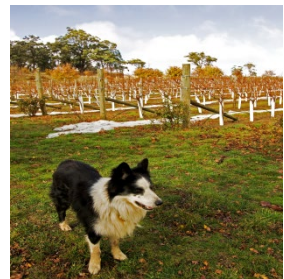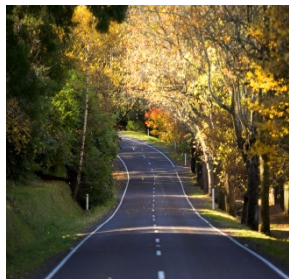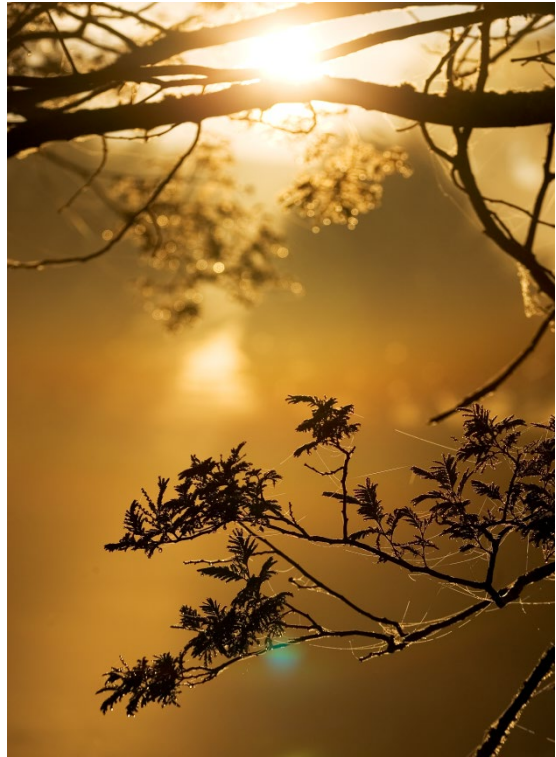# Municipal Fire Management Plan
2020-2023

Authorisation

This plan was endorsed by the Municipal Fire Management Planning Committee on the 2 September, 2020.

Signed ………………………   Date ………………..

Name of Chair

Chair
Municipal Fire Management Planning Committee

This plan was endorsed by the Municipal Emergency Management Planning Committee on the 28 September, 2020.

Signed ………………………   Date ………………..

Name of Chair
Municipal Emergency Management Planning Committee

This plan was adopted by Council on ……………………..

Signed ………………………   Date ………………..

Chief Executive Officer
Macedon Ranges Shire Council

Foreword

The Macedon Ranges Municipal Fire Management Planning Committee (MFMPC) is responsible for providing a strategic and integrated approach to fire management within the shire.

Council has an obligation under the *Country Fire Authority (CFA) Act 1958* to develop a Municipal Fire Management Plan (MFMP). The MFMPC provides advice and recommendations to Council, through the Municipal Emergency Management Planning Committee in the preparation of the MFMP.

This plan, describes how authorities, local government, fire agencies and other relevant organisations can work together to effectively anticipate, respond to and recover from fire events affecting Macedon Ranges Shire

The municipal fire management planning process is currently under review by EMV. It is anticipated the review will include substantial changes to the MFMP reporting requirements which will result in another review taking place.

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1. Introduction

The Macedon Ranges Shire is located northwest of Melbourne along the Calder Highway, midway between Melbourne and Bendigo. Fires in the shire have been the cause of significant loss of life and damage to property in the past.

Fire management planning in the Macedon Ranges is undertaken to ensure adequate management of all aspects of fires, from prevention through to response and recovery. It involves the collaboration of agencies and organisations to ensure that communities are well prepared and understand the risk.

The Municipal Fire Management Plan was developed by the Municipal Fire Management Planning Committee (MFMPC) to reduce the incidence and consequences of fire across the landscape. The Plan takes an all hazards approach to fire. While there is a focus on bush/grassfire due to the Macedon Ranges location and history of fire events, the plan also outlines strategies and programs to reduce the likelihood and consequence of structure fires - residential, commercial and industrial based.

The municipal fire management planning process is currently under review by Emergency Management Victoria. In lieu of these new guidelines not being available, and the need for the plan to reflect the current risk within the municipality, a full review was undertaken by members of the MFMPC.

Aims and Objectives

2. Municipal Fire Management Aims and Objectives

2.1 Municipal Strategic Statement

Planning scheme reform in Victoria in 2018 clearly elevated the protection of human life above all other considerations in planning decision making.

Victorian Planning Provisions that apply to all Councils include state policy clause **13.02-1S Bushfire Planning**

http://planningschemes.dpcd.vic.gov.au/schemes/vpps/13_02-1S.pdf.

The objective of this clause is to strengthen the resilience of settlements and communities to bushfire through risk-based planning that prioritises the protection of human life.

This policy must be applied to all planning and decision making under the Planning and Environment Act 1987 relating to land that is:

- Within a designated bushfire prone area;
- Subject to a Bushfire Management Overlay; or
- Proposed to be used or developed in a way that may create a bushfire hazard.

Additionally, Council's Municipal Strategic Statement (MSS) sets out the key strategic planning, land use and development objectives, and guides where and how the Shire will develop over time. The MSS captures significant planning directions including consideration of bushfire risk and bushfire policy in all planning decisions.

2.2 Strategic Direction

The Municipal Fire Management Plan is aligned with the state level priorities of reducing the number and the severity of bushfires and structure fires and creating a more fire educated and resilient community.

In developing this plan the MFMPC has considered the State and regional priorities, which are:

- Protection and preservation of life, including community warnings

- Educated and informed communities

- Protection of critical infrastructure and community assets that support community resilience

- Protection of residential property as a place of primary residence

- Protection of assets supporting individual livelihoods and economic production that supports individual and community financial sustainability
- Protection of environmental and conservation values that consider the cultural, biodiversity and social values of the environment

2.3 Municipal Direction

All organisations that form the Macedon Ranges MFMPC have committed to developing an integrated approach to fire management within the shire to ensure the best possible protection and outcome for the communities that form the Shire.

In addition, the Macedon Ranges plan also seeks to achieve the following locally-identified aims and objectives

- All those who may be impacted by fire in the Macedon Ranges have the knowledge and confidence to make informed decisions about their fire risk and safety.

- All those who live, work and play in the shire work together to reduce the consequences of fire by understanding and addressing the fire risks in their local environment.

- Collaborative, integrated and effective bushfire and structural fire management occurs in partnership across all key agencies

- Increasing understanding of the realistic fire risks of the shire and better decision making across the whole community by making relevant data and tools available.

- To build the capability of individuals, communities, businesses and the environment to prepare, respond and recover from bushfires and structure fires

- Timely and relevant communication with agencies, organisations and communities to support effective fire preparation, response and recovery by all.

- Further strengthen the proactive partnerships between all key agencies who can support fire planning, response and recovery in the shire.

- Identify and implement actions to improve bushfire and structure fire outcomes for the Macedon Ranges community.

- Use fire effectively for ecological purposes, when and where appropriate

The underlying principle, which drives all fire management objectives at all levels, is protection and preservation of life, property and environment. The fire management planning framework is intended to enhance existing approaches to fire management planning, and includes the following important elements:

- Integration of plans and planning processes
- Consistency at state, regional, municipal and local levels
- Coordination of stakeholders and planning processes
- High levels of community and stakeholder engagement
- Performance management
- Monitoring and continuous improvement
- Supportive planning structure and environment
- Consistent identification and assessment of risk

The municipal fire management planning context is action focused and encompasses:

- The risks and vulnerabilities identified and prioritised across the municipal footprint
- Reduction of the likelihood and consequence of fire hazards within local communities in the municipality
- Management of local priorities relating to protection of communities and assets
- Development and implementation of works programs for the management of fires, including hazard removal and fuel management
- Community engagement activities
- Identification of reliable water supplies
- Encouragement of shared responsibility by the community
- Consideration of planning across municipal boundaries
- Elevation of matters to the RSFMPC, when necessary

2.4 Related Plans

The MFMP is intended to complement other existing plans and has links to the following:

- Municipal Emergency Management Plan
- Draft Loddon Mallee Strategic Fuel Management Plan Municipal Emergency Recovery Plan

- Community Information Guides (formerly Township Protection Plans) (Riddells Creek)

- Community Information Guides (Macedon)

- Community Information Guides (Mt Macedon)

- Community Information Guides (Woodend)

- Community Emergency Risk Management Plan

- Victorian Fire Risk Register (VFRR) (see mapping)

- Municipal Neighbourhood Safer Places Plan

In addition to using many different types of data and risk assessment tools to build a risk profile for the Macedon Ranges Shire, the plan has also been informed by a number of plans and strategic documents from other agencies that are listed below:

- The State Fire Management Strategy (2009)

- The Loddon Mallee Regional Strategic Fire Management Plan

- DELWP Grampians District Fire Operational Plans

- Township Protection Plans for Macedon Ranges Shire

- Regional Roads Victoria – Roadside Fire Management

- Powercor Mitigation Strategy

- CFA Operational Plans

2.5 Municipal Emergency Management Plan (MEMP)

As required by the *Emergency Management Act 1986 & Emergency Management Act 2013* Macedon Ranges Shire Council maintains a Municipal Emergency Management Plan. The MEMP addresses the prevention of, response to, and recovery from emergencies.

This plan was developed in partnership with local emergency services and other related organisations and is part of Council's commitment to enhancing community resilience in times of emergency.

This plan includes the Emergency Recovery Plan that provides arrangements to assist in the recovery from emergencies including fire events.

Further information on this plan can be obtained by contacting Macedon Ranges Shire Council's Manager Community Safety. Refer to: Municipal Emergency Management Plan and Municipal Emergency Recovery Plan on the Macedon Ranges Website www.mrsc.vic.gov.au

3. Municipal Fire Management Planning Committee

The Municipal Fire Management Planning Committee is a sub-committee of the Municipal Emergency Management Planning Committee. The purpose of the committee is to provide a municipal level forum to build and sustain organisational partnerships, generate a common understanding and shared purpose with regards to fire management and to ensure that the plans of individual agencies are linked and complement each other.

The MFMPC has a membership consisting of representatives from key stakeholder organisations in relation to fire management within the shire. Current representatives of the MFMPC are:

- Macedon Ranges Shire Council

- Country Fire Authority (CFA)

- Department of Environment, Land, Water & Planning (DELWP)

- Parks Victoria

- Victoria Police

- Regional Roads Victoria

- Water Authorities

Other agencies may be invited to attend meetings as required.

3.1 Role of the Committee

The role of the MFMPC is to plan for fire management in a manner that coordinates fire management activities and acts as a conduit to the community. It also has a responsibility to:

- Monitor, review and report on the delivery of the Municipal Fire Management Plan

- Advocate to the Regional Strategic Fire Management Planning Committee for municipal fire management needs.

- Work with the Municipal Emergency Management Planning Committee to align planning activities

- Share knowledge and create an environment of continuous improvement

The committee reports 3 times annually to the Municipal Emergency Management Planning Committee and quarterly to the Regional Strategic Fire Management Planning Committee.

The Committee meets at least once every quarter unless otherwise required. Administrative support is currently supplied by Macedon Ranges Shire Council with the view to share this arrangement with other agencies in the future

3.2 Authority

The MFMPC is responsible for providing a strategic and integrated approach to fire management within the shire that undertakes planning in line with the *Emergency Management Act 1986, the Emergency Management Act 2013 and in accordance with the Country Fire Authority Act 1958.*

Fire in the Macedon Ranges

4. Fire in the Macedon Ranges Shire

4.1 History of bushfires in the Macedon Ranges

In order to develop appropriate strategies for fire management in the Macedon Ranges Shire, it is important to understand the risk of fire events, not only within the shire but adjoining shires that can impact on Macedon Ranges Shire. Large fires within the Shire are often associated with extended periods of drought.

Macedon Ranges Shire has a history of wildfires. On February 1 1983 a wildfire in Mt. Macedon destroyed 50 houses and over 6,000 hectares of vegetation. Two weeks later on 'Ash Wednesday' another wildfire impacted on the towns of Macedon and Mt. Macedon, destroying both townships. Since Ash Wednesday, a number of wildfires have occurred in the shire, but have not had the same devastating effect as Ash Wednesday.

