

MUNICIPAL FIRE MANAGEMENT PLAN 2019-2022



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DOCUMENT CONTROL

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This document is to be read in conjunction with:

Alpine Shire Municipal Emergency Management Plan (MEMP) Version Control

Draft Number	Date of Issue	Author(s)	Brief Description of Change
Version 1.0	4/5/12	C. Hajek	Draft for comment
2	29/6/2012	Alpine MFMPC	Numerous edits following meeting 4.2
3	6/7/2012	Alpine MFMPC	Final edits
4	2/08/2012	Alpine MFMPC	Proof read and edits
5	7/08/2012	Alpine MFMPC	Maps replaced with agreed revised versions
6	23/10/2012	Alpine MFMPC	Responses to public comments
7	26/09/2016	S. Tucker	Minor administrative changes (reviewed risk assessment, names, acronyms, etc)
8	21/07/2017	S. Tucker	General review and update (before wider circulation)
Version 2.0	12/07/2018	K. van Huizen	Review and update for circulation to MFMPC
2.1	12/02/19	K. van Huizen	Addition of Fire Prevention Notices, water supply, hydrant maintenance and changes following feedback and review of EMMV
2.2	01/10/19	K. van Huizen	Changes to the Bushfire Risk Management Strategy and Plan, addition of Roadside Fire Management Strategy and final revisions post MFMPC for final comment

Endorsement and Adoption

This integrated Municipal Fire Management Plan (MFMP) was adopted as the first iteration of the Alpine Shire MFMP. This Plan was endorsed through a formal motion by the Alpine Municipal Fire Management Planning Committee (MFMPC) at their meeting on 9th of October 2019, for which the chair of the committee will sign for and on behalf of all members of the Alpine MFMPC.

Signed:

ed: ______

Date: 04 / 12 / 2019

Karen van Huizen Chairperson Alpine Municipal Fire Management Planning Committee

This MFMP (Version 2.2) was endorsed as a sub plan to the Alpine Shire Municipal Emergency Management Plan through a formal motion by the Alpine Shire Municipal Emergency Management Planning Committee (MEMPC) at their meeting on 23rd October 2019, for which the chair of the committee will sign for and on behalf of the members of the Alpine Shire MEMPC.

Signed:

Date: 04100021 200,

Cr. Ron Janas Chairperson Alpine Shire Municipal Emergency Management Planning Committee This MFMP was considered, endorsed and adopted by the *Alpine Shire Council* at its meeting of 17th December 2019.

_____ day of ______ 2019 in the presence of: CrKH Councillor Print Name Sign TOX Councillor Print Name Sign Charlie BIRD **Chief Executive Officer** Sign

The responsibilities and accountabilities attributed to the organisations represented at the Alpine MFMPC are endorsed by:

Signed: _____

Date: ____/____

Adrian Gutsche Operations Manager - District 24 Country Fire Authority

Signed:

Date: 18/12/19.

Jarrod Hayse District Manager - Ovens Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning

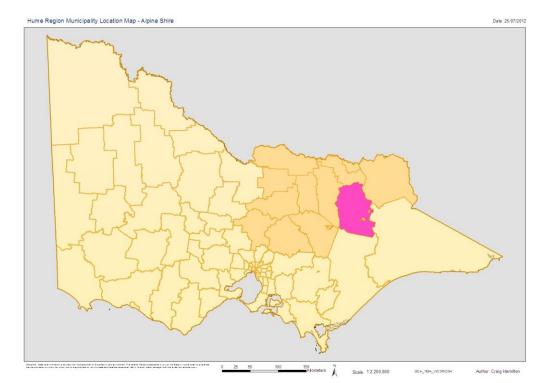


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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Context and Background

Victoria has a long history of community, government and organisations working cooperatively to combat the threat of fire. However, challenges such as dry conditions, an increase in people living in high risk areas and the occurrence of a number of major fires, prompted the need for increased coordination and cooperation to secure fire safety across the state.

The Alpine Shire has a history of consistent and lengthy fire seasons due to its climate, topography and environment. The nature and lifestyle of Alpine Shire Communities create a range of risks associated with the occurrence of fire in the environment.

The primary objective of municipal fire management planning is the protection of life and property. It is a coordinated approach by a range of stakeholders to discuss, plan and manage fire in the community by adhering to a key tenet of emergency planning—Before, During and After for emergencies. Stakeholders contribute knowledge, experience, resources and capability and aim to achieve measurable fire management outcomes through agreed and achievable risk treatments.

1.2 Legislative Authority

The Alpine Municipal Fire Management Plan (the Municipal Fire Plan) has been produced by, and with the authority of, the Alpine Shire pursuant to Section 20 of the *Emergency Management Act 1986*; and will be deemed to fulfil Section 55A of the *Country Fire Authority Act 1958* (the CFA Act). The Municipal Fire Plan is a sub-plan of the Alpine Shire *Municipal Emergency Management Plan.*

1.3 Period and Purpose

Period

MFMPs have a three year planning cycle. This plan has a three year duration commencing from the date of council endorsement. However, it will be subject to annual review and modification as appropriate. This MFMP concentrates on bushfires; however it is expected that future versions of the plan will incorporate management of structural and chemical fires as well as the use of fire for a variety of purposes.

Purpose

Organisations and agencies involved in fire management already have a range of activities, plans, policies and procedures that are directly involved with, or that impact on fire management. This MFMP builds on this existing work, so as to chart and coordinate the implementation of measures in use across the municipality designed to minimise the occurrence and mitigate the effects of fire. It also seeks to identify the need for adopting or developing new activities, processes and policies, and communicating this need to the relevant responsible authority.

In doing so it takes into consideration all aspects of fire management.

- **Prevention:** Regulatory and physical measures to ensure that emergencies are prevented, or their effects mitigated.
- **Preparedness:** Arrangements to ensure that in the event of an emergency occurring all those resources and services that area needed to cope with the effects can be efficiently mobilised and deployed
- **Response:** Actions taken in anticipation of, during and immediately after an emergency, to ensure its effects are minimised and that people affected are given immediate relief and support
- **Recovery:** The coordinated process of supporting emergency affected communities in the reconstruction of the physical infrastructure and restoration of emotional, social, economic and physical wellbeing.

1.4 Structure and Framework

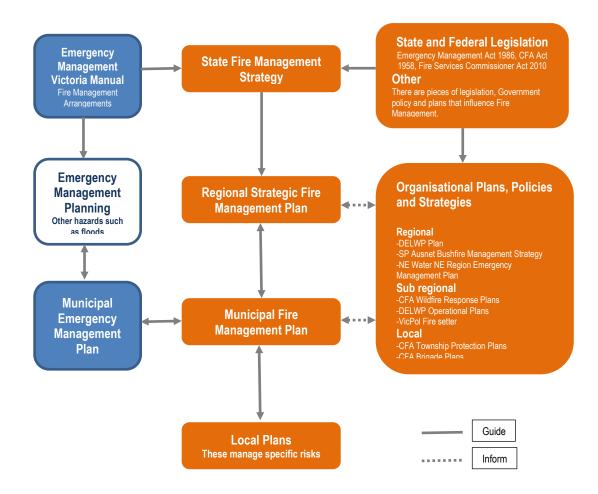
The framework is designed to achieve consistent and effective fire management planning across Victoria; it has three levels of planning committees as described in **Figure 1**.

Figure 1: Committee Structure	
STATE LEVEL State Fire Management Planning Committee (SFMPC)	Ensures a consistent, sustainable and integrated approach to fire management planning across Victoria.
REGIONAL LEVEL Hume Regional Strategic Fire Management Planning Committee (Hume RSFMPC)	Produces the Hume Regional Strategic Fire Management Plan (Regional Fire Plan). The Regional Fire Plan provides guidance and direction for the Municipal Fire Management Plan
MUNICIPAL LEVEL Alpine Shire Council Municipal Fire Management Planning Committee (ASC MFMPC)	Brings together all agencies with legislative responsibilities for the fire management to develop the Municipal Fire Management Plan.

The Alpine Shire Fire Management Plan has been prepared by the joint efforts of emergency services and land managers to reduce the risk posed by fire to life and property throughout the Alpine Shire. It is a risk based plan, developed using the principles outlined in the guide for fire management planning in part 6A of the *Emergency Management Manual Victoria (EMMV)*.

The framework provides structures, policies and procedures to help build on the existing spirit of cooperation and networks that already exist in fire management. It establishes a tiered system of state, regional and municipal plans that provide strategic direction to fire management in Victoria, as illustrated in **Figure 2**.

Figure 2: Victorian Management Plans and Policies



1.5 Municipal Fire Management Planning Committee

The MFMPC is a sub-committee of the Municipal Emergency Management Planning Committee. The purpose of a Municipal Fire Management Planning Committee (MFMPC) is to provide a municipal level forum for building and sustaining organisational partnerships with regards to fire management. The committee also ensures that plans of individual agencies are linked effectively and complement each other. The MFMPC's membership consists of representatives from key stakeholder organisations with respect to fire management within the municipality.

Membership

The Alpine Shire MFMPC membership consists of:

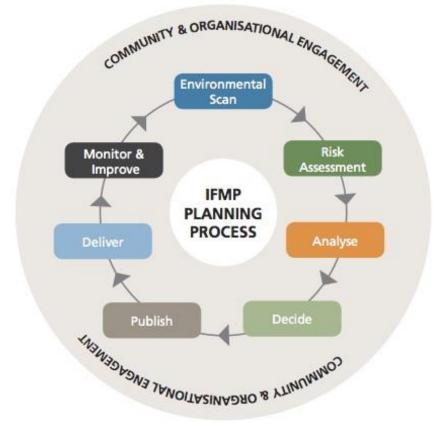
- Country Fire Authority (CFA)
- Department of Environment Land Water and Planning (DELWP)
- Victoria Police (Vic Pol)
- Alpine Shire Council (ASC)
- Parks Victoria (Parks Vic)
- Hancock Victoria Plantations (HVP)
- Regional Roads Victoria

Terms of Reference For Terms of reference of Committee is stored internally at: Q:\AssetMaintenance\EmergencyManagement\FireManagement_Planning\MFMPC

1.6 Plan Preparation Process

This MFMP has been developed in accordance with Part 6A of the *Emergency Management Manual Victoria (EMMV)* and using the IFMP planning process. This process follows a seven stage planning cycle as illustrated in **Figure 3**.

Figure 3: Integrated fire management planning process



Stage 1: Environmental scanning – establish a municipal base line from which fire management planning and decision making can be made and measured, including development of fire management objectives.

Stage 2: Risk assessment – identification, analysis and evaluation of the fire risks that potentially impact on the municipality.

Stage 3: Analysis – analysis of treatment options for achieving the fire management objectives. **Stage 4:** Decide – select the most appropriate risk treatment options to achieve the fire management objectives.

Stage 5: Publish –once the community and stakeholders have validated the draft MFMP, the relevant authorities endorse, publish and distribute it.

Stage 6: Deliver - relevant organisations implement the agreed risk treatments in the MFMP. **Stage 7: Monitor and improve** – track delivery and effectiveness of risk treatments so as to continually improve the MFMP's contribution to realising the fire management objectives. Members of the committee met on a regular basis to work through the steps outlined above for the purpose of developing this plan. This planning process is risk based and aligns with the *Australian Standard AS/NZS ISO 31000:2009 Risk Management – Principles and Guidelines.*

Further detail of how this was achieved using the *Community Engagement Risk Assessment* (*CERA*) is described in **Part 4.3** of the *Alpine Shire MEMP*.

2 ENGAGEMENT AND COMMUNICATIONS

Stakeholder engagement and participation is required for a range of reasons, including, but not limited to:

- Legislative responsibilities in relation to fire management
- Leadership
- Provision of hazard expertise and technical advice
- Subject to hazard impact: directly and/or indirectly
- Land tenure and management arrangements
- Expressed expectation
- Influenced and/or support mitigation.

The aim of allowing all stakeholders to participate in the collaborative development, delivery and monitoring of the MFMP is to draw on existing knowledge and experience and to build support for and involvement in this plan.

During the development of the plan communication and engagement tasks were designed around the model of public engagement developed by the International Association of Public Participation to:

Inform - Provide balanced and objective information to assist stakeholders to understand the problems, alternatives, opportunities and/or solutions.

Consult - Obtain feedback on analysis, alternatives and/or decisions.

Involve - Work directly together with stakeholders throughout the process to ensure that concerns, issues and aspirations are understood and considered.

Collaborate - Partner in each aspect of decision including the development of alternatives and the identification of the preferred solution.

Empower - Place final decision making in the hands of the stakeholders through consultation.

2.1 Community engagement

During the initial development phase of the MFMP, the Alpine Shire MFMPC's communication and engagement efforts were focused upon primary stakeholders. Secondary and tertiary stakeholders were engaged for feedback prior to finalising the plan. A number of community groups were identified during the process. Continuing to engage with these groups and the broader community is critical to the long-term success of the MFMP. See **Attachment 2** - Stakeholder Role Analysis for primary, secondary and tertiary stakeholders.

3 ENVIRONMENTAL SCAN

Environmental scanning identified the following key themes, issues and trends affecting or influencing fire management in the Alpine Shire. It established a base level of knowledge and understanding for identifying, assessing and treating fire risk.

In undertaking this environmental scanning exercise, the MFMPC gathered information relevant to fire management from a wide range of sources. Data sources used included the ASC *MEMP*, CFA's VFRR, DELWP fuel loads and natural values, OESC consequence of loss and ABS IRSED. This information was interpreted using the committee's extensive knowledge and experience with fire management to make predictions, assumptions and conclusions concerning fire risk for the municipality over the period of the plan.

