the awareness of how to plan and prepare for emergencies, along with instilling resilience in the community.

The Community Resilience Committee will assist the Community Recovery Committee under their terms of reference.

Community Recovery Committee (CRC)

The Community Recovery Committee (CRC) was formed in May 2020 in response to the 2019-2020 bushfires. Membership is community members representing the Alpine region. To ensure equitable representation these members are representatives from each of seven community areas (five Alpine Shire communities and two resorts).

The role of the Committee is to give a voice to the broad views and recovery goals of local communities and be a link to the communities of the Alpine Shire and Alpine Resorts and to, Alpine Shire Council, Bushfire Recovery Victoria, the Alpine Community Resilience Committee, the National Bushfire Recovery Agency and other state government agencies which may deliver elements of bushfire recovery.

The Committee will use a community led process in the planning and delivery of community recovery throughout the Alpine Shire and Alpine resorts. To achieve this the Committee will be guided by their Terms of Reference.

(to note – Mount Hotham and Falls Creek resorts also have Community Recovery Committees)

Stakeholders

The Community Recovery Committee (CRC) will liaise and consult with government and non-government agencies to enable them to perform their recovery functions. The committee may also engage specialist parties to provide expert advice and recommendations. These stakeholders include but are not limited to those listed in the Terms of Reference for MEMPC and Community Resilience Committee.

Five Pillars or Lines of Recovery (environments)

There are five key environments that require the application of coordination arrangements as part of the recovery process. These areas focus on the various needs that effect broader society and support in building the long-term resilience of community:

- **Social (People and Wellbeing)** - the emotional, social, spiritual, financial and physical wellbeing of affected individuals and communities.
- **Cultural (Aboriginal Culture and Healing)** – Aboriginal culture is valued and respected, Aboriginal trauma is addressed and healing is supported, Aboriginal cultural safety is promoted, Aboriginal participation and ownership is promoted
- **Built (Buildings and Infrastructure)** - the restoration of essential and community infrastructure, and
- **Natural (Environment and Biodiversity)** - the rehabilitation of the affected environment.
- **Economic (Business and Economy, and Agriculture)** - the revitalisation of the affected economy.

The **Social** Line of Recovery addresses the impact an emergency could have on the health and wellbeing of individuals, families and communities. Social recovery is closely inter-related to the other four recovery lines.

The **Cultural** Line of Recovery has traditionally been addressed through the social, economic and natural environments line of recovery. Bushfire Recovery Victoria has expanded previous recovery models to better support Aboriginal communities affected by disaster to support outcomes where Aboriginal culture is valued and respected, Aboriginal trauma is addressed and healing is supported, Aboriginal cultural safety is promoted, and Aboriginal participation and ownership is encouraged.

A Recognition and Settlement Agreement (RSA) between the Victorian Government and Taungurung Land and Waters Council (TLAWC) formally commenced on 11 August 2020. Commencement means Taungurung's RSA (and sub-agreements) now apply to all activities and operations on public land and waters located in the RSA area, irrespective of the manager of that land. Key aspects of the RSA that are relevant to bushfire recovery activities include:

- Land Use Activity Agreement - provides Taungurung with the right to be advised, notified, consulted or agree to activities and works occurring on public land in the RSA area.
- Natural Resource Agreement - provides rights to Taungurung to camp, hunt, fish, gather and take and use natural resources on public land.

The **Built** Line of Recovery - Infrastructure underpins the ability of private and public community services to function and assists communities in their daily lives. Restoring impacted infrastructure post emergency, quickly and efficiently, assists communities in returning to an effective level of functioning more swiftly.

Similarly, to be able to deliver effective relief and recovery services to impacted individuals and communities the restoration of essential infrastructure and services that supports the delivery of relief and recovery needs to be prioritised.

Local infrastructure may also form an important part of community identity and connectedness. For example, some public buildings have an important symbolic role and the loss of such buildings can have a negative impact on community morale.

The **Natural** Line of Recovery - A large proportion of the Alpine Shire is under the control of public land managers. Council's main role in the natural recovery environment is as a support agency to government and community agencies and landholders. Council and the Community Recovery Committee (CRC) can link community members, groups and agencies to state departments and is also able to lobby for and connect groups and landholders with funding arrangements to carry out post impact restoration works in the natural recovery environment which may include:

- Reopening/repairing walking tracks
- Restoring / repairing recreational facilities
- Surveying and protecting sites of cultural heritage significance.

The **Economic** Line of Recovery addresses the economic impact of an emergency, which may include impacts on individuals and households, small and large businesses, industries, tourism and the broader economy. Economic impacts range from immediate and intense, such as loss of personal income or loss or damage to business premises, to long-term and chronic, such as loss of workforce due to displacement, loss of workplace and/or resource

(e.g. a forest) or reluctance of tourists to travel to the area. Economic – Agricultural needs are considered and addressed separately in Appendix B – Recovery Action Plan.

The table below lists the responsibilities within the Alpine Shire Council for the five recovery environments along with the agencies; organisations and community organisations whom provide support roles to the Alpine Shire Council in each of the four recovery environments.

RECOVERY ENVIRONMENT	AGENCY RESPONSIBLE	ASC MANAGER RESPONSIBLE	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	SUPPORT
SOCIAL	DHHS	Manager Economic and Community Development -MRM	Community Development Officer	See Table 6.6 Of MEMP
CULTURAL	Aboriginal Victoria	Manager Economic and Community Development -MRM	Community Development Officer	Cultural included under Social in current MEMP
ECONOMIC	DJPR	Manager Economic and Community Development -MRM	Economic Development Officer	See Table 6.7 Of MEMP
BUILT	RRV	Director Corporate	Municipal Building Surveyor	See Table 6.8 Of MEMP
NATURAL	DELWP	Director Assets	Open Space Coordinator	See Table 6.9 Of MEMP

Role of Renewable Energy in Bushfire Recovery

Social, economic, and built recovery require a focus on stimulus that provides for improved facilities that enable improved social outcomes and greater, more resilient, economic activity. Renewable energy could bring an economic boom to regional areas by way of bringing new jobs, cheaper electricity and greater energy security, and new sources of income. The renewable energy boom needs to also be factored into bushfire recovery planning as it has significant tangible benefits for community resilience in that:

- It is part of an approach to protect key infrastructure and facilities from loss of grid electricity in an emergency.
 - It helps build resilience in vulnerable communities against power outages, thermal extremes from climate change and changing loads to the energy network
 - It decreases electricity costs, thus improving economic resilience of those benefiting.
 - It increases jobs.
 - It decreases overall community aggregate emissions – which may be important in the future if regions are ever required to report on emissions reductions.
- Coupled with household thermal efficiency improvements, it provides a way to improve the health and economic wellbeing of vulnerable people, particularly those who live in social housing.

Bushfire recovery investment in renewable energy will significantly improve community resilience and it will also ensure the Alpine Shire is well-placed to be able to further capitalise on the renewables boom in the future.

Recovery Action Plan

A series of goals and actions will be developed as the strengths, needs and priorities evolve and the context changes throughout the recovery.

This is a live document and will continue to evolve as needs and priorities are identified with communities, Council and stakeholder engagement through the MRC, CRC and Community Resilience Committee where they will be discussed, prioritised and tasked to relevant responsibility.

