Alpine Shire Municipal Emergency Management Plan 2024-2027

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Contents

Acknowledgement of Country

The Alpine Shire Municipal Emergency Management Planning Committee respectfully acknowledges the Dhudhuroa, Gunai-Kurnai, Taungurung, Waywurru and Jaithmathang as the First Peoples and traditional custodians of the lands and waters of the Alpine Shire.

We recongnise the ancient and ongoing presence of its First Peoples, and their unique and continuing connection to the lands, waters and culture of our Shire. We pay our respects to their culture, and their Elders past, present and emerging.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1   Foreword

All Victorian communities are likely to experience emergencies due to factors outside of their control from time to time. Changed climatic conditions and extreme weather events, combined with the challenges of urbanisation, growing populations and rapid changes in technology have seen marked transformation within the emergency management sector in the last decade.

Reducing the likelihood, effect and consequences of emergencies involves many people and organisations within the community. It is only when emergency services, industry, business, government, and community come together that it becomes possible to prepare for, respond efficiently and effectively to, and minimise the effects and consequences of emergencies.

The goal of municipal emergency planning is to complement, and support emergency planning strategies developed at state, regional and national levels. It provides local knowledge and expertise and documents capacity and responsibilities within a defined municipality.

The preparation of the Alpine Shire Municipal Emergency Management Plan (MEMP) involves identifying and mitigating the risks specific to the shire, outlining capability and capacity of local agencies, and documenting relief and recovery strategies that can be delivered locally to help communities become safer and more resilient in the face of an emergency.

1.2   Authority, Governance and Administration

This plan has been prepared by the Alpine Shire Municipal Emergency Management Planning Committee (Alpine MEMPC) in accordance with the *Emergency Management Act 2013*, and complies with the *Guidelines for Preparing State, Regional and Municipal Management Plans* issued under section 77 of the *EM Act*.

This plan aligns with existing legislation, frameworks and procedures and addresses the prevention and mitigation of, response to, and recovery from emergencies within the Alpine Shire.

A list of reference material used in the development of this Municipal Emergency Management Plan (MEMP) can be found in Appendix B2.

1.3   Plan Assurance and Approval

Assurance

A Statement of Assurance (including a checklist and certificate) has been prepared and submitted to the Hume Regional Emergency Management Planning Committee (Hume REMPC) pursuant to the EM Act (s60AG).

Approval

This plan was prepared by the Alpine MEMPC and approved by the Hume REMPC.

This plan comes into effect when it is published and remains in effect until superseded by an approved and published update.

1.4 Plan Review

Municipal Emergency Management Plans are 'live documents'. They link to and rely on sources of information that are being constantly reviewed, modified, and updated.

This plan will constantly evolve and develop to ensure that it remains current, effective, integrated, coordinated and comprehensive in its approach to emergency management. The Alpine MEMPC considers new and emerging risks, sector reform, reviews and learnings from emergency events, and demographic and capability changes within the area they cover. This plan will be reviewed at least every three years and may be reviewed following:

- An emergency or incident
- An emergency management exercise where the exercise identifies an opportunity for improvement
- A change in relevant legislation
- Organisational change
- Changes to the State or regional emergency management plans
- Changes to identified hazards or our understanding of the risk
- Changes to the Alpine MEMPC membership

Urgent update of this MEMP is permitted if there is significant risk that life or property will be endangered if the plan is not updated (EM Act, s60AM). Urgent updates come into effect when published on the Alpine Shire Council website and remain in force for a maximum period of three months.

A major review may be undertaken by a working group of the Alpine MEMPC members. The MEMP amendment history is found in Appendix A2.

Refer to [Appendix A4](#) for a MEMP distribution list and [Appendix A1](#) for restricted information that is exercised for versions of this plan for various audiences.

Testing and exercising

The MEMP and sub-plans are to be exercised on an annual basis. Complementary plans, such as heat, are reviewed as required. This will be performed in a manner determined by the MEMPC, examples include:

- Through an annual, regional, North East collaboration or municipal exercise
- Through a desktop review of a specific hazard or risk from the Community Emergency Risk Assessment (CERA) with relevant members of the MEMPC.
- Multi-agency testing.

Any procedural anomalies or shortfalls encountered during these exercises, or ensuing operations, will be addressed and rectified at the earliest opportunity.