3.1 Municipal Profile

Located in the heart of north east Victoria, the Alpine Shire is one of Victoria's most geographically diverse and scenic landscapes. The Shire extends from the heights of the mountains, snowfields and national parks down to rich, fertile river valleys. It boasts a vibrant history with agriculture, forestry, gold prospecting and the construction of the Kiewa hydroelectric scheme all playing a part. The result is the creation of a wonderful mix of history, culture and beauty. See **Figure 5** for Alpine Shire map.

For more information on Topography, Description of the municipality and Demography refer to **Part 2.2** of *Alpine Shire MEMP*.

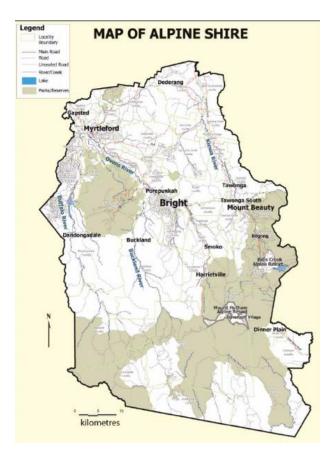


Figure 5: Alpine Shire Map

3.1.1 Land use, economy and infrastructure

The key sectors are tourism, forestry (timber production and processing), agriculture (livestock and horticulture), services (health, education, community services) and retail. Tourism is a major driver of the economy, which combined with the Alpine ski resorts, is worth around \$569 million per annum to the region. The agricultural, agribusiness and tourism industries are closely intertwined with some of the smaller towns and districts providing local focus points for visitors. Opportunities within niche markets, based around these industries, abound throughout the Shire.

Water is also an important part of the Alpine Shire, with the Buffalo Dam being a major storage on the Buffalo River providing water for domestic and commercial users and the Kiewa River forming part of the Kiewa Hydro Electric Scheme. Both of these systems are also of significant importance to stakeholders outside of the municipality.

3.1.2 Climate

The climate is temperate over most of the Alpine Shire and is characterised by dry and warm to hot summers with cool wet winters with significant snow falls above 1200m elevation. Variations in altitude exert considerable influence on temperature and rainfall in this region; weather can therefore best be studied in conjunction with topography.

The warmest areas are in the deep river valleys where the average maximum temperatures for January and February are generally in the low 30°C. Individual days here may be very hot with the highest temperatures on record generally being in the mid 40°C. Temperature conditions at higher altitudes are cooler throughout the year, with the differences being greatest in summer. Alpine areas (above 1000m elevation) maximum temperatures are around 20°C during the summer months and rarely exceeding 30°C.

Average annual rainfall also varies across the municipality with elevation, ranging from 800mm per annum in the lower valley bottoms to 1500mm on the high plains.

3.1.3 Natural environment

There are a number of unique landscapes that contribute to the make-up and appeal of Alpine Shire. This comprises of an array of vegetation types, riverine environments, alpine areas and topographical features, heritage areas, all forming the visual rooms that make Alpine Shire. This provides community and visitors opportunities for recreation and a sense of connectedness to the environment and land.

Key Bio-diversity assets in the municipality include:

- Riverine and riparian corridors and wetlands along the Ovens and Kiewa Rivers and other permanent and seasonal waterways
- A significant network of remnant roadside native vegetation in the fragmented landscapes of the inland slopes and northern plains.
- Forested public land including Mt Bogong and Mt Buffalo
- Alpine areas... areas with a large number of birds, mammals and reptiles...rare and endangered species
- Native vegetation of highest conservation significance includes Mt Bogong High plains and Alpine Peatlands.

See Attachment 3 for map of Alpine Shire Biodiversity Values.

3.1.4 Fire danger and history

An analysis of historical fire danger indexes and ratings for Alpine Shire using data from nearby BOM weather stations indicates that the Shire experiences a highly variable fire season, both geographically and annually. It can expect to experience some "moderate" to "very high" Fire Danger Rating (FDR) level days every year, with more "severe" and "extreme" conditions occurring on a regular if not annual basis, especially at lower elevations.

The bushfire danger period usually commences in November each year with seasonal fire restrictions being introduced around this time. Over the last ten years a total of 530 bushfires were responded to by authorities within the municipality. Major bushfires have occurred regularly including many of the state's largest and most destructive.

For further information on history of fires in the municipality, including the devastating Feb 2009 Fires known as "Black Saturday", resulting in 2 fatalities, loss of stock and domestic animals, destruction of many houses and pine plantations can be found in **Table 2.3.5** of *Alpine Shire MEMP*.

3.2 Strategic Implications

Bushfire can occur in any type of vegetation such as grassland, trees, crops or shrubs. This section describes the factors that may increase the likelihood of a fire starting and spreading across the Alpine Shire. Ensuring the municipality is a safe and healthy place to live and work involves protecting the social, environmental and economic fabric of the municipality.

Alpine Shire has a range of assets and features which make it a vibrant place to work live or visit. These include large townships, small communities, rural areas, industries such as agriculture, agribusinesses and tourism, and important infrastructure for essential services such as transport, power and communications. In addition to the built environment, the municipality boasts a range of natural assets such as good quality water resources and extensive native forests which are valued for their environmental, commercial and visual appeal.

The Shire has experienced a number of fires over the years. Its combination of topography, climate and vegetation, coupled with the increasing number of people living in and visiting high fire risk localities during the fire danger period, poses a significant issue for the municipality.

3.2.1 Vegetation and topography

The vegetation and topography of the Alpine Shire creates a number of challenges for fire management.

The high fuel hazard of the tall moist forests of the ranges create the potential for high intensity fires during prolonged dry periods. In addition, the mountainous undeveloped terrain adds to the difficulty of detecting and accessing fires. The combination of these factors creates the potential for large scale extended bush fires to occur.

The forests of the foothills also present a risk, as although the fuel loads may be relatively low, these forests can easily burn most summers. Furthermore, their proximity to roads, which may

decrease response times, also indicates proximity to settlements and therefore raises the risk to life and property. In addition, in the terrain, whilst not as severe as the Alpine areas still presents a number of difficulties for fire fighters such as steep slopes, rocky outcrops and gullies. Combined, these areas present a number of challenges, making fire management in and about these areas an important annual task.

3.2.2 Weather and climate

Weather conditions and climate have a significant impact on fire management. The bushfire season, and its associated restrictions, is generally longer than that of other areas. Typically, the municipality experiences spring rains and mild conditions that promote growth followed by hot summers which lead to high fuel loads. In periods of drought, there can be a significant increase to the available fuel, especially in the Alpine areas.

The usual pattern during summer months is depicted by north westerly winds accompanied by high day time temperatures and low relative humidity building up over several days to a storm event with a change to south westerly winds. This creates a situation whereby fire ignition from lightning becomes a likely possibility, with a propensity for the fire to run quickly in one direction before changing direction quickly, thus transforming the fire's extensive flank into the new fire front.

3.2.3 People

The Alpine Shire has people with diverse needs and levels of understanding with regard to fire and fire safety. Understanding these needs is central to delivering effective community safety initiatives. This is particularly important for people unfamiliar to the area.

The impact of a bushfire increases if the fire occurs in areas where people live, work and visit, so settlement and visitor patterns are important when determining bushfire risk. There has been a significant population expansion in rural residential development in several parts of the Shire for lifestyle reasons. The increased amount of urban rural interface requires intensive fire management and creates variation in the degree and nature of bushfire risk between localities. These patterns of human settlement create challenges to fire management planning; an adaptive approach to managing the risk is required where more traditional treatments are in effective. Property owners must share in the awareness of risk and planning for living in these areas.

Tourism also has a considerable impact on human movement during the fire danger period, interacting with fire management at several points. The same landscape features that may lead to increased fire danger, can also underpin elements that make the site attractive for tourism. Importantly, visitors to the municipality are often drawn to the areas of higher fire risk creating a situation of increasing potential impact as the fire risk rises. Furthermore, visitors to the region are often less informed of bush fire risk and less prepared to deal with bushfire situations.

During a bushfire or imminent threat of fire, special consideration must be given to vulnerable people in the community. Further information on vulnerable persons refer to **Part 2.2.3** of *Alpine Shire MEMP*.

3.2.4 Economy and infrastructure

The speed at which a community recovers from a devastating event can be considered a measure of its social resilience. The recovery process is strongly influenced by people's ability to access critical services and financial income, with the maintenance or restoration of a normal operating environment around them particularly important. Ensuring the local economy and infrastructure continues to function through the provision of critical services underpins economic recovery. Therefore, treatments designed to protect and restore critical services or economic assets are a high priority.

The major transport routes which traverse the region have a number of implications for fire management. These provide potential fire ignition sources, but can also act as important fuel reduced corridors. Although they can facilitate the rapid movement of resources and people, they also can place users in a threatening situation if they are caught in a fire situation. In addition, several minor roads provide critical access/egress to isolated small communities.

4 MUNICIPAL FIRE MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVE

The municipal fire management objective provides a framework for considering, selecting and evaluating fire management activities. This objective was developed using the information examined during the environmental scanning process, as well as being informed by the Hume Regional Fire Management Plan and relevant issues and priorities from regional stakeholders and adjoining municipalities.

4.1 Municipal Objective

The fire management objective of Alpine MFMPC is:

The Alpine Shire working together with stakeholders to prepare, respond to and recover from fire so as to minimise its impacts and help secure a safer, more aware community, healthier environment and prosperous economy.

4.2 Strategic Direction

In developing strategic directions for the MFMP, the MFMPC was mindful of the task's planning context. As illustrated in **Figure 1**, the MFMP forms a critical third tier in Victoria's fire management planning hierarchy and therefore should be consistent with the outcomes and objectives of State and Regional Strategic Fire Management. The MFMPC has adopted the following broad strategic fire management deliverables from the state Fire Management Strategy 2009. These include:

- Active participation of the community, the sector and government, working together in fire management planning to reduce the destructive impact of fire on communities and the environment
- Communities that are resilient to fire
- Greater understanding of the fire sector within the community
- Healthy natural, social and built economic environments.

4.3 Alignment of Regional and Municipal Objective

The Alpine municipal fire management objective aligns closely with the Hume RSFMP objectives and vision for fire management. The development and implementation of this plan will therefore contribute significantly to the realisation of the Hume RSFMP's vision.

Hume Regional Fire Management Vision

The Hume Region working together to effectively anticipate, respond to and recover from major bushfire – to secure a safer region, more resilient community, healthier environment and a prosperous economy.

Furthermore the formation of the Alpine MFMPC and the development of a MFMP for the Alpine Shire using the designated IFMP planning guide have strongly supported several of the RSFMP's key objectives. Evidence of this is described in **Figure 6**.

RSFMP element	RSFMP objective	MFMP contribution
Planning together	Develop state, regional, municipal and local fire management plans and planning with a clear purpose and a consistent assessment of risk.	The MFMP provides the third tier in the IFMP process and utilises the same risk base approach as used with State and regional plans.
Collaborative implementation	Develop and implement fire management programs and activities in a collaborative manner.	The MFMPC consists of multiagency representation and has incorporated community engagement strongly into the development of the MFMP.
Building knowledge and capacity	Build and share knowledge in the fire management sector and across the community. Improve the capability of communities, the fire management sector and the government to deal with fires.	The aspirations of the MFMPC converge with the regions in seeking to build both its members and the community's knowledge and understanding of fire management.
Implementation support	Support the implementation of the IFMP framework in the Hume region.	The development of this MFMP clearly demonstrates support for IFMP at a municipal level.

Figure 6: Alignment of MFMP and RSFMP objective

5 FIRE MANAGEMENT RISK STRATEGIES

Integrated fire management planning involves a risk management process to establish priority setting for fire management activities. Risks in the municipality have been assessed and identified using the Community Emergency Risk Assessment (CERA) process developed by the Victorian SES to be consistent with *ISO-31000 Risk Management*. Refer to **Part 4.3** of *Alpine Shire MEMP*. Fire risks are then assessed using the Victorian Fire Risk Register (VFRR) managed by the CFA.

As a result of these both processes the MFMPC has prepared the Bushfire Risk Register detailed in **Figure 7** and a Risk Management Strategy detailed in **Figure 8**.