In 2009, the February Black Saturday bushfires impacted the Redesdale area where properties were lost. More recent fires - February 2014 (Gisborne South and Mickleham), October 2015 (Lancefield-Cobaw), and January 2016 (Edgecombe) - have resulted in the loss of nine homes along with significant numbers of stock, outbuildings, fencing and other property.

Macedon Ranges has below average rankings for grass and forest fire likelihood. This reflects the shortest fire season in the Region and the relatively low number of days with Fire Danger Index's greater than 25. It is however the primary assumption that on those days, bushfires become difficult to control and damage to property and injury may occur.

Tourism in the Macedon Ranges Shire is predicted to grow and currently sees large numbers of day trippers throughout the area. Sites such as Hanging Rock and Mt Macedon Regional Park will need to consider how best to manage fire risk.

The shire also has a number of native forested areas and reserves, which includes Cobaw State Forest, Wombat State Forest, Lauriston State Forest, Mt Charlie Flora and Fauna Reserve, Macedon Regional Park, Pyrete State Park and Pine Plantations. Urban townships within the shire also abut forested areas, particularly in the southern part of the Shire. A significant area of forest is also situated on private land throughout the shire.

Macedon Ranges Shire has four key bushfire landscapes. Each landscape has unique characteristics which when combined with weather conditions of the day will determine how fire behaves. (Refer to table 5 below).

4.2: Bushfire landscape of Macedon Ranges Shire

Landscape	Fuel hazard level	Topography	Primary driver	Spotting/ember potential
Grass, crop and stubble	Moderate to extreme	flat	Wind/fuel/plume	Low / Moderate
Open Woodlands	High to extreme	Undulating	Fuel/topography	High
Tall (sclerophyll) Forest	High to extreme	Undulating	Fuel/top/plume	High
Urban	Low to high	Flat to undulating	Wind/fuel	Low

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4.3 Map of Public Land and Forested Areas
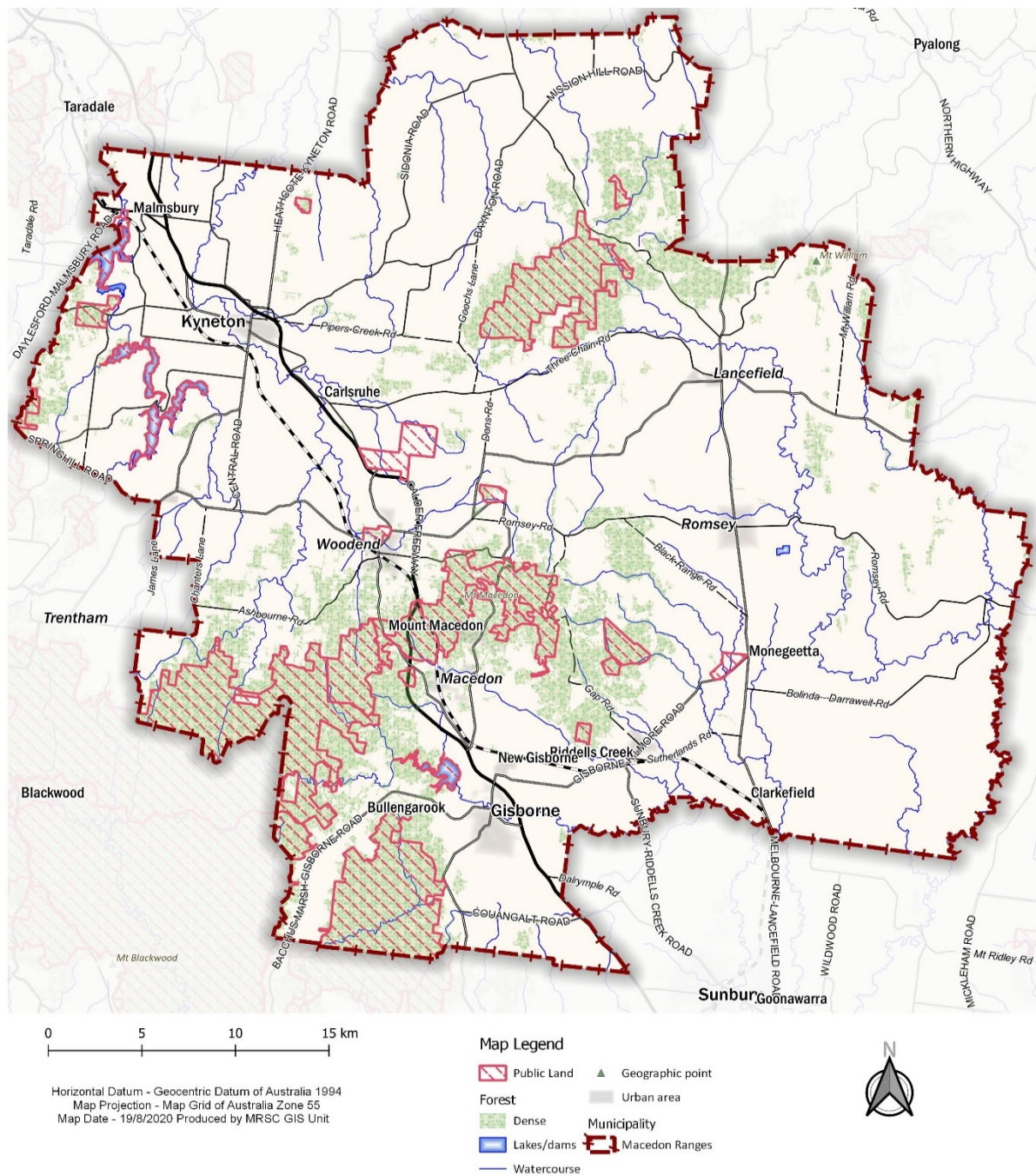
4.4 Structure Fires in the Macedon Ranges Shire

Whilst bushfires and grassfires is the focus of municipal fire management planning, in reality more people die from structure fires annually. Accordingly the plan aims to examine the various fire risk associated with residential, commercial and industrial buildings throughout the municipality. The recently developed VFRR-S will be used to identify high risk categories within these occupants and articulate certain treatment programs to be undertaken to reduce the risk. This process of identifying the risk of structure fires in the Macedon Ranges will be undertaken over the next 12 months.

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Fire History 1939 - 2019 Areas Last Burnt

Macedon Ranges
Shire Council
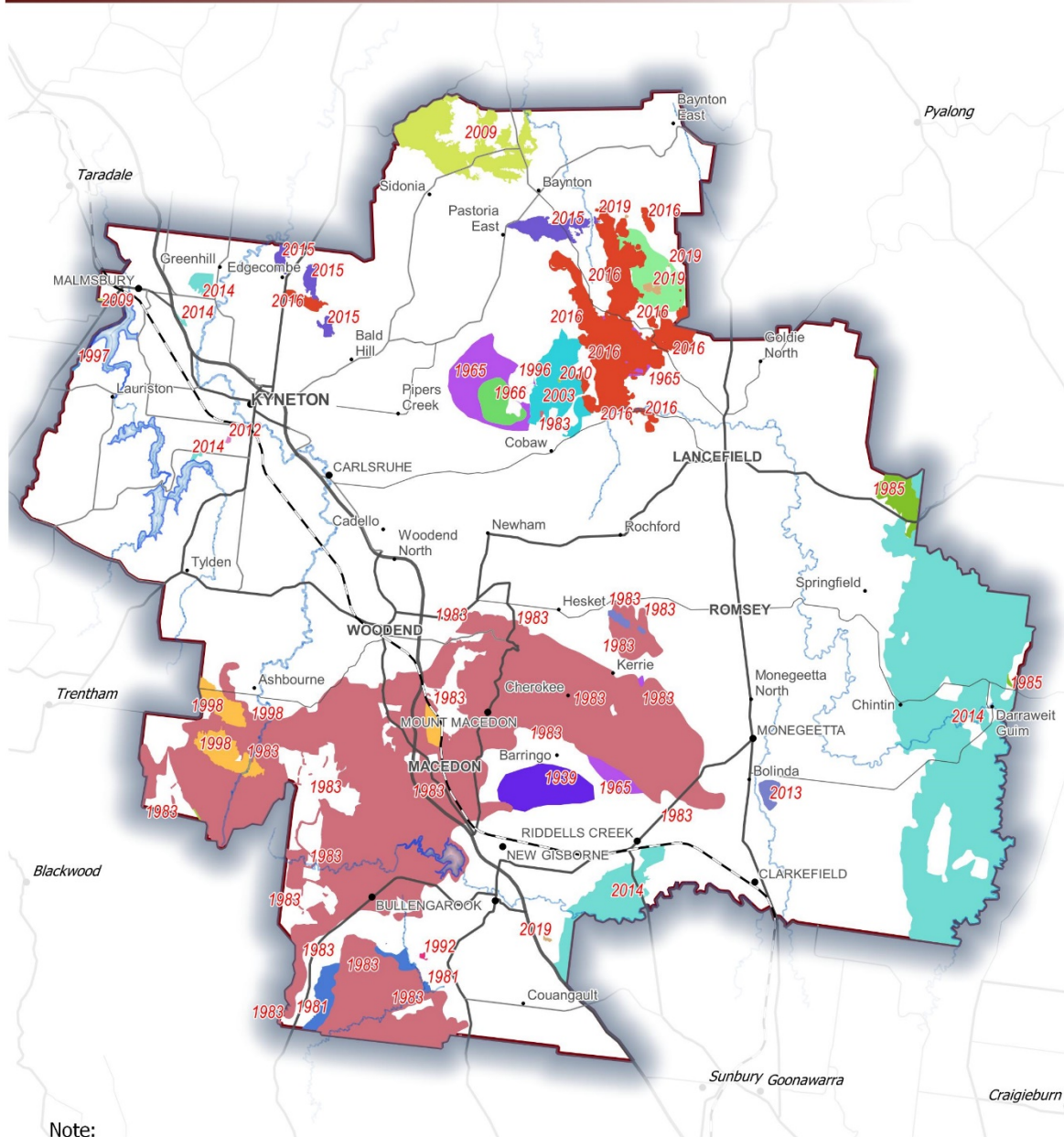
Note:
Burn areas are overlaid with the most recent areas on top.
'Season' refers to the last year of the summer fire season.
Areas > 5000 sqm are labelled only due to scale restrictions.
Map created 4/03/2020 by MRSC GIS Services.

Season						
	1967	1986	1993	1999	2007	2013	2019
1939	1981	1987	1994	2000	2008	2014
1961	1982	1988	1995	2003	2009	2015
1964	1983	1990	1996	2004	2010	2016
1965	1984	1991	1997	2005	2011	2017
1966	1985	1992	1998	2006	2012	2018

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4.6 Future Fire Management Implications for Macedon Ranges Shire

Macedon Ranges Shire will have an increase in structure fires owing to the increase in housing and population, particularly in the central and southern part of the shire (Kyneton, Gisborne, Riddells Creek and Woodend). The interface with residential and rural areas will increase the vulnerability of communities particularly those interfacing with the forested areas. The Melbourne-Bendigo rail line will have an increase in commuters. It runs through forested areas and may be impacted by fires. The Calder Freeway will increase in both private and commercial transport, with a projected increase in hazardous fuels and materials.

The Loddon Mallee South Regional Growth Plan 2004 is the strategic document guiding the development of region for 30 years. It indicated that the region has outpaced the rest of regional Victoria for economic growth. It identifies significant growth for Gisborne and Kyneton as well as other smaller townships such as Woodend and Riddells Creek. Nevertheless, the study identifies limitations due to bushfire and flooding risks which both need to be addressed in land-use planning as well as the fire risks identified in this plan

Many people moving into the region are likely to have had more limited exposure to fire experiences than the current populations and are likely to require specific programs to inform and protect them as well as programs to assist them to help themselves. Additional visitor numbers are also likely to generate a need for targeted programs from time to time. Focused assistance may be needed to address fires approaching dwellings and starting within them (kitchens, living areas and laundries) as well as fires impacting on specific categories of people such as those with disabilities. These and other issues will become apparent as the area develops and which will need to be accommodated in this plan as it is updated from time to time.

In the near future, revised strategies currently under preparation will be adopted to address fuel management of bushfire fuels in the region. These will need recognition in this plan as they are adopted and implemented.

Future changes can also be anticipated in the nature of the services and activities which the community will be involved: industry, commerce, recreation and tourism are typical examples likely to generate specific needs for fire-protection measures which could impact on and involve the participants as well as the associated organisations, businesses and communities.

