



**Nillumbik
Municipal
Fire
Management
Plan
2023-2026**



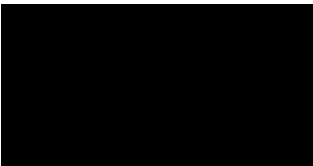
**Nillumbik Municipal Fire
Management Planning Committee**

Statement of Assurance

Certificate of Assurance for the Nillumbik Municipal Fire Management Plan

I, Angelo Botuyan, Chair of the Nillumbik Municipal Fire Management Planning Committee certify that the attached Municipal Fire Management Plan complies with the requirements of the Emergency Management Act 2013, including having regard to any relevant guidelines issued under section 77 of that Act.

This Plan was endorsed by the Committee on 9 August 2023 and supersedes the last Plan published on 17 May 2020.



Angelo Botuyan
Chair, Nillumbik Municipal Fire Management Planning Committee
9 August 2023

Audience

The primary audience for this document are member of various control, relief and recovery agencies, and those with a role within the emergency planning framework within Nillumbik, this is also a community document. The vision for the emergency management sector is to 'build safer and more resilient communities' and this can only be achieved by ensuring that the community itself is involved and understands their role in the emergency management process.

Acknowledgment of Country



The Nillumbik Municipal Fire Management Planning Committee acknowledges the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung of people of the Kulin Nation as the Traditional Owners of the Country on which Nillumbik is located. The Committee also acknowledges and pays respect to Elders past, present and emerging, and extend that respect to all First Nations People. The Committee is committed to working with First Nations People to achieve a shared vision of safer and more resilient communities.

Approval

The Municipal Fire Management Plan has been prepared by the Municipal Fire Management Planning Committee and was assured by the Municipal Emergency Management Planning Committee on the 30 August 2023.

Questions or suggestions

If you would like to know more about emergency management within Nillumbik, have a specific question about this document, or would like to discuss how you or your community group could become involved in making Nillumbik better prepared for emergencies, please send an email to emergency.management@nillumbik.vic.gov.au for the attention of the Chair of the Committee.

If you need this information in an accessible format such as large print or audio, please telephone (03) 9433 3111 or email emergency.management@nillumbik.vic.gov.au

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Foreword

This Municipal Fire Management Plan (“Plan”) has been developed under legislation introduced in Victoria in 2018 to provide greater cohesion through integrated arrangements for emergency management planning in Victoria at the state, regional and municipal levels.

It is a sub-plan to the Nillumbik Municipal Emergency Management Plan.

Through the development of the Plan, the Nillumbik Fire Management Planning Committee (“Committee”) undertook a process to explore the fire-related challenges, risks and opportunities within the municipality in order to apply a coordinated approach to managing these risks.

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

The Committee has established the Plan with a number of focused themes outlined here:

- Fire Risks
- Knowledge Sharing
- Shared Capability
- Good Governance

This Plan has been developed by many people and organisations committing their time and providing valuable input. The experience and knowledge of the Committee and partner agencies has been integral in confirming the focus of the strategies and the actions to be undertaken.

The Plan will be monitored, and identification of improved treatments or activities will be a key deliverable in achieving the objectives in the Plan.

Introduction

Fire and emergency events impose significant social, environmental and economic costs on Victoria including injury and loss of life, damage to property, infrastructure and facilities, financial costs, ecosystem and biodiversity loss, and social and cultural losses.

Challenges such as the impact of climate change, the increasing occurrence of major fires, population and residential growth all increase the need for a coordinated and collaborative approach to strategic fire management planning.

Victoria has emergency management arrangements that require and encourage agencies to work collaboratively alongside state and local government, community and business before, during and after emergencies.

Nillumbik has a diverse range of environments, vulnerable to all types of fire hazard. As a static growth and green wedge corridor with a mix of urban residential and rural land, as well as having important areas of environmental significance, Nillumbik Shire Council and the agencies and services that support it, must be focussed on adapting to future challenges including fire-related challenges.

The Plan aims to support this and achieve a consistent, effective risk-based approach for fire management planning. Through the Committee, this will be enhanced through collaboration, information sharing and the building of collective knowledge.

Many organisations undertake treatment activities in the municipality in an attempt to keep fire related risks at a lower level. No single action or treatment will effectively manage the fire risk. This Plan reflects the shared responsibilities of governments, fire services, land managers and communities. It demonstrates a collaborative approach across public and private land and reflects the dynamic and continually evolving fire planning process undertaken in Nillumbik.

Community understanding of individual, family and neighbourhood risks and their active participation in risk management is integral. How communities prepare themselves, their families, their homes, and work with their neighbours is crucial.

This Plan

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

This plan has been developed in line with the:

- [Emergency Management Act 2013](#) which provides the authority under which Municipal Emergency Management Planning Committees operate
- Ministerial Guidelines (2020) for [Preparing State, Regional and Municipal Emergency Management Plans](#)
- State Fire Management Planning Guidance to Regional and Municipal Fire Management Planning Committees
- [Nillumbik Municipal Emergency Management Plan](#)

This Plan is risk based, having regard for the social, economic, built and natural environment aspects of fire, and functions as a guide for participants involved in fire management planning activities. The Plan also contains appropriate reference to other applications of fire, including ecological and cultural. It focuses on preventative actions and collaborative mitigation activities appropriate and available to reduce the risks.

The Committee has undertaken a robust process to determine the risk within the municipality as well as the activities required to support better integrated outcomes.

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

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

The risk context and outcomes are found in [Part 1 Context and Fire Risk](#) within this document.

The risk assessment and development process and legislative background is contained in [Part 2 Municipal Fire Management Planning](#).



Vision

A safer and more resilient community that has the capabilities to withstand, plan for, respond to and recover from fire.

Purpose

To guide stakeholders in integrated fire management planning activities, reduce risks to the community, and increase the awareness of community regarding their own responsibilities.

Principles

The principles of the Committee are:

- **Collaboration** of member agencies in developing and implementing shared and coordinated fire management planning and preparedness activities that reduce risks to the community
- **Accountability** in supporting effective committee direction and action including reviewing, monitoring and reporting
- **Community focus** that supports community resilience and provides communities with the opportunity to actively participate in fire management planning
- **Providing a common understanding** that guides the collective activities and actions of committee members, agencies and community.