Figure 7: Alpine Shire Bushfire Risk Register

ASC BUSHFIRE RISK REGISTER						
ID #	RISK DESCRIPTION	RISK Rating				
1	Risk of Bushfire to local public infrastructure such as distribution lines, sub stations, water treatment/storage, waste water treatment, water reticulation pressure and telecommunications, leading to loss of service	High				
2	Risk of bushfire & ember attack impacting on small, isolated and vulnerable communities or rural residents.	High				
3	Risk of Bushfire & ember attack impacting on smaller rural communities - Buffalo River, Wandiligong, Dederang	High				
4	Risk of Mount Buffalo Chalet being directly impacted/damaged by bushfire	High				
5	Risk of Bushfire & ember attack impacting on higher density rural and urban communities - Bright, Myrtleford, Porepunkah, Tawonga South, Mt Beauty, Harrietville, Dinner Plain	High				
6	Risk of Bushfire impacting on visitors & campers to surrounding public land; including Mt Buffalo NP, Buckland River, Alpine NP, Buffalo River, Mountain Creek	Moderate				
7	Risk of Bushfire to major arterial roads within the shire limiting access and egress, such as Great Alpine Road, Tawonga Gap, Rosewhite Gap, Kiewa Valley Highway, Myrtleford - Yackandandah Road	Moderate				
8	Risk of Bushfire to major public infrastructure, such as HV transmission lines and switch stations, leading to loss of service	Moderate				
9	Risk of Bushfire to emergency services communication networks resulting in decreased capability and communication	Moderate				
10	Risk of bushfire to major Agriculture and Horticulture industries, such as; HVP Pine Plantations, Orchards, Vineyards, Hop Gardens	Moderate				
11	Risk of Bushfire to major construction/manufacturing industry leading to loss of employment, such as; CHH Mill, Greenfreight, Industrial estates of Myrtleford, Bright and Mt Beauty	Moderate				
12	Risk of Howmans Gap Alpine Centre being directly impacted by bushfire/ember attack	Moderate				
13	Risk of Bushfire impacting on natural values of the municipality, including fire sensitive vegetation (such as Alpine Ash forests) and fire sensitive species (such as spotted tree frog)	Moderate				
14	Risk of visitors/works being impacted by bushfire, ember attack and smoke while visiting local tourist attractions	Moderate				
15	Risk of Bushfire impacting on the tourism industry leading to loss of visitation and income	Moderate				
16	Risk of Airports (Mt Hotham, Porepunkah and Mt Beauty) being impacted by bushfire	Low				
17	Risk of Bushfire impacting on emergency management facilities in the shire, such as the DELWP ICC, ASC MECC, Myrtleford LCF's resulting in limited facilities and systems to support response, relief and recovery	Low				
18	Risk of damage to Indigenous heritage sites from bushfire / fire protection measures	Low				

Treatment						
ID #	Name	Risk ID#	Treatment description	Action Plan - Treatment Activity		
	Planning Together					
ASC	C					
1	Bushfire Management Overlay	All	Planning referral for new subdivisions, structures, applies conditions for access, water supply, standards, works and vegetation management.	Planning permits take BMO into consideration.		
CFA	A					
2	Emergency Management Plan (Site)	1,4,7-12, 15-17	CFA input into site specific Emergency Management Plans including bushfire component	LRPs, Structural pre-plans and facility redundancy plans (LCF, ICC etc.)		
3	Statutory & Legislative activities	All	Bushfire Prone Areas & Bushfire Management Overlay, declaration of TFBs, declared danger periods, regulation of burning permits.	VFRR review – CFA business as usual		
DEI	_WP					
4	Fire Management Planning	All	DELWP Fire Management Zones. Strategic landscape scale zoning of public land across the state to achieve fuel management outcomes	As part of the Hume Region Strategic Bushfire Management Plan 2019 the Fire Management Zones were reviewed driving the development of the Joint Fuel Management Plan to maintain a residual risk of <55% is ASC.		
DET	Г					
5	Emergency Management Plan (Site)	3,5	Established framework for the effective handling of emergencies in schools, childcare centres, preschools (public & private), includes development of an Emergency Management Plan and mandatory training for staff, nominated bus routes, code red closures.	Emergency Management plan reviewed annually which includes arrangements for evacuation and shelter in place. Essential Safety measure compliance program in place including routine inspections. Communication plans in place with school community.		
NF	NE Water					
6	Risk management procedures	1	Operating procedures are varied to address increased risk during high fire danger periods/events.	Implementation of North East Water Preparedness procedures/actions, including:		

Figure 8: Alpine MFMPC Bushfire Risk Management Strategy and Action Plan

Treatment				
ID #	Name	Risk ID#	Treatment description	Action Plan - Treatment Activity
				Increased response team readiness, system monitoring and incident response management in proportion to increased fire danger rating. (Readiness arrangement as provided to Hume REMT)
7	Emergency response plan	1	Respond appropriately to the impacts of fire on water supply and waste management	 Readiness and activation of North East Water's Crisis & Incident Management System (CIMS) including: the application of AIIMS based incident, crisis and recovery management teams as required 24/7 on-call Duty Officers and technical specialists 24/7 Customer Call Centre DELWP oversight of serious water incidents
8	Alternative drinking water supply plan	1	Provision of alternative drinking water supplies to customers and community in the event of loss of normal supply	 Readiness and activation of North East Water's Crisis & Incident Management System (CIMS) including: the application of AIIMS based incident and crisis management teams and business continuity arrangements to: Deploy EMLO's to liaise and work with control agencies/ICC's Activate mutual aid arrangements with other Water Corporation's to provide assistance if needed. 24/7 Duty Officers and technical specialists DELWP oversight of serious water incidents Member of Hume REMT
PV			I	
9	Emergency Response Plans	All	Ensure that proper and sufficient works for wildfire prevention and suppression activities on public land in Victoria are conducted in an operationally safe, environmentally sensitive and cost- effective manner. Ensure efficient and appropriate response	Collaborate with DELWP as part of FFM Vic across the PPRR spectrum
Cor	mbined			
CFA	A/DELWP			
10	VFRR mapping / DELWP RM mapping	All	Interactive online map service that identifies areas likely to be subject to fires and consequent construction standards requirements	VFRR Review
11	Joint Fuel Management	All	Planning of proposed fire prevention activities to be carried out on public land (includes all land managed by DELWP and	JFMP developed driven by bushfire risk and fire management zones with intent to maintain residual bushfire risk in ASC at or below 55%.

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	Treatment			
ID #	Name	Risk ID#	Treatment description	Action Plan - Treatment Activity
			 PV) with the objective of reducing impacts of bushfire on life, community, critical infrastructure, industry and the environment. Includes planned burns, slashing and track works, grazing, and additions to the permanent network of strategic fuel breaks. Develop and maintain single GIS system to map all on ground treatments. 	Continue VMOs working with FFM Vic on Safer Together project.
Wo	orking Together			
AS	С			
12	Fuel Hazard Management	All	Reducing fuel loads to protect assets, fuel hazard mitigation within townships, roadsides.	ASC MFPO monitors fuel loads and issue s Fire Prevention Notices to mitigate risks throughout the FDP.
13	Technical advice	All	Provision of specialist technical advice, information & skills to other agencies involved in emergency response	ASC provides GIS, Building Surveyor, EHO and any other technical advice, information or skills as detailed in <i>ASC MEMP</i> .
14	Resourcing	All	Provision of specialist equipment (graders, water carriers) and facilities(MECC centre) to other agencies involved in emergency response.	Provision of specialist equipment and facilities is detailed in 5.3.1 of <i>ASC MEMP</i> .
15	Fire Plug and Hydrant Installation and Maintenance	All	Works carried out to ensure that the system will operate correctly when required to do so.	Maintenance is detailed in Appendix 10 – Municipal Fire Management Strategy.
16	Relocation assistance	2-6, 12,14	Provision of emergency short term accommodation, relief centres, leave early destinations, nearer safety places	Provision of relief is detailed in Part 6 of <i>ASC MEMP</i> .
17	Livestock management	2,3,5,11	Disposal of dead livestock & companion animals, support with animal welfare needs	Emergency livestock management is detailed in Part 10 of ASC Emergency Animal Welfare Plan.
18	Vulnerable Groups	2,3,5	Identification of vulnerable community groups and persons.	Vulnerable groups and persons are detailed in 2.2.3 and 5.6.3 of <i>ASC MEMP</i> .
CF	4			
19	Brigade Burn Program	All	Removal of vegetation through burning to protect life & property, includes Township Protection Burning, Planned Burn Program & Fuel Reduction Burns by CFA Brigades in ASC /RRV areas.	Co-ordinated through CFA VMOs and Safer Together Team
20	Resourcing	All	Strategic network of qualified & equipped staff, volunteers & appliances for mounting timely response to fires on private land.	Brigades – CFA to continue to support brigades

	Treatment			
ID #	Name	Risk ID#	Treatment description	Action Plan - Treatment Activity
21	Standard Operating Procedures	All	Dictate level of readiness according to the conditions so as to ensure appropriate resourcing & preparedness for optimum response	CFA CO/CEO
22	Agricultural Management	2-3,5-7,11	Fire management & safety issues for landowners/managers to assist in the preparation of property fire management plans. Includes publication "On the land".	CFA Community Safety community service delivery
DE	LWP			
23	Planned burning	All	Planned burns - Implementation of planned burning and other works as identified in FOP on public land	365 approach to fuel management, planning, preparation and delivery occurs all year round through FFMV.
24	Crown Land Fuel Management	All	Crown Land Fuel Management - Managing fuel loads on crown land. Includes slashing, mulching and burning.	As above
25	Emergency management support	All	Provide support to other organisations for emergency management, including expertise and specialist resources.	Project 365 commenced in 2019 to target DELWP's Emergency Management responsibilities under the EMMV
26	ICCS	All	Maintenance of a strategic network of Incident Control Centre facilities to support response in emergency management incidents. Includes agreed level 3 ICCs to predetermined standards	Ovens Level 3 ICC is in readiness for response to any emergency should it be required. Monthly audits and checks are carried out as per EMV requirements.
27	Detection	All	Maintenance of a detection network. Includes fire lookout towers and detection flights	2 Fire Towers are operated at Mt Porepunkah and Mt Hotham during the Fire Danger Period and on days of high fire danger. Detection flights are coordinated across the Region with CFA/FFMV.
28	Air support facilities	All	Maintenance of a strategic network of air support facilities. Includes airbases & helipads.	Ovens Helibase is now formally recognised as a strategic Helibase to support Regional rotary aircraft operations, including VicPol and AV. Mansfield, Albury, Benambra and Corryong are strategic airbases services and managed to meet our demands.
29	Bushfire readiness	All	Provision of specified levels of skills and resources to respond to emergencies. Includes people (PFFs), equipment, heavy plant, aircraft, facilities and consumables	FFMV Standards of Cover for Bushfire Preparedness and Response detail our requirements.
30	Bushfire response	All	Respond to bushfires on public land to protect life and minimise impacts on property, communities and the environment. Includes timely provision of public information.	FFMV Hume Region Readiness and Response Plan, FFMV Standards of Cover for Bushfire Preparedness and Response in association with the Hume Regions Model of Response ensure prompt action on the detection of bushfire with ground and air resources.
31	Native animal welfare	13	Management of native animal welfare associated with an emergency incident.	The Hume Region Readiness and Response Plan identifies appropriately trained Wildlife Welfare Officers

Treatment				
ID #	Name	Risk ID#	Treatment description	Action Plan - Treatment Activity
DE	Г			
32	Routine Maintenance of facilities	1,2,5-7, 9,11,17	Ongoing mowing/slashing/spraying of sites to reduce fuel loads to ensure protection of assets, minimise ignition potential, includes routine maintenance of structures (e.g. gutter cleaning)	Annual grounds maintenance budgets and plans in place including bushfire vegetation management.
DH	HS			
33	Hume REMT Regional Readiness Matrix	1-12, 14-17	Identifies DHHS resource requirements for triggers for activation of different levels	Implemented in conjunction with Regional Controller
34	Web-based information	2,3,5	Various relief and recovery information and fact sheets located on Vic Emergency website and app for people affected by fire/emergency.	Reference to link is contained in community messaging released by the Incident controller
35	Fire risk management system	2,3,5	GIS program identifying location & details of community facilities managed by DHHS and allied agencies.	Internal DHHS tool – accessed during response phase of emergency to identify possible at risk facilities, intel can be provided to Incident Controller
36	Vulnerable persons policy and register	2,3,5	Identifies location, contact details & describes needs of vulnerable persons within a municipality	Clearly defined criteria for inclusion on register. Accessible by VicPol during emergencies.
DJF	PR			· · · · ·
37	Relief & recovery services to primary producers	10	Assess damage to and loss of agricultural crops, livestock and infrastructure of commercial primary producers and rural land managers (including aquaculture), identify & refer personal and technical needs to appropriate businesses (within DPI) or agencies	Ag Vic staff will contact affected producers and landowners in assessing and identify urgent needs including water, stock feed and agistment, and in assessment of crops for smoke damage/tint.
38	Animal Welfare Needs	2,3,5,11	Liaise with animal welfare support agencies and organisations to deliver animal welfare services including assessing injured and affected animals (livestock & companion animals) in emergencies with an emphasis on the needs of commercial primary producers and rural land manager	Assist in developing the Alpine Emergency Animal Welfare Plan. Ag Vic will have a liaison officer within the Alpine ICC and establish a ICC to coordinate the AW response in the field. Ag Vic will assist the ICC in livestock and wildlife disposal by burial.
HV	P		E	
39	Strategic Fire plan	2,3,5,10, 14	Development and maintenance of strategic fire breaks and fire access tracks, operational restrictions on plantation activities based on forecasted FDI, a range of firefighting resources on varying levels of preparedness based on forecasted FDI (includes firefighting appliances, trained and experienced	Fuel reduction burning (or planned burning)

Treatment					
ID #	Name	Risk ID#	Treatment description	Action Plan - Treatment Activity	
			personnel, heavy machinery, and aerial support), strategic water points/ fire tanks placed throughout estate to ensure water availability for suppression activities.		
NE	Water				
40	Routine Ground Maintenance of facilities	1	Mange fuel loads to protect assets and processes.	Ongoing mowing/slashing/spraying of sites to reduce fuel loads to ensure protection of assets, minimise ignition potential and ensure adequate access and egress. Includes routine maintenance of structures (e.g. gutter cleaning) Review of asset protection zones	
PV					
41	Technical advice	All	Provision of specialist technical advice and support to other agencies involved in fire management activities	Values checks in Joint Fuel Management Plan. Participate in nominations process for JFMP. Contribute human resources to wildfire preparedness, response recovery and to planned burn program.	
42	Fire research	13	Targeted research into impacts of different fire/fire regimes on ecological communities/species	Collaborate with DELWP to identify requirements for, undertake and monitor, re-seeding operations in fire affected Alpine Ash Forests.	
43	Patrol/ Inspection	All	Inspections of assets to ensure compliance with regulations and safety requirements and to assess for fire hazards. Includes Campfire Patrols and Parks Victoria Ranger Patrol Program.	Undertake review of operational Response Pre-Plan for Chalet with CFA. Undertake patrols.	
Reg	gional Roads Vic				
44	Traffic Diversion	2-3,5-7, 12,14- 15	Establishment of an appropriate traffic flow, through traffic management in the community and appropriate access and egress for property and business owners. Includes Traffic Management Strategies Assistance to other agencies.		
Vic	SES				
45	Specialist Support	All	Provide specialist support to other agencies (Vic Pol, CFA, DHHS, DELWP) involved in response to an emergency, e.g. doorknocks, transport, staging area mgt.	Vic SES collaborates with Vic Pol, CFA, DHHS, DELWP and other stakeholders to assist in evacuation, doorknocking, staging management, IMT roles, transport and support to fire agencies with food, water and logistics.	
Vic	Pol				
46	Specialist Support	All	Provide specialist support to other agencies involved in response to a bushfire e.g. vehicle escorts		
47	MERC	All	Coordinate municipal emergency response effort in the event of a major bushfire	As per part 3 of SERP – Ensure effective control is established and maintained. Overall coordination of response	