For a list of recent exercises refer to [Appendix B1](#).

1.5   Context

Under the EM Act the Alpine MEMPC is the peak body for emergency management within the Alpine Shire. The Alpine MEMPC is comprised of government and non-government agencies to develop policies, procedure, strategies and framework to support coordinated emergency management planning for the municipality.

This MEMP is intended to assist and protect the Alpine Shire communities, visitors, businesses and environment, especially the more vulnerable, and therefore holds local detail and information.

Under s59F(b) of the EM Act the Alpine MEMPC has a role in enabling community participation in emergency preparedness including mitigation, response and recovery activities as part of the MEMP.

This plan is supported by a variety of information, including:
- Emergency management arrangements and general information about emergency planning, response and recovery arrangements; including [roles and responsibilities](#) of people and organisations involved in emergency management.
- Hazard specific sub-plans.
- Sub-Plans designed to be used as stand alone operational documents.
- Complimentary plans and/or standard operating procedures which are used during emergency events.
- Appendices that contain ancillary information including a contact directory listing persons and organisations that have a role in this plan, administration details and a list of municipal resources.

1.6   Aim, Purpose and Objectives

Aim

The aim of this MEMP is to detail the agreed multi-agency and community arrangements for the prevention and mitigation of, response to, relief for and recovery from, emergencies that could occur across the Alpine Shire as identified in Part 6A of the .

Purpose

To ensure the safety of the communities within the Alpine Shire, to preserve lives, livelihoods and the environment in the event of a disaster impacting the municipality with the priority of preserving life. The MEMP has been developed with a community resilience focus.

Objectives

The broad objectives of this MEMP are to:

- Identify and analyse the hazards, risks and consequences that pose the most significant threat to our communities.
- Implement measures to prevent or reduce the likelihood or effects of emergencies.
- Establish arrangements for the use of resources available in emergencies.
- Ensure planning, preparation, response and recovery activities are based around the needs of the community and their ongoing continuity.
- Assist affected communities to recover following an emergency.
- Complement other local, regional and State planning arrangements.

Members of Alpine MEMPC have been involved in or collaborated in the preparation of this MEMP.

This MEMP has been written in three parts to address the three phases of emergency management.

1. **Before** – preparedness, mitigation and planning – community profiling, vulnerable demographics, risk management and community engagement.
2. **During** – response and relief – multi-agency arrangements to respond to a range of emergencies and includes resource sharing, cross border, relief services, impact assessments and communications
3. **After** – recovery – includes community-led approaches to recovery and community continuity.

1.7 Emergencies and Privacy

The *Commonwealth Privacy Act 1988* is not a barrier to necessary information sharing in a declared emergency or disaster but does ensure that entities that collect, use or disclose personal information about individuals affected by the emergency comply with Part VIA of the Act.

Part VIA of the *Commonwealth Privacy Act* regulates how entities may collect, use and disclose personal information in a declared emergency or disaster.

Visit the Office of the Australian Information Commissioner webpage for detailed information about privacy during an emergency

https://www.oaic.gov.au/privacy/guidance-and-advice/emergencies-and-disasters/

2.   BEFORE - Alpine Shire Overview

The Alpine Shire is in the Hume Region, in north-east Victoria, about 300km from the Melbourne CBD. It shares its boundaries with Wangaratta, Indigo, Towong, East Gippsland and Wellington local government areas and Falls Creek and Mount Hotham Alpine Resorts.

The following characteristics makes Alpine Shire distinctive:
- It is a small local government area with a population of 13,235, 3 main townships and 22 small communities and rural living localities.
- Approximately 30% of the rate base are non-resident homeowners (holiday homes).
- The majority of the population are English-speaking Caucasian.
- The area relies heavily on a successful tourism industry.

2.1   Townships and Localities

Alpine Shire covers an area of 4,787 square kilometres. 92% of its area is forested public land and the remaining 8% consists of towns and farming land in the Ovens, Buffalo, Buckland and Kiewa Valleys. The major towns of Myrtleford and Bright are located in the Ovens Valley, and Mount Beauty is located in the Kiewa Valley. The alpine areas include Dinner Plain, Mount Bogong, Mount Buffalo, sections of the Alpine National Park; and encircles Falls Creek and Mount Hotham Alpine Resorts.