Themes, Goals and Actions

Through the fire planning process the Committee has established four focused themes:

1. Fire risks
2. Knowledge sharing
3. Shared capability
4. Good governance

Under each theme sits an overarching goal and a number of high-level actions.

The accountability and timeframes for the actions are further explored in the Nillumbik Municipal Fire Management Action Plan (“Action Plan”) which is maintained, updated and reported against regularly. Refer to [Appendix 4](#) to view the Action Plan.

1. Fire risks

Goal

Strengthen our focus on fire risk and the consequences of fire to ensure that hazards are reduced to the greatest reasonable extent for the greatest number of people.

Challenge/Opportunity

Reducing the fire risk to, and the impact of fire on the community sits at the heart of this Plan. Nillumbik’s footprint has a large bushfire risk and a grassfire risk. While the municipality is a dormant growth corridor, most agencies work across boundaries. Against this backdrop, the Committee has identified four areas on which to collectively focus to reduce the risk of fire.

Actions

- 1.1 Increase understanding of fire risk by leveraging existing tools.
- 1.2 Review shelter in place needs, options and education for the Nillumbik community.
- 1.3 Improve cross-boundary relationships including risk awareness, resource sharing and actions.
- 1.4 Agencies, Council and community organisations collaborate to explore opportunities to reduce fire risk for communities.

2. Knowledge sharing

Goal

Share knowledge and resources across the Committee membership that supports integration and effective fire management outcomes.

Challenge/Opportunity

Through the member agencies, the Committee has access to a range of experts and knowledge holders who are undertaking projects, or who have access to information that could support better fire management planning. This provides an opportunity to actively seek out and share this information to support improved fire management outcomes.

It supports the approach of continuous improvement and lessons learned across the emergency management sector. Adopting good contemporary practices can be incorporated can improve fire planning outcomes.

Actions

- 2.1 Establish mechanisms that support sharing of knowledge and resources that lead to collaborative integrated fire management planning outcomes.
- 2.2 Actively share agency risk, response and management data across the membership to improve individual and collective investment and direction.
- 2.3 Ensure that incidents of arson and opportunities to add value to existing arson prevention programs.

3. Shared capability

Goal

Strengthen and enhance our shared capability for community-centric fire management outcomes.

Challenge/Opportunity

It is important that everyone who lives, works and visits Nillumbik considers the fire risks and works to build resilience at the individual, family, business, neighbourhood and community level.

Actions

- 3.1 Provide support to fire agencies to plan and deliver coordinated multi agency community engagement and enhance existing community led initiatives in building community resilience.
- 3.2 Investigate opportunities to incorporate the application of indigenous fire management practices within the municipality to improve outcomes for community and the environment.
- 3.3 Seek out and share across agencies and with the community best practices examples of fire risk reduction and innovation in the sector to enhance learning.

4. Good governance

Goal

Ensure effective oversight, direction and membership of the Committee to achieve its purpose, goals and actions

Challenge/Opportunity

In 2018 the *Emergency Management Legislation Amendment Act* amended the *Emergency Management Act 2013* to advise that Municipal Councils are no longer solely responsible for the Municipal Fire Management Committee and the development of fire management plans. The amendments provide for greater cohesion through integrated emergency management arrangements for emergency management planning in Victoria at state, regional and municipal levels.

The principle focus of the amendments is on efficiency and effectiveness, interoperability and integration, the needs of local communities, promoting community resilience and the important of collaborative emergency management planning.

The change to legislation is seen as an opportunity to reset the way the Committee operates and achieves its objectives.

Actions

- 4.1 Review and strengthen the membership of the committee considering risk profile and shared responsibilities.
- 4.2 Actively advocate to State and agencies to support effective functioning of municipal and regional emergency/fire management planning.
- 4.3 Maintain strong working relationships with the North West Metro Regional Strategic Fire Management Planning Committee to support effective fire management planning.
- 4.4 Maintain working groups that have appropriate representation and ability to actively plan and lead projects that reduce fire risk.



Part 1

Context and Fire Risk

Environmental scan

Nillumbik is located in Melbourne's north-eastern suburbs, about 25 kilometres from the Melbourne Central Business District. Nillumbik is bounded by Murrindindi Shire in the north, Yarra Ranges Council in the east, Manningham City Council and Banyule City Council in the south, and the City of Whittlesea in the west.

Nillumbik's boundaries are the Kinglake National Park in the north, the Yarra escarpment in the east, the Yarra River in the south, and the Plenty River and Yan Yean Road in the west.

Nillumbik covers an area of 432 square kilometres and has an estimated population of 65,369 who live in close-knit communities that range from typical urban settings to remote and tranquil bush properties.



Nillumbik features both urban and rural areas with undulating hills. The bulk of the population is located in the south and south-western areas, generally comprising Diamond Creek, Eltham, Eltham North, Greensborough, Hurstbridge and Wattle Glen. The major townships are Eltham, Diamond Creek and Hurstbridge. Nillumbik's name derives from an Aboriginal word thought to mean "shallow earth". Major features of the Shire include Kinglake National Park, Plenty Gorge Parklands, Sugarloaf Reservoir, Montsalvat Artists' Colony (Eltham), Eltham Leisure Centre, the Yarra River and various wineries and vineyards. Nillumbik is served by the Metropolitan Ring Road and the Hurstbridge railway line, with stations at Eltham, Diamond Creek, Wattle Glen and Hurstbridge.

Nillumbik includes the suburbs and rural localities of Arthurs Creek, Bend of Islands, Christmas Hills, Cottles Bridge, Diamond Creek, Doreen (part), Eltham, Eltham North (part), Greensborough (part), Hurstbridge, Kangaroo Ground, Kinglake (part), Kinglake West (part), North Warrandyte, Nutfield, Panton Hill, Plenty, Research, Smiths Gully, Strathewen, St Andrews, Watsons Creek, Wattle Glen, Yan Yean (part) and Yarrambat.

There is a history of [large fires](#) that have spread from Plenty Gorge or through the municipal area.

Information on the Nillumbik community and access to publicly available data can be found via [Home | Nillumbik Shire | Community profile \(id.com.au\)](#).

Additionally, an environmental scan of the North West Metro Region was undertaken in late 2020 and is available via [North West Metro Environmental Scan | Emergency Management Victoria \(emv.vic.gov.au\)](#)

Recent trends and fire risk

Trends related to fire risk within Nillumbik broadly encompass the changing climate, changing demographics and diversity as well as the change in working habits and locations. Many of these have enduring legacies.