Treatment					
ID #	Name	Risk ID#	Treatment description	Action Plan - Treatment Activity	
48	Strategic Framework and Response to the Threat of Fire 2018 – 2019	All	Increased resources in high risk areas on Severe+ FDI days, increased patrols, increased visibility.	Victoria Police will maintain the support of local partner agencies and stakeholders to aid prevention and detection activities. Victoria Police will also develop a range of internal and external communications regarding bushfires and elevated Fire Danger Rating days in the lead up to each summer season. This includes the coordination of an annual public awareness campaign conducted in partnership with Crime Stoppers to encourage the public to report dangerous behaviours and suspicious fire activity (Section 5 – Governance and Accountability).	
49	Investigations	All	Investigate suspicious fires to ascertain cause and identify perpetrators	VicPol responsibility to secure and investigate scene and provide specialist fire and arson investigation responses.	
50	Evacuations	All	Coordinate evacuation measures undertaken in response to a bushfire threat	Once Incident Controller makes decision to evacuate Police manage the evacuation/shelter and return of effected persons.	
Aus	snet Services				
51	Routine Maintenance of facilities	All	Ongoing mowing/slashing/spraying of sites to reduce fuel loads to ensure protection of assets, minimise ignition potential and ensure adequate access and egress. Includes routine maintenance of structures (e.g. gutter cleaning).		
52	Routine maintenance of transmission & power lines	All	Vegetation management around power lines and along easement, regular inspections, maintenance of access tracks.		
53	Supply continuity	1,17	Maintain a response capability (scaled to level of risk) so a to minimise length of power disruptions from incidents e.g. fire/storms		
54	Technical advice	All	Provision of specialist technical advice, information & assistance to other agencies involved in emergency response e.g. temporary power cessation, line inspection in conjunction with field operations.		
Со	mbined				
DE	LWP / CFA				
55	Communications	All	Maintenance of a communications network	CFA communications department	
56	Vegetation Management	All	Advice to landholders & linkages to CFA Brigades to manage vegetation & lower bushfire risk	CFA VMOs/Brigades	

Treatment					
ID #	Name	Risk ID#	Treatment description	Action Plan - Treatment Activity	
PV	/ DELWP				
57	Enforcement	All	Programs which support legislative compliance. Includes patrols to enforce campfire regulations, forest closures, fire cause investigations and prosecutions.	Undertake patrols, fire investigations.	
60	Park & Forest closures	All	Closure of reserves and facilities at times of very high fire danger	Enact closures, where feasible, on "code red" days.	
ASC	C / Regional Roa	ds Vic			
61	Roadside Vegetation Management	All	Removal of fuel and vegetation management along roadsides. Includes strategic breaks and routine roadside maintenance.	Detailed in Attachment 11	
ASC	C / DELWP / PV /	/ CFA			
62	Fire Access Roads, Tracks & Water Points	All	Construction/maintenance of a strategic network of water points, roads, tracks and bridges to specified standards in support of fire management activities. Includes Coordination of Fire Access Roads Subsidy Scheme (FARS) by CFA.	Detailed in Attachment 10	
ΡV	/ CFA				
63	Operational Plan for Mt Buffalo Chalet		Operational management plan for fire suppression and support operations to an alarm or confirmed fire at the chalet	Pre-plan developed which details response	
Tels	stra / Optus / NE	3N			
64	Bushfire Mitigation	All	Removal of identified fire risks to lines & facilities, e.g. tree lopping	Ongoing maintenance	
65	Routine Maintenance of facilities	8,9	Mange fuel loads to protect assets and processes.	Ongoing mowing/slashing/spraying of sites to reduce fuel loads to ensure protection of assets, minimise ignition potential and ensure adequate access and egress. Includes routine maintenance of structures (e.g. gutter cleaning).	
66	Response program	1-3, 5-11, 16-17	Maintain service continuity and minimise disruptions by responding to faults or damage to facilities, includes deployment of mobile communication units and use of generators during power outages	Business continuity plans	
			Building Capability		
ASC					
67	Public Awareness	All	Fire information through notices boards, signage etc. to raise awareness of risk, responsibilities and services available	Detailed in Appendix I7 of <i>ASC MEMP</i> .	

Treatment						
ID #	Name	Risk ID#	Treatment description	Action Plan - Treatment Activity		
CFA	<u> </u>					
68	Community Information Guides		Planned response (for both emergency services & community) to a bushfire within close proximity to a township, with the potential to impact on the local community.	CFA Community Safety community service delivery		
69	Community Fire Guard		A community development program designed to help reduce the loss of lives & homes in bushfires. It assists neighbouring residents to develop bushfire survival strategies that suit their level of risk, lifestyle, environment & values. http://www.cfa.vic.gov.au/plan-prepare/community- fireguard/CommunityFireguard-factsheet.pdf			
70	Bushfire Planning Workshops		Interactive workshop for residents living in High to Extreme bushfire risk areas. Participants are guided through the Fire Ready Kit by a trained facilitator to identify their own bushfire risks and the considerations they'll need to make when putting together their bushfire survival plan.			
71	Property Bushfire Advice Service - PAVs	2,3,5	Individual 1:1 fire awareness & education for residents with the highest level of bushfire risk. Advice on property management, planning, personal capacity & potential fire hazards.			
72	Fire Ready Victoria	All	Assists in perception & understanding bushfire risk, to modify behaviours to make individuals act more safely. Includes bushfire awareness sessions for communities, community groups, businesses & service providers.			
73	Awareness	All	Fire awareness programs targeted at communities via shows/events/displays			
74	Diverse Communities Fire Awareness	2,3,5	Community education & information for vulnerable groups about fire. Disability, Multicultural, Aboriginal & Refugees.			
75	Schools Program		Fire Safe Kids, Mobile Education Bushfire Unit, Safe Youth, JFAIP, School Curriculum materials, VCAL.			
Aus	net Services					
76	Public Awareness	All	Fire information through notice boards, brochures, signage etc. to raise awareness of fire risk.			
77	Education	All	Programs which maintain public awareness of the bushfire threat, promote the importance of self-protection &			

	Treatment	Risk ID#	Treatment description	Action Plan - Treatment Activity
ID #	Name			
			encourage the responsible use of fire by the community. Includes multimedia messaging, in field patrols and publications.	

All agencies listed in the Risk Management Strategy and Action Plan to report to MFMPC on the progress of treatment/action implementation, including an evaluation of treatment appropriateness, impact, effectiveness, efficiency, and legacy in a manner acceptable to the MFMPC. Further information on reporting process; refer to **Part 6 – Improvement and Plan Review Process** and **Figure 9** in this Plan.

5.1 Fire Management Responsibility

Fire management responsibility within the municipality may be described in three categories:

- Response Agencies
- Regulatory and Service Providers
- Community

Roles and responsibilities are found in Part 7 of the *EMMV*. Information on Fire Management Role Descriptions can be found in **Attachment 1** and **Attachment 2**.

5.1.1 Response agencies

Country Fire Authority (CFA)

CFA is charged under the CFA Act with the responsibility for the prevention and suppression of fires in all areas of Victoria excepting the area covered by the Metropolitan Fire Brigade and fire protected areas. Further information can be found in Part 7 of the *EMMV* – page 7-37

Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP)

DELWP is responsible for fire suppression and management on public land including integrated programs with Parks Victoria, including planned burning for ecological and risk management objectives. Further information can be found in Part 7 of the *EMMV* – page 7-45

5.1.2 Regulatory and service providers

Alpine Shire Council

Alpine Shire Council is responsible for the management of all Council owned property as well as various other parcels of public land and public facilities for which it is the appointed manager. It is also the responsible manager for a number of roads throughout the Shire which are listed in its Register of Public Roads. Council's emergency management role in relation to fire management broadly falls into two categories. These include:

- Fire prevention:
- Emergency response:
- Relief and recovery.

Further information on Municipal Council can be found in Part 7 of the EMMV – page 7-76

Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS)

DHHS is the appointed agency to coordinate recovery planning and operations at the state and regional levels. Further information can be found in Part 7 of the *EMMV* – page 7-53 or at: <u>www.dhhs.vic.gov.au</u>

Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions (DJPR), DJPR, more specifically Agriculture Victoria is responsible for agriculture recovery programs and animal welfare. Further information can be found in Part 7 of the *EMMV* page 7-45 or at: <u>www.agriculture.vic.gov.au</u>

Parks Victoria (PV)

PV is responsible for managing the parks and reserves in Victoria and supporting DELWP fire management efforts. Further information can be found in Part 7 of the *EMMV* – page 7-79 or at: <u>www.parkweb.vic.gov.au</u>

Victorian State Emergency Service (Vic SES)

Vic SES is a volunteer based organisation that responds to emergencies and works to ensure the safety of communities around Victoria. It is the lead agency when responding to floods, storms and earthquakes, and is the support agency in fire situations. Further information can be found in Part 7 of the *EMMV* – page 7-91 or at: <u>www.ses.vic.gov.au</u>

Regional Roads Victoria

VicRoads manages the Victorian arterial road network and its use as an integral part of the overall transport system. Further information can be found in Part 7 of the *EMMV* – page 7-88 or at: <u>www.regionalroads.vic.gov.au</u>

Department of Education and Training (DET)

DET is responsible for managing the state's education communities. Further information can be found in Part 7 of the *EMMV* – page 7-44 or at: <u>www.education.vic.gov.au</u>

Victoria Police (VICPOL)

Vic Pol is responsible for ensuring a safe and secure society. Further information can be found in Part 7 of the *EMMV* – page 7-90 or at: <u>www.police.vic.gov.au</u>

North East Water

North East Water provides water and sewerage services to 38 towns, villages and cities in north east Victoria, serving an estimated population in excess of 113,000 people in an area of approximately 20,000km². Further information can be found at: <u>www.nerwa.vic.gov.au</u> Further information Water Authorities can be found in Part 7 of the *EMMV* – page 7-102

AusNet Services

AusNet manages three Victorian energy networks: electricity transmission, electricity distribution and gas distribution. Further information can be found: <u>www.sp-ausnet.com.au</u> Further information Energy Safe Victoria can be found in Part 7 of the *EMMV* – page 7-64

Telstra

Telstra provides communication services and is responsible for telephone exchanges, mobile telephone towers, cabling and radio communication towers. Further information can be found in Part 7 of the *EMMV* – page 7-86 or at: <u>www.telstra.com.au</u>

5.1.3 Community

Land managers, the community and individuals all have a legal responsibility to maintain their properties and to conduct their activities in a responsible manner with respect to fire management. The effectiveness of the Risk Management Strategy relies heavily upon the community understanding and accepting their responsibilities and acting accordingly.

While specific treatments cannot be attributed to private individuals and organisations within the Risk Management Strategy, the MFMPC does have an expectation that members of the community will, where appropriate:

- Prepare and plan for fires, both bushfire and structural
- Prepare their properties for fire events
- Ensure adequate access and water for firefighting appliances
- Maintain an awareness of fire danger levels and listen for alerts and warnings.

Advice, training and support to groups, businesses and individuals concerning all of these expectations can be obtained from the CFA at: www.cfa.vic.gov.au/home

5.2 Balancing fire risk against other values

A number of the fire risk treatments adopted in the Risk Management Plan pose a potential threat to some of the same values the MFMPC is seeking to safeguard. It is important that these threats are noted and that a balance is struck between protecting the community from fire and maintaining the economic, social, and environmental wellbeing of the municipality.

A number of processes and measures are already in place to ensure that all values are taken into consideration and are protected during the planning and implementation of fire risk treatments. Where conflict does occur, the MFMP offers a dispute resolution process for member agencies by establishing a pathway for issues to be escalated and resolved at either a regional or state level by the responsible authorities.

5.3 Cross-boundary management and links to other programs/processes

In Association with the Municipal Emergency Management Enhancement Group (MEMEG), the Alpine Shire Council is a protocol signatory for inter-council emergency management resource sharing. For further information refer to **Part 5.8** of *Alpine Shire MEMP*.

This protocol is consistent with the concepts and policy guidelines that are articulated in the Emergency Management Act 1986 and the Emergency Management Manual Victoria.

This protocol provides an agreed position between participating councils for the provision of intercouncil assistance for response and recovery activities during an emergency. Detailed information can be found at: <u>http://www.mav.asn.au/what-we-do/policy-advocacy/emergency-management/protocolfor-inter-council-resource-sharing</u>

6 IMPROVEMENT AND PLAN REPORTING AND REVIEW PROCESS

Monitoring, reporting and improvement of the MFMP is ongoing, with activities and continuous action throughout the plan's three year life.

It tracks the performance of the plan and the degree to which it contributes to achieving the desired outcomes of the Fire Management. The aim of monitoring and evaluation is to identify those treatments working effectively and those that may need to be modified.

This process also seeks to provide a transparent and accurate means of assessing the MFMP's progress in achieving its objective. **Figure 9** summarises the proposed implementation, reporting and review activities, as well who is responsible for undertaking them.