Figure 1 shows the towns and localities context map. Further maps can be found in Appendix C.
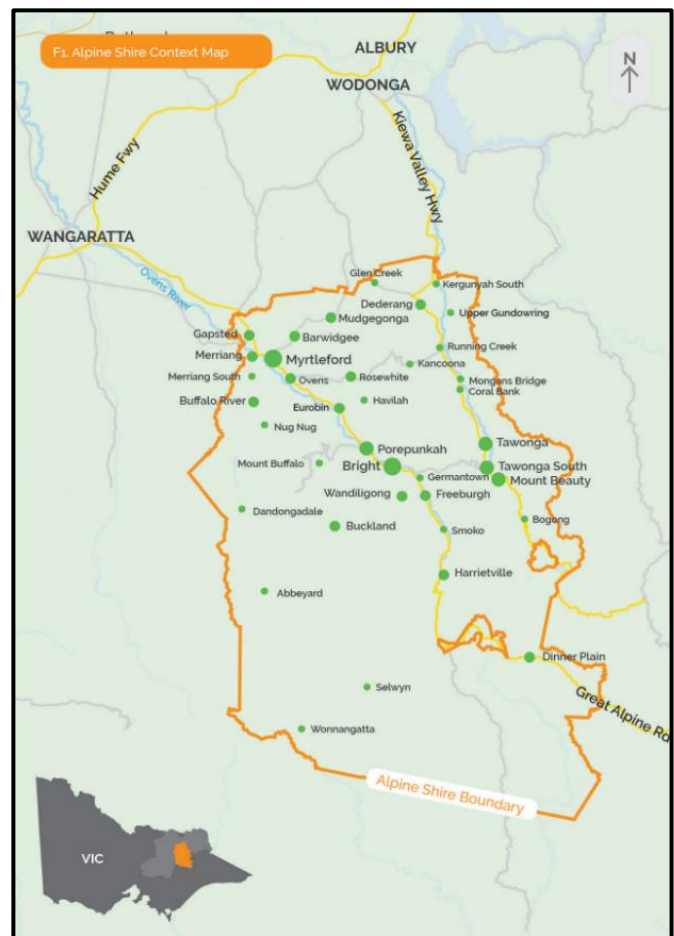
Figure 1: Map of towns and localities

Falls Creek and Mount Hotham Alpine Resorts

While Falls Creek and Mount Hotham Alpine Resorts sit within Alpine Shire boundaries, they are managed by Alpine Resorts Victoria (ARV) a Statutory Authority with their own MEMPC and MEMP. For further detail refer to Mount Hotham and Falls Creek individual MEMPs. The two resorts have close relationships with Alpine Shire and the neighbouring towns of Dinner Plain, Harrietville and Mount Beauty.

Alpine community emergency planning

In planning for the safety of alpine communities, and their year-round visitors, it is important that local emergency planning recognises their restricted access to resources and increased risk of isolation during events such as bushfire, heavy snowfall or landslide. The Alpine Shire and ARV MEMPCs collaborate during planning and preparation for emergencies to ensure arrangements are complimentary.

2.2   Topography

The Alpine Shire contains a wide range of natural environments including Victoria's highest peak, Mount Bogong (1986 metres), and several other peaks above 1200 metres. The broad, undulating Bogong High Plains and part of the Dargo High Plains are also major features of the Shire along with Mount Buffalo.

The area supports a wide variety of vegetation types with many rare or endangered species.

The headwaters of many of Victoria's rivers and creeks are located within the shire and form part of the headwaters of south eastern Australia's largest river system, the Murray River. The Ovens and Kiewa valleys are separated by hills which rise approximately 600 metres above the valley floor.

2.3   Demography

Population

According to the Australian Bureau of Statistics, Alpine Shire had a population of 13,235 in 2021. The shire also has a large seasonal transient population and receives more than one million visitors annually that can be attributed to tourism and horticultural industries.

The population peaks during autumn, spring and summer to 25,000 people, and up to 21,500 in winter. The high number of visitors and seasonal workers can add complexity when planning for, responding to and recovering from events.

Further demographics can be found at the Australian Bureau of Statistics website.