People

The population of Nillumbik is estimated to increase from 64,866 persons in 2020 to 70,391 persons in 2036. This level of growth which on average is 0.5 per cent, is in contrast with much higher levels of growth across the region.

The age profile of Nillumbik residents, at the time of the 2021 Census, shows that there was a higher proportion of people in the younger age groups (0 to 17 years) as well as a higher proportion of people in the older age groups (60+ years). Nillumbik has a higher proportion of people in the family formation and young family age cohorts ranging from 35 to 49 years compared with the metropolitan area.

Analysis of the country of birth of the population in Nillumbik in 2021 shows that 16.5 per cent of people were born overseas. Europe and the Asia-Pacific region were the prominent birthplace regions for overseas born residents with 87.7 per cent reporting using English as first language, with 10.0 per cent using another language at home.

Nillumbik has an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population of 375 people.

94 per cent of residents have reported that they have someone who could provide care for them in an emergency, which is higher than state and regional averages. This suggests there are strong local family and social connections. A Vulnerable Persons Register and Vulnerable Facilities list are hosted on Council's emergency management database Crisisworks and are reviewed annually.

A detailed analysis of the demographics of Nillumbik can be found at <http://forecast.id.com.au/nillumbik>

Built

There are some 20,800+ structural dwellings in Nillumbik with 8.8 per cent renting dwellings while others owned or had mortgages on their property. There were 80 residential building approvals for 2022-2023 which reflects both lower levels of population growth within Nillumbik and the broader state of the economy at this time.

Both Bushfire Management Overlay ("BMO") and Bushfire Prone Area designations apply within Nillumbik. The BMO identifies land in Victoria that may be at risk from bushfire. As of 23 June 2020 there are a total of 9,194 properties that fall within the BMO ([Appendix 3](#))

Properties in designated Bushfire Prone Area's will require Bushfire Attack Level assessment and minimum constructions standards applied based on the level of bushfire risk posed to the building.

Significant infrastructure within the municipal district include (but is not limited to):

- Major 750 mm gas pipeline carrying natural gas under very high pressure runs for 24 kilometres across the northern part of Nillumbik in a generally east – west direction.
- 2,000 kilometres of pipeline that carries gas from Bass Strait for distribution throughout the rest of the state. The Nillumbik portion is part of the Pakenham – Wollert section. It is computer monitored from the Pakenham and Wollert terminals. The pipeline is operated by APA. APA have measures in place to manage the risk of the pipeline failing.

- Three major power lines cross Nillumbik. These are operated by AusNet Services and form significant links in Victoria's electricity transmission network.
- Sugarloaf Reservoir is part of the water supply for Greater Melbourne which is maintained by Melbourne Water and also has a 19,000 panel solar farm currently being constructed at Winneke Water Treatment Plant.
- Metro Trains Hurstbridge passenger train line with four stations.
- Metropolitan Ring Road which is a major transport link with an around Metropolitan Melbourne.

Environment

Nillumbik covers an area of 432 square kilometres and includes a wide variety of land types, ranging from gentle undulating slopes at Kangaroo Ground to very steep and heavily treed areas around Plenty Gorge, North Warrandyte and the Kinglake National Park in the north. The value of the environment rates highly with Nillumbik residents and encourages their participation in a range of Friends of and Landcare groups.

There are more than 300 hectares of nature and recreation reserves in Nillumbik. While the whole of Nillumbik is referred to as the 'Green Wedge Shire', green wedge land is defined as being outside the urban growth boundary. The Nillumbik Green Wedge is home to 1,000 indigenous flora species, 64 sites of faunal significance covering over 25,000 hectares with twenty-four Conservation Covenants in place across the municipal area.

Within Nillumbik 61 per cent is private property; with 37 per cent constituted by crown land, national parks or water catchment area. The number of total fire bans between 2016-2023 for Central Weather Fire District was 21.

Economy

Nillumbik has a diverse and robust economy made up of many small and large businesses with 6,557 local businesses. Nillumbik's Gross Regional Product for 2022 was \$2.35 billion.

36,437 residents reported being in the labour force with 57 per cent of residents working full-time and 36 per cent working part time. An analysis of jobs held by resident population in 2021 shows the most popular industry sectors where:

- Construction (13.9 per cent)
- Health care and social assistance (13.8 per cent)
- Education and training (11.2 per cent)

Nillumbik is one of the least socially disadvantaged municipalities in the state according to the Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas (SEIFA) as developed by the Australian Bureau of Statistics. This can be interpreted as an indicator of resilience; however the ageing population can also be seen as a factor in a steady increase in vulnerability.

Other trends and considerations

Other trends and considerations related to fire highlighted by the Committee during the Plan development include cross border risk.

Future trends and fire risk

Longer term trends for fire in Nillumbik focus on the continuing change to climate, the impact and consequences of increasing severe weather events and changing population numbers and demographics. Concurrent emergencies place additional strain on agencies during all phases of response, relief and recovery. Concurrent emergencies such as cyber-attacks, biosecurity and health emergencies can and will cross boundaries and when they occur in conjunction with a major fire, they will pose challenges to all levels of government, agencies and community during response, relief and recovery.

People

72 per cent of residents who live in Nillumbik travel to other areas to work, with only 9.7 per cent using public transport to travel to work. Working locally can help with reducing travel time, which in turn reduces environmental impact.

2021 census data shows an increase from 13.2 to 17.3 per cent of the population is aged 65 years and over. There are eight residential aged/disability care facilities within the Nillumbik municipal area. An emerging trend is for older people to remain living in their own homes and have care services delivered in home.

Environment

Building Victoria's Climate Resilience sets out what Victoria is doing to adapt and build resilience to our changing climate across seven systems that are critical to building our states resilience: built environment; education and training; health and human services; natural environment; primary production; transport and water cycle. [Nillumbik Shire Council's Climate Action Plan 2022-2032](#) builds on previous plans and emphasises collaboration with the community to achieve its key climate action aims.

Built

Critical services such as power, water, sewerage and telecommunications are susceptible to extreme weather events. Essential infrastructure is increasingly interconnected and interdependent, meaning that disruption to one essential service can have consequences for multiple sectors and the community in general.

Essential infrastructure includes those physical facilities, supply chains, systems, assets, information technologies and communications networks which if destroyed, damaged or rendered unavailable for protracted periods would significantly impact the social and economic wellbeing of the community.