Owing to the predicted climate change, on average the fire danger period (bushfires seasons) will become longer. The Melbourne synopsis for Macedon Ranges will extend the fire season by up to 6 weeks with the season extending from mid-March to late April by 2050. Other effects are predicted as follows:

- The Melbourne (Macedon Ranges) average annual accumulated FFDI could increase by 8-22% by 2050.

- The number of FFDI days of very high or extreme, when fires are difficult to control will increase across all locations.

- The number of GFDI days of very high or extreme, when fires are difficult to control will increase across all locations.

- The earlier starts of fire seasons may reflect the change in spring rains. Spring rain provides much of the run off for static water supply from dams and water points. The use of piped and transported water will be more common.

- The region is susceptible to severe and extended drought events which reduce fuel levels in grass and forests and readily available water supply.

- In drought periods heavier forest fuel locations will become more available and more susceptible to plume driven bushfire events.

- Agriculture industry becomes highly susceptible to adverse fire events.

- Rural based volunteers will be heavily impacted economically and socially.

In broad summary, the fire environment is changing as well as the nature of the community itself, its facilities and its activities. The plan will need to adapt to this which goes well beyond the more limited fire issues addressed in this plan. It will need to be both reactive and proactive. This is the challenge ahead.

Fire Management Risk Strategies

5. Fire Management Risk Strategies

5.1 Identifying the Level of Risk

The Macedon Ranges MFMPC uses the Victorian Fire Risk Register – Bushfire (VFRR-B) assessment process to identify, analyse and evaluate bushfire risk in the municipality. The VFRR-B assessment process is facilitated by the CFA with members of the MFMPC providing the local information to undertake the assessment. The aim of the VFRR-B is "to collect, assess and validate risk data and local knowledge in a consistent way to support and inform bushfire planning and priorities" (CFA, 2017)

In order to identify the level of bushfire risk, the participants involved in the process firstly considered important community assets at risk from bushfire. The likelihood and consequences ratings are assessed, taking into consideration the aligning questions that make up the International Standard ISO ASNZS 31000:2009. The assessments are modified depending on the asset class. (Human Settlement, Economic, Environmental, Cultural)

5.2 Risk Identification Process – VFRR

VFRR-B requires assets within the municipality to be identified. Assets are categorised into four asset classes – Human Settlement, Economic, Environmental and Cultural Heritage – and then into subclasses (see table below).

Potential Consequence	Death, injury or community impacts	Financial loss	Ecosystem damage or loss	Cultural impacts
Asset class	Human settlement	Economic	Environmental	Cultural heritage

Potential Consequence	Death, injury or community impacts	Financial loss	Ecosystem damage or loss	Cultural impacts
Asset subclass	Residential Other	Agriculture Commercial Infrastructure, Tourist & Recreational Mines Commercial Forests Drinking water Catchments	Locally important Endangered Vulnerable	Non indigenous Other

5.3 Evaluating the Bushfire Risk

Once the risk ratings were identified, they were evaluated in order to:

- Confirm that the risk levels assigned in the risk analysis process are appropriate and reflect the relative seriousness of the Bushfire risk;
- Identify which assets require treatments; and
- Identify treatment priorities.

5.4 Evaluating Structure Fire Risk

CFA Risk Intelligence has commenced investigating the development of a structural fire risk assessment tool. The aim is to develop a targeted risk assessment based on research, data and local knowledge. The plan is to deliver VFRR-S in two parts; residential and non-residential. Assessing and identifying the risk associated with structure fires in the Macedon Ranges Shire will be undertaken over the next 12 months.

5.5 Fire Risk Framework

In developing this plan the MFMPC has considered the State and regional priorities, which are:

- Protection and preservation of life, including community warnings

- Educated and informed communities

- Protection of critical infrastructure and community assets that support community resilience

- Protection of residential property as a place of primary residence

- Protection of assets supporting individual livelihoods and economic production that supports individual and community financial sustainability

- Protection of environmental and conservation values that consider the cultural, biodiversity and social values of the environment

It is the primary assumption that on days when forest or grassland fire danger rating is very high (FDI>25 or greater) that bushfires become difficult to control and damage to property and injury may occur.

When considering risk in the natural hazard environment it is appropriate to use the:

Hazard* Exposure* Vulnerability Pyramid below
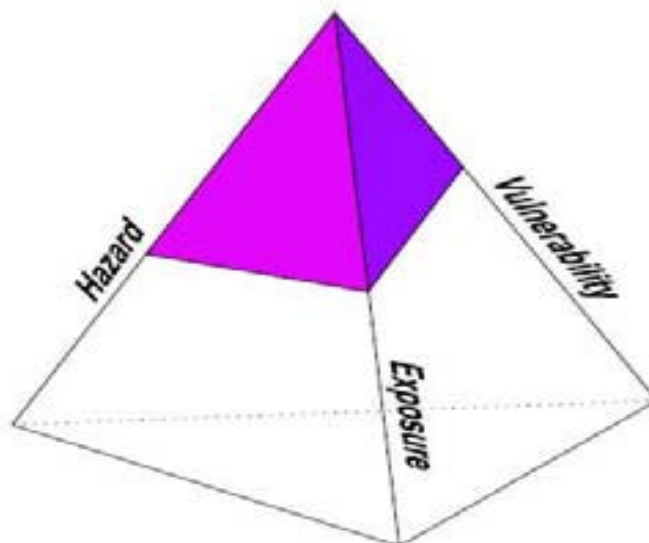
5.6 Risk Management

Risk management is a significant element of the Municipal Fire Management Plan. Assessing emergency risks includes prevention and preparedness issues as well as provision for response and recovery should an emergency occur.

The term 'risk management' encompasses a process to identify and address the risks that a community might face in the event of a fire. There is a systematic method for identifying, analysing, evaluating and treating emergency risks that follows the following steps:

- Establish the context

  i.e. Fire

- State Priorities

- Better decision making

- Actions to reduce risk

- Sharing responsibilities

- Evaluate the Risks

- Treat the Risk

Part of the risk management is that each step is subject to consultation, monitoring and review. The diagram below outlines the risk management process.
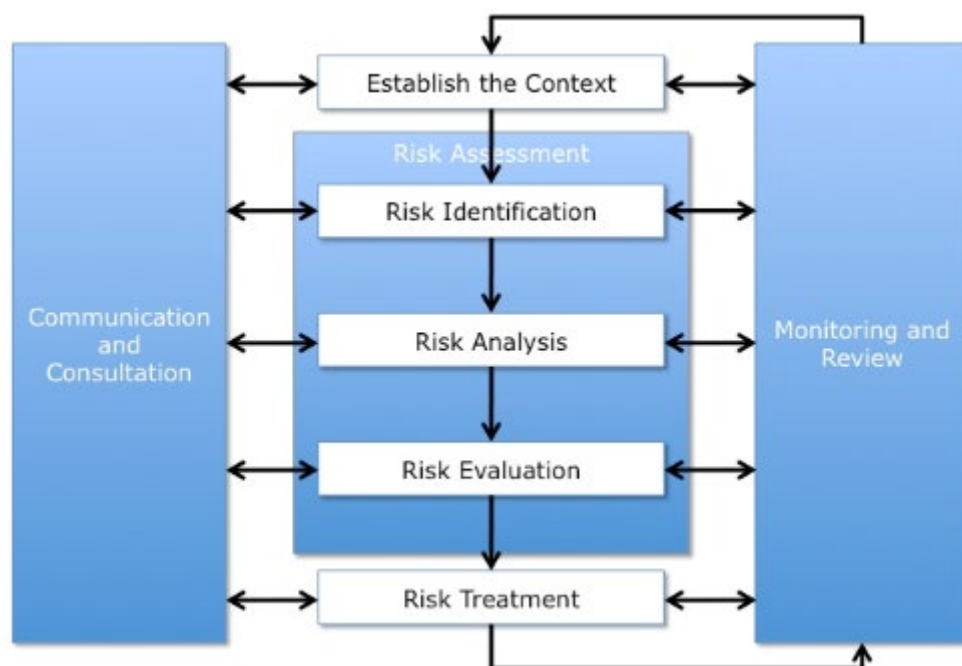
Following the state priorities the municipal fire management plan aims to reduce the number and the severity of bushfires and structure fires within the municipality and create a more fire educated and resilient community.

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The State and regional priorities are underpinned by the primacy of life, protection of property, economy and environment. These priorities inform and are integrated into the primary fire risk management strategies used in this plan, which are:

- Better decision making – Sharing our collective expertise, data and local knowledge to improve the way we prepare, respond and recover from bushfire and structure fires.

- Actions to reduce Risk – Minimising the potential impact of fire on the shire's people, environment, business, and special places by putting in place a range of safeguards and building our capacity to prepare and respond.

- Sharing responsibilities: - Increasing community confidence and resilience in preparing, responding and recovering from fire through shared responsibility and partnerships between individuals, communities, agencies and government to create safer communities.

5.7 Risk Assessment Method

In order to determine which fire risks are relevant or severe enough to require treatment the Australian/New Zealand Standard for Risk Management AS/NZ4360 was used to produce a Municipal risk profile. It is considered that elements within each of the risk environments require treatment options where the risks are determined to be within the range of High to Extreme.

The risk classification can be considered High where the likelihood and consequence of a wildfire or structure fire incident event occurring falls within the range of the parameters as discussed below.

5.8 Community Emergency Risk Assessment (CERA)

Municipalities must undertake risk assessments to ensure that planning reflects the local risk environment. The process used for this purpose is the Community Emergency Risk Assessment (CERA) which combines hazard information and intelligence from a number of sources in order to gain a clear understanding of the elements that define "risk" within a specific areas.

Qualitative Risk Analysis Matrix – Level of Risk:

LIKELIHOOD	CONSEQUENCE			
	1 MINOR	2 MODERATE	3 MAJOR	4 CATASTROPHIC
5 ALMOST CERTAIN	MODERATE	HIGH	HIGH	EXTREME
4 LIKELY	MODERATE	HIGH	HIGH	EXTREME
3 POSSIBLE	LOW	MODERATE	HIGH	HIGH
2 UNLIKELY	LOW	MODERATE	MODERATE	HIGH
1 RARE	LOW	LOW	MODERATE	MODERATE

In order to identify risks within the various locations throughout the Municipality, local knowledge was also utilised to ensure a comprehensive list of risks and vulnerability was compiled.

5.9 Assessing the Bushfire Risk – Likelihood

A part of the assessment process is determining the likelihood of a bushfire occurring. This is done through considering ignition history data, potential fire path, spotting and ember attack and local knowledge. The Victorian Fire Risk Register identifies the bushfire risks throughout the shire and was compiled by the Municipal Fire Management Planning Committee with assistance from CFA risk assessment personnel.

5.10 Assets

Participants identified assets within the municipal area that they believed were at risk from Bushfire.

The assets were divided into four asset types:

5.11 Human Settlement

Residential areas include urban areas as well as urban/bushland interfaces that   fit the criteria

- Special Fire Protection areas include highly vulnerable assets such as schools, hospitals, nursing homes, kindergartens and drinking water

- Other human settlement areas include populations that do not fit the residential criteria

- Waterways and large drinking water storage area provisions and sewerage plants

Asset assessments included vegetation type, slope and separation distance for the asset were recorded in a potential fire behaviour model to produce a threat rating.

The vulnerability of the asset to a Bushfire was then assessed using the criteria of access and egress, water supply, education levels, whether the properties are prepared, and construction standards. Combining this vulnerability with the determined threat rating produces a consequence rating for a Bushfire impacting the human settlement asset.

When assessing Special Fire Protection assets, they are considered inherently more vulnerable than other human settlement areas. This is due to the lower capabilities of the groups, or higher numbers of population with a potentially dangerous lack of awareness (e.g. the elderly, children or tourists). Therefore stricter criteria are followed when answering the vulnerability component.

5.12 Economic

- Agricultural areas including major silos, regional sale yards, cropping/grazing land, dairies, vineyards and wineries.

- Commercial/industrial areas including major industries, waste treatments plants and sawmills

- Infrastructure areas including large power lines, gas and oil pipelines, railway lines electricity substations and communication facilities

- Tourist and recreational areas including tourist sites and facilities, resorts, retreats and events

- Mines, Commercial forests including hardwood plantations, softwood plantations and commercial native forests Drinking water catchments

The level of economic impact is assessed on the level of impact the loss of this asset would have (Local, Regional or State), as well as the recovery costs (time and dollars to get the asset back to a functional capacity). These two factors produce the consequence rating for a Bushfire impacting on the identified asset.