The Alpine Shire Council Bushfire Recovery Team will be responsible for ensuring the action plan is up to date and outcomes are documented. These will be distributed through the MRC, CRC and Community Resilience Committee

Refer to APPENDIX B – Recovery Action Plan

Reporting

Both the Municipal Recovery Committee (MRC) and the Community Recovery Committee (CRC) will be required to provide reporting for the purpose of informing Council, the MEMPC and BRV of recovery progress and outcomes. Refer to Local Coordination Structure for further detail.

The committees may also be required to provide updates and information to pillar leads (refer to Agency Responsible in the table above) or the Municipal Recovery Staff for the acquittal of funding agreements.



Photo – Jan Mock

Definitions and Abbreviations

Definitions

Bushfire Impacted – individual or community directly impacted by the bushfire

Bushfire Affected – individual or community impacted by the effects of the bushfire not by the bushfire

Abbreviations

ASC Alpine Shire Council

AV Aboriginal Victoria

AMHWSCA Alpine Mental Health and Wellbeing Service Coordination Action Group

BRV Bushfire Recovery Victoria

CFA Country Fire Authority

CRC Community Recovery Committee

DELWP Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning

DJPR Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions

DET Department of Education and Training

DFFH Department of Families, Fairness and Housing (State)

EMV Emergency Management Victoria

EPA Environment Protection Authority

FCARMB Falls Creek Alpine Resort Management Board

GLaWC Gunaikurnai Land and Waters Aboriginal Corporation

MERC Municipal Emergency Response Co-ordinator

MEMPC Municipal Emergency Management Planning Committee

MEMP Municipal Emergency Management Plan

MERO Municipal Emergency Resource Officer

MFPO Municipal Fire Prevention Officer

MHRMB Mount Hotham Resort Management Board

MRC Municipal Recovery Committee

MRM Municipal Recovery Manager

NDRRA Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements

NEW North East Water

NECMA North East Catchment Management Authority

NRRA National Resilience and Recovery Agency

OMRP Ovens Murray Regional Partnership

PV Parks Victoria

RRV Regional Roads Victoria

SBV Small Business Victoria

SRV Sports and Recreation Victoria

SRWG Social Recovery Working Group

TLaWC Taungurung Land and Waters Council

TNE Tourism North East

TO Traditional Owner

UMRNH Upper Murray Regional Neighbourhood House

VACCA Victorian Aboriginal Child Care Agency

VFF Victorian Farmers Federation

VICSES Victoria State Emergency Service

VICPOL Victoria Police

APPENDIX A – Strengths, Needs and Priorities

(To Note – Input from Traditional Owner groups yet to be included)

Community Areas	Strengths	Needs	Priorities
Shire Wide	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access to an abundance of natural assets including Alpine and Mount Buffalo National Parks, state forest, Lake Buffalo, Ovens and Kiewa rivers, snow resorts • Existing reputation for outdoor activities • Desirable location for event organisers to take advantage of the natural terrain for medium to large health and wellbeing or sporting events (e.g. mountain bike nationals, paragliding championships) • Strong tourism offering and large proportion of return visitation • Water resilience throughout Ovens Murray catchment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improvement of blackspots for emergency communications • Single roads in and out • Hazard Reduction • NBN? • Best practise fire management techniques to reduce future fire risks and ensure safety of our communities • Information on Emergency Management Planning for community and individuals • New infrastructure standards for climate change • Telecommunication strategy • Education and awareness for community preparedness • Accurate, localised information during emergency events • Financial assistance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communications and blackspots • Reliable telecommunications infrastructure • Vulnerable persons • Community education – planning for emergencies • Increased food security • Erosion control and pest management (deer and wild dogs) • Planning for water supply resilience (ongoing, climate risk) • Planning and contingency plans for water supply during and after events • Insurance support and clarity
Bright and surrounds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mystic Mountain Bike Park • Ovens River 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mental health services • Community Connectedness • Overload on communications network during peak periods 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alternative road routes into and out of CBD •

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proximity to Mount Buffalo National Park and Alpine national Park 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Plans to increase tourism and boost economy 	
Dinner Plain	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Snow destination Beautiful natural surrounds, including Alpine National Park Close proximity to Mount Hotham Great at advocating for needs Own water, power and gas supply 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improvements to Great Alpine Road Improved infrastructure Hazard reduction Help to rebuild the local economy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sprinkler system to protect gas Clearing of fire trails around the village prior to next fire season Road clearing of trees on emergency evacuation routes to and from the village
Harrietville	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community connections and communication (Harrietville Community Forum) Close proximity to Mount Hotham, Dinner Plain and Alpine National Park Access to walking tracks and trails including Mount Feathertop 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No petrol station – economic loss of 4WD and motorcyclists and residents who work in Alpine areas who need to go to Bright for fuel 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Completion of Rail Trail from Smoko to Bright Connection of walking track with bridge Event Prospectus
Kiewa Valley and surrounds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kiewa River Big Hill mountain bike park Close proximity to Falls Creek Close proximity to Mount Bogong Fertile and productive soils for agriculture and dairy Strong community connections Emerging entrepreneurs Young active people Collaborative business models – e.g. Mountain Milk Co-op Water security 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An evacuation plan detailing where relief centres are, facilities available, pets, etc. Information and education around what a relief centre provides Local community communications coordination and resourcing during emergencies (not all online) Community planning for emergency events Communication towers and black spots 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community Emergency plan for Kiewa Valley Encourage personal emergency ready plans Unemployment for casual workers Blackspot towers, better internet supply Job upskilling – diversification Mental Health support Better signage and education around Place of Last resort Training of spontaneous volunteers and a volunteer register

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support with organisation – governance and access to funding • Community volunteer fatigue • Support for vulnerable • Easier access to DHHS support and information • Insurance policy advice • Communications to landowners about fire season preparedness as well as increased free green waste days and more frequent clearing of government owned/managed land • DELWP to unlock gates in Summer?? • Information on waste services in an emergency • Bushfire Ready kits 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify vulnerable people and develop community response/ care plan
Myrtleford and surrounds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Myrtleford Resilience Plan • Lake Buffalo • Strong retail offering • Murray to Mountains Rail Trail • Timber Industry Productions • Proximity to Mount Buffalo National Park 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emergency care, ambulance availability issues • Alpine Health home care not available when smoke was about 	
Alpine Resorts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Key winter destination • Strong repeat visitation and business year on year • Attracts new Australians to the High Country • High Country Heritage • Largest skiable terrain in Victoria 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Financial assistance and counselling • Insurance policy advice • Improved communications between agencies during emergencies • Easier access to DHHS 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mental health and financial support • Advocacy for insurance policy • Bolstering water supply by completing pipeline projects (Hotham) • CFA resourcing

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Key mountain biking, 4WD and hiking destination in summer • Falls to Hotham walking trail in development 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved access to water for firefighting purposes at Mount Hotham • Help to promote tourism to the area • Infrastructure projects for resilience from future bushfires • Improvements to Great Alpine Road surface, signage and roadside clearing • Better communications between key government emergency agencies • Fire hazard reductions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Where Alpine Resort Management Board's are recognised as municipalities under various Act's the same access to funding needs to be provided. Examples include: Emergency Management funding, COVID safe planning funding etc. (all resorts) • Village emergency access upgrade (Falls Creek) • Wifi location analytics and Resort Wifi (all resorts)
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APPENDIX B - Recovery Action Plan