Emergent technology such as renewable energy sites which changes land use, local response plans and increases energy related infrastructure may become a future risk consideration for this Committee to plan for.

Economy

The [Nillumbik Economic Development Strategy 2020-2030](#) aims to strengthen the economy and facilitate job creation over the next ten years.

The impact of bushfire on communities is more than financial, but a major fire in Nillumbik would have a significant economic impact across the environment, business, tourism and infrastructure.

The total economic cost of natural disasters in Victoria is expected to reach \$3.2 billion by year 2050.

Fire in Nillumbik

Nillumbik has a history of naturally occurring emergencies such as bushfire, floods and storms over the past 100 years. The History of Fire in Nillumbik as shown in Table 1 below demonstrates that the municipality is at risk of bushfire.

Bushfire

The impact of bushfires has included loss of life and serious injury, loss of property including homes, disruption to entire communities, and devastation of the natural environment and long-term rehabilitation of affected communities.

Over the past 80 years there have been a number of major fires throughout Nillumbik that have resulted in the loss of life and property. In February 2009, the Black Saturday fires resulted in Strathewen, St Andrews and Christmas Hills experiencing devastating and damaging fires that caused extensive life and property loss. Nillumbik's [Municipal Emergency Management Plan](#) provides a more detailed history of bushfire and emergencies.

Table 1: History of bushfires in Nillumbik

Date	Location
2019 (30 December)	Plenty Gorge
2014 (14 January)	Kangaroo Ground
2009 (7 February)	Victoria
1991 (13 January)	Pound Bend (Warrandyte)
1969 (8 January)	Diamond Creek through to Research and Warrandyte
1965 (3 March)	Research/North Warrandyte
1962 (14 January)	St Andrews, Warrandyte
1957 (28 February)	Plenty/ Greensborough
1944 (14 January)	Wattle Glen/Research
1939 (13 January)	Strathewen

The [VicEmergency](#) website provides a map that identifies bushfire history for the past 50 years. It provides a graphic representation of bushfire impacted areas across Victoria, refer to [Bushfire History - 50 years](#).

Structure fire history

In the past decade, Victorian firefighters have responded to more than 32,000 residential house fires across the state. In 2020, 22 people dies as a result of house fires in Victoria. The majority of house fires are preventable.

Nillumbik has also experienced significant structural/residential fires in recent years which included the Apollo Parkways Primary School, Hurstbridge Primary School, Our Lady of Help Christians Primary School Eltham, Nillumbik Shire Council offices fire and most recently the health and retail complex fire on Diamond Creek Road in Plenty.

Unlike neighbouring municipalities, Nillumbik lacks large industrial areas, however over recent year there has been an increase in medium/high density apartment complex construction around activity centres. Bushfire remains the predominant risk that could have the most significant consequence.

The role of mitigation

Every disaster experiences direct and indirect losses that can have a monetary or non-monetary value. The impact of physical and emotional trauma through damage to, or erasure of, local environments, livelihoods, housing, social relations and daily routines which aid everyday meaning-making and a sense of security cannot be valued simply in monetary terms.

The 2009 and 2019-2020 bushfires left a devastating impact on communities through loss of lives, destruction to homes, farmland, infrastructure, crops, conservation land and livelihoods. The cost of natural disasters in Australia is expected to reach \$39.3 billion per year by year 2050. This comes at a time when insurance premiums are either rising or households are forgoing a range of insurance from health, vehicle and home/contents insurance.

Risk mitigation can reduce the costs of fires by reducing the likelihood of bushfires starting in the first place, and by reducing the consequences or impacts of bushfires when they do occur.

The value of mitigation activities is more than economic, given the long term nature of environmental, infrastructure and social recovery required after major disasters.



Community and mitigation

There is a limit to the capacity of agencies and government in their collective planning to effectively mitigate all risk.

A commitment to shared responsibility recognises that no single actor can be responsible for mitigation, planning, preparedness, response and recovery. Community groups, networks, businesses, individuals, households, visitors, government and non-government organisations, along with emergency management sector all have a role to play.

More resilient communities:

- recover more quickly;
- use their abilities, experiences and resources to prepare for, and manage the consequences of emergencies, and
- work together to support each other and emergency service organisations before, during and after emergencies.

Businesses, agencies, government and community all have a role to play in risk mitigation and management.

The Municipal Fire Management Planning Committee and its member agencies has a role to play in

supporting communities to build knowledge, capability, capacity and resilience.

The community has an equally important role as agencies to play in mitigation and include:

- Understanding their own risk.
- Planning for their own circumstances in the event of fire.
- Recognising and mitigating the fire risk on private landholdings.

Victoria's emergency management planning arrangements allow communities to undertake their own localised planning and connect their plans into Victoria's emergency management planning framework. Support can be made available to groups that may wish to explore developing a community level plan that assists in building community preparedness and resilience to emergencies.

Examples of groups undertaking activities in reducing community fire risks include Neighbourhood houses, Wadambuk St. Andrews Community Centre, Community Fireguard Groups and organisations that support community relief.

Some of the measures implemented to minimise risk and improve public safety in the fire environment includes Neighbourhood Safer Places (Bushfire Place of Last Resort). They are an area or premises intended, as a last resort, to provide some short-term protection from the immediate life threatening effects of a bushfire (ie. direct flame contact or radiant heat).

They are an open space area or building designated and signposted by Council that meets guidelines issued by the CFA. They are assessed and accredited on an annual basis prior to each fire season. They are located at:

Diamond Hills Reserve Oval
Plenty River Drive
Greensborough (Melway Ref 11 B9)

The Outdoor Performance Centre
Civic Drive
Greensborough (Melway Ref 11 A10)

Diamond Creek Community Centre
Diamond Creek Melway Ref 12 A6)

Yarrambat Golf Course Clubrooms
Yarrambat (Melway Ref 12 A6)

Hurstbridge Basketball Stadium
Hurstbridge (Melway Ref 185 J9)

Car park between Arthur and Dudley Streets
Eltham (Melway 21 K 5)

Collendina Reserve
Collendina Crescent
Greensborough (Melway Ref 10 F10)

Community Fire Refuges are purpose built or modified buildings that can provide protection from radiant heat and embers. There are **no** designated Community Fire Refuges in Nillumbik. Information on community fire refuges can be found here: www.cfa.vic.gov.au/plan-prepare/community-fire-refuges

Major fire risks

Given Nillumbik's landscape and demographics, the following hazards were determined by the Committee to be of greatest risk to the community.