5.13 Environmental

- Threatened species, populations and ecological communities that have the potential of having a Major or Catastrophic consequence

- Locally important species and ecological communities, such as those especially sensitive to fire, that have the potential of having a Major or Catastrophic consequence

Environmental asset consequence ratings are first determined by assessing the fire history, and the fire threshold. If environmental assets are within or above the fire threshold they are not assessed as the impact of Bushfire would have been low, if not a benefit to the asset.

Those environmental assets with a fire frequency below the fire threshold were assessed by its conservation status and its geographic extent.

5.14 Cultural

- Aboriginal significance including Aboriginal places and items of significance

- Non-indigenous heritage such as places arising from the early occupation of non-indigenous settlers

- Other cultural assets including community halls, clubs and recreational facilities

Cultural assets are assessed in a similar manner to human settlement assets- based on threatening vegetation type, slope and separation distance to produce an automatically calculated threat rating. However, the vulnerability component is based on the material of which the asset is made, and this materials resistance to fire. The combination of these factors gives the consequence rating.

Victorian Fire Risk Register (VFRR)

5.15 Human Settlement Assets

Victorian Fire Risk Register - Risk Ratings

- Extreme
- Very High
- High
- Medium
- Low
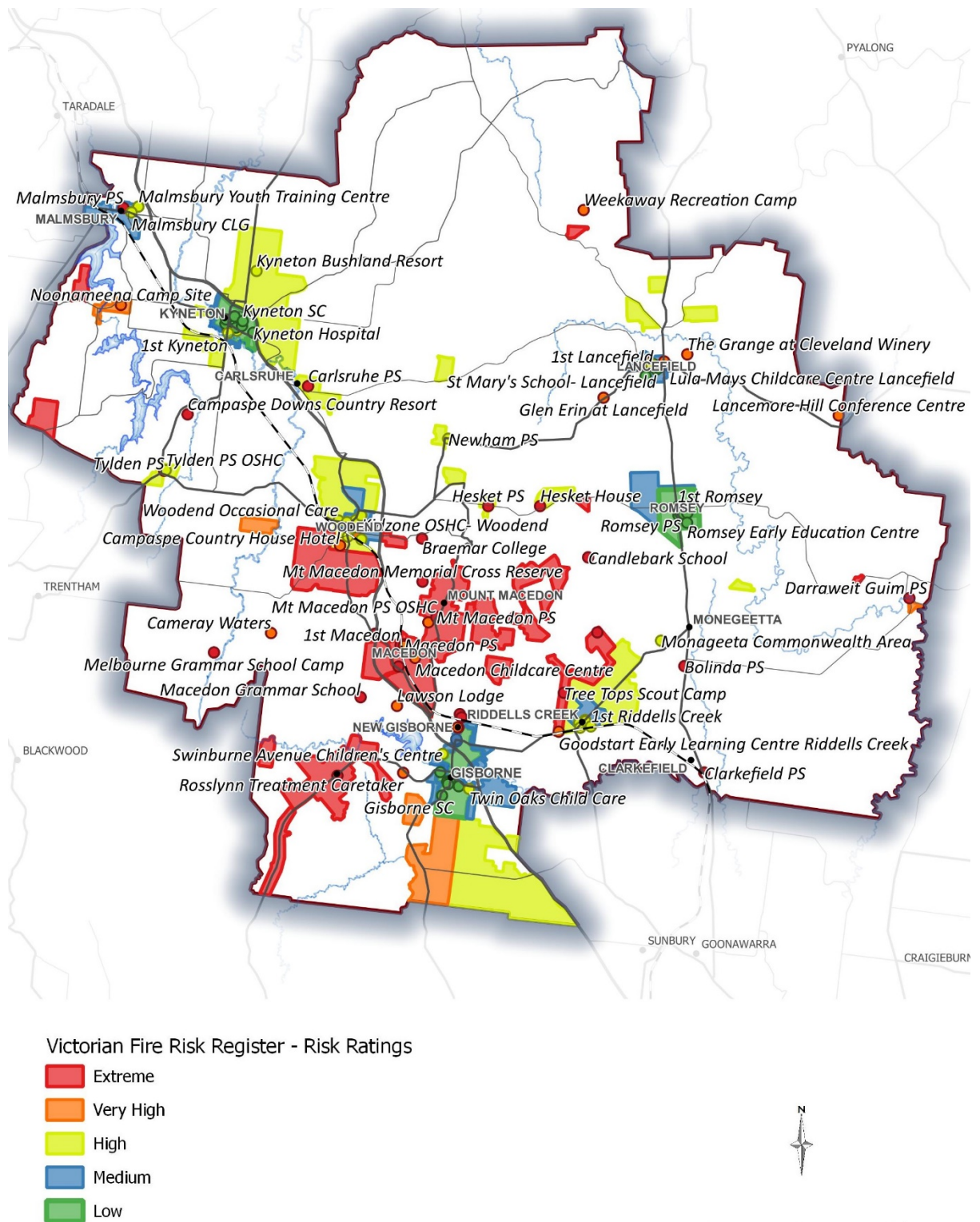
5.16 Economic Settlement

Map labels (locations/features):

- PYALONG
- TARADALE
- Malmsbury SPS 2
- Malmsbury Standpipe
- Kyneton SPS 9
- Kyneton Airfield
- Macedon Ranges Industrial Precincts
- Jeffry ST SPS
- Kyneton SPS 2
- KYNETON
- Kyneton WT
- Kyneton WPS 32
- Kyneton WPS 46
- Kyneton SPS 7
- Toobarak RD SPS
- LANCEFIELD
- Lancefield Res
- Lancefield WTP
- Garden Hut Res
- Kyneton WTP
- Kyneton WPS 29
- Ochiltrees WT
- Clancy's LN SPS
- Tylden Elevated WT
- Tylden SPS 1
- Woodend Zone Substation
- Romsey WTP
- Macedon Ranges Industrial Precincts
- ROMSEY
- Tylden SPS 2
- Woodend RWP
- Barbara ST SPS
- WOODEND
- Johnson CRT SPS
- Campaspe Res
- Res B and C
- Mc Donalds Res
- Kerrie Res
- Campaspe WPS
- Donalds RD WSP
- Orde Hill Res
- Kitty English Res
- MOUNT MACEDON
- Josh's Rainbow Eggs
- Nest of Valves WPS
- Pierce Res
- MONEGEETTA
- Bruce ST SPS
- MACEDON
- Turitable RD SPS
- Wright Res
- Railway PL SPS
- McBean AVE SPS
- Sandy Creek RD WPS
- Norton RD WPS
- RIDDELLS CREEK
- Sutherlands RD SPS
- NEW GISBORNE
- Rosslynne WPS
- Hamilton ST SPS
- Riddells Creek RWP
- BLACKWOOD
- CLARKEFIELD
- BULLENGAROOK
- Gisborne RWP RPS
- GISBORNE
- Rotary Park SPS
- Nicole CRT WPS
- South Gisborne WT
- TRENTHAM
- SUNBURY
- GOONAWARRA
- CRAIGIEBURN

Victorian Fire Risk Register - Risk Ratings

- Extreme
- Very High
- High
- Medium
- Low

0   5   10 km

5.17 Cultural Heritage Assets
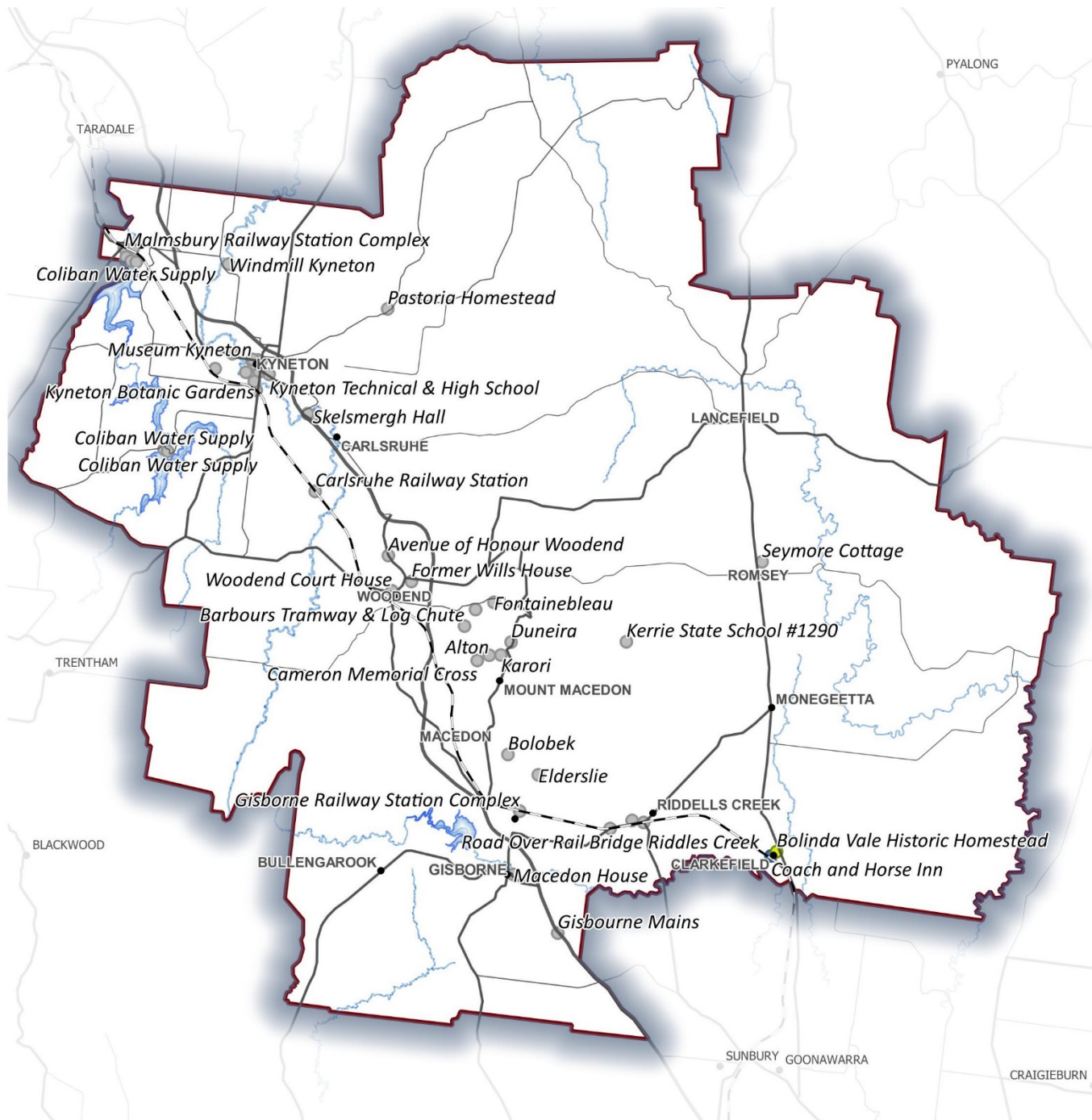
Victorian Fire Risk Register - Risk Ratings

- ● High
- ● Medium
- ● Uncategorised

0   5   10 km

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Treatments

6. Treatments

6.1 Prioritising Treatments

No organisation has limitless resources to deal with adverse risk. It is therefore necessary to define priorities. The determined Bushfire risk ratings were used to prioritise the risk treatments, e.g. areas of extreme risk were considered first for treatment, then very high risk, then high risk, then medium risk and then low risk.

6.2 Municipal Wide Treatments

Municipal wide treatments are activities which reduce the overall bushfire risk within the municipal area. These treatments are undertaken on an ongoing basis as part of normal business. The treatments are not linked to specific assets; rather they are applied across all or part of the area as designated by legislation or agency policy.

The treatments are also linked to the three strategic directions and objectives

- Better decision making

- Actions to reduce risk

- Sharing responsibility

6.3 Community Based Bushfire Management Planning

Under the Safer Together model, local communities will have an opportunity to be involved in a project that will enable them to be part of the decision making process around bushfire management. Each landscape and each community is different and this approach will mean communities will get more of a say on how to reduce and manage the risk of bushfire in their area.

The project has a strong focus on interpreting the science and the tools community members may use to see what actions they can take or activities they can get involved in – such as bushfire plans, preparing their properties, establishing community based bushfire management townships and Fire Learning Networks.