GOALS	STRATEGIES AND ACTIONS	LEAD AGENCY	SUPPORT AGENCIES	PERFORMANCE INDICATORS	DELIVERY DATES	STATUS	NOTES
SOCIAL (People and Wellbeing)							
1. Assist those affected by the disaster with access and referral to personal support, wellbeing and counselling services (including family violence, drug and alcohol, homelessness services, financial counselling etc.)	Develop communication plan to direct affected people to mental health support, available on ASC website and Facebook page	ASC	BRV	BRV Hotline receiving calls for support. Monthly recovery newsletter developed between ASC, BRV and CRC and distributed broadly, with distribution database increases.	Monthly until June 2022	Ongoing	Needs monthly statistics from BRV on referrals to determine success of BRV hotline.
	Ensure psychological welfare support is provided to staff	All agencies	BRV, ASC, DFFH, Red Cross	Plan, process and services in place for relevant staff Agency Employee Assistance Programs communicated to all staff.		Ongoing	Wellbeing to be a standing item. This should be BAU for most organisations beyond recovery.
	Coordinate mental health and wellbeing services to provide an integrated and timely response to people's changing needs.	BRV, AH, AWH	SRWG, ASC, AMHWSCA, Headspace	Terms of Reference developed and buy in to the Alpine Mental Health and Wellbeing Service Coordination Action Group for service coordination beyond recovery. Develop and share	June 2021 June 2022	ToR developed. Ongoing	Re-establishment required. Suicide Postvention Planning work commenced, led by Alpine Health

GOALS	STRATEGIES AND ACTIONS	LEAD AGENCY	SUPPORT AGENCIES	PERFORMANCE INDICATORS	DELIVERY DATES	STATUS	NOTES
			BRV/MPHN DET/AH	<p>practical desk-top tools to support ready referral pathways for young people.</p> <p>Develop an interactive recovery service directory to support navigation to relevant service options based on location and need.</p> <p>Gather and collate data about service referral rates and review for potential gaps.</p>	<p>June 2021</p> <p>Six weekly, report to Municipal Recovery Committee</p>	Web based Design in progress	
2. To assist those affected by the disaster with opportunities for meaningful connections with their communities (as social connection and cohesiveness are the foundation of recovery).	Facilitate community-led recovery through supporting activities, events, information, and access to resources to build connection.	ASC, BRV	DFFH, UMRNH Coordinator, AWH, Red Cross, Regional Arts Vic. VACCA, UMFC, SBV	Community events are planned and communicated to enable broad participation from diverse community members.	June 2022	Ongoing	Active April, Farmers Markets, Redi-Community planning
	Identify opportunities to deliver or support community-based	ASC, BRV	DFFH, SRWG, Murray PHN, DJPR,	Grants and in-kind resources and access pathways to support community events are	June 2022	Ongoing	

GOALS	STRATEGIES AND ACTIONS	LEAD AGENCY	SUPPORT AGENCIES	PERFORMANCE INDICATORS	DELIVERY DATES	STATUS	NOTES
	projects and events that will help to re-establish community connection.			mapped for communities.			
	Support social media initiatives, notice boards, newsletters, newspapers and radio to facilitate community engagement.	ASC	BRV	Numbers of social media followers; feedback from and engagement of community with media.	June 2022	Ongoing	Regular communication of activities provided to ASC Recovery Newsletter
	Explore creative and solution focussed strategies that respond to the limited opportunities for face-to-face connections due to COVID-19.	ASC	SRWG, BRV	Activities proceed in a safe environment, with community participation.	June 2022	As needed	Organisations have developed Covid Safe plans to support participation in events.
	Design activities that enable safe participation of diverse communities.	ASC, BRV	SRWG, VACCA,	Culturally diverse community inclusion. Activities and Events attended by community.	June 2022	Funded	

GOALS	STRATEGIES AND ACTIONS	LEAD AGENCY	SUPPORT AGENCIES	PERFORMANCE INDICATORS	DELIVERY DATES	STATUS	NOTES
3. Promote information sharing to support engagement with recovery support options and community participation at recovery events and programs.	Improve collaborative communication to support recovery across broad community networks.	ASC, BRV	CFA, DELWP, SRWG		June 2022	Ongoing	
	Schedule regular community recovery updates during recovery phase to inform community of resources, events and successes.	ASC		Communications from CRC to community Recovery Newsletter. Visitation to the Hub. Referrals to support agencies.	June 2022	Ongoing	
	Improving communication – timely, accurate and localised information sharing to ensure communication across all elements of social recovery <i>are supported by systems and processes.</i>	ASC, BRV		Community attendance at community recovery events.	June 2022	Ongoing	

GOALS	STRATEGIES AND ACTIONS	LEAD AGENCY	SUPPORT AGENCIES	PERFORMANCE INDICATORS	DELIVERY DATES	STATUS	NOTES
4. To identify emerging social issues for incorporation into medium and long-term Recovery Plans.	To engage affected communities in identifying their medium and long-term issues.	ASC, BRV	DHHS, AH, AWH,	Recovery Plans are regularly updated as issues come to light.		Ongoing	
	Work with Alpine CRC to identify strengths, needs and priorities for inclusion into recovery plans and continuously reassess.	ASC, BRV	CRC, SRWG	CRC developing the Community Recovery Plan that represents the needs of the community.	June 2021	Ongoing	
	Establish a process for reporting and insights from working group participants on emerging strengths, needs and priorities to inform planning and reporting.	ASC	SRWG	Reporting structure in place and needs identified and included in the Plan through the Municipal Recovery Committee.	Until June 2022	Ongoing, six weekly	

GOALS	STRATEGIES AND ACTIONS	LEAD AGENCY	SUPPORT AGENCIES	PERFORMANCE INDICATORS	DELIVERY DATES	STATUS	NOTES
5. Collaborate to effectively and efficiently facilitate above Community Recovery outcomes,	<p>Map and coordinate information about recovery related meetings, purpose and membership.</p> <p>Identify a common platform for information sharing, data gathering and communication, and skill participants to use this effectively.</p> <p>Commit to common goals and review effectiveness of collective effort.</p>	<p>Alpine Shire/ BRV</p> <p>MPHN/ BRV</p> <p>BRV/ MPHN/DET</p>	DET/ MPHN?				<p>'Basecamp' User Guide to be drafted for feedback</p> <p>Workshops late 2020 began exploration of ways of working,</p>
6. Encourage volunteerism during emergency events and throughout recovery.	Develop a system that matches volunteers and donations with community needs. (e.g. emergency food relief, accommodation, fuel vouchers,	BRV	ASC, CRC, MEMPC	<p>Pathways to support are documented, accessible and utilised effectively.</p> <p>Considered in Municipal Emergency Management Planning.</p>		Ongoing	