- Bushfire
- Grassfire
- Residential house fire
- Transport (roads and rail) fire

The next section provides a snapshot of the hazards, consequences, relevant agencies, mitigation activities or programs in place and community actions.

The list of mitigation activities and programs used is representative not exhaustive.



Hazard	Bushfire
Description	<p>Bushfire is assessed as a significant risk in Victoria’s State-level emergency risk assessment, Emergency Risks in Victoria, published in 2020. Bushfires can start for many reasons, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accidents such as mishandled campfires or barbecues • Malicious activity such as arson • Infrastructure incidents such as sparks from electricity lines or rail transport • Natural phenomena such as lightning • Hot, dry and windy weather are ideal conditions for bushfires to start and spread.
Consequences	<p>Consequences of bushfires are also potentially significant and varied including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Human (loss of life, serious injury, respiratory impacts) • Environmental impacts (loss of vegetation, biodiversity, cultural values) • Built form (damage to onsite and neighbouring property and infrastructure) • Economic (business interruptions, loss of tourism, assets and livestock)
Relevant agencies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Country Fire Authority • Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action • Department of Transport and Planning • Fire Rescue Victoria • Forest Fire Management Victoria • Melbourne Water • Parks Victoria • Victoria Police • Nillumbik Shire Council

Hazard	Bushfire
What is being done	<p>Bushfire mitigation strategies, controls and assessments include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Metropolitan Bushfire Management Strategy 2020 • Victorian Fire Risk Register • Fire Hazard Rating Mapping for Powerlines • Land use planning controls: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Bushfire Management Overlay <p>Programs and plans include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Safety Education programs (Fire Rescue Victoria and Country Fire Authority) • Fuel management projects – Joint Fuel Management Plans • Roadside fuel management • Safer Together Programs • Total Fire Ban and Fire Danger Period requirements • Agency operational plans including local Country Fire Authority plans • Evacuation and Traffic Management guidelines (Victoria Police) • Advertising campaigns (Victorian Government)
What community members can do	<p>People living in high risk fire areas should actively seek information from agencies in relation to their fire risk and prepare fire plans appropriate to their circumstances.</p> <p>A well thought out bushfire survival plan can help if you live, or holiday in, high-risk bushfire areas of Victoria.</p> <p>Know what to do if a fire starts.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitor conditions outside. Do not adopt a 'wait and see' approach. • Make sure you're connected to emergency information from VicEmergency App, website and emergency broadcasters • Follow all directions from emergency services • Act early, even if a warning has not been received. Plan to leave high risk bushfire areas early on high fire danger days • Ensure you have adequate access for firefighting appliances <p>Prepare and plan for bushfires through the Bushfire Prepare Program or CFA's range of community programs. These are designed to help you:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plan for a range of scenarios • Make informed decisions when it counts • Prepare your properties for fire events • Work together with your community to reduce everyone's bushfire risk <p>Visit CFA, FRV or VicEmergency on how to better prepare for bushfires.</p>



Hazard	Grassfire
Description	<p>Hot, dry and windy weather are ideal conditions for grassfires to start and spread. Grassfires can start in urban areas and travel very quickly. Grassfires can ignite from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Natural phenomena such as lightning • Equipment including vehicles and machinery sparks • Malicious activity such as arson • Sparks from powerlines or rail transport • Vehicle collisions and littering (such as cigarette butts)
Consequences	<p>Consequences of grassfires are also significant and varied including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Human (loss of life, serious injury, respiratory impacts) • Environmental impacts (loss of vegetation, biodiversity, cultural values) • Built form (damage to onsite and neighbouring property and infrastructure) • Economic (business interruptions, loss of tourism, assets and livestock)
Relevant agencies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Country Fire Authority • Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action • Department of Transport and Planning • Fire Rescue Victoria • Forest Fire Management Victoria • Melbourne Water • Parks Victoria • Victoria Police • Nillumbik Shire Council
What is being done	<p>A number of strategies, controls and assessments currently exist include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bushfire Management Strategy 2020 • Victorian Fire Risk Register • Land use planning controls: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Bushfire Management Overlay

Hazard	Grassfire
	<p>Programs and plans include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Safety Education programs (FRV and CFA) • Fuel management projects – Joint Fuel Management Plans • Roadside fuel management • Safer Together Programs • Total Fire Ban and Fire Danger Period requirements • Agency operational plans including local CFA plans • Evacuation and Traffic Management guidelines (Vic Police) • Advertising campaigns (Vic Government)
<p>What community members can do</p>	<p>Grassfires can start and move quickly including in urban areas. Many Victorians live next to parks, reserves, open grasslands, paddocks or bush, even in built-up residential areas.</p> <p>Understand your grassfire risk and know what to do if one starts.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitor conditions outside • Make sure you're connected to emergency information from VicEmergency App, website and emergency broadcasters • Follow all directions from emergency services • Act early, even if a warning has not been received <p>If a grassfire starts on the urban fringe and you are at home, you should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If you live next to grassland and a grassfire starts, walk at least two streets back from the fire • If you live two streets or more from grassland and a grassfire starts, stay where you are and follow all directions from emergency services • Keep all windows and doors closed and place towels or blankets around window sills and door gaps. Do not use you air conditioner <p>Visit CFA, FRV or VicEmergency on how to better prepare for grassfires.</p>



Hazard	Residential House
Description	<p>The municipality has a range of residential houses including aged care facilities. Hoarding or extreme clutter can intensify house fires with the size, spread and severity of a fire increasing which makes them harder to contain and extinguish.</p> <p>On average there are 3,000 house fires each year in Victoria, with 18 fatalities occurring on average annually. A majority of house fires are preventable by taking simple precautions.</p> <p>Common reasons for residential house fires include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unattended cooking • Overheated or overcharged batteries • Electrical faults including overloading power boards and/or leaving appliances or surfaces that can burn • Cigarettes, candles, incense and oil burners left unattended • Heating appliances not turned off on leaving the house or drying clothes too close to the heater
Consequences	<p>Consequences can include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Human (loss of life, serious injury, displacement from home) • Built form (damage to property and neighbouring property) • Business disruption (damage to businesses)
Relevant agencies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Country Fire Authority • Department of Families, Fairness and Housing • Fire Rescue Victoria • Red Cross • Victorian Building Authority • Victoria Police