6.4 Fire Breaks

Throughout the Municipality there are a number of Strategic and Tactical Fire Breaks listed, primarily along roadsides.

Many of these have come about from previous Fire Prevention Plans prior to Council amalgamations. The Roadside Fire Breaks form a network of fuel reduced breaks throughout the landscape to meet the objectives of the CFA Roadside Management Guidelines which are:

- Prevent Roadside fire ignition(particularly on high traffic road corridors)
- Provide safe road corridors for the public and emergency service vehicles during a fire
- Provide a Control Line – a line where fire controllers can deliberately attempt to stop the spread of a fire
- Enable the Municipality to quickly return to normal following a fire event.

There is considerable debate across agencies as to the location, width and quality of roadside treatments on these fire breaks. Currently in the plan there is an agreed position on the required treatment of these roadsides which states that we will clear 3 meters minimum behind the traffic guide posts where practicable, to a maximum height of 100mm**.**

It is the intention of the MFMPC to undertake a science, risk based analysis of roadsides which will take into account the location, width and quality of treatments on roads identified as fire breaks. This information will then be analysed by the MFMPC and the necessary amendments will be made to this current version of the MFMP.

6.5 Asset Specific Treatments

There are six broad strategy groups available to treat the bushfire and structure risks on assets identified in the risk register. A state-wide bushfire 'Treatment List' is available and can be obtained through the VFRR.

Asset specific treatments used within Macedon Ranges are listed in the VFRR refer to Appendix A and A.1.

Table 2.1 Asset specific treatments used in the municipal area:

Strategy	Targeted treatments used in the Macedon Ranges area
Community Education (100 series)	Community Education/Engagement Community Fire Guard Fire Ready Victoria Public Awareness
Hazard Reduction (200 series)	Burn Program Crown Land Fuel Reduction Fuel Hazard Management Routine Asset Site Maintenance Fire Management Zones Powerline Clearance Roadside Vegetation Management
Ignition Management (300 series)	Operations Restrictions Patrol/ Inspection
Preparedness (400 series)	Fire Protection Plan Emergency Water Supply Emergency Management Plan (Site) Fire Access Roads and Tracks Traffic Diversion Plans Township Protection Plans Hazard Identification Bushfire and Emergency Self Assessment

Strategy	Targeted treatments used in the Macedon Ranges area
Property Planning (500 series)	Bushfire Management Overlay
Other (Treatment number 700) (Treatment number 800)	Asset Specific Treatments To be identified

In conjunction with the Municipal Fire Management Planning Committee and the Regional Fire Management Group a number of other tools have been utilised in the Fire Risk Management Process. Other tools will also be utilised over the next few months to ensure a comprehensive Bushfire and Structure Fire Risk Management Process that will link all the processes and show a detailed treatment program by all agencies that will enhance the VFRR tools.

6.6 Private Property Inspection

The Macedon Ranges Shire Council will conduct annual fire hazard inspections across the municipality, to identify potential and actual fire hazards on private land and direct removal of the hazard through service of a 'Fire Prevention Notice'. Inspections will occur prior to the fire danger period (usually commencing in late October) and continue through the fire danger period.

Fire prevention notices are issued to property owners to reduce fuel loads in order to protect themselves, neighbours, townships and infrastructure. These notices are issued under the Country Fire Authority Act 1958 and is one of a number of treatments used to assist in reducing the threat of fires in the Macedon Ranges environment.

6.7 Roadside Slashing – Map Appendix C.4

Fires start on roadsides due to hot vehicle exhausts, mechanical failures and collisions. Council slashes high use roads, bus routes and roads that provide an exit in an emergency, to reduce the chances of these incidents resulting in a fire. This schedule of works has been approved by the CFA and other partners from the Municipal Fire Management Planning Committee.

6.8 Township Hazard Reduction

Fuel hazard reduction works are carried out annually prior to the fire season on council owned land.

Planning

7. Planning

7.1 Planning with other Municipalities

Macedon Ranges Municipal Fire Management Planning Committee is working closely with surrounding shires through the Municipal Emergency Management Enhancement Group (MEMEG) which includes the following shires:

- Macedon Ranges Shire
- Mount Alexander Shire
- Hepburn Shire
- Moorabool Shire
- Mitchell Shire
- Melton City Council
- Hume City Council

History has shown that bushfires quickly cross shire boundaries, it is therefore paramount that adjoining shires work closely together to ensure hazard mitigation and response.

7.2 Cross Boundary Arrangements

The Macedon Ranges Shire MFMP seeks to ensure risk environments that cross municipal and regional boundaries are treated in a seamless manner with regard to risk assessment and treatments. In part, this is achieved through a collaborative approach and the use of consistent processes and tools.

The Macedon Ranges Shire municipal area has shared arrangements with neighbouring Shires including Hume, Hepburn, Melton, Mitchell, Mt Alexander, and Moorabool Shires. It is a shared responsibility of these MFMPC's to ensure that the risk across these borders are planned for in a consistent and seamless manner. This risk assessment and planning is undertaken through the Municipal Emergency Management Enhancement Group and existing organisational cross boundary agreements and Memorandums of Understanding (MOU) between agencies dealing with preparedness, preparation, response and recovery activities and resource allocation arrangements. Cross border training and exercising further enhances the cross border risk assessments and planning.

The RSFMPC will also ensure that shared municipal risks are addressed by agencies and planning committees ensuring a consistent and uniformed approach.

Current identified cross boundary and risk from bushfire for the Macedon Ranges Shire includes:

Risk	Adjacent Municipality	Strategy
Wombat State Forest/ Lerderderg State Park and adjacent private bushland	Hepburn/Moorabool	Ensure alignment of planning and prevention activities in relation to these risks are discussed and coordinated with relevant municipalities and arrangements are included in relevant MFMPs.
McHarg Ranges	Mitchell	
Pyretes (Public & Private) land	Moorabool/Melton	
Black Hills (Public & Private land)	Melton	

7.3 Multi Agency Work Plan – Appendix A

All agencies with responsibilities for actions within this plan shall provide the Committee with a written plan prior to September each year. These plans will form the Multi Agency Work Plan, which will be attached to this plan annually. They will focus on:

Better decision making – Sharing our collective expertise, data and local knowledge to improve the way we prepare, respond and recover from bushfire and structure fires.

Actions to reduce Risk – Minimising the potential impact of fire on the shire's people, environment, business, and special places by putting in place a range of safeguards and building our capacity to prepare and respond

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Sharing responsibilities - Increasing community confidence and resilience in preparing, responding and recovering from fire through shared responsibility and partnerships between individuals, communities, agencies and government to create safer communities.

7.4 Vulnerable Settlements

Since the 2009 Black Saturday bushfires vulnerable areas have received detailed attention to address the risks. The Royal Commission into the fires recommended that Township Protection Plans be prepared and fifty two vulnerable Communities received detailed attention.   Further work has been done to include the publication of Community Information Guides to provide information to the community of what to "expect" during a fire emergency.

In more recent times, Local Response Plans have been prepared to provide information and guidance to responding emergency service controllers on the type and number of resources to be deployed to a localised event, and the certain predetermined strategies that could be considered by the Incident Controller. They are developed by CFA Districts and are for internal Emergency Service use.

7.5 Bushfire Management Overlay

Under the Victorian Planning Provisions certain higher risk locations are designated to be within the Bushfire Management Overlay.

This is triggered upon application for a Development and Use Permit for certain activities under the planning scheme – including the building / alterations to Class 1 Domestic Dwellings.

7.6 Neighbourhood Safer Places – Places of Last Resort – Appendix B.2

Neighbourhood Safer Places – Places of Last Resort (NSP) are an area or premises that may, as a last resort when all other plans fail, provide some sanctuary from the life threatening effects of a bushfire.

Details of the specific locations of NSP's within the Macedon Ranges Shire can be located in – Neighbourhood Safer Places – Places of Last Resort.

Note: There are no Fire Refuges in Macedon Ranges Shire.

7.7 Water Catchment for Macedon Ranges Shire

A large proportion of the Macedon Ranges Shire relies on the water supply catchment for their drinking water.

Coliban Water and Western Water are responsible for the reticulated water supply within the shire. The storage basins are controlled by Coliban Water and Southern Rural Water and the waterways and major drainage lines are the responsibility of the North Central Catchment Management Authority for those in the Murray River catchment area and Melbourne water for those in the Maribyrnong catchment area.

Fire management needs to ensure that the water catchment areas are appropriately protected from pollution resulting from fires and fire management works.

7.8 Planned Burning

Planned burning is the controlled use of fire under carefully managed conditions to reduce fuel such as dead wood, leaf litter, bark and shrubs. Burning is also used by land managers to maintain the health of plants and ecosystems that need fire in the landscape.

Those sites identified for either fuel or ecological burning are referred to the MFMPC for endorsement

7.9 Permits to Burn

Under the Macedon Ranges Municipal Local Laws No 10 clause 32, a fire may not be lit or remain alight in the open air without a permit. This applies to land 1 acre or less. On land size larger than an acre, conditions apply.

No burning off is permitted during the declared Fire Danger Period, with the exception of some cases where permits may be issued to farmers who are required to burn for agricultural burns.

Permits are issued by the Council's Municipal Fire Prevention Officer under authority of the CFA Act, and any conditions must be adhered to. No fires are permitted on Total Fire Ban Days.

For further information refer to the Macedon Ranges Shire Website www.mrsc.vic.gov.au

8. Monitor and Review

The MFMPC is committed to monitoring the plan and reviewing it on an annual basis to assess its effectiveness and provide information needed to make decisions about the future of fire management in the Macedon Ranges. It will also as necessary, account for any changes in context or risk.

Monitoring and reviewing will enable the committee to evaluate progress, identify problems in planning and implementation, and make adjustments so that we are more likely to 'make a difference'.

All organisations that are part of the Committee will be collecting and sharing data to assist in monitoring the plan. Individual organisational data will be combined with information from other sources, such as State Government and the community, and analysed to inform the annual review of the plan

Attachments

- Appendix A – Multi Agency Work Plan
- Appendix B – Statutory Obligations
- Appendix B.1– Hazardous Trees
- Appendix B.2 – Township Protection Plans/Community Information Guides
- Appendix B.3 – Neighbourhood Safer Places (NSP) – Places of Last Resort
- Appendix C – MAPS
- Appendix C.1 – Macedon Ranges Shire
- Appendix C.2 – Fire Danger Period Signs
- Appendix C.3 – Fire Danger Rating Signs
- Appendix C.4 – Roadside Slashing
- Appendix C.5 – Fire Access Tracks
- Appendix D – Amendment List
- Appendix E– Terminology & Acronyms
- Appendix F – Bibliography
- Appendix G – Distribution List

Appendix A: Multi Agency Work Plan

All agencies with responsibilities for actions within this plan shall provide the Committee with a written plan prior to September each year.

These plans will form the Multi Agency Work Plan, which will be attached to this plan annually.

Better decision making – Sharing our collective expertise, data and local knowledge to improve the way we prepare, respond and recover from bushfire and structure fires.

Activities	Lead Agency*	Partners*	Timeframe Year 1 - 3	Measurement of success
Deliver: • Community Education Programs and workshops • Fire Ready Victoria Meetings • Bushfire planning • Home bushfire advice • Community Fireguard groups • CFA open days	CFA	MRSC DELWP Parks Vic Vic Police	Annually	Number of meetings and workshops held, and participants attending. Maintain current community fireguard groups.

Activities	Lead Agency*	Partners*	Timeframe Year 1 - 3	Measurement of success
Use local planning, data and knowledge to identify: • Need for new fire hydrants to be installed Manage works program for: • Maintenance of existing hydrants • Mapping of all hydrants Maintenance of: • Existing water tanks • Pumps • Taps Or refer to appropriate authority	MRSC	CFA Brigades Western Water Coliban Water Melbourne water	Annually	Maps included and maintained on Council GIS system. Requests for maintenance dealt with in a timely manner.
Support tourism operators and providers to complete Emergency Management Plans and promote fire safety.	MRSC CFA	Tourism operators Accommodation providers Daylesford and Macedon Ranges Tourism Board CFA brigades	Year 1 - 3	Increased participation numbers of tourism operators and accommodation providers in fire management plan workshops.
Committee Members participate in the Municipal Fire Management Planning Committee's activities and partnerships.	MFMPC members	Regional Committee	Annually	Agreed meeting outcomes are being met.