GOALS	STRATEGIES AND ACTIONS	LEAD AGENCY	SUPPORT AGENCIES	PERFORMANCE INDICATORS	DELIVERY DATES	STATUS	NOTES
	family violence etc.) Foster community empowerment, strong community leadership and development of community leaders.	ASC	BRV, AVCL	Inclusion in community plans. Community groups and clubs are ongoing and sustainable.			
7. Ensure appropriate whole of life health and wellbeing services are available to attract and retain both young families and retirees looking to "age in place".	Complete a whole of life health and wellbeing industry/ services gap analysis to ascertain any public needs or private business opportunities from maternal and child health and child care, through to home care and residential aged care.	ASC, AH	DFFS, RDV/ Invest Vic	Inclusion in Health and wellbeing plan Aging well?	Ongoing		
8. Improved communication during a bushfire event	Transparent Communication with affected community and emergent groups	ASC	CRC, BRV, EMV, CFA, FFM, DELWP, MEMPC	Timely and effective local information available on website. Social media updates. For consideration in the MEMP		Ongoing	From CRP and MRP

GOALS	STRATEGIES AND ACTIONS	LEAD AGENCY	SUPPORT AGENCIES	PERFORMANCE INDICATORS	DELIVERY DATES	STATUS	NOTES
	Advocate for improvements to the Vic Emergency App.			Considered in Municipal Emergency Management Planning.		December 2021	From CRP
9. Build Community Resilience to Future Disasters.	<p>Develop a Community and Resilience Education Program for Emergency Management, with emphasis on fire planning.</p> <p>Develop a Community Volunteer Program for Emergency Management.</p>	ASC	BRV, CFA, CRC, MEMPSC	<p>Building community wide awareness of the need to adequately prepare for future disruptions.</p> <p>Development of educational emergency management videos.</p> <p>Development of a volunteer program.</p> <p>Engagement of a volunteer coordinator to work with community groups to identify an emergency response representative from each community.</p> <p>Ensure that Local fire planning for communities is a key focus of the MEMPC.</p>	June 2022	Funding available	

GOALS	STRATEGIES AND ACTIONS	LEAD AGENCY	SUPPORT AGENCIES	PERFORMANCE INDICATORS	DELIVERY DATES	STATUS	NOTES
				Resilience Month activities.	October 2021		
Provide accommodation, suitable to their needs, of those with damaged or destroyed homes including access to their properties as soon as practicable	Identify impacted and affected properties	ASC	DELWP, BRV, Ag Vic	IIA and SIA completed		Complete	
	Activate outreach to impacted and affected residents and provide ongoing support to address accommodation and safety needs	ASC	DHHS, BRV	Impacted family/s registered for caseworker and accommodation through BRV Hotline		Complete	
	Arrange for impacted family to visit destroyed property	ASC	DHHS	Residents have appropriate PPE, PFA and ability to access property		Complete	
To assist with the coordination and distribution of material relief to those affected by the disaster	Activate MOUs with NGO partners and work with relief agencies to coordinate volunteers and material aid.	ASC	DHHS, AH, Red Cross, Salvation Army,	Red Cross – Relief Centre RFR, food and water Salvation Army – Bedding, toiletries and financial support Food Bank - Food hampers		Complete	

GOALS	STRATEGIES AND ACTIONS	LEAD AGENCY	SUPPORT AGENCIES	PERFORMANCE INDICATORS	DELIVERY DATES	STATUS	NOTES
	Review availability and access to Emergency Food Relief for Alpine Communities.						
To reduce risks to public health following the disaster	Act to minimise public health risk, for example, removing hazards and advising all people within the affected area about air and water contaminants and other health and safety issues	ASC	ASC, DHHS, EPA, PV, DELWP, NECMA	Information regarding air quality, Water replacement, Hazardous trees, Road closures, Infrastructure damage		Complete	
CULTURAL (Aboriginal Culture and Healing)							
<p>Bushfire Recovery Victoria, Aboriginal Victoria and DELWP, along with Alpine Shire Council and Alpine Health, are in the process of engaging with Traditional Owner (TO) Groups that hold an interest in the Alpine Shire and Alpine Resorts. The Engagement Plan includes a series of workshops with each interested party and could take up to a year.</p> <p>Priorities and goals that are identified through this process will be included in the Cultural (Aboriginal Culture and Healing) line of recovery as they become evident.</p> <p>As such, this line of recovery will evolve over time, and any new inclusions will be via the Municipal Recovery Committee reporting structure.</p>							
1. Aboriginal cultures are valued and respected	Work with and enable Traditional Owner groups and the Aboriginal	BRV	TLaWC, AV, DELWP, PV, NECMA, ASC, AH,	Cultural heritage assessments undertaken for all recovery works on public land.	April 2022	Engagement Plan with each interested	6 non registered TO Groups have been identified as having an

GOALS	STRATEGIES AND ACTIONS	LEAD AGENCY	SUPPORT AGENCIES	PERFORMANCE INDICATORS	DELIVERY DATES	STATUS	NOTES
	<p>community to: Undertake assessment, protection and rehabilitation of fire impacted cultural heritage sites on public land.</p> <p>Plan, conduct and evaluate Events and Activities that support healing and expression of culture.</p> <p>Celebrate and/or commemorate culturally significant dates e.g. National Apology Day, National Reconciliation Week, NAIDOC Week, etc.</p>		TO Groups, DFFH	Funding available		<p>Traditional Owner party in progress.</p> <p>Further funding required to implement findings from engagement plan.</p>	<p>interest in NE Victoria and have been approached to engage in the recovery process to identify needs.</p> <p>Public land area impacted by fire within the Alpine region falls under TLaWC and GLaWAC country.</p>
2. Address Aboriginal trauma and support healing	Work with and enable Traditional Owner groups and the Aboriginal community to deliver programs	BRV	TLaWC, AV, DFFH, DELWP, ASC, AH, TO Groups	Recovery funding available to local traditional owner groups for programs and initiatives.	April 2022 – April 2023	Requires funding to proceed	

GOALS	STRATEGIES AND ACTIONS	LEAD AGENCY	SUPPORT AGENCIES	PERFORMANCE INDICATORS	DELIVERY DATES	STATUS	NOTES
	addressing trauma and healing. Partner with Aboriginal organisations/ agencies that provide trauma and healing services e.g. Albury Wodonga Aboriginal Health Service (AWAHS), Victorian Aboriginal Childcare Agency (VACCA) to deliver outreach services to Alpine Shire			DELWP Reading and Healing Country funding is accessible to traditional owner groups.		TLaWC and GLaWAC have received funding and are currently delivering on-group projects	
3. Promote Aboriginal cultural safety	Engage the Aboriginal community to establish and build rapport. Identify the needs of the Aboriginal community around cultural safety. Support the cultural safety of Aboriginal outreach workers.	BRV	TLaWC, AV, DELWP, PV, NECMA, ASC, VACCA, TO Groups		July 2021 – June 2022	VACCA engaged by BRV. Funded.	