Hazard	Residential House
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nillumbik Shire Council
What is being done	<p>A number of strategies, controls and assessment currently exist:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community education programs • Specific building fire and emergency plans • Councils have responsibility under Building Act 1993 for the enforcement of building safety • Owners are responsible under Building Regulations (2018) to ensure that essential safety measures including exit doors and fire sprinklers are maintained • Landlords are responsible for ensuring rental properties have smoke alarms
What community members can do	<p>Once a fire starts it can spread rapidly putting you and loved ones at risk. You can protect yourself, your family and your home by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Having a working smoke alarm and test it regularly • Ensuring you have sufficient insurance for your home and contents • Avoiding leaving batteries or devices unattended while being charged or charging overnight • Looking out for fire hazards in the home and never leave cooking unattended • Storing combustible materials appropriately • Ensuring equipment including barbeques are in good working order <p>The added risk associated with evacuating a building means that it is critical to plan for and know how to escape if there is a fire or other emergency.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If a fire occurs in your home, get out, stay out and call Triple Zero (000) • Know where the fire exits and stairs are and practice building evacuation drills and report any damage to building safety/ firefighting equipment • Report residential hoarding to your local council • Make and practice an escape plan with your family and have a safe meeting place outside the building • If a fire occurs in your home, get out, stay out, and call Triple Zero (000) <p>Visit CFA, FRV or VicEmergency for more information on safety in the home.</p>

Hazard	Transport - Roads & Rail Fire
Description	<p>Road and rail fire can be caused by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Traffic accident, mechanical failure or human error, fatigue • Faulty equipment • Littering (cigarette butts) • Weather events such as severe storms or lightning • Malicious events including arson
Consequences	<p>Consequences can include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Human (loss of life, serious injury) • Environmental impacts (toxic smoke plumes, runoff into waterways) • Social (impact on access to public and private transportation) • Built form (damage to property and infrastructure) • Economic (business interruptions, supply chain disruption)
Relevant agencies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Country Fire Authority • Department of Transport and Planning • Fire Rescue Victoria

Hazard	Transport - Roads & Rail Fire
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Metro Trains • Victoria Police • Nillumbik Shire Council
What is being done	<p>A number of strategies, controls and assessments currently exist:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Victorian Road Safety Strategy 2021-2030 • <i>Bus Safety Act 2009</i> • <i>Transport Accident Act 1986</i> • Roadside fuel management programs • Department of Transport and Planning works with the Office of the National Rail Safety Regulator to oversee safety of Victoria's rail networks
What community members can do	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitor the Vic Traffic for road closures and traffic alerts • Report road hazards to the Department of Transport and Planning or Nillumbik Shire Council • Report dangerous driving to Victoria Police with the following information: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Registration number of the vehicle • Driver details (gender and approximate age) • Date, time, place and description of the observed behaviour • The community can report smoky vehicles under 4.5 tones to the Environment Protection Agency or for vehicles over 4.5 tones to the National Heavy Vehicle Register call 13 NHVR (13 64 87)



Part 2

Municipal Fire Management Planning

Municipal Fire Management Planning Committee

In late 2020, the [Emergency Management Legislation Amendment Act 2018](#) amended the [Emergency Management Act 2013](#) to provide for new integrated arrangements for emergency management planning in Victoria at the state, regional and municipal levels. Figure 1 provides a visual representation of the legislated planning framework.

The principal focus of the amendments is on efficiency and effectiveness, interoperability and integration, the local needs of communities, promoting community resilience and the importance of collaborative emergency management planning.

Emergency Management Act 2013 (Section 59) provides the authority under which Municipal Emergency Management Planning Committees operate as a multi-agency collaboration whose members bring organisation, industry and personal expertise to the task of emergency management planning.

Under this legislation, Municipal Fire Management Planning Committees are sub-committees of the respective Municipal Emergency Management Planning Committee. The Committee informs the MEMPC of emerging risks and changes in the municipality that may require attention.

Committee members work together to achieve a consistent, effective risk-based approach for fire management planning.

Committee membership

- Country Fire Authority
- Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action – represented by FFMVic personnel
- Department of Transport and Planning
- Fire Rescue Victoria
- Melbourne Water
- Parks Victoria
- Victoria Police
- Nillumbik Shire Council

A copy of the Committee Terms of Reference is available on Nillumbik Shire Council's [website](#).