Activities	Lead Agency*	Partners*	Timeframe Year 1 - 3	Measurement of success
Integrate operational plans of key member agencies to better prepare, respond and recover from bushfire	MFMPC members	Other emergency service agencies	Annually	A more coordinated approach to: • Preparing • Responding • Recovering from bushfire.

Actions to reduce Risk – Minimising the potential impact of fire on the shire's people, environment, business, and special places by putting in place a range of safeguards and building our capacity to prepare and respond

Activities	Lead Agency*	Partners*	Timeframe Year 1 - 3	Measurement of success
Liaise with CFA brigades to identify projects that meet the criteria for the Fire Access Road Subsidy Scheme and submit applications for funding.	MRSC	CFA brigades and staff	Annually	Fire Access Tracks maintained to appropriate standard.
Implement the annual roadside management program to reduce fuel levels on Council managed reserves and roadsides.	MRSC	CFA CFA Brigades	Annually	Program completed to an approved standard and fuel levels reduced.

Activities	Lead Agency*	Partners*	Timeframe Year 1 - 3	Measurement of success
Integrate the annual management of Council roadsides and reserves with DELWP, PV and VicRoads works.	MRSC DELWP Parks Vic Regional Roads Vic	CFA	Annually	Integration and reduction of roadside and reserve fuel hazards DSE will complete the hazard slashing Program as per the Fire Operations Plan. Monitor and acknowledge brigade fire prevention works
Regular review of fire breaks across the area based on current research and changes in land use.	MRSC CFA	CFA CFA Brigades	Annually	Firebreaks are strategically placed to assist in preventing fires from spreading. The adoption and implementation of fire breaks definitions
Utilise VFRR and other data with the appropriate modelling tools to ID potential risks and impacts to communities for fire management planning.	MFMPC members	Other agencies	Annually	Plans are evidence based. Assess modelling tools against annual data collection to determine effectiveness.

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Activities	Lead Agency*	Partners*	Timeframe Year 1 - 3	Measurement of success
Annual review and development of emergency management plans for Council owned buildings including bushfire relocation plans where appropriate.	MRSC	CFA	Year 1 – 3	Plans in place and annual review.
Work with agencies to reduce fire risk in the high risk structure environment including factories containing chemicals, tyres and other flammable items	MRSC CFA	CFA Brigades EPA	Annually	Utilise VFRR – B to identify high-risk structures.
Implement the DELWP Grampians District Fire Operations Plan that involves a systematic approach for reducing fire risks on Public Land and provides a measure for the amount of works within the plan that has been completed	DELWP Parks Vic	MRSC CFA	Year 1 - 3	Amount of work carried out against schedule of works.

Sharing responsibilities: - Increasing community confidence and resilience in preparing, responding and recovering from fire through shared responsibility and partnerships between individuals, communities, agencies and government to create safer communities

Activities	Lead Agency*	Partners*	Timeframe Year 1 - 3	Measurement of success
Identify and support vulnerable community members to develop the skills to prepare, respond and recover from fire. Key groups are: • People who do not have a fire plan • Visitors/tourists/visiting tradespeople etc • People without working smoke alarms • People with limited mobility • People who are dependent on others, especially children • People who do not have ready access to transport •	MRSC DHHS	CFA Vic Police DEECD	Year 1 - 3	Identify targeted vulnerable groups. Increase engagement with these groups and teach them of the importance of having a fire plan.
Investigate the role of groups where targeted key messages can be delivered highlighting the importance of having a fire plan. Key groups could include: • Senior Citizens • Disability service providers • Schools • Neighbourhood Houses	MRSC	DHHS Vic Police DELWP Parks Vic DEECD	Annually	Number of information sessions delivered to target groups.

Activities	Lead Agency*	Partners*	Timeframe Year 1 - 3	Measurement of success
Identify communities that require Township Protection Plans and implement TPP's.	CFA	CFA Brigades MRSC Vic Pol Community	Annually	Develop and implement new TPP's. Number of TPP's reviewed.
Identify and recommend for assessment, sites for Neighbourhood Safer Places (Place of Last Resort) in towns with Township Protection Plans.	MRSC	CFA	Annually	Number of sites assessed and re-assessed by the CFA and MRSC.
Identify properties with high fire hazards that require Fire Prevention Notices to reduce the likelihood / consequence of fire on private property.	MRSC	CFA CFA Brigades	Annually	Number of FPN's issued.

In addition, there are a range of site specific plans to reduce specific risks within the municipality that are required by other legislation.

Macedon Ranges Shire Council has a number of Municipal Emergency Plans to support the main plan being the Municipal Emergency Management Plan (MEMP). (Refer to the MEMP for a list of Sub-plans).

*other relevant agencies as requested

Appendix B: Statutory Obligations

B1: Hazardous Trees

The Electricity Safety Act 1998 (Vic) (**ES Act**) provides that a municipal council (**Council**) must specify, within its Municipal Fire Prevention Plan:

procedures and criteria for the identification of hazard trees; and

procedures for the notification of responsible persons of trees that are hazard trees in relation to electric lines for which they are responsible.

The "Hazard Tree - Identification and Notification Procedures" (**the Procedures**) on the following pages are designed to assist Councils to meet this obligation.

These procedures should be incorporated into the Municipal Fire Prevention Plan (or Municipal Fire Management Plan, as appropriate) (**the Plan**), with any necessary amendments as agreed by the Municipal Fire Prevention Committee (or its equivalent) (**the Committee**). (The Municipal Fire Prevention Plan is incorporated into the Municipal Fire Management Plan in Councils where the Municipal Fire Management Planning Committee has been established. In those instances, the Committee should consider the guidance contained within the EMMV.)

Once the Committee has considered the Procedures it must make a recommendation to the Council that the Plan be amended to incorporate the Procedures with such amendments as the Committee considers necessary.

We recommend Councils also seek guidance and advice from their Regional Strategic Fire Management Planning Committee. This will help ensure that all responsible persons are identified and are aware of and informed about the Procedures contained within the Plan. This is particularly important in light of the fact that responsible persons, such as distribution businesses, may not be represented on each Committee.

To help ensure the Procedures are workable, it is recommended that there be a nominated position within each Council that is responsible for taking calls/notifications about potentially hazardous trees. That person can then either take details of reports to pass on to the PRPR* (*see Procedures) or instruct the person making the report to contact the PRPR directly (assuming the tree being reported is not on Council-managed land within a declared area).

It is also critical that where Council is also a responsible person under the ES Act, it has its own internal procedure regarding the steps that will be taken when it receives notification of a potentially hazardous tree for which it is the responsible person. We recommend that this internal procedure include a register in which each notification is recorded, together with details of the action taken and all relevant timelines.

NOTE: The above text is for guidance only – this does not form part of the Procedures to be incorporated into the Plan.

Hazard Trees – Identification and Notification Procedures

The Electricity Safety Act 1998 (Vic) (**ES Act**) provides that a municipal council must specify, within its Municipal Fire Prevention Plan:

- procedures and criteria for the identification of trees that are likely to fall onto, or come into contact with, an electric line (**hazard trees**); and

procedures for the notification of responsible persons of trees that are hazard trees in relation to electric lines for which they are responsible.

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

The procedures outlined in this section of the MFPP seek to address the requirement detailed above.

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

What is a hazard tree?

According to the ES Act, a hazard tree is a tree which 'is likely to fall onto, or come into contact with, an electric line'.

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

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

Who is responsible for a hazard tree?

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

Under the ES Act, responsibility is allocated between distribution businesses and other owners of electricity infrastructure, land owners and occupiers, public land managers such as municipal councils and VicRoads.

Municipal councils are responsible for trees on public land within their municipalities, for which they are the land manager, where these are also within a Declared Area for the purposes of the ES Act. Primary responsibility for vegetation clearance and management within the municipality, for areas which are not within a Declared Area, will usually fall to the relevant electricity distribution company.

Responsible Persons within `Macedon Ranges Shire Council

There are a number of organisations that have responsibility for line clearance in Macedon Ranges Shire, including:

- Powercor - After hours: Powercor 13 24 12
- Vemco - Email: bavemco@vemco.com.au

  03 5338 3300
- Macedon Ranges Shire Council

  03 5422 0333

Other relevant information

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

In the course of everyday duties, potentially hazardous trees may come to the attention of staff or volunteer members of the entities with representation on the Municipal Fire Management Planning Committee (**the Committee**), staff of the distribution business(es) or other persons, including members of the public.

There are a range of factors which may indicate that a tree is a hazard tree. That is, a tree which is likely to fall onto, or come into contact with, an electric line. Some of these factors will be obvious when looking at the tree but many may only be apparent when the tree is assessed by a person with specific expertise and training, such as an arborist.

The following criteria may be used to assist in identifying a hazard tree:

- The size of the tree suggests that it is likely to come into contact with the electric line, for example because it appears to be encroaching or growing into the line clearance space.

- There is an excessive lean on the tree, or branches hanging off the tree and the tree is in proximity to an electric (power) line.

- The size or appearance of the tree suggests it could come into contact with the line including under foreseeable local conditions.

If a potentially hazardous tree is identified, the notification procedure outlined below should be followed. Where a responsible person becomes aware of a potentially hazardous tree for which they have responsibility, they must follow their own applicable internal procedure and the notification procedure described below does not apply.

Procedures and Criteria for Notifying Hazard Trees

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

The person with responsibility for the highest percentage of lines within the municipality (**the primary responsible person** is the person to whom potentially hazardous trees should be reported.

The primary responsible person (or their representative) is referred to in these Procedures as the primary responsible person representative (**PRPR**).

Where any person becomes aware of, or receives a report of, a potentially hazardous tree within the municipality, this should be referred to the PRPR.   Where the Committee becomes aware of, or receives a report of, a potentially hazardous tree within the municipality, this must be referred to the PRPR.

Reports of potentially hazardous trees must be provided to the PRPR for action as soon as practicable. Reports must include, at a minimum:

1. The name and contact details and any relevant qualifications where known of the person making the report

2. As much detail as possible about the location of the tree (including, where known, GPS coordinates, details of numerical/name plate on nearest pole, name of nearest road or crossroads, closest landmark, whether tree is on private land or road reserve etc.)

3. A description of the tree (including, if known, the genus and species of tree)

4. The primary reasons given for the tree being identified as potentially hazardous (eg. tree is in proximity to an electric line AND there is evidence of structural weakness and/or excessive lean and/or appears to be encroaching into line clearance space etc.)

5. An indication of whether or not urgent action is required.

The PRPR must take all necessary steps to advise the person responsible for the tree that it may be hazardous.

Primary Responsible Person Representative (PRPR)

For the purposes of this part of the Plan, the primary responsible person is *VEMCO* refer to page 42.

Procedures for Notification of Responsible Persons

Where a potentially hazardous tree has been reported to the PRPR, the PRPR should follow the procedure outlined below.

Step 1	Report provided to PRPR.	
Step 2	PRPR to determine who the responsible person is in relation to the reported tree. (If necessary, the PRPR can seek assistance from ESV for this step.)	
Step 3	Is the responsible person the primary responsible person?	**Yes =>** applicable internal procedure for referral and assessment of potentially hazardous tree to be followed.
		No => proceed to Step 4.
Step 4	Did the report indicate that urgent action is required?	**Yes =>** the responsible person should be notified as soon as possible, and by close of business the next business day
		No => the PRPR must advise the responsible person of the existence and location of a potentially hazardous tree in accordance with the timelines below.*

* The PRPR should put in place mutually agreed arrangements for the manner in which it passes on reports of potentially hazardous trees to responsible persons.

Reporting Timelines

The PRPR should provide reports to the relevant responsible person as soon as practicable.

In circumstances where:

the potentially hazardous tree is located within a high bushfire risk area (as per s.80 of the ES Act) and the potentially hazardous tree is reported during the fire danger period declared under the Country Fire Authority Act 1958 (Vic); or

the report indicates that there is an imminent danger that the tree will contact or fall onto lines as a result of minor environmental changes;

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

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

Register

It is recommended that the PRPR maintain a register in which all notifications are recorded together with the date of receipt of the notification and the date the notification was reported to the responsible person.

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

PRPR Consultation

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

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HAZARD TREE NOTIFICATION PROCESS

Any person, in the course of their everyday activities, identifies a potential hazard tree

Hazard tree   is reported

Notified person is the responsible person. Notification is registered and internal procedure re hazard trees is followed.