GOALS	STRATEGIES AND ACTIONS	LEAD AGENCY	SUPPORT AGENCIES	PERFORMANCE INDICATORS	DELIVERY DATES	STATUS	NOTES
	Undertake analysis of 'best practice' to establish culturally safe environments						
4. Promote Aboriginal participation and ownership	<p>Engage with local Traditional Owner groups to encourage participation in the recovery effort.</p> <p>Seek advice and input of Traditional Owner groups and community on the four additional lines of recovery.</p> <p>The Aboriginal community is strengthened through the economic development of cultural-based tourism products. Acknowledge the commencement of the Taungurung RSA and address the RSA in all</p>	BRV, ASC, AH	TLaWC, AV, DELWP, PV, NECMA, ASC, TO Groups	The Taungurung RSA is addressed in all recovery activities taking place on public land	Current and Ongoing.	Funded by BRV and AV	

GOALS	STRATEGIES AND ACTIONS	LEAD AGENCY	SUPPORT AGENCIES	PERFORMANCE INDICATORS	DELIVERY DATES	STATUS	NOTES
	recovery activities taking place on public land						
5. Address impact of COVID-19 on fire-affected Traditional Owner groups	Establish Local Aboriginal Response Networks	BRV	AV, TO Groups, ASC, AH	Networks are an effective platform where community members can access and share information; seek referral points; raise systemic issues and risks; and identify gaps in the Covid19 response.	April 2022 (stage 1 and 2 of implementation plan completion)	In progress. Engagement Plan funded	
BUILT (Buildings and Infrastructure)							
1. Identify medium and long-term infrastructure to improve safety and access in emergencies	Road upgrades for improved egress	ASC	CRC, RRV, CFA	Dargo High plains Road upgrade	June 2023	Secured partial funding	
		ASC	CRC, RRV, CFA	Bright Alternative Route	Scoping FY2021/22 Ongoing	Scoping 2021/22 Financial Year to determine feasibility	
	Improvements to local CFA infrastructure	CFA	Community ,ASC, DJPR, BRV	Buffalo River CFA Station upgrade. CFA Cluster Youth Crews		Funding obtained Requires funding	

GOALS	STRATEGIES AND ACTIONS	LEAD AGENCY	SUPPORT AGENCIES	PERFORMANCE INDICATORS	DELIVERY DATES	STATUS	NOTES
				Mount Hotham and Dinner Plain CFA firefighting equipment improvements. Dinner Plain CFA station relocation feasibility study		to proceed. Requires funding to proceed.	
	Bright SES Facility upgrades	SES				Requires funding to proceed	
	Small/remote communities are adequately resourced for firefighting.	MHRMB	DJPR, BRV, DELWP, ASC	Mt Higginbotham Water Tank expansion.		Requires funding to proceed	
		FCARMB		Falls Creek Village Emergency Access Upgrade – road linkages (x3) and piping of aqueduct to enable emergency vehicle access and response. Upgraded genset at Rocky Valley pump shed allowing auto start and monitoring via SCADA. Securing water supply in		Requires funding to proceed	

GOALS	STRATEGIES AND ACTIONS	LEAD AGENCY	SUPPORT AGENCIES	PERFORMANCE INDICATORS	DELIVERY DATES	STATUS	NOTES
				emergencies and reducing risk to personnel.			
	Improvements to Emergency management infrastructure across the Shire.	ASC	BRV, EMV, CFA, MEMPC	Improvements to relief centres across the shire. Updates to "Neighbourhood Safer Places" signage across the Alpine Shire	Feb 2022	Requires partial funding to proceed. Funding available	
2. Enable strategic infrastructure investments to improve tourism and strengthen visitor economy	Consider projects for prioritisation by understanding their value to the community and economy in the short, medium and long term	ASC, CRC	DJPR, BRV, NRRRA	Projects considered for endorsement by the CRC and Council support.	June 2022	Ongoing	
	Mount Beauty Airport upgrade	ASC	DJPR	Upgrades to infrastructure to the airport.	June 2022	Funding obtained	progressing
	Gateway to Alpine Adventure – Dinner Plain Activation	ASC	DJPR, BRV	Upgraded infrastructure and facilities in Dinner Plain to attract more visitors and benefit the local community during both snow and green seasons. Development to occur in the Recreation	June 2023	Funding obtained	

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				Reserve and the Village Centre.			
	Dinner Plain Snow making upgrade to safeguard snow recreation facilities	ASC	DJPR	Improve visitor experience		Applied for funding	Awaiting outcome of funding application
	Great Valley Trail Extension	ASC	DJPR, DELWP		June 2022	Funding obtained	
	Upgrade of Tawonga Caravan Park facilities	ASC	DELWP, DJPR	\$2.1m upgrade announced in May 2020. Council to become Committee of Management	June 2022	Funding obtained	
	Falls to Hotham Alpine Crossing	PV	DELWP, DJPR, BRV			Partial funding obtained	
	Murals Mount Beauty	ASC	ASC, BRV	Improve Visitor experience	June 2022	Funding obtained	LER Round 1
	Upgrades to Lions Reserve, Bright	Community, ASC	BRV	Upgrade of BBQ shelter in Lions Reserve. Improvements to Lion's park to improve community and visitor amenity.	December 2021	Funded	
	Murray to Mountains Rail Trail Enhancements	ASC	TNE, DJPR	Enhanced visitor experience, drive repeat visitation		Requires funding to proceed	
	Shared Trail	ASC	Community		Scoping	Funding	Community BFR

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	extension in Wandiligong		, BRV		and trail design by Feb 2022	obtained for trail design. Seeking funding for trail development	Grant funding Program
	Harrietville East Ovens Pedestrian Bridge		PV, DJPR, ASC		June 2022	Funding obtained	LER Round 1
	Pioneer Park Criterion Circuit upgrade	Alpine Cycle Club	ASC	Installed and utilised by locals and tourists		Requires funding to proceed	
	Bright Skate Park Upgrade	Community	ASC, DJPR	Development and implementation of a plan to upgrade the skate park, Improved local amenity utilised by locals and tourists to improve connectivity		Requires funding to proceed	
	Tawonga Hall Upgrades	ASC	DJPR	Improved facilities to enable overnight visitation		Funded	LER Round 2
	Freeburgh Hall upgrades	ASC	BRV	Improved facilities	December 2021	Funded	Alpine Shire Bushfire Recovery Grant Program
	Harrietville Hall	Harrietvill	ASC, BRV	Improved facilities		Funded	LER Round 2

GOALS	STRATEGIES AND ACTIONS	LEAD AGENCY	SUPPORT AGENCIES	PERFORMANCE INDICATORS	DELIVERY DATES	STATUS	NOTES
	upgrades	e Communi ty Assoc.					
	Upgrades to community facilities in Myrtleford.	Communi ty	ASC, BRV, DJPR,	Upgrades to McNamara Reserve. Upgrades to Myrtleford Recreation Reserve (Showgrounds). Upgrades to Myrtleford Men's Shed.		Requires funding to proceed Funded	LER Round 2
	Development of a Snowplay and Activity Hub at Wireplain, Hotham Resort	MHRMB	DJPR, DELWP	Improve visitor experience, attract new visitation, showcase Australia's only biathlon range		Partially funded. Requires further funding	
	Development of Whiskey Flat Recreational Facility at Mount Hotham	MHRMB	DJPR, DELWP	Improve visitor experience, attract new visitation		Funded	
	Mount Hotham Placemaking Project	MHRMB	DJPR, DELWP			Requires funding to proceed	
	Mount Hotham Alpine Arts Installation Series						
	Mount Hotham						