Frequency	Task/action	Responsible party
	Implement actions as per agreed Action Plan	All custodians
Ongoing	Analyse significant incidents against plan. Explore identified opportunities for new or enhanced treatments with relevant stakeholders, and agree course of action.	MFMPC
	Report to MFMPC on the progress of treatment/action implementation, including an evaluation of treatment appropriateness, impact, effectiveness, efficiency, and legacy in a manner acceptable to the MFMPC.	All treatment/action Custodian
	Update risk register & work plan to reflect treatment status, as reported by treatment owner	MFMPC
	Conduct strategic review of risks and associated treatment program, asking:Are the identified risks still valid?	
	 Do their pre-treatment and residual risk ratings still hold true? 	MFMPC
Annually	 Are there new risks that need to be added to the register and managed? 	
	• Do the treatments currently in place adequately address the identified risks?	
	 Are there any new or enhanced treatments required? 	
	Review and update plan content and mapping to ensure validity	MFMPC
	Provide progress reports and annual action plan report to Municipal Emergency Management Planning Committee, focusing on the collective effectiveness of treatments in the management of risks and progress towards the achievement of objectives	All agencies MFMPC
	MERI reporting in January and July	ASC EMC
Triennially	Conduct end-to-end plan review, with particular focus on the environmental scan and objectives	MFMPC

Figure 9: Alpine MFMP reporting and evaluation program

7 ATTACHMENTS

- Attachment 1 Stakeholder Fire Management Role Descriptions
- Attachment 2 Alpine MFMPC Stakeholder Analysis
- Attachment 3 Alpine Shire Biodiversity Values
- Attachment 4 Alpine Shire Vegetation Cover
- Attachment 5 Alpine Shire Bushfire History
- Attachment 6 Alpine Shire DELWP "Planned Burn" History
- Attachment 7 Community Information Guides and Neighbourhood Safer Places
- Attachment 8 CFA and Brigade proposed activities
- Attachment 9 Glossary
- Attachment 10 Municipal Fire Management Strategy
- Attachment 11 Municipal Roadside Fire Management Strategy
- Attachment 12 Structural Fire Information
- Attachment 13 Hazardous Trees Identification and Notification Procedures

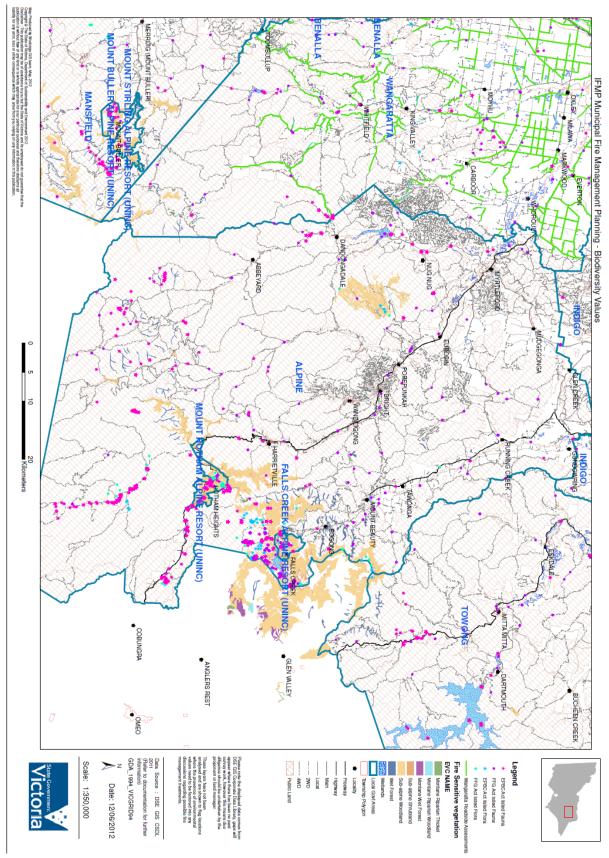
Attachment 1: STAKEHOLDER FIRE MANAGEMENT ROLE DESCRIPTIONS

FIRE MANAGEMENT ROLE DESCRIPTIONS			
Role	Description		
Fire management	Bringing together of fire management agencies and elements to ensure effective response to an ir legislated responsibility under the <i>CFA Act 1958</i> for the prevention and suppression of fires and fo property in the Country Area of Victoria. In accordance with provisions in the <i>CFA Act and the Fore</i> management and fire suppression responsibilities for state forests and national, state and regional		
Land owner/manager responsibilities	Landholder/managers are heavily involved in fire prevention and fire suppression on land under th responsibilities to extinguish a fire burning on their land and to prevent fires from starting from th (<i>CFA Act 1958, Crimes Act 1958</i>). They are also required to comply with relevant local government building permit conditions and conditions associated with permits to burn.		
Response	Actions taken in anticipation of, during and immediately after a fire incident to minimise the impac		
Recovery	A coordinated process of supporting emergency affected communities in the reconstruction of ph restoration of emotional, social, economic and physical well-being.		
Community education	Community education is learning and social development, working with individuals and groups in of formal and informal methods		
Community care	Community care is about identifying and catering for groups or individuals with specific needs, be		
Asset protection	Asset protection involves protecting key community infrastructure such as power, water supplies, community assets such as parks and the environment. Asset protection can also involve the prote housing, plantations, crops and fences.		
Regulatory	The issuing of permits for lighting fires. The development of and compliance with planning contro and building that take into account fire risk/management. The regulation and issuing of permits in fuel reduction activities for fire management purposes.		

Attachment 2: ALPINE MFMPC STAKEHOLDER ROLE ANALYSIS

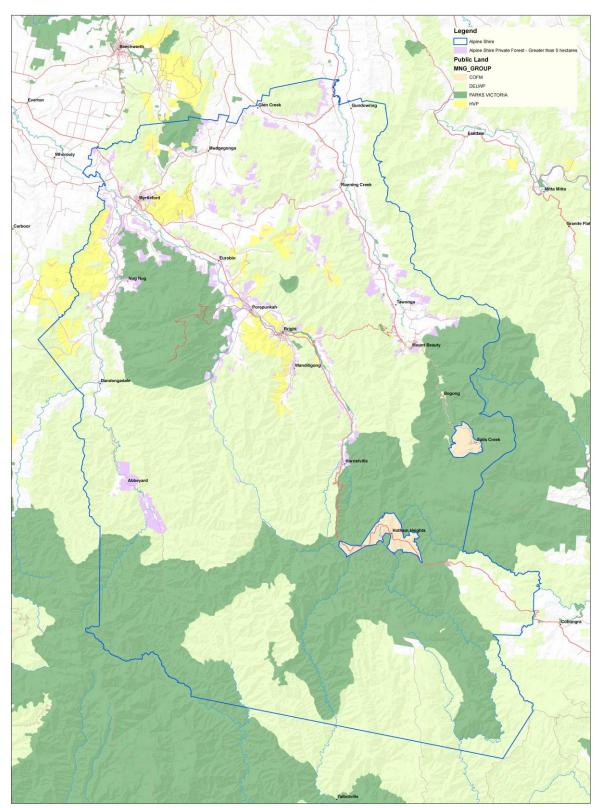
	ALPINE STAKEHOLDER RO		
Stakeholder	Roles within Hume Region Fire management, Land manager, Response, Recovery, Community information, Community care, Asset protection, Regulatory	RSFMPC Member	Other
		lers	
Hume RSFMPC	Recovery	✓	Regional IFMP oversight & strategie
	Community information	•	fire planning
Alpine Shire	Response		Municipal integrated & strategic
MEMPC	 Recovery Community information	\checkmark	emergency planning
	Community information Response		
MFMPC	Recovery		Municipal integrated & strategic fire
	Community information		planning
	Primary Stakehold	ers	
	Land manager		
	Response		
	Recovery		
Alpine Shire	Community information		
	Community careAsset protection		
	Asset protectionRegulatory		
	Fire management		
	Response		Fire safety expertise
CT 1	Recovery	×	Bushfire Grassfire
CFA	Community information	v	
	Asset protection		Structural
	Regulatory		
	Fire management		
DELWP	Land manager		
(Fire Forestry	ResponseRecovery	√	Forest fire expertise
Management	Community information	·	i orest nie expertise
Victoria)	Asset protection		
	Regulatory		
	Land manager		
	Response		
	Recovery		
HVP Plantations	Community information		
	Community careAsset protection		
	Asset protection Regulatory		
Vic Pol	Response	✓	
	Land manager		
Parks Victoria	Response		
(Fire Forestry Management	Recovery	✓	
Management Victoria)	Community information		
victoriaj	Asset protection		
Destand D. J.	Land manager		
Regional Roads	Response Asset protection	✓	
Victoria	Asset protectionRegulatory		
	Secondary Stakeho	Iders	<u> </u>
	Response		
DHHS	Recovery		
	Community care		
SES	Response	\checkmark	

ALPINE STAKEHOLDER ROLE ANALYSIS							
Stakeholder	Roles within Hume Region Fire management, Land manager, Response, Recovery, Community information, Community care, Asset protection, Regulatory	RSFMPC Member	Other				
AusNet	Community care Asset protection	✓					
NE Water	Community care Asset protection	~					
AGL Hydro	 Land manager Response Asset protection Regulatory Community information 						
GMW	Land managerAsset protection						
Telstra	Community care Asset protection	~					
	Tertiary Stakehold	ers	•				
DJPR (Ag Vic)	 Response Recovery Community information 	~	Animal health, agricultural loss & recovery responsibilities				
Optus	Community care Asset protection						
NECMA	 Land manager Recovery Asset protection Regulatory 						
Ambulance Vic	Community care						
Media	ResponseCommunity information						
Local community / Industry groups	Community Resilience Committee						
General public	 Land manager Response Recovery Asset protection 		Responsibility for private property, social networks & personal well being.				
Falls Creek & Mount Hotham ARBs	Land manager		Shared interest in planning outcomes				



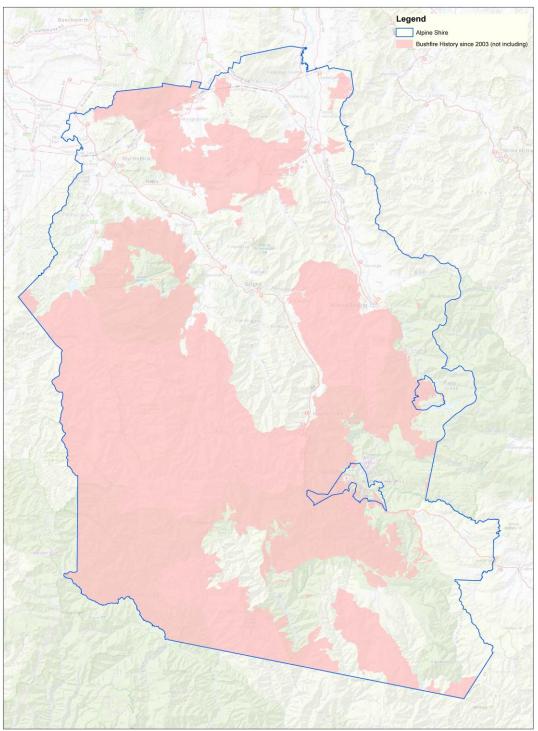
Attachment 3: ALPINE SHIRE BIODIVERSITY VALUES

Attachment 4: ALPINE SHIRE PUBLIC LAND TENURE



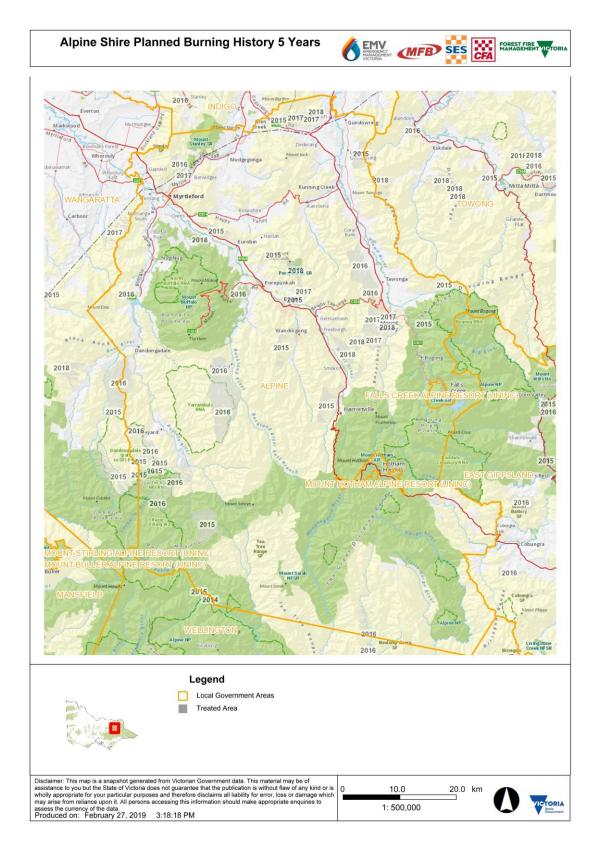
Public Land Tenure in the Alpine Shire

Attachment 5: ALPINE SHIRE BUSHFIRE HISTORY



Alpine Shire Bushfire History Since 2003

Attachment 6: ALPINE SHIRE DELWP "PLANNED BURN" HISTORY



Attachment 7: COMMUNITY INFORMATION GUIDES (CIGs) & NEIGHBOURHOOD SAFER PLACES

Community Information Guides – A Community Information Guide (CIG), formerly known as a Township Protection Plan, contain important fire and emergency information to support residents before and during a fire. This includes fire safety information for members of the local community including information about Neighborhood Safer Places (if available in the area) where people can shelter from fire as a last resort. CIGs help residents identify and reduce their fire risk and should be used when writing their Bushfire Survival Plan.