2.4   Economics

The Alpine Shire has a diverse local economy with a rich agricultural history. The visitor economy directly supports the accommodation, food services industry, retail trade, and provides indirect benefits to a broad range of other service industries and businesses within the supply chain.

Major industries in the area are:

- **Tourism** – skiing, mountain bike riding, hang gliding and paragliding.
- **Manufacturing** - wood production / manufacturing, food and beverage.
- **Agriculture / horticulture** – hops, nuts, apples, peppermint oil and livestock.
- **Timber Industry** – tree production and timber mill.
- **Electricity generation** – The Kiewa Scheme, Victoria's largest hydroelectric scheme.
- **Community Services** – health services.

Visitation and events

Alpine Shire has a diverse and popular events sector, averaging 107 tourism and community events annually. Events attract around 170,000 attendees bringing 122,000 annual visitors on average, into the Shire.

Signature attractions held across the Shire include the Iconic Bright Rod Run, Brighter Days, Spartan, La Fiera and the Tour of Bright.

The events calendar is heavily concentrated in Bright and its surrounds, hosting 51% of events and drawing 64% of total attendance. The Alpine resorts draw visitors into the Alpine Shire for winter sports and summer cycling activities.

Alpine Shire Council takes steps to ensure the safety of participants and spectators at all events across the Shire. Event organisers must have an Event Management Plan that includes a Risk Management Plan. These plans must be provided to council and are considered as part of the event permit application process.

Further information on planning for events or annual events can be found on the Alpine Shire Council website at: www.alpineshire.vic.gov.au/community/tourism-and-events.

> Events are uploaded to EM-COP (Emergency Management Common Operating Picture for local and regional planning and incident control purposes.

2.5 Vulnerability within the Community

Alpine Shire is a moderately disadvantaged municipality, being ranked 56 amongst the 79 local government areas in Victoria, using the SEIFA (socio-economic indexes for areas) index of disadvantage, however, there are local variations within the Shire most notably Myrtleford with a decile score of 4 (with 1 being the most disadvantaged and 10 being the most advantaged).

The SEIFA Index is derived from Census characteristics such as low income, low educational attainment, high unemployment, and jobs in relatively unskilled occupations.

Planning for needs of people who may have vulnerabilities and undertaking appropriate activities before, during, and after an emergency at a municipal level begins with:

- Identification of vulnerability factors.
- Identifying the location of where people with vulnerabilities gather.
- Building relationships with local, community-based service providers working with vulnerable people.
- Building relationships with community groups servicing their community.

Vulnerability factors may include:

- Age (children, youth, older people with or without family or social support).
- Disability (physical and/or mental).
- Lack of familiarity with an area or environment (Visitors, tourists and seasonal workers).

- Health (physical and mental).
- Language, culture, settlement.
- Social issues (family violence, financial distress, homelessness, poor quality housing).
- Isolation and disconnectedness.

Communities such as Harrietville, Mount Beauty, Wandiligong and Dinner Plain are vulnerable as they are often isolated during emergency incidents.

Vulnerable Persons Register

Under the _Vulnerable People in Emergencies Policy_ (2018), Council is required to coordinate the _Vulnerable Persons Register (VPR)._ The VPR is a list of extremely vulnerable residents who meet **all** of the following criteria:

- Frail, or physically or cognitively impaired
- Unable to comprehend warnings and directions and/or respond in an emergency situation
- Cannot identify personal or community support networks to help them in an emergency.

The agency funded to provide the practical support and care to a client is responsible for assessing the vulnerability of to the client based on the above criteria. If a person is assessed as meeting the criteria, the agency is responsible for adding, verifying and removing people from the register.

Each person is advised and gives consent before being placed on the register. This register is maintained by Council, managed by DFFH and hosted in Council's emergency incident management system, Crisisworks. Council is the VPR coordinator and manages system users, not vulnerable people.

During an emergency, Victoria Police can access the VPR via the Municipal Emergency Response Coordinator (MERC) for evacuation planning.

Facilities where vulnerable people gather or reside

Council maintains a list of facilities where vulnerable people may be located and which require specific consideration during an emergency. These include:

- Pre-schools, childcare centres, primary and secondary schools.
- School and scout camps.
- Health services, aged care residential services, disability group homes.
- Facilities funded or regulated by DFFH and the Department of Education and Training (DET)
- Health services and aged care facilities
- Other locally identified facilities likely to have vulnerable people situated in them.