Notified person is the *primary responsible person.*

Primary responsible person determines who the responsible person is, forwards that person the notification and registers the notification.

Notified person is NOT the responsible person nor the primary responsible person. Notification is registered and then forwarded to *primary responsible person.*

Responsible person receives notification. Notification is registered and internal procedure re hazard trees is followed.

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B.2: Neighbourhood Safer Places and Fire Refuges

There are **no** buildings within the municipality that are designated as community **fire refuges.**

The Macedon Ranges Shire Council has formally designated the following sites as Neighbourhood Safer Places (NSP) (also known as Places of Last Resort) in the Macedon Ranges Shire.

NSP's are identified buildings or spaces within the community that may afford some protection from radiant heat, the biggest killer during a bushfire. They are a place of last resort in bush fire emergencies only and it is preferred that people leave early or implement their fire plans prior to a fire occurring.

For full information on the designation of NSP's please visit the Macedon Ranges Shire Council's Neighbourhood Safer Places Plan (Places of last resort during a bushfire) on the Macedon Ranges Shire Council website: www.mrsc.vic.gov.au

This list may be updated over time as further sites are approved. The list of designated NSP's is also available from the CFA website; www.cfa.vic.gov.au

This was last updated on: June 2016

The last review of the designated NSPs was on: July 2015

Township	Location	Address
Lancefield	Lancefield Mechanics Institute Hall	Corner of High Street and the Crescent, Lancefield
Riddells Creek	Riddells Creek Community Centre	Sutherlands Road, Riddells Creek
Woodend	Buffalo Stadium	Forest Street, Woodend
Mt Macedon/Macedon	Macedon Community Centre	Tony Clarke Reserve, Waterfalls Road Macedon

Appendix C: MAPS

Appendix C.1 Map of Macedon Ranges Shire and neighbouring municipalities
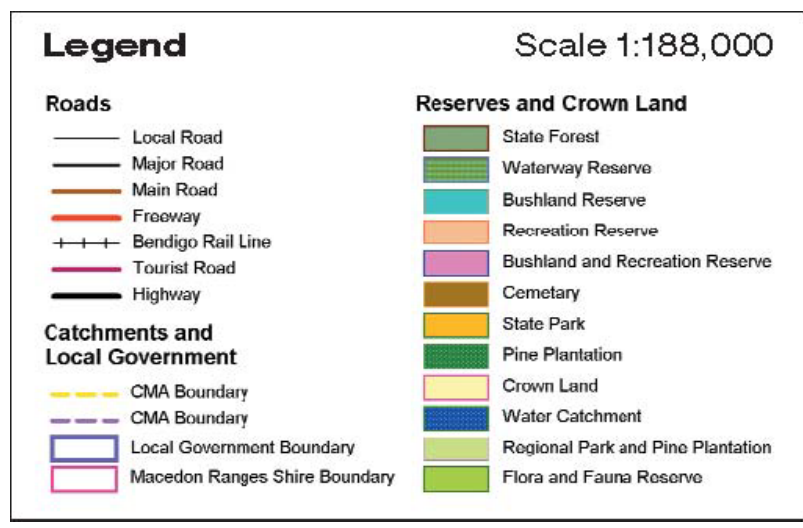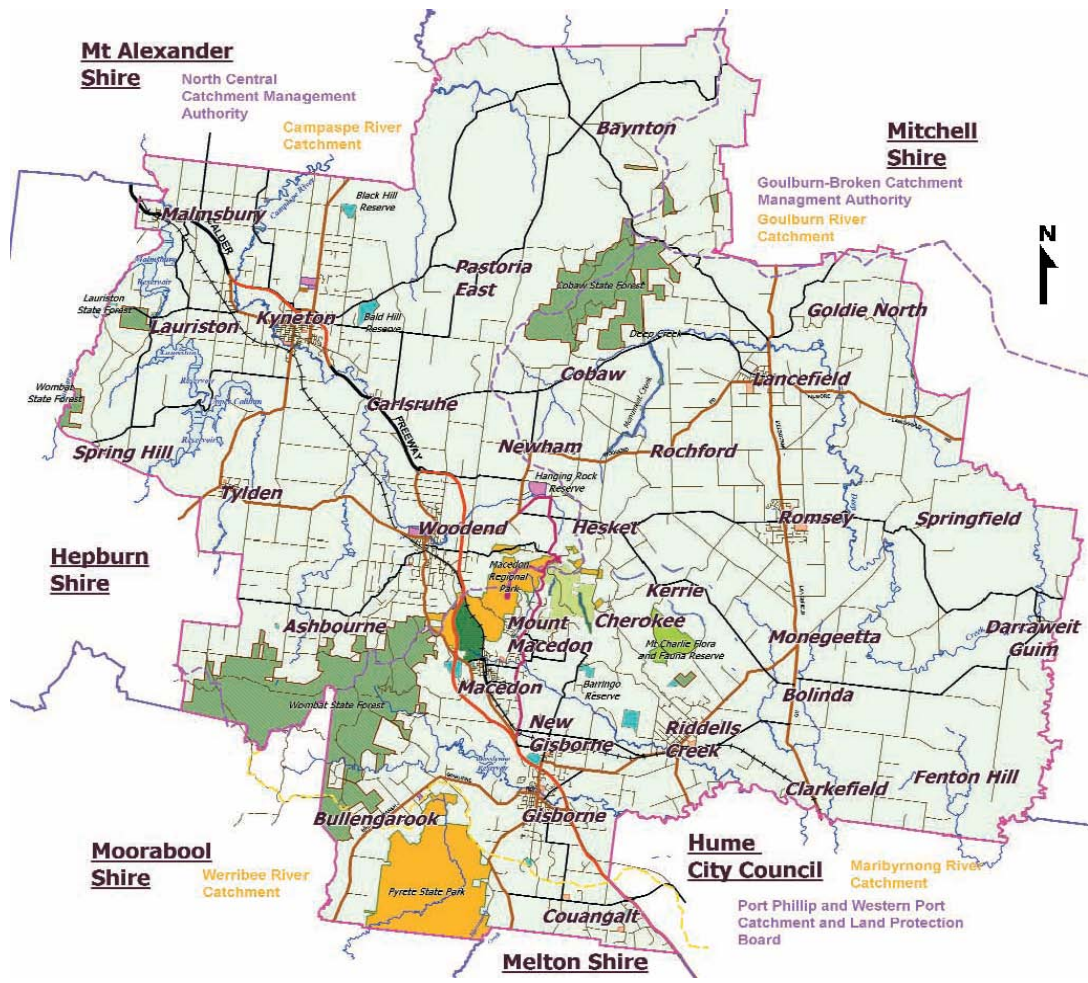
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Appendix C.2 Fire Danger Period Signs

Town	Road	Nearest Intersection or Feature	GPS (MGA (Datum GDA 94) Zone 55	
Fire Danger Period Signs				
			Eastings	Northings
Benloch	Burke & Wills Track	Westcott Lane	294540.785	5879118.169
Carlsruhe	Cobb & Co Road	Cemetery Road	279177.724	5869545.071
Clarkefield	Melbourne/Lancefield Road	Konagadera Road	302040.451	5847371.103
Darraweit Guim	Wallan Road	Stennings Lane	314391.868	5859544.156
Gisborne	Melton Road	Shire Boundary	285598.589	5840933.442
	Melton Road	Dixon Road	285704.463	5846483.325
	Bacchus Marsh Road	Morass Court	284506.238	5848370.996
	Mount Macedon Road	Railway Line	285987.319	5851974.585
	Barringo Road	Hamilton Road	287712.612	5851992.09
	Saunders Road	Monaghan Road	288284.064	5850064.192
Gisborne South	Millets Road	Napier Street	292910.417	5841049.54
Greenhills	Kyneton-Metcalfe Road	Boundary Road	272800.756	5883632.64
Kyneton	Pipers Creek Road	Edgecombe Road	275343.165	5875585.861
	Burton Avenue	Lauriston Road	271214.106	5875664.774
	Bourke Street	High Street	275090.522	5873865.641
Lancefield	Kilmore Road	Lancemore Hill	309511.259	5868462.038
	Tooborac Road	Hardings Road	299653.943	5878120.057
	Pyalong Road	Shire Boundary	302778.477	5878375.114
	Melbourne/Lancefield Road	Beckermans Lane	299367.151	5870965.855

Fire Danger Period Signs				
Town	**Road**	**Nearest Intersection or Feature**	**GPS (MGA (Datum GDA 94) Zone 55**	
Langley	Edgecombe Road	Langley PS	277119.938	5883274.172
Lauriston	Lauriston Road	Salisbury Road	264224.159	5875513.718
Macedon	McBean Avenue	Railway Place	284225.032	585469.838
	Nursery Road	Black Forest Drive	283417.436	5855978.989
Malmsbury	Calder Freeway	Shire Boundary	269047.844	5884257.123
	Malmsbury East Road	Chisolm Avenue	268630.595	5880787.329
Riddells Creek	Kilmore Road	Riddells Creek	294303.93	5851042.87
Romsey	Melbourne/Lancefield Road	Greenfields Blvd	300273.96	5862312.636
Sidonia	Burke & Wills Track	Shire Boundary	287821.628	5890648.777
Springhill	Kyneton/Springhill Road	Tylden Road	263402.993	5868226.423
Tylden	Trentham Road	Springhill Road	269237.4	5865137.576
	Kyneton Road	Flemings Lane	270275.435	5866422.532

Appendix C.3 Fire Danger Rating Signs

Operation: It is the responsibility of the fire brigade responsible for the area in which the sign is located to adjust the signs to indicate the fire danger rating and TFB days when declared, in accordance with CFA Standing Orders

Fire Danger Rating Signs								
Town	Road	Nearest Intersection or Feature	GPS (MGA (Datum GDA 94) Zone 55		VicroadsMap No	Map Ref	Signs	Comments
			Eastings	Northings				
Bullengarook	Bacchus Marsh Road	Recreation Reserve	280626.356	5848503.893	60	A9	1	
Clarkefield	Melbourne / Lancefield Road	Station Road	301292.633	5849219.489	60	E9	2	Opposite sides facing oncoming traffic
Darraweit Guim	Darraweit Valley Road	Bolinda Road	313528.23	5858520.586	60	G8	1	
Gisborne	Robertson Street	Fire Station	286627.793	5484538.76	636	C7	1	
	Aitken Street	Service Lane to Pool	287065	5848569	636		1	Back to Back West side

Fire Danger Rating Signs								
Town	**Road**	**Nearest Intersection or Feature**	**GPS (MGA) (Datum GDA 94) Zone 55**		**VicroadsMap No**	**Map Ref**	**Signs**	**Comments**
Hesket	Romsey Road	Kings Lane	289248.18	5863916.109	60	B7	2	Back to Back North side
Kyneton	Ebden Street	Fire Station	273923.767	5874664.362	632	C5	1	
Lancefield	Main Road	Rochford Road	299329.393	5871824.385	635	P3	2	Back to Back West side
Macedon	Smith Street	Fire Station	284313.131	5855374.946	634	D9	1	
Malmsbury	Mollison Street	Fire Station	267822.64	5880992.899	631	O10	2	Back to Back North side
Monegeetta	Melbourne / Lancefield Rd	Army Proving Ground	-37.407071	144.747724	60	D8	1	Back facing side West

			Fire Danger Rating Signs					
Town	**Road**	**Nearest Intersection or Feature**	**GPS (MGA (Datum GDA 94) Zone 55**		**VicroadsMap No**	**Map Ref**	**Signs**	**Comments**
Newham	Rochford Road	Jim Road	286645.478	5867718.098	60	B7	1	
Riddell Creek	Main Road	Station Street	294500.65	5851213.747	635	Q11	2	Opposite sides facing oncoming traffic
Romsey	Lancefield Road	Regan Drive	300132.922	5863430.075	637	R4	1	
Springfield	Lancefield/Kilmore Road	Springfield Road	306560.609	5869732.063	60	F6	1	
Tylden	Tylden/Woodend Road	Kyneton/Trentham Road	270250.298	5865782.175	59	H7	2	Backto Back South side
Woodend	High Street	Corinella Road	280994.172	5862227.462	633	P6	1	
							22	**Total**