GOALS	STRATEGIES AND ACTIONS	LEAD AGENCY	SUPPORT AGENCIES	PERFORMANCE INDICATORS	DELIVERY DATES	STATUS	NOTES
	Walking Tourism Masterplan						
	Mt Hotham Business, Visitor and Community Centre						
	Pebble Beach Walking Track Extension	ASC	Community , BRV	Improved facilities to encourage visitation and exercise options	Feb 2022	Funding obtained for trail design. Seeking funding for trail development	Community BFR Grant funding Program
	Bright Courthouse Murals	ASC	BRV	Murals completed on old courthouse precinct. Engaged Youth	December 2021	Funded	
	Fitness Station Project, Bright	Community	ASC	Fitness stations placed along popular walking/ running tracks. Utilised by local community to exercise and stay fit and healthy, as well as visitors.		Requires funding to proceed	
	Fitness Station Project, Harrietteville	Community	ASC, BRV	AS above	December 2021	Funded	
	Fitness Station Project, Harrietteville	Community	ASC, BRV	AS above	December 2021	Funded	
	Myrtleford Splash	Community	BRV, DJPR	Scoping and design of	December	Funded	

GOALS	STRATEGIES AND ACTIONS	LEAD AGENCY	SUPPORT AGENCIES	PERFORMANCE INDICATORS	DELIVERY DATES	STATUS	NOTES
	Park	ty, ASC		Splash Park for Myrtleford. Implementation and delivery of Splash Park.	2021	Requires funding to proceed	
	Dinner Plain Recreation Facilities Upgrades	Community	ASC, BRV, DJPR	Tennis Court Upgraded - Courts resurfaced, new poles and nets. Disc (frisbee) golf course expanded from 9 to 18 holes. Two new bike pump tracks. Spring free trampoline.		Requires funding to proceed	
	Myrtleford Reform Hill walking trails upgrade	Community	ASC, BRV	Walking trail Reform Hill network improvements and extensions.	December 2021	Funded	
	Rocky Valley Foreshore upgrade	Community	FCARMB, BRV	Provision of boat ramp, jetty and foreshore bbq shelter facilities		Requires funding to proceed	
	Falls Creek Community Sports Hub	FCARMB, Community	SRV, BRV	Falls Creek community sports and events centre developed at Nordic Bowl, including playing field. Providing community centre facilities and neighbourhood safer place.		Requires funding to proceed.	

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	Dinner Plain Track Improvement Plan	PV	ASC, Community	Development and implementation of improvement plan for 3 most used walks in the Alpine National Park – Carmichael Falls, Dead Timber Hill and Room with a View		Requires funding to proceed	
3. Identify future disaster resilience and improvement of relief and recovery infrastructure	Upgrade of Audio visual at Myrtleford Senior Citizens	ASC	BRV	Improved communications for relief centre locations	June 2021	Funding obtained, in progress	
	Electrical upgrade of Oaks event area Bright	ASC	BRV	Improved lighting for relief centres	Feb 2022	Funding obtained	
	Solar panels and batteries for Alpine Radio/Auditorium/ Mount Beauty Information Centre	ASC	Totally Renewable Energy Kiewa (TREK)			Requires funding to proceed	
4. Improve telecommunication infrastructure.		ASC, BRV	DJPR, RDV, Regional Partnerships	<p>High quality internet available across the Shire.</p> <p>Telecommunication issues identified with solutions developed.</p> <p>Investigating options for Blackspot workarounds.</p>	September 2021	Funding available for consultant to develop strategic document	

GOALS	STRATEGIES AND ACTIONS	LEAD AGENCY	SUPPORT AGENCIES	PERFORMANCE INDICATORS	DELIVERY DATES	STATUS	NOTES
				Adequate communication infrastructure to support communications during events and in the recovery Phase.		Needs advocacy, funding and policy change.	
5. Investment in renewable energy	Work with local groups to explore renewable energy microgrids, community energy initiatives, or similar options that meet needs.	ASC, BRV	CRC, RDV, Renewable energy providers	Develop a renewable energy plan for the Alpine Shire business and households Secure funding		Requires funding to proceed	
	Deliver renewable energy plan	ASC, BRV		Cheaper electricity for businesses and households. Greater energy security.			
	Consider environmentally friendly and sustainable energy sources in restored or new assets	ASC	DJPR, DELWP, BRV	Sustainable energy is considered on new or renewed projects where possible.	June 2022	Ongoing	
	Scope and seek implementation funding for geothermal energy at Mount Hotham	MHRMB				Requires funding to proceed	
6. Build community resilience to climate change and future	Deliver community climate adaption	ASC, DELWP,	Other agencies	Funding for local climate adaption programs and		Ongoing	

GOALS	STRATEGIES AND ACTIONS	LEAD AGENCY	SUPPORT AGENCIES	PERFORMANCE INDICATORS	DELIVERY DATES	STATUS	NOTES
disasters.	programs within fire affected communities. Provide opportunities for community to participate in local adaptation initiatives.	BRV		mitigation projects.			
	Natural Disaster Recovery and Climate Adaptation Leadership Program	AVCL	NECMA, Central Hume PCP, Gardiner Dairy Foundation	This pilot program will be evaluated by participants and funders.	8 days between June – November 2021	Funded	From CRP
	Small/remote communities are adequately resourced for firefighting.	CFA	BRV, ASC	Communities in need are identified and funded to be fire responders?	June 2022	Funding required to proceed	
	Advocacy to industry of the need for affordable insurance to drive regional investment and recovery.	BRV	ASC, CRC, NRRRA	Affordable insurance is available for businesses.	Ongoing	?	
Assess and reinstate public assets in fire effected areas	Assess dangerous trees in the fire	Various-dependin	RRV, DELWP, PV,	Roadsides cleared and roads reopened to public		Complete	

GOALS	STRATEGIES AND ACTIONS	LEAD AGENCY	SUPPORT AGENCIES	PERFORMANCE INDICATORS	DELIVERY DATES	STATUS	NOTES
	affected area including along roadsides and make recommendations about tree removal and clearance	g on road tenure	ASC				
	Assess, rehabilitate and stabilise roads, tracks and control lines.	RRV, ASC	DELWP, PV	Roads assessed, repaired and reopened		Complete	
	Audit road signage and furniture	RRV, ASC	DELWP, PV	Damaged signage and furniture replaced.		Complete	
	Assess bridge and culvert assets and repair or reinstatement	RRV	DELWP, PV, ASC	Bridge damage assessed, repaired and accounts documented.		complete	
Facilitate clean-up of destroyed home and other directly impacted infrastructure.	Support BRV hotline registration for clean-up and waste disposal including of hazardous waste such as asbestos, treated timber residue and chemicals	BRV	ASC	Landholders registered. Assessments completed. Clean-up completed.		Complete end of May 2020	
Replace fire affected fence lines	Facilitate referrals for affected private properties for fence restoration support	BRV	ASC, DELWP	Crisisworks cases – SIA to inform		Complete	