CIG's have been prepared for:

- Bogong
- Bright- Wandiligong
- Dederang
- Harrietville
- Mt. Beauty- Tawonga South
- Porepunkah
- Tawonga

More information and copies of CIGs can be found on the CFA website at: <u>https://www.cfa.vic.gov.au/plan-prepare/community-information-guides</u>

Neighbourhood Safer Places – Places of Last Resort are not part of shelter in place or evacuation strategies; they are places of last resort; (where other plans have failed or cannot be followed) where a person's prospects of survival may be better than other places, but cannot be guaranteed. For further information refer to **Part 5.6** of *Alpine Shire MEMP*. Neighbourhood safer places are located in:

- Bright Wandiligong
- Dederang
- Harrietville
- Myrtleford
- Mt Beauty
- Porepunkah
- Tawonga

A list of NSP locations can be found on the Alpine Shire Council website or Appendix D of the MEMP.

Attachment 8: CFA AND BRIGADE PROPOSED ACTIVITIES

Brigades submit burn proposals annually for fire prevention and fuel reduced corridors. For further information on current burn proposals contact the Alpine Shire Fire Prevention Officer (MFPO).

Attachment 9: GLOSSARY

AFAC bushfire glossary can be found at: file:///C:/Users/karenv/Downloads/AFAC Bushfire Glossary Indexed 2012.pdf

Attachment 10: MUNICIPAL FIRE MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

The Municipal Fire Management Strategy (MFMS) is endorsed by the Alpine MFMPC and forms part of the Municipal Fire Management Plan. This document guides roadside fire management, fire hazard removal, reduction and isolation and water used for firefighting purposes in the Alpine Shire.

Declared Fire Danger Period (FDP)

CFA declares the Fire Danger Period for each municipality (shire or council) in the lead up to each fire season. The date of commencement in each region depends on the amount of rain, grassland curing rate and other local conditions. Once the Fire Danger Period has been declared, fire restrictions come into force.

Fire Danger Period (FDP) dates are published on the CFA website at: https://www.cfa.vic.gov.au/warnings-restrictions/restrictions-during-the-fire-danger-period

ROADSIDE FIRE MANAGEMENT AND FUEL REDUCED CORRIDORS

Roadside Fire Management – The Alpine Shire Roadside Fire Management Strategy has been developed by the MFMPC. The Strategy has been devised by primary stakeholders to categorise roads and develop an integrated approach for treatments aimed to:

- Provide a safe corridor for travelling public, firefighting appliances and emergency service vehicles involved in fire management and suppression.
- Provide a means of establishing a control line
- Slow the spread of fire on the road reserve

For further information refer to **Attachment 11** – Municipal Roadside Fire Management Strategy.

Fuel reduced corridors – In conjunction with the Municipal Roadside Fire Maintenance Strategy, local fire brigades may identify and undertake treatments on local roads to create fuel reduced corridors on community access/link roads within their own brigade boundaries. These fire prevention works are not always undertaken annually due to conditions; however brigades undertake all such works to minimise the threat to life and property from uncontrolled wildfire. The works that have been undertaken in the past inform the Municipal Roadside Fire Management Strategy and will continue to inform future development of the Strategy.

Fire brigades are to submit details of proposed fuel reduction works proposed to be undertaken on roads and/or reserves annually, prior to the fire season. All works undertaken are to achieve the aims of roadside fire management.

Fuel reduced corridors are to be identified in Brigade Fire Prevention plans. Both the Council and brigades may undertake works on these roads as resources permit.

For further information on current burn proposals contact the Alpine Shire Fire Prevention Officer (MFPO).

FIRE HAZARD REMOVAL/FUEL REDUCTION AND HAZARD ISOLATION

Ongoing liaison shall be maintained between the MFPO and the local fire brigades to ensure that fire hazards are minimised throughout the year. When a hazard is determined by the MFPO appropriate measures will be instigated to have the hazard removed.

Commercial and Industrial Properties - Fire hazards/risks associated with commercial and industrial properties are controlled by legislation, such as the Building Act and the Planning and Environment Act. Where hazards are identified at these locations this specialist legislation should be used, in addition to the powers provided under the CFA Act 1958.

Residential, Larger Allotments and Rural Properties - Property owners or occupiers are responsible for completing fire hazard removal, reduction and isolation, including the clearing of blocks pursuant to Section 41 of the CFA Act 1958, prior to the introduction of the declared fire danger period. This must include blocks that have been cleared and have regrown.

A public notice shall be placed in the local papers, a fortnight apart in October, advising the public of their responsibilities for the removal of fire hazards from private land and the consequences of non-compliance. This is appropriate as it corresponds with Fire Awareness Week activities.

Once the Fire Danger Period has been declared, it is expected that the MFPO or AMFPO will commence formal inspections around the shire, in the townships and rural areas, to determine which hazards require removal.

Fire Prevention Notices

Under the Country Fire Authority Act 1958, Council has a legal obligation to ensure the community's risk associated with bush fire and grass fire is reduced. Owners who have risks determined on their property during assessment will be issued with a Fire Prevention Notice.

The owner or occupier will have 21 days from the issue of the Notice to undertake the work. The MFPO or AMFPO will undertake a further inspection after the completion date. Property owners who have failed to have the work performed will have the work undertaken by a Council-appointed Contractor at the owner's expense pursuant to Section 225 of the Local Government Act, at the direction of the MFPO, and may have an infringement notice issued to them.

The owner of the property may lodge an objection, in writing, to the MFPO under Section 41 of the CFA Act 1958, stating the grounds for the objection. The MFPO must withdraw or vary the Fire Prevention Notice within 14 days. If unsatisfied with the outcome the owner may appeal the decision, by lodging the appeal in writing within 14 days to the CFA Chief Officer.

A Fire Prevention Notices Fact sheet is available for download on the Alpine Shire website at: <u>www.alpineshire.vic.gov.au</u>. Hard copies of the fact sheet are available at Bright Office customer service desk.

Assessments

The MFPO/AMFPO will use a fuel assessment and management process to identify bushfire threats and determine appropriate treatment options or strategies using an 8 step process (Refer to **figure 10**). The Site Assessment Guidance for MFPOs, developed by CFA including AS 3959:2009 for FDI 100 (1090K), will be used to complete assessments.

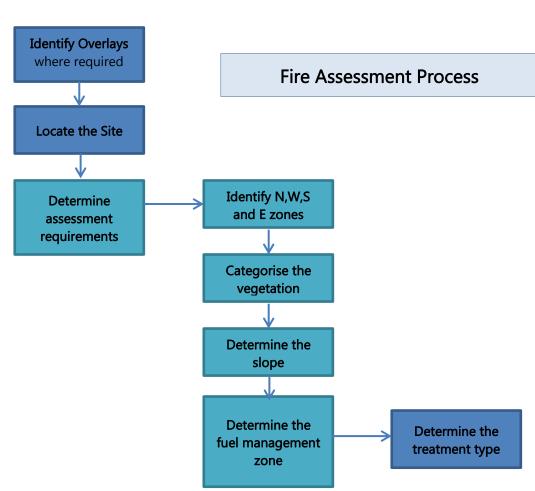


Figure 10: Fire Assessment Process

Allotments

For assessment purposes allotments have been classified as three allotment types in the Alpine Shire:

- Urban residential allotments (Class 1) Allotments in around townships under 1ha.
- Larger Allotments (Class 1 and Class 2 dependant on assessment) Allotments exceeding 1ha and less than 25ha. These may be in in urban and rural areas.
- **Rural allotments** (Class 2) Forested and grassland areas over 25ha. These allotments may comprise of forest areas and or grassland areas.

Dwellings

All dwellings should be located and constructed in accordance with the Design and Siting Guidelines-Bushfire Protection for Rural Houses - AS 3959:2009 - Construction of buildings in bushfire prone areas.

Treatments

Treatment recommendations specified for Fire Prevention Notices will be at the discretion of the MFPO/AMFPO completing the assessment and the following:

Urban residential allotments and larger allotments (Class 1)– Allotments should have all the grass, weeds and undergrowth cut or slashed to a height of less than 100mm including all grass up to and against fences, buildings and trees. This includes vacant land allotments.

It is recognised that special circumstances may require a variance to this standard. Vegetation may be required to be removed, together with any dead wood or other flammable refuse from the allotment and the adjacent half width of the street, at the discretion of the MFPO.

Larger allotments and rural allotments (Class 2) – Allotments should have the fuel reduced by cutting, removing by manual or mechanical means, grazing or ploughing for a minimum distance of 20-30m around dwellings and other assets in grassland areas and 50-100m in forest areas, based on recommendation in assessment AS 3959:2009. Additionally, a minimum of 3m to 8m maximum width around nominated boundaries deemed suitable by MFPO. If undertaken at the appropriate time, spraying can be used to make these breaks.

In forest areas, it is recommended that:

- All flammable vegetation and undergrowth be removed for the recommended minimum safe distance between 50-100m around buildings and other assets
- Trees should be thinned, and cut tree limbs removed
- Clumps of dense vegetation should be isolated
- A minimum 8m width firebreak should be constructed around the perimeter of the property by ploughing or spraying, where practical
- The above may be varied as deemed necessary by the MFPO. Council planning provisions must be observed when removing vegetation.

In **grassland areas**, fuel reduction should be undertaken by manual or mechanical means, cutting, grazing or ploughing for the recommended safe minimum distance between 20-30m around buildings, assets and other installations requiring protection. A minimum 3m to 8m wide break around the perimeter of the property should also be undertaken where practical. If necessary, the MFPO may issue additional directions.

Undeveloped municipal reserves and municipal public land – Should have a fire break or fuel reduction strip of minimum 3m to 8m wide, as deemed suitable by MFPO, constructed around the perimeter of the reserve where practical. This may be varied as deemed necessary by the MFPO. Access for fire fighting vehicles should also be considered.

Burning within Townships

The following is an extract from Alpine Shire Community Local Law:

Fires in the open air or in an incinerator

- 3.2.1 A person must not light a fire in the open air or in an incinerator on land within a residential area unless, subject to clause 3.1.2 and in compliance with clause 3.2.3 -
 - (a) the fire is lit between 10am and 3pm;
 - (b) the day has not been declared a day of total fire ban by the relevant authority; and
 - (c) the fire consists only of dry tree limbs and prunings, but not fallen leaves, lawn clippings and hulls, burrs and casings from nut trees.
- 3.2.2 Clause 3.1.1 does not apply to a fire -
 - (a) in a barbeque while being used for the purpose of cooking food;
 - (b) in a chimanea, potbelly stove, or small open fire in a suitable container for heating, cooking, cultural or social purposes, which is not offensive; or
 - (c) generated by a tool of trade while being used for the purpose for which it was designed.
- 3.2.3 For the purposes of clause 3.2.1, a fire lit in the open air or in an incinerator must:
 - (a) not occupy more than three cubic metres of space;
 - (b) not be lit within 3 metres of the allotment boundary;
 - (c) be supervised at all times by a person over the age of 16 years;
 - (d) have adequate means readily available for extinguishing the fire;
 - (e) not be within 3 metres of any flammable material except for growing vegetation not exceeding 10cm in height;
 - (f) not be offensive materials;
 - (g) only contain one lit fire;
 - (h) not be lit on a road
 - (i) not to be for the purpose of disposing of paper, cardboard or other recyclable material; and
 - (j) not be lit during a declared fire danger period.

NOTE: For the purpose of clause 3.2.2, "offensive materials" includes any manufactured chemical, rubber or plastic, petroleum or oil, paint or receptacle, food waste and any other material as determined by the Council to be offensive.

3.2.4 If an authorised officer is of the opinion that the fire is causing a nuisance to any person, he or she may direct the owner or occupier of the land, or the person supervising the fire, to extinguish the fire.

Permits to Burn

Permits to Burn shall be issued in accordance with the following guidelines. (Seasonal conditions may lead to the need to vary the requirements as listed).

Generally, Permits to Burn will not be issued during the declared fire danger period (FDP). However, due to extenuating circumstances, permits may be issued following consultation with the MFPO, local fire brigade captains and CFA District 24 Commander.

A large proportion of the Alpine Shire is within the 1.5km marginal area adjacent to the fire protected area. A Permit to Burn within this area must be obtained from DELWP.

The procedure for individuals obtaining Permits to Burn is as follows:

- The applicant must apply for a permit from the Municipal Fire Prevention Officer (MFPO). The application can be made by email or in person, but must be two clear days prior to the day of the proposed burn off.
- The permit shall include the CFA Region 24 map number, grid reference, the road on which the property is located and the property number if applicable. The permit shall specify that appropriate fire control equipment (generally a minimum of one unit of minimum capacity of 400l and two adults) is on hand during the burn. The MFPO may specify more equipment and personnel than the minimum where appropriate. CFA policy requires that the local CFA brigade tanker cannot be included in the minimum required fire control equipment as it may be called away. The accepted minimum width of the required perimeter break is 3m.
- The MFPO will issue the permit with a copy to be given/sent to the applicant. The applicant must supply a copy to the relevant brigade nominated person (usually the captain). The copies of the permit can be emailed if those facilities exist.

A Permit to Burn issued by DELWP is required at all times of the year for any burning undertaken on the land controlled by DELWP. Any landholder with property adjoining land controlled by DELWP, who undertakes burning off, must notify the department of their intentions.

WATER SUPPLY FOR FIRE FIGHTING

The Alpine Shire Council has obligations under the *CFA Act 1958* and the *Water Act 1989* to ensure that water is available for firefighting purposes. This includes the maintenance of fire hydrants/plugs and the clearing of water points.