Map C.4 Roadside Slashing Program
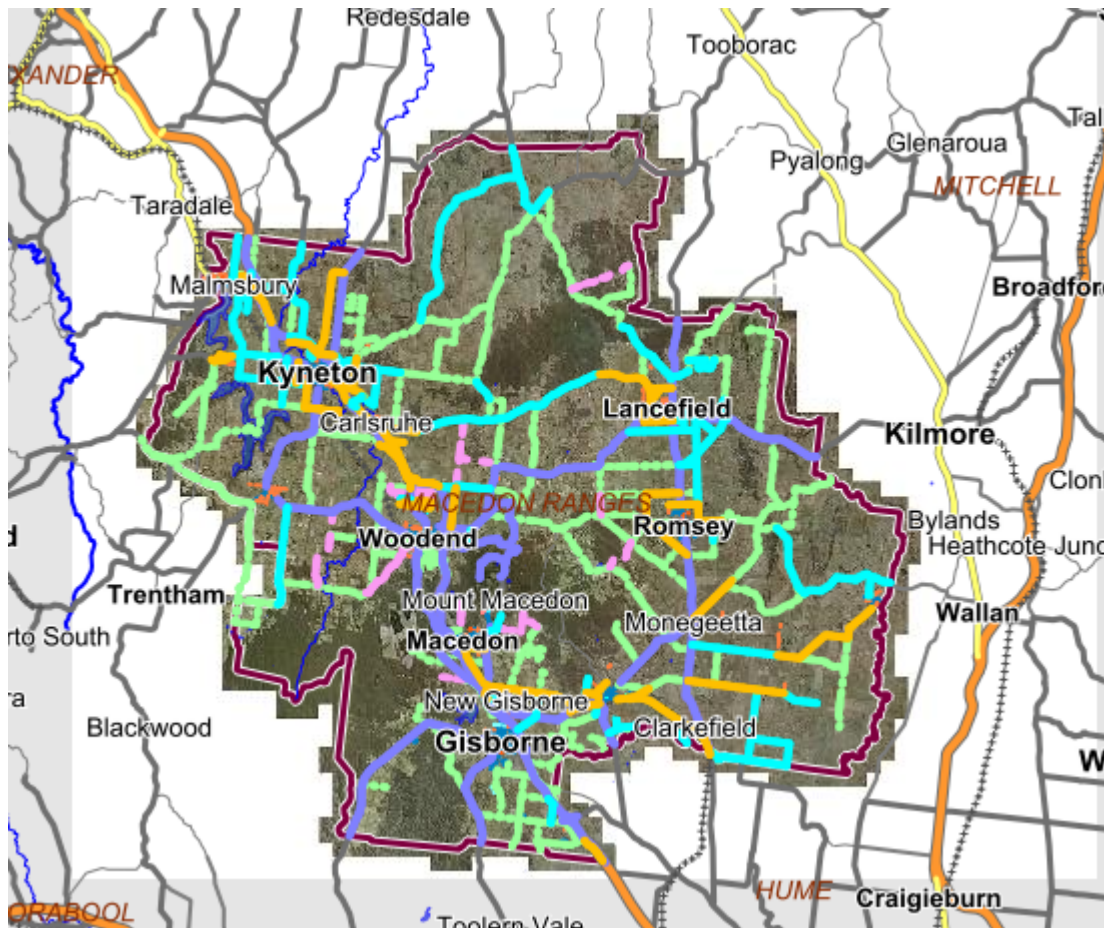
MRSC Roadside Slashing

3 metre

Full

Regional Roads Victoria

Annual Maintenance

Version 2 Municipal Fire Management Plan DRAFT

Map C.5 Fire Access Tracks and Static Water Supply Tanks
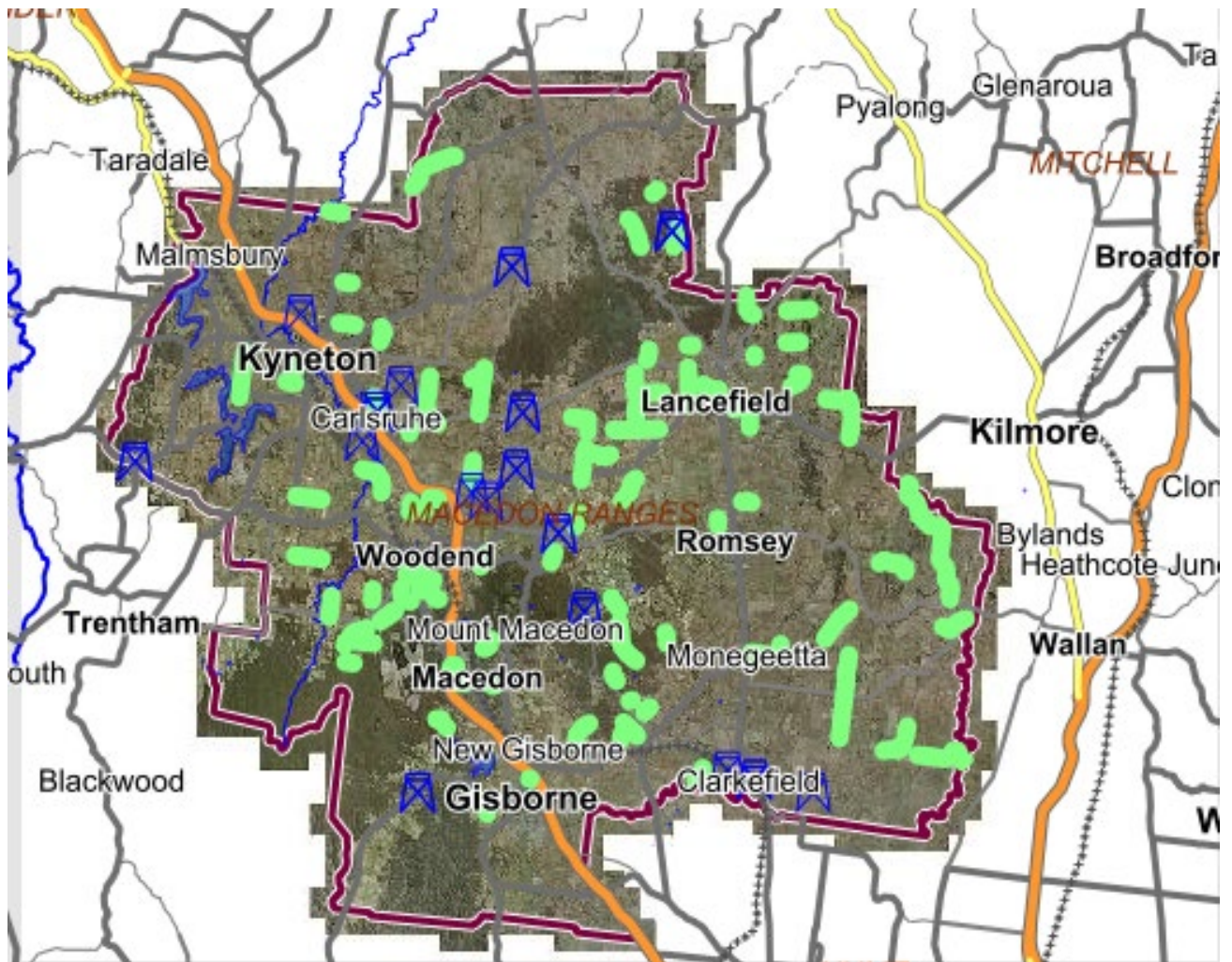
🔷 Fire Water Tanks

🟢 Fire Access Track

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Appendix D: Amendments

Amendments List

Part	Headings (old plan)	Change
	Foreword	Rewritten. Foreword was written by the Mayor and related to the development of the initial plan
	Introduction	Adapted to include references to all types of fire not just bushfire. Eg grass, chemical, structure
	Council's Role	Incorporated into Introduction
2 Aims and Objectives	Planning Context	Incorporated under Municipal Direction
2. Aims and Objectives	Vision Statement, Aims, Objectives, Context	Combined under heading Aims and Objectives
2. Aims and Objectives		Included the Municipal Strategic Statement
3.Municipal Fire Management Planning Committee	Role of the committee – structure, report, support and schedule of meetings	Combined under the heading of Role of the Committee
3.Municipal Fire Management Planning Committee	Community Stakeholder Engagement	Removed. This was part of the initial writing of the plan
3.Municipal Fire Management Planning Committee	Environmental Scan	Removed as already forms part of the Municipal Emergency Management Plan
4.Fire in the Macedon Ranges	Fire in the Macedon Ranges	Altered from "bushfire" to "fire" and incorporated other types of fire.
4.Fire in the Macedon Ranges	Bushfires in the Macedon Ranges	Added 4.2 Structure Fires
4.Fire in the Macedon Ranges		Included a map of fire history

Part	Headings (old plan)	Change
4.Fire in the Macedon Ranges	Future Fire Management Implication in the Macedon Ranges	Rewritten to include growth, industry, transportation, climate change
5.Fire Management Risk Strategies	Structure Fires	Need to include structure fire as a risk
5. Fire Management Risk Strategies	Community Emergency Risk Assessment (CERA)	Included CERA definition and Qualitative Risk Analysis Matrix
5. Fire Management Risk Strategies	Risk Assessment Method	Deleted table of qualitative measures of likelihood and consequence and replaced with CERA table
5. Fire Management Risk Strategies 5 Environmental Assets Map	Victorian Bushfire Risk Register	Additional sites added to VFRR and documented by individual maps for each asset type – economic, human, cultural and environmental. Removed
6. Treatments	Community Based Bushfire Management Planning	Included as a new initiative under Safer Together
6. Treatments	Fire Break Definitions	Further information required around fire breaks including a survey on the quality and quantity of roadsides and the maintenance required on these. A survey of these roads is required to ascertain ongoing treatment and requirements
7. Planning	Multi Agency Work Plan	Updated to included current activities, agencies partners etc.
7. Planning	Private Property Inspections	Moved to sit under Treatments
	Township Protection Plans/Community Information Guides	Replaced with Community Information Guides and referenced in 7.4 Vulnerable Settlements and 7.6 Bushfire Management Overlay.

Appendix C.2 Fire Danger Period Sign		Romsey – the address has been changed from Newham Drive to Greenfields Blvd.
Appendix C.3 Fire Danger Ratings Sign		A New sign in Monegeetta has been added. It is located outside of the Army Proving Ground on the Melbourne/Lancefield Road.

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Appendix E: Terminology & Acronyms

CFA	Country Fire Authority
CFA – CEC	CFA Community Education Coordinator
CFA – FSO	CFA Fire Safety Officer
CFA – MCS	CFA Manager Community Safety
CFA—DGO	CFA Deputy Group Officer
CW	Coliban Water
DHHS	Department of Health & Human Services
DELWP	Department of Environment, Land, Water & Planning
EHO	Environmental Health Officer
EMP	Emergency Management Plan
ESV	Electrical Safety Victoria
FDP	Fire Danger Period
FFDI	Forest Fire Danger Index
GFDI	Grass Fire Danger Index
HAZMAT	Hazardous Materials
IFMP	Integrated Fire Management Plan
MBS	Municipal Building Surveyor
MEMP	Municipal Emergency Management Plan
MFMPC	Municipal Fire Management Planning Committee
MFPO	Municipal Fire Prevention Officer
MFMP	Municipal Fire Management Plan
MRSC	Macedon Ranges Shire Council
PV	Parks Victoria
RSFMPC	Regional Strategic Fire Management Plan Committee
SES	State Emergency Service
VBA	Victoria Building Authority
VFRR	Victorian Fire Risk Register
VFRR – B	Victorian Fire Risk Register – Bushfire
VFRR – S	Victorian Fire Risk Register - Structure
WSV	Work Safe Victoria
WW	Western Water

Appendix F: Bibliography

Managing Risk in CFA - Implementation Guide Draft 1997

Country Fire Authority Act 1958 - Reprinted 1998

Emergency Risk Management – Applications Guide

Municipal Fire Prevention Planning Guidelines - CFA 2003

Macedon Ranges Shire Council:

- Municipal Fire Prevention Plan 2001

- Municipal Fire Management Plan 2012-2015

- Municipal Emergency Management Plan 2017

- Council Plan 2017 - 2027

Appendix G: Distribution List

Municipal Fire Prevention Officer

Municipal Emergency Resource Officer

Municipal Recovery Manager

Municipal Building Surveyor

Municipal Environmental Officer

Regional Strategic Fire Management Planning Committee

CFA MFMPC Delegates

Local CFA Brigades

Parks Vic

Western Water

Victoria Police

Department of Environment, Land, Water & Planning

Department Health & Human Services

Regional Roads Victoria

Coliban Water

Melbourne Water