GOALS	STRATEGIES AND ACTIONS	LEAD AGENCY	SUPPORT AGENCIES	PERFORMANCE INDICATORS	DELIVERY DATES	STATUS	NOTES
	Assess fire damage to boundary fencing on the private/public land interface, treat hazardous trees and provide grant funding for landholders to reinstate fencing	DELWP	ASC, BRV	Interface fencing assessed and fencing grants paid to landholders		Complete April 2021	Replaced fencing for 17 properties
NATURAL (Environment and Biodiversity)							
1. To minimise the effects of erosion and debris flow on the natural environment and adjacent property and infrastructure,	Improve tools and data for identifying and communicating post fire hazards related to hydrology and debris flow.	BRV	NECMA, DELWP	Determine a process for supporting landholders impacted by debris flow post fire. Research to inform likelihood and locations of future debris flow events following fires.	June 2022	Funding required to proceed.	
	Rehabilitate fire control lines on public land to enhance biodiversity and minimise risk of erosion.	DELWP, BRV		Fire control lines rehabilitated		Complete	
2. To facilitate the re-	Key focus of	DELWP	NECMA,	Environmental recovery	June 2022	Funded	

GOALS	STRATEGIES AND ACTIONS	LEAD AGENCY	SUPPORT AGENCIES	PERFORMANCE INDICATORS	DELIVERY DATES	STATUS	NOTES
establishment and rehabilitation of the natural environment following the disaster, taking into account the protection and preservation of heritage or cultural sites	medium and long-term recovery plans; Biodiversity recovery programs Pest plant and pest animal programs Waterway rehabilitation programs Forest restoration and re-seeding program		PV, AV	programs implemented. Cultural heritage assessments during public land recovery and rehabilitation works Cultural heritage surveys in fire-affected areas to remediate existing sites that have been damaged by fire and identify new sites			
3. Improved environmental protection and management (including hazard reduction)	Improved fire hazard reduction	DELWP, CFA	ASC	Coordinated communication and education around fire risk reduction. Education on private property management. Inclusion in the MEMP and consideration made by the MEMPC	Ongoing		
4. To identify emerging natural environment issues for incorporation into medium and long-term recovery plans	To engage affected communities in identifying their medium and long-term issues	ASC, CRC	BRV, CRC	Engage with community when developing Community Recovery Plan and Municipal Recovery Plan.	June 2021		
	Work with other	ASC	BRV, CRC	Plans are regularly	June 2021		

GOALS	STRATEGIES AND ACTIONS	LEAD AGENCY	SUPPORT AGENCIES	PERFORMANCE INDICATORS	DELIVERY DATES	STATUS	NOTES
	recovery workgroups and the community to identify issues, needs and aspirations for inclusion into recovery plans			updated.			
5. Engage community volunteers and landholders in the recovery of the natural environment	Encourage community participation in revegetation activities that enhance biodiversity	Landcare, DELWP, PV, NECMA	BRV, ASC	Promote community revegetation events through websites, newsletters	Ongoing		
	Encourage landholders to access grant funding to enhance environmental values on private land, including revegetation and weed control	Landcare, AgVic	BRV	Environmental grant funding information available on Council website and via Hub	Ongoing		
To minimise public risk and make roads and public land areas safe for emergency services, utilities agencies and residents to enter the fire affected areas	Undertake works to remove dangerous trees and debris on affected roadsides to allow safe access for residents and	Dependant on road tenure	ASC, DELWP, PV, RRV	Fire impacted roadsides and recreation sites (identified in the RRAT report) are reopened for public use including community open space		Complete	

GOALS	STRATEGIES AND ACTIONS	LEAD AGENCY	SUPPORT AGENCIES	PERFORMANCE INDICATORS	DELIVERY DATES	STATUS	NOTES
	visitors			and facilities			
	Undertake works to make public land recreation sites safe, including treatment of hazardous trees and repair of damaged recreation infrastructure.	DELWP	PV		November 2020	Complete	
To address air, water and soil contamination issues	Facilitate clean-up efforts and provide for the environmentally responsible disposal of hazardous waste such as asbestos, treated timber residue and chemicals.	BRV	ASC, EPA	SIA to inform of need on private property		Complete	
	Assist landholders to address water contamination issues following fires, including both	NEW	BRV, DELWP, Melbourne Water	Deliver rainwater and Septic Tank Replacement Program		Complete	

GOALS	STRATEGIES AND ACTIONS	LEAD AGENCY	SUPPORT AGENCIES	PERFORMANCE INDICATORS	DELIVERY DATES	STATUS	NOTES
	stock and potable water supplies.						
	Rehabilitate and stabilise waterways, including engineering works and regular monitoring of water quality.	NECMA	EPA			Complete	
ECONOMIC (Business and Economy)							
Alpine Shire Council is in the process of developing an Economic Development Strategy. This strategy will incorporate community engagement in development and will identify key strengths, needs and priorities for Alpine Shire. These will be adopted through Council and delivered separately from recovery.							
1. Establish a quantified baseline of the combined economic impact of the bushfires and COVID1-19 and track economic recovery and business sentiment over a set period.	<p>Tourism North East to conduct Economic Impact Reporting as per project deliverables.</p> <p>Results to inform Council's Economic Development Strategy.</p> <p>Report to Include agriculture sector</p>	ASC	TN	<p>Adequate survey numbers</p> <p>Reporting to Council</p> <p>Analysis of data</p>	June 2021	Three surveys and reports provided to Council	<p>Three of the six surveys and reports delivered</p> <p>Survey/reporting halted based on survey data being an insufficient sample size to be utilised</p>

GOALS	STRATEGIES AND ACTIONS	LEAD AGENCY	SUPPORT AGENCIES	PERFORMANCE INDICATORS	DELIVERY DATES	STATUS	NOTES
2. Identify gaps and opportunities for workforce training and growth.	<p>Delivery of a workforce strategy that outlines workforce development priorities</p> <p>Workforce Capability Strategy.</p> <p>Work with local businesses and business groups to attract, retain and upskill local employees.</p>	ASC	TNE, Ag Vic, DET	<p>Workforce capability strategy developed and delivered, including agriculture.</p> <p>Strategy builds industry skill development and retention.</p> <p>Inclusion in Economic Development Strategy.</p>	Ongoing	<p>Pending</p> <p>Funding required for business development initiatives</p>	<p>Economic Development Strategy – Supporting Businesses 5.0</p> <p>Economic Development Strategy – Growing and Diversifying Agriculture 2.3</p> <p>Seek funding once ED Strategy endorsed.</p>
3. Ensure future resilience by assisting businesses to Build Back Better	Work with small businesses and Chambers of Commerce to identify business needs and training opportunities to upskill and for greater resilience.	ASC	SBV, BRV	<p>Chambers and small businesses are supported.</p> <p>Small Business mentoring services are utilised.</p> <p>Delivery of and attendance at training sessions, including e-commerce.</p> <p>Crisis Management and Resilience and Events workshops.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Complete</p>	<p>Funding required to proceed</p>	<p>Costing / project proposal prepared.</p> <p>Economic Development Strategy – Attracting New Industry and Investment 4.0</p> <p>Economic Development Strategy – Growing and</p>