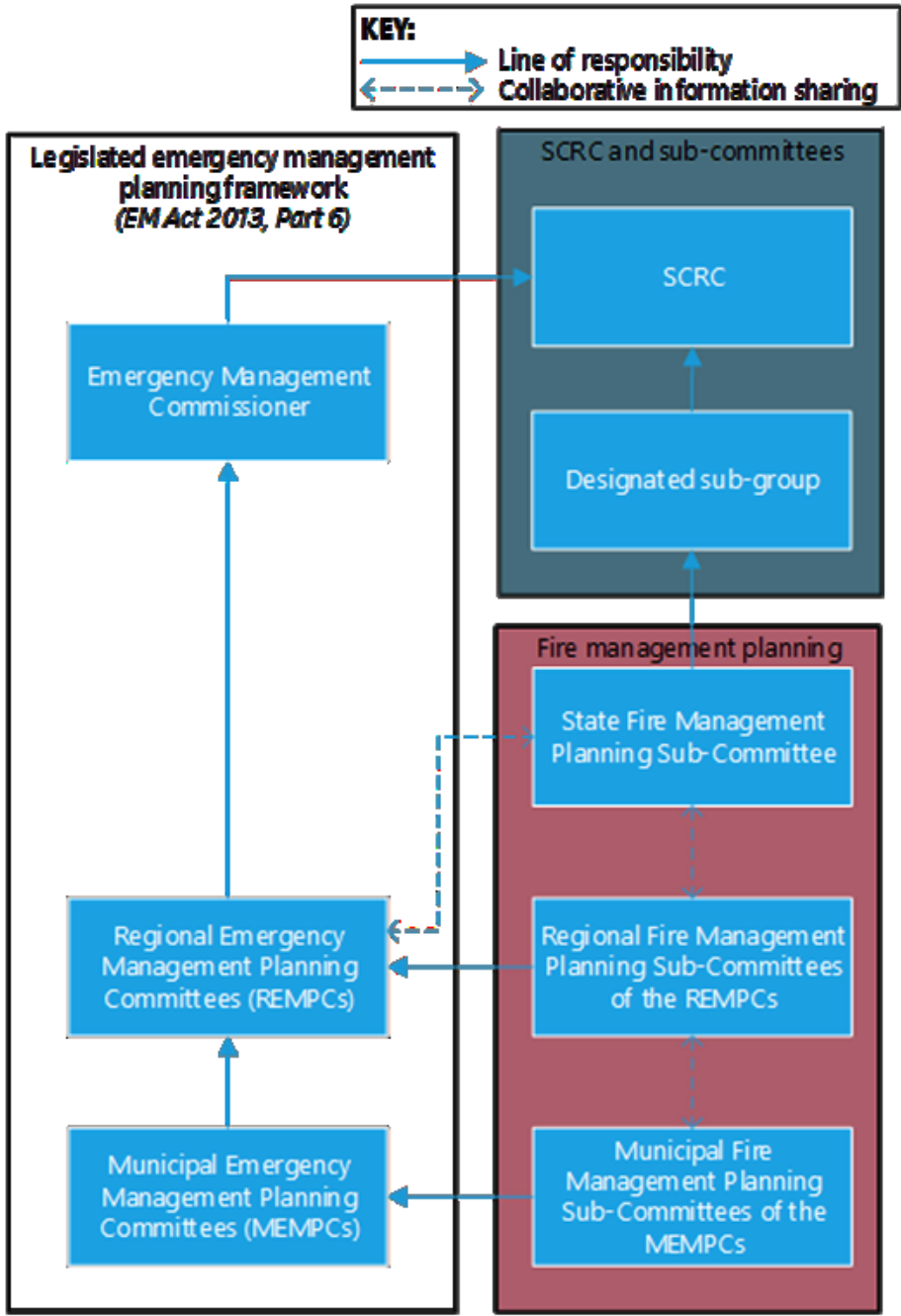


Figure 1: Legislated Planning Framework

Plan development

Establishing mechanisms and networks to integrate fire management planning while acknowledging the legislative responsibilities of all stakeholders.

Plan assurance and approval

The Nillumbik Municipal Emergency Management Planning Committee is responsible under the planning arrangements for assuring any of its sub-plans, of which this plan is one.

A Statement of Assurance ([pg. 2](#)) has been prepared and submitted to the North West Metro Region Emergency Management Planning Committee for plan approval. To ensure that this provides for effective fire management planning, it is to be reviewed at least every three years, and remains in effect until superseded by an approved and published update.

Plan development process

A smaller, representative working group was formed to guide the development process of the Plan on behalf of the Committee.

As part of the development, the working group has reviewed and sought to align with existing legislation, frameworks and procedures including:

- Guidelines for preparing State, Regional and Municipal Emergency Management Plans
- Guidance to Regional and Municipal Fire Management Planning Committees
- Victorian Preparedness Framework
- Community Resilience Framework for Emergency Management
- Australian Disaster Resilience Handbook Collection Emergency Management Planning
- Assurance Framework for Emergency Management
- National Emergency Risk Management Guidelines
- Community Emergency Risk Assessment (CERA)
- Victoria Fire Risk Register – Bushfire (VFRR-B)

Risk assessment

The Committee and any working groups of this Committee will undertake a continual process to identify and address fire risks within the municipality using data and evidence around emerging risks, discussions and reviews. This will inform further actions by the Committee and its members.

Environmental scan

The environmental scan explored factors impacting fire management in its current and future states:

1. People, society and culture
2. Built and essential infrastructure
3. Environment
4. Economy and political arrangements

Further details are on [page 14](#) of this plan.

Monitoring, evaluation, and review process

This Plan will be reviewed every three years to ensure it is current, integrated, coordinated and comprehensive.

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

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

Additionally, the Committee supports the State's commitment to a culture of continuous improvement. This approach is outlined in the Emergency Management Victoria 2015 [EM-LEARN](#) Framework and is acquitted through:

- Sharing lessons, including positive actions to sustain and identify areas of improvement
- Encouraging learning from good contemporary practice
- Recognising that implementing sustainable solutions takes time, resources and opportunity

Lessons management involves the identification and learning of lessons captured through assurance and learning activities (including debriefing, monitoring and reviews) occurring before, during and after emergencies.