CFA Act 1958 - S.36

The Authority (CFA) may by notice in writing require any municipal council any part of the municipal district of which is supplied with water by a permanent reticulated water supply system to provide a pillar hydrant or hydrants at any specified place or places in or near a public street or road within the said part of the municipal district.

Water Act 1989 - S.165

- 1) A council may require an (Water) Authority that has a water district situated wholly or partly within the council's municipal district to fix fire plugs (hydrant) to any of the works of the Authority within the water district in suitable locations for the supply of water for firefighting purposes.
- 2) A council must meet the costs of providing, installing, marking, and maintaining all fire plugs that the council requires under subsection (1) to be installed in its municipal district.
- 3) An Authority may provide, install, mark and maintain any extra fire plugs that it thinks necessary or that are requested by a landowner, either at its own cost or at the cost of the landowners benefited by them.
- 4) An Authority must
 - a. keep all fire plugs in its water district in working order; and
 - b. provide conspicuous markers for fire plugs supplied by it; and
 - c. make sure that at all times water is available from fire plugs in its water district for cleaning sewers and drains, unless the water is unavailable due to a shortage of water or another unavoidable cause, or due to repairs.
- 5) Subsection (4)(a) does not require an Authority to make sure that water pressure is adequate for firefighting.

Maintenance of Fire Plugs / Hydrants

The Alpine Shire Council has developed a procedure for the maintenance of all fire plugs/hydrants, including, marker posts and cat eyes. For further information refer to **Municipal Fire Plug/Hydrant Asset Management Plan**.

Water Points

The Alpine Shire Council will support CFA by ensuring that water points, marked in the Spatial Vision Map Book, are cleared prior to each fire danger period to allow access for filling firefighting appliances.

The Municipal Fire Prevention Officer (MFPO) will liaise with brigade Captains to discuss any issues and condition of water points prior to arranging clearing.

Brigades requiring additional points are to ensure they are to be added to the Map Book by raising it, in the first instance, with the local CFA District 24 Commander. Signage for water points can be sourced by brigades from CFA District 24.

Standpipes and Firefighting Water Tanks

Standpipes and firefighting water tanks on council land are to be maintained by Alpine Shire and operationally ready for use at all times.

Water Replacement

As part of the Victorian Government Essential Water Replacement Scheme Council will do the following:

• When a landholder requests replacement of essential water, Council will request the landholder to complete and submit a water replacement request/authority form to DELWP Bushfire Recovery email address.

- Receive verified essential water request form from either DELWP or CFA to process essential water replacement claims.
- Contact the local water corporation and contracted water carter(s) to organise replacement.
- Initially cover the cartage costs.
- Prepare and forward aggregate invoice and summary sheet to DELWP finance hub for reimbursement. Email ap.invoices@delwp.vic.gov.au and cc. hub.evt@delwp.vic.gov.au or post to DELWP Accounts Payable Locked Bag 32017 Collins St East, Vic 8003. All invoices must come to DELWP who holds the liability for this process.
- Replace essential water following the land-holder contacting Council. Where essential water has been **exhausted** the aim will be to replace water within 48 hours where it is safe and practical to do so.

Attachment 11: MUNICIPAL ROADSIDE FIRE MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

INTRODUCTION

The Municipal Roadside Fire Management Strategy was developed by a working group, a sub-group of the Alpine Shire MFMPC, as an Attachment to the Municipal Fire Management Plan with the aim of developing a consistent approach to reducing the impact of fire on the municipal road network.

Legislation

Local Government has obligations under the following Acts for Roadside Fire Management:

- CFA Act 1958
- Commonwealth Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999
- Flora and Fauna Guarantee (FFG) Act 1988
- Planning and Environment Act 1987
- Electricity Safety Act 1988

Purpose of the Strategy

The Purpose of the Strategy is to establish an integrated approach to roadside fire management that is consistent across the municipality. It will be used to link activities in Road Management Works Programs for fire management for the Alpine Shire Council, Regional Roads Victoria, DELWP and Parks Vic who are responsible for roads.

The strategy is to provide clear direction by categorising roads throughout the municipality, identifying fire risks on these roads and developing a set treatment options to achieve fire management objectives whilst taking into consideration the cost and available resources to reduce and manage the fire risk.

Objectives

The Strategy is based on the five management objectives in the *Roadside Fire Management Guidelines – CFA 2005*. The objectives are:

- 1. Prevent fires on roadsides
- 2. Manage safety of road users
- 3. Provide control lines
- 4. Contain roadside fires
- 5. Recovery from roadside fires

WORKING GROUP

The Municipal Roadside Fire Management Strategy working group formed as a sub-group of the MFMPC to work with categorisation of roads throughout the municipality and develop a range of treatment options for each road category. The working group has representatives from:

- Alpine Shire Council
- CFA
- DELWP
- Parks Vic
- Regional Roads Victoria

ROAD CATEGORIES

The Road classifications and descriptions are based on the approach developed by the Indigo Shire Council which identifies six classes of road for fire management as follows:

- Community Access Link Roads
- Critical Access Egress Route
- Priority Access Roads
- Fire Access Roads
- Strategic Fire Management Roads Landscape
- Strategic Fire Management Roads Townships and population centres

Throughout the process of categorising roads the working group has taken into consideration community needs, priorities and the following:

Limited access areas rural areas – The Alpine Shire consists of 92% public land with the remaining 8% consisting of towns, villages, farming land and some areas with limited access. The following areas were identified as having limited access:

Ovens Valley

- Upper reaches of the following roads:
- Buckland Valley (also Devils Creek)
- Harrietville (Mill Road)
- Wandiligong
- Havilah
- Clemens Lane
- Buffalo Creek
- Buffalo River
- Blacks Flat Road
- One Mile Creek
- Roberts Creek
- Snowy Creek

Kiewa Valley

- Upper reaches of the following roads:
- Mountain Creek
- Bay Creek
- Kancoona
- Fielding Lane
- Cottrell's Lane
- Reid's Lane (Tawonga)
- Simmonds Creek (Top End)

Neighbourhood Safer Places and Relief Centres – Clear road access to and management of vegetation and trees in car parking areas at Neighbourhood safer places and Emergency Relief Centres. Neighbourhood Safer Place locations can be found in **Part 5.6** of the *ASC MEMP*. Further details on Emergency Relief Centres can be found in **Appendix G** of the *ASC MEMP*.

LGA boundary roads – Roads in the Alpine Shire that continue into other municipalities, which may give safe access travelling to or from other municipalities, will be discussed with surrounding municipality to ensure that road categories and treatments are in alignment.

ROADSIDE TREATMENTS

A range of roadside treatment options have been identified for each roadside category. **Table 11.1** lists the treatment options recommended to achieve the fire management objectives identified for each road category. Roads are identified on maps with colours corresponding to each road category in Table 11.1.

Table 11.1 – Fire Management Road Categories, Objectives and Treatment Options

CATEGORY DESCRIPTION	OBJECTIVES	TREATMENT OPTIONS
COMMUNITY ACCESS – Link Roads		
 -Major link roads primarily provide a direct linkage between significant population centres, or major traffic generators, or residential, industrial and commercial nodes, or the arterial road network -General access will be provided for by the application of the Road Management Plan maintenance requirements for Alpine Shire Council. -Fire Management Requirements for these roads will be identified by the Municipal Fire Management Planning Committee and may be guided by the following criteria : Ignition control as identified in objective – Dangerous Tree treatment Critical Infrastructure protection Establishment of Emergency Services Safety Areas 	-Prevent roadside fires -Contain roadside fires -Manage safety of road users -Protect critical infrastructure -Establish emergency turning areas	Must be cleared of all low overhanging obstructions less than 5m above the road pavement and dangerous trees/limbs need to be removed. A 3m minimum width fine- fuel reduced area on both sides of the road must abut a clear travelled path that has a 6m minimum width. These roads must be inspected annually by the controlling road authority and maintained prior to the fire danger period. Refer Figure 11.2. Treatment options include • Vegetation management • Hazard tree management • Emergency services safety areas (ESSA)
CRITICAL ACCESS – Egress Route	·	
 -Access to communities predominantly one way or where vegetation prohibits the function of a road during a fire. These roads are to be identified by the Municipal Fire Management Planning Committee. Where practicable the roadsides should be managed to achieve a maximum level of high using the DSE Overall fuel Hazard Guide. Or to a level determined by the Fire Management Planning Committee, in consultation with the relevant road authority. -Other criteria needs to be considered with these roads in the overall consideration of mitigation works The removal of hazardous trees to ensure the trafficable area remains usable for a period up to and after an event. The installation of Emergency Service Safety Areas (as advised by Fire Agencies) to ensure an area of safety should vehicles become trapped. The notification of High Risk Roadsides to communities where roads service high hazard areas, and is deemed required by the Fire Management Planning Committee. 	-Manage safety of road users	Must be cleared of all low overhanging obstructions less than 5m above the road pavement and dangerous trees/limbs need to be removed. A 3m minimum width fine- fuel reduced area on both sides of the road must abut a clear travelled path that has a 6m minimum width. These roads must be inspected annually by the controlling road authority and maintained prior to the fire danger period. Refer Figure 11.2. Treatment options include • Vegetation management – ideal outcome of no greater than high • Hazard tree management • Emergency services safety areas (ESSA) • Community engagement

CATEGORY DESCRIPTION	OBJECTIVES	TREATMENT OPTIONS
FIRE ACCESS ROAD		
 A road designed to aid in the transition of emergency vehicles to and from an incident/fire. These roads can be for portions of the year, or can be for all year access. These roads have the following criteria : Have a minimum weight capacity of 15 tonnes and where required have all weather capacity. Provide a minimum trafficable width of at least 3.5 metres, and clear of encroachments for at least 0.5 metres from the edge of the pavement surface. Be clear of encroachments vertically for a minimum of 4metres Have dangerous trees removed that could compromise the road during an incident. One way Tracks over 200 m have passing bays installed to ensure the safe passing of emergency vehicles 	-Manage safety of road users	-Road construction standard should be in line with category description -Hazard tree management
FIRE TRAIL		
 -A trail used for access by local (and suitable) fire agency vehicles. These trails can be locked /unlocked for the exclusive use of emergency and management vehicles only. These trails are usually for Fire Danger Period use and need annual pre summer inspection, followed by identified remedial works to maintain access over this period. The following criteria are appropriate : Weight capacity nominated by fire agencies Surface appropriate for the vehicles required to use it. Clearances to a width of 4 metres 	-Manage safety of road users	 -Road construction standard to be appropriate for weight and clearance for current CFA & DELWP emergency and firefighting vehicles. -Vegetation management -Hazard tree management -Access - gates etc.
Be clear of encroachments vertically for a minimum of 4metres		
 STRATEGIC FIRE MANAGEMENT ROADS – Supporting landscape fire mitigate. These roads are strategically placed across the landscape to impede the progress of a fire and provide opportunity for firefighting activities. They can be of two types : -Active lines that are vegetation modified to offer safety to fire crews and allow fire- fighting activity to progress. The following fuel reduction activities are recommended for these roadways 1. Elevated fuels can be maintained on the roadside , but areas greater than 50 metres that are above an elevated fuel hazard of High , should be reduced or isolated 2. Near surface fuels will be slashed to a maximum of 100 mm for 3 metres behind the guideposts, where practicable. 3. Surface fuels will not be allowed to exceed a fuel hazard rating of High using the DSE Overall Fuel Hazard Assessment Guide. 4. Bark hazard should not exceed high for continuous treed areas over 100m -Passive lines, that identify likely areas for the creation of graded or ploughed breaks during the progress of a fire. These areas may have pre planned works done to aid the access of plant and machinery (removal of impediments, rocks etc.)Fencing pre planned with gates/sacrificial fencing. These areas may be associated with roadsides or private property 	-Contain roadside fires -Provide control lines	 -Where applicable, have the fine fuel reduced for a distance of 1m to 3m behind the guideposts on either side of the road where practical. All overhanging obstructions less than 4m above the road pavement must be removed, and dangerous trees/limbs need to be removed. Refer to roads review for identified roads. Refer Figure 11.3. Treatment options include Vegetation management Hazard tree management Obstacle removal – ditches, rocks, tree limbs etc. Access (gates etc) Emergency Service Safety areas (ESSA)

CATEGORY DESCRIPTION	OBJECTIVES	TREATMENT OPTIONS				
STRATEGIC FIRE MANAGEMENT ROADS – Supporting Townships and Population Centres						
 These roads are designated as part of the Fire Management Plan for a locality and may be located at the interface, or located some distance off the town boundary or both. These roads will have the vegetation managed from fence line to pavement/road surface where practicable. Suggested overall fuel hazard levels are : Bark Hazard- maximum High. Elevated Fine fuel Hazard – moderate Near surface fine fuel – NSFF needs to be managed to a height no greater than 100 mm, (irrespective of the overall coverage as indicated in the DSE Overall Fuel Hazard Assessment Guide. (OFHAG.) Surface fine fuels - maximum moderate. (20 mm) Fallen branches and windfall cleared from the road should not be placed on the road reserve and should be removed from the site 	-Contain roadside fires -Provide control lines	 -Where applicable, have the fine fuel reduced for a distance of 1m to 3m behind the guideposts on either side of the road where practical. All overhanging obstructions less than 4m above the road pavement must be removed, and dangerous trees/limbs need to be removed. Refer to roads review for identified roads. Refer Figure 11.3. Treatment options include Vegetation management Hazard tree management Obstacle removal – ditches, rocks, tree limbs etc. 				