GOALS	STRATEGIES AND ACTIONS	LEAD AGENCY	SUPPORT AGENCIES	PERFORMANCE INDICATORS	DELIVERY DATES	STATUS	NOTES
				Businesses are 'disruption ready'.	Ongoing		Diversifying Agriculture 2.0
				Inclusion in Economic Development Strategy.	June 2021		
	Work with industry to explore opportunities to diversify.			Diversification of Industry.	Ongoing		
				Diversity of product offering and paths to market for existing businesses.			
	'Inclusive' business and communities support and planning guide.	ASC	DJPR, SBV	Included in ASC Community Vision			
	To support regional businesses establish or integrate an existing shop front and reach digital consumers via an e-commerce platform (Buy From North East).	ASC, Towong, Mansfield Wangaratta, Benalla and, Indigo Shire Councils.	Issimo, StartUp ShakeUp, Charles Sturt University (Wangaratta Regional Study Centre), TNE, Alpine resorts, Goulburn	Delivery of online platforms. Campaigns and results. Number of online shops. Online Sales	Build complete. Onboard of businesses ongoing, bulk complete. Campaigns ongoing.	Funded. Ongoing	

GOALS	STRATEGIES AND ACTIONS	LEAD AGENCY	SUPPORT AGENCIES	PERFORMANCE INDICATORS	DELIVERY DATES	STATUS	NOTES
			Ovens TAFE, DJPR				
4. Build long term resilience of the business sector.	Identify solutions to address economic recovery barriers.	ASC	SBV	Needs and Priorities captured in plans. Businesses engaged in identifying their medium and long term goals.	Ongoing focus on resilience and recovery		
	Regional Resilience Master Plan to bring together economic, infrastructure and community resilience initiatives.	ASC	BRV, OMRP, RDV, SBV, MEMPC	Development of a set of regional resilience principles to embed in all planning. Considered in Municipal Emergency Management Planning, land use and infrastructure planning.			From CRP
5. Attract visitors to the Alpine Shire.	Destination Marketing Plan to incorporate Valleys and Dinner Plain to attract visitation and strengthen visitor economy	ASC	TNE	Delivery of Plan.	June 2022	Funded	Plan to take into consideration ED Strategy.
				Community consultation.	Ongoing		
				Township brand personalities project.	June 2021		Phase 1 and 2 engagement

GOALS	STRATEGIES AND ACTIONS	LEAD AGENCY	SUPPORT AGENCIES	PERFORMANCE INDICATORS	DELIVERY DATES	STATUS	NOTES
	Develop an Alpine Events Strategy	ASC		Delivery of Alpine Events Strategy and Action Plan	August 2021	Funded	complete. Phase 3 in draft.
	Support event operators to utilise event infrastructure.	ASC		Event Directory of infrastructure and facilities across the Alpine Shire delivered.	June 2021	Funded. In progress	Links to Alpine Events Strategy 2.2 Promote Utilisation of Event Infrastructure
	Social media campaigns encouraging support of bushfire affected communities	TNE	ASC	Participation in major campaigns (e.g. Empty Esky)		Complete	
	Tourism Product Development and Investment	ASC	TNE, RDV, ACP	Business cases prepared for priority tourism product investment projects. Funding secured for strategic tourism products (see build environment for list). Support implementation of Cycling Strategies and other strategic plans.		Mystic Mountain Bike Park Masterplan in progress.	See Economic Development Strategy and Council Plan for process and timelines

GOALS	STRATEGIES AND ACTIONS	LEAD AGENCY	SUPPORT AGENCIES	PERFORMANCE INDICATORS	DELIVERY DATES	STATUS	NOTES
				Other private sector/ agritourism investment attraction.			
ECONOMIC - AGRICULTURAL							
1. Provide technical support, advice and assistance to affected land holders on farm business recovery and emergency stock movements.	Delivery of content relevant to directly affected and smoke taint affected producers, re-sowing and on-farm erosion.	AgVic,		Farm business recovery and technical support workshops, field days and printed material. Industry participation in workshops/ field days. Business confidence in responding to technical issues and risks.		Funded	
	Delivery of Agriculture Local Economic Recovery Program.	AgVic		Implementation of place-based recovery network.			
2. Support sector-based risk and resilience planning.	Resilience seminars. Succession planning seminars. Business model planning including innovative models for young people to enter agriculture sector (commercial farming)	AgVic,	Industry, ASC	Individual and sector wide resilience and planning (dairy, horticulture, viticulture, beef and sheep). Adverse event plans. Evidence of proactive risk management strategies in place.	12 months	Funded	
3. To support education and	Accredited skills in	Dept. of	AgVic	Promoting interest in	June 2022		

GOALS	STRATEGIES AND ACTIONS	LEAD AGENCY	SUPPORT AGENCIES	PERFORMANCE INDICATORS	DELIVERY DATES	STATUS	NOTES
capacity building in the agricultural sector	agricultural program – secondary students. Accredited skills in agricultural program – farmhands.	Education		industry participation younger demographics in farming. Broader understanding of opportunities to enter industry from outside industry.			
4. To identify emerging agricultural environment issues for incorporation into medium and long-term recovery plans	Engage affected communities in identifying their medium and long-term issues.	AgVic,	ASC, CRC, NECMA, PV, DELWP, BRV, Landcare	Weed incursions, landslide, erosion, debris flow. Plans are regularly updated.	June 2022		
	Work with other recovery workgroups and the community to identify issues, needs and aspirations for inclusion into recovery plans.	AgVic,	ASC, CRC, NECMA, PV, DELWP, Landcare	Collaborative community engagement. Plans updated to include issues identified.	June 2022		
5. Wine Sector is more resilient to future emergency events.	Development of a North East Wine Zone (NEWZ) Industry Strategic plan (\$90,000) Risk Management and Resilience	North East Wine Zone group	AgVic		2021-22		

GOALS	STRATEGIES AND ACTIONS	LEAD AGENCY	SUPPORT AGENCIES	PERFORMANCE INDICATORS	DELIVERY DATES	STATUS	NOTES
	Building in the Wine Industry (\$70,000) National Smoke Taint Symposium (\$30,000)						
Address the animal welfare needs of livestock, pets and wildlife in the affected areas	Work with other animal welfare groups to coordinate animal welfare services	AgVic,	RSPCA	Immediate animal welfare needs, and urgent stock feed and water requirements met.	Immediate response and first 12 months	Complete	
	Arrange urgent stock feed and water	AgVic,	RSPCA, ASC, and Water Authorities (enabling access to water points)	Nesting box projects etc		Complete	
	Provide veterinary care or euthanasia for animal welfare cases	AgVic, RSPCA, Vets				Complete	
	Work with partners to coordinate response to wildlife in the affected areas	WIRES, DELWP (Call Centre for referrals)					
Secure or re-establish	Ensure fencing,	AgVic,		Securing grants to	12 months	Complete	

GOALS	STRATEGIES AND ACTIONS	LEAD AGENCY	SUPPORT AGENCIES	PERFORMANCE INDICATORS	DELIVERY DATES	STATUS	NOTES
agricultural enterprises directly and indirectly impacted by fire.	fodder, water, land management support, feed are all available for impacted businesses.	Blaze Aid, Fencing for Fires, VFF, NECMA		support delivery Support for on ground works Low number of businesses exiting the market			