Appendices

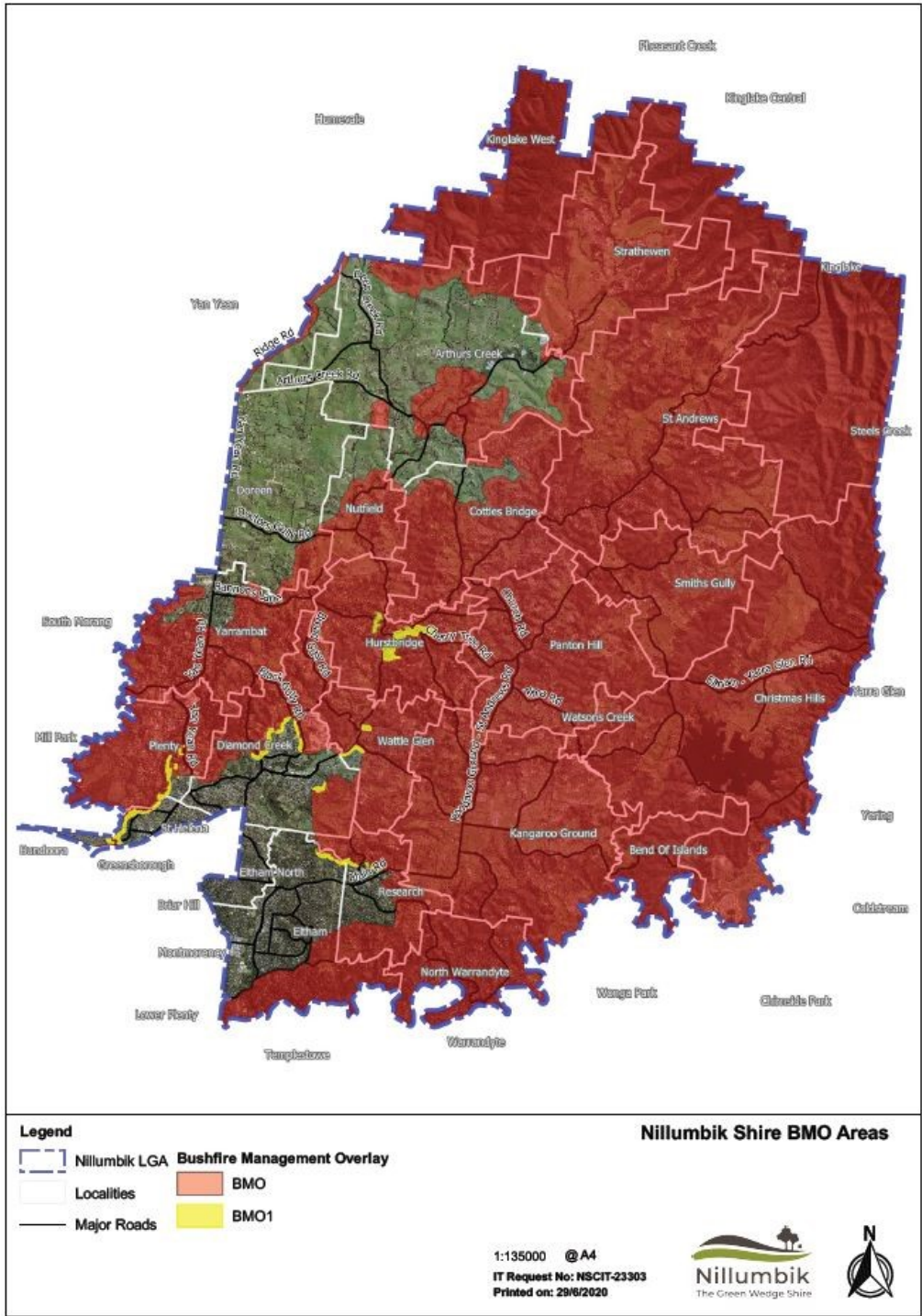
Appendix 1 - Support Material

Support material	Author
Emergency Management Act 2013	Issued by the Victorian Government
Guidelines for Preparing State, Regional and Municipal Emergency Management Plans	Issued by the Minister for Emergency Services
Lessons management framework (EM- LEARN)	Emergency Management Victoria
Guidance to Regional and Municipal Fire Management Planning Committees	Emergency Management Victoria
Victorian Preparedness Framework	Emergency Management Victoria
Community Resilience Framework for Emergency Management	Emergency Management Victoria
Assurance Framework for Emergency Management	Inspector General for Emergency Management
National Emergency Risk Management Guidelines	Australian Institute for Disaster Resilience
Community Emergency Risk Assessment (CERA)	Victoria State Emergency Service
North West Metro Regional Emergency Management Plan	Emergency Management Victoria
North West Metro Region Environmental Scan	Emergency Management Victoria
Emergency Risks in Victoria	Emergency Management Victoria
Nillumbik Shire Annual Report	Nillumbik Shire Council
Major Incidents Report	Australian Institute of Disaster Resilience

Appendix 2 – Plan Amendment History

Version	Date	Description of Change
Nillumbik MFMP v0.1	May 2023	New state template and re-write
Nillumbik MFMP v0.2	August 9 2023	Endorsed by MFMPC
Nillumbik MFMP v0.3	August 30	Endorsed by MEMPC

Appendix 3 – Bushfire Management Overlay



Appendix 4 - Nillumbik Municipal Fire Management Action Plan

This three-year Action Plan outlines the strategic priority, high-level objectives and actions agreed by the Municipal Fire Management Planning Committee (“Committee”). The Action Plan appoints responsibility for actions to increase safety, promote best practice, fulfil legislative requirements, and balance these factors with environmental assets and values, and most of all, protect life and property.

An Implementation Plan to support the Action Plan has been developed and will be reported annually through the Committee.

Theme 1: Fire Risks <i>Strengthen our focus on fire risk and consequence of fire to ensure that hazards are reduced to the greatest reasonable extend for the greatest number of people.</i>			
No.	Actions	When	Who
1.1	Increase understanding of fire risk by leveraging existing tools.	Ongoing	All
1.2	Review shelter in place needs, options and education for the Nillumbik community	Annually	Council
1.3	Improve cross-boundary relationships including risk awareness, resource sharing and actions.	Ongoing	All
1.4	Agencies, Council and community organisations collaborate to explore opportunities to reduce fire risk for communities.	Ongoing	All
Theme 2 - Knowledge Sharing <i>Share knowledge and resources across the Committee membership that supports integration and effective fire management outcomes</i>			
No.	Actions	When	Who
2.1	Establish mechanisms that support sharing of knowledge and resources that lead to collaborative integrated fire management planning outcomes.	Ongoing	All
2.2	Actively share agency risk, response and management data across the membership to improve individual and collective investment and direction.	Ongoing	All
2.3	Ensure that incidents of arson and opportunities to add value to existing arson prevention programs.	Ongoing	Victoria Police Fire agencies

Theme 3 - Shared Capability Strengthen and enhance our shared capability for community-centric fire management outcomes			
No.	Actions	When	Who
3.1	Provide support to fire agencies to plan and deliver coordinated multi agency community engagement and enhance community led initiatives in building community resilience.	Ongoing	All
3.2	Investigate opportunities to incorporate the application of indigenous fire management practices within Nillumbik to improve outcomes for community and the environment.	Ongoing	Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action Council
3.3	Seek out and share across agencies and with community best practices examples of fire risk reduction and innovation in the sector to enhance learning.	Ongoing	All
Theme 4 - Good Governance Ensure effective oversight, direction and membership of the Committee to achieve its purpose, goals and actions			
No.	Actions	When	Who
4.1	Review and strengthen the membership of the Committee considering risk profile and shared responsibilities.	Ongoing	Chair MF MPC
4.2	Actively advocate to State and agencies to support effective functioning of municipal and regional emergency/fire management planning.	As required	Chair MF MPC
4.3	Maintain strong working relationships with the North West Metro Regional Strategic Fire Management Planning Committee to support effective fire management planning.	As required	Chair MF MPC
4.4	Maintain working groups that have appropriate representation and ability to actively plan and lead projects that reduce fire risk.	As required	Chair MF MPC

The Nillumbik Municipal Fire Management Planning Committee wishes to acknowledge and thank those that assisted in the development of this Plan, throughout the consultation process and those who supplied agency specific information for this publication.

**Nillumbik Municipal Fire Management
Planning Committee**