Figure 11.2 – Community Access / Link roads

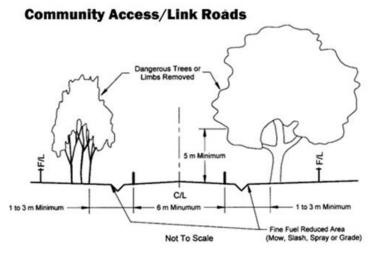
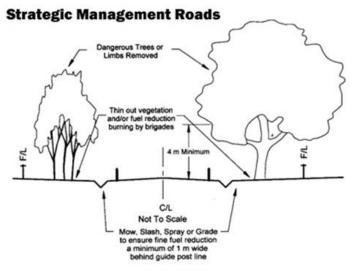


Figure 11.3 – Strategic Management Roads



The working group is currently working to develop the Alpine Shire Road Management Works Plan which will contain individual roads under each category. Individual road treatment options will be dependent on aspect, slope, adjacent land vegetation or fuels of the road reserve and adjacent land. Roads leading to Neighbourhood Safer Places (NSPs) will also determine treatment options.

Attachment 12: STRUCTURAL FIRE INFORMATION

CFA are currently working through a project to build the systems and assessments on structural fire risk as part of the Victorian Fire Risk Register. Further details will be released during the operational period of this plan. CFA Brigades have local knowledge of their structural fire risks and also may have specific site plans for higher risk buildings

INDUSTRIAL PREMISES

There are a number of isolated industries within the municipality that are generally located close to their supply of raw materials. There are a number of risks associated with these industries that include fire, hazardous materials spills (both storage and transport), and environmental damage from pollution and/or spillage. Generally the controls on industries are quite stringent and hence the likelihood of any major incident is low and is restricted to unforeseen events, accidents and bad practice. However, in the case of any of these events occurring, there would be a significant impact on the community, both economic and potentially to life.

'Cottage' industries and alternate farm processing activities have proliferated as a direct response to high tourism and from the diversification of traditional farm enterprises. This has led to a significant number of small-scale industries being distributed across the municipality. This has led to chemicals and dangerous goods being stored and used throughout the municipality. Storage volumes are generally very low and therefore their use is not obvious to anyone other than the proprietors.

Definition of risk identified via BCA = Industrial Buildings employing >20 eft persons or with floor area exceeding $2000m^2$.

INDUSTRIAL PREMISES				
NAME	ADDRESS	DETAILS		
Carter Holt Harvey-Radius	Yackandandah Road Myrtleford 3737	Large timber mill		
Green freight	Yackandandah Road Myrtleford 3737	Freight distribution centre		
McPherson's Earthmoving Contractors Pty Ltd	McGeehan Crescent Myrtleford 3737	Medium earthmoving contractor and fertilizer agent		
Nightingale Bros Pty Ltd	Morses Creek Road Wandiligong 3741	Large apple cool store		
Nightingale Bros Pty Ltd	Buckland Valley Road Porepunkah 3740	Large apple store		
The Game Meats Company of Australia Pty Ltd	Hughes Lane Eurobin 3739	Medium abattoir		
Bright Brewery	Churchill Rd, Bright	Medium Brewery		
HPA Products Aust	Great Alpine Rd Ovens	Large drying kilns operation		

Identified Industrial Premises

COMMERCIAL PREMISES

The major commercial centres within the municipality are located in Bright, Myrtleford and Dinner Plain with isolated establishments in other localities. There are a number of risks associated with the occurrence of fire related to these commercial centres that include economic loss, loss of life, injury, loss of property and the loss of employment.

COMMERCIAL PREMISES				
NAME	ADDRESS	DETAILS		
Coles Supermarket	Clyde Street Myrtleford 3737	Medium supermarket		
Foodworks	Myrtle Street Myrtleford 3737	Medium supermarket		
Woolworths Supermarket	Gavan Street, Bright 3741	Medium Supermarket		
Dahlsens Building & Ovens Retravision	Myrtle Street Myrtleford 3737	Medium hardware, electrical and timber sales		
Alpine Shire Council	Great Alpine Road Bright 3741	Medium office & base for MEMP response		
Alpine Hotel	Anderson Street Bright 3741	Medium hotel		
Star Hotel	Gavan Street Bright 3741	Medium hotel with gaming lounge disco & accommodation units		
Railway Hotel	Standish Street Myrtleford 3737	Medium hotel with disco & accommodation units		
Myrtleford Hotel	Standish Street Myrtleford 3737	Medium hotel		
Savoy Club	Great Alpine Road Myrtleford 3737	Restaurant, café, bar, function room, gaming lounge, bocce, soccer club		
Dinner Plain Hotel	Big Muster Drive Dinner Plain 3898	Medium hotel		
Bright Brewery	Gavin Street Bright	Brewery outlet		
Gapstead Winery	Great Alpine Road Gapstead	Large winery		

Identified Commercial Premises

HEALTH CARE PREMISES

There are a number of health care centres located throughout the municipality. By nature, they contain a population that is generally dependent on outside assistance for mobility, day to day living, control and direction. Consequently, this group encompasses special accommodation, nursing homes, hostels and hospitals which are all vulnerable to a wide range of events. There is a major risk inherent in all these facilities of multiple injuries and loss of life should a significant incident occur. Generally, fire controls are high (e.g. fire protection equipment and structural safety), however any incident involving these premises, taking participant numbers into consideration, can lead to major consequences.

For a list of healthcare facilities refer to Alpine List of facilities where vulnerable people are likely to meet, gather or reside. This list includes Hospitals, Aged and Childcare facilities, Kindergartens and Schools. This list is stored in Crisisworks for those with access or can be obtained from the MRM.

PUBLIC ACCOMMODATION AND TOURIST FACILITIES/PREMISES

The nature and range of these types of facilities varies greatly across the municipality. The type, size and age of the premises have a significant impact on the potential for the loss of both life and/or property. As a general rule, these types of premises can contain a high number of people who will be sleeping on the premises and are unfamiliar with their surroundings, are exposed to varying standards of serviceability and different or a lack of safety procedures. In some cases, the occupants have very little control over their surroundings and invariably have little interest in the risks associated with the accommodation. Although the likelihood of a large fire in these premises or facilities is low, the risk to life in the event of fire is high.

Definition of identification of risk via BCA = Buildings accommodating >12 persons or over $300m^2$ floor area within a single occupancy unit.

For a list of all public accommodation refer to Appendix H of the Alpine MEMP.

PUBLIC ASSEMBLY PREMISES

Similar to accommodation and tourist facilities, the likelihood of a large fire in a public assembly area is low to moderate, however the risk to life in the event of an uncontrolled fire is very high. Past experience has shown that fires in public halls or similar locations can have catastrophic consequences. As a general rule, these types of premises can contain a high number of people who will be gathering together on the premises and are unfamiliar with their surroundings, are exposed to varying standards of serviceability and different or a lack of safety procedures. In some cases, the occupants have very little control over their surroundings and invariably have little interest in the risks associated with the premises.

There are a number of these premises within the municipality including a cinema, public halls, schools, preschools and childcare centres. Each facility or premises has its own particular risk that will require individual evaluation.

Neglected areas of land or buildings can pose a significant fire risk to the adjoining landholders/occupiers and wider community.

For a list of healthcare facilities refer to Alpine List of facilities where vulnerable people are likely to meet, gather or reside. This list includes Hospitals, Aged and Childcare facilities, Kindergartens and Schools. This list is stored in Crisisworks for those with access or can be obtained from the MRM.

Definition for identification of risk via BCA Class 9b nightclubs, theatres, cinemas, public halls regularly accommodating more than 100 persons

Identified Public Assembly Premises

PUBLIC ASSEMBLY PREMISES				
NAME	ADDRESS	DETAILS		
Bright Community & Entertainment Centre	Railway Avenue Bright 3741	Large public hall, commercial kitchen, stage area		
Cloud 9 Cinema	119 Gavin Street Bright 3741	Bar and cinema in restored cottage		
Mount Beauty Community Centre	Hollonds Street Mount Beauty 3699	Large public hall, kitchen, stage area, meeting rooms, op shop		
Myrtleford Hall		Medium public hall, cinema		
Mount Beauty Sports Centre		Large public hall, sports centre		
Bright Sports Centre		Large public hall, sports centre		

HAZARDOUS TREES THREATENING POWER ASSETS

Hazardous trees are those trees reported that may /threaten power assets. Alpine Shire Council will pass on any reports of hazardous trees to the relevant nominated officer representing the responsible power transmitter (SP AusNet). This will form two processes that include:

- Those trees for areas that are the responsibility of SP AusNet
- Those trees that are the responsibility of Alpine Shire Council

Refer to Attachment 13 for Hazardous Tree -Identification and Notification Procedures.

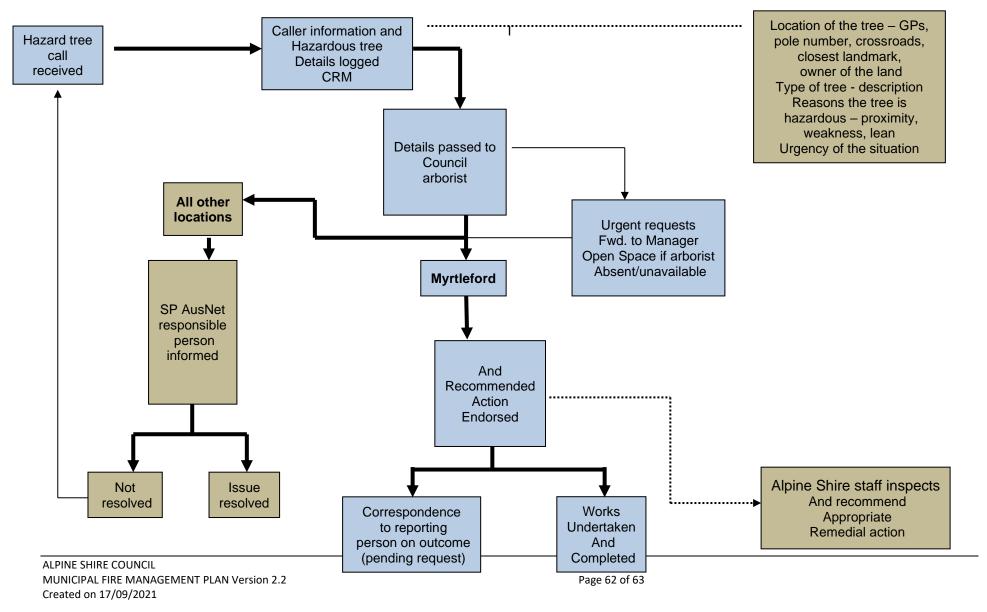
RISKS, STRATEGIES, PROGRAMS AND ACTIONS

STRUCTURAL FIRE Awaiting VFRR-S process to be implemented					
Risk	Objective	Treatment/Program/Action	Responsible	Others	Timeframe
Industrial					
Loss of life and property from the effects of uncontrolled fire	 Industrial sites to be managed: To provide a fire safe environment Reduce the spread of volatile and 	Encourage the high risk industries to develop and maintain an adequate Fire Prevention and Evacuation Plan.	Municipality & CFA		
Economic loss both public and private	hazardous chemicals in time of fireReduce the effects of fire to		Municipality & Owner/occupier	CFA	
	minimise any economic loss.	Issue fire prevention notices to owner/occupier whose property contains a fire /potential fire hazard.	Municipality, DELWP & Owner/occupier	Fire Brigades	
Environmental damage		During inspections any anomalies or concerns are noted and reported to the EPA.	Municipality	EPA	Ongoing
Commercial					
Loss of life and property from the effects of uncontrolled fire	Prevention of loss of life and injury reduction Prevention of loss of property and personal effects	CFA – Fire safety education programs Municipality – Essential service Inspections as required or requested.	Municipality & CFA		Ongoing
Economic loss both public and private	Prevention/reduction in the economic losses generated as a result of uncontrolled fire	Education. Provide information through social media and press releases as required.	Municipality & CFA	CFA & brigades	Ongoing
Environmental damage	Prevention/reduction of environmental damage as a result of uncontrolled fire	During inspections any anomalies or concerns are noted and reported to the EPA	Municipality	EPA	Ongoing
Healthcare					
Loss of life and property from the effects of uncontrolled fire	Prevention of loss of life and injury reduction Prevention of loss of property and personal effects	Bushfire treatment. Vulnerable persons register development in conjunction with DHHS	Municipality	DHHS	
Economic loss both	Prevention/reduction of economic	Further education is provided where required	Owner/occupier &	CFA	Ongoing

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STRUCTURAL FIRE Awaiting VFRR-S process to be implemented					
Risk	Objective	Treatment/Program/Action	Responsible	Others	Timeframe
public and private	losses generated as a result of uncontrolled fire		DHHS		
Public Accommodation	on and Tourist Facilities				
Loss of life and property from the effects of uncontrolled fire	Prevention of loss of life and injury reduction Prevention of loss of property and personal effects	Fire Prevention Planning. Develop a database of all premises.			Updated annually
Economic loss both public and private	Prevention/reduction of economic losses generated as a result of uncontrolled fire		Municipality & CFA		
Lack of communication and access to/with campers		Raise public awareness through education (eg. placement of fixed signs). Provide general information literature for general distribution.	Municipality, CFA & DELWP	Local brigades	
Public Assembly					
Loss of life and property from the effects of uncontrolled fire	Prevention of loss of life and injury reduction Prevention of loss of property and personal effects	Fire prevention planning. Develop a database of identified premises	Municipality	Local brigades	Updated on ongoing basis
Rural					
Loss of life, property livestock in the rural community due to the passage of wildfire	Make rural area as safe as possible for people, property, livestock, rural enterprises and travelling public	Roadside fire management - Provide pre planned access to Emergency Services in the time of fire in the form of Identified Priority Access routes	Municipality	Local brigades	October and November annually

Attachment 13: HAZARDOUS TREES – Identification and notification procedures



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