This list is accessible via Alpine Shire Council's emergency management team and Crisisworks and is available to Victoria Police and the Incident Controller during an emergency.

Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD)

Council works with the Albury Wodonga Ethnic Communities Council (AWECC) and the North-East Multicultural Association (NEMA) to identify and work with the different ethnic groups within the shire to minimise risk, increase resilience and support effective communications.

Increasing numbers of multi-cultural residents and visitors mean there may be language barriers in the Shire during an emergency, especially during peak visitation times.

Victoria Police have acess to an interpreter service and Google translate is also readily available.

First Nations People

Approximately 1% of the local population identify as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander, lower than the State average.

Taungurung Land and Waters Council are Regognised Aboriginal Party for parts of the Alpine Shire, in additional the following First Nations peoples are connected to the land we call Alpine Shire

Bpangerang Aboriginal Corporation

Dalka Warra Mittung Aboriginal Corporation

Dhuduroa Waywurru Nations Aboriginal Corporation

Duduroa Dhargal Aboriginal Corporation

Gunaikurnai Land and Waters Aboriginal Corporation

Jaithmathang Traditional Ancestral Bloodline Original Owners (TABOO) First Nation Aboriginal Corporation

Waywurru (Pallanganmiddang)

MEMPC recognises that Aboriginal peoples enjoy self-determination. Aboriginal self-determination refers to governance and decision-making power of Aboriginal peoples. It is the right of Aboriginal peoples to determine their own political status and pursue their own economic, social and cultural interests. This makes it essential that Council's engagement practices with the Aboriginal community is open and meaningful and is based on Council's Reconciliation Action Plan.

Prevention and preparedness messages and material for the Aboriginal community should be developed in consultation with the Aboriginal community to ensure messaging is well targeted.

Information on the Indigenous culture and Hume Region specific agreements and assets can be found in Section 2.1.3 of the _Hume REMP_.

2.6   Essential Services

The MEMPC considers essential services in its planning and highlights the need to protect and strengthen services, while building redundancies and community resilience for when essential services are disrupted.

In the Alpine Shire, essential services include:
- electricity infrastructure including transmission towers traversing the Shire
- reticulated water and sewerage in Bright, Porepunkah, Myrtleford and Mount Beauty
- mobile phone infrastructure – towers located primarily along hill tops
- Lake Buffalo – agricultural and possible domestic water supply
- hydro-electricity plant in Mount Beauty
- NBN infrastructure
- radio infrastructure – Alpine community radio transmitter sites.

For further information about infrastructure critical to the provision of essential services contact the Alpine Shire Council's Municipal Emergency Management Officer (MEMO).

Critical infrastructure includes those physical facilities, supply chains, systems, assets, information technologies and communication networks which, if destroyed, degraded or rendered unavailable for an extended period, would significantly impact on the social or economic wellbeing of the Victorian community. Information about Critical Infrastructure and how it is managed before, during and after an emergency can be found at Critical Infrastructure Resilience.

Access

Roads

Roads provide primary access to the Shire with tourist coaches operating throughout the year, but extensively in the winter months.

The Alpine Shire has two major roads managed by Department of Transport and Planning (DTP):

1. **Great Alpine Road (GAR)** is the major link for the majority of visiting or passing traffic running east - west through the Ovens Valley from Wangaratta, passing over Hotham Heights, to Bairnsdale.

    The GAR is sometimes impassable and may be closed during winter months due to heavy snowfalls. The road may also be impacted by floodwater or bushfires. Heavy and large trucks (up to Class 2 Heavy Vehicles) and touring coaches use the road and some lesser roads along with local traffic.

2. **Kiewa Valley Highway (KVH)** runs from Bandiana to Mount Beauty before linking to the Bogong High Plains Road which passes over Falls Creek to the Omeo Valley Highway. The Bogong Plains Highway is subject to seasonal closures during the winter months.

Main roads are managed by DTP supported by Alpine Shire Council within the 60-80km zones within townships. Roads on protected public land are managed by the Department of Energy, Environment, and Climate Action (DEECA). All other roads are managed by the Alpine Shire Council.

The following roads are managed by DTP:

*   Great Alpine Road (GAR)
*   Kiewa Valley Highway
*   Bogong High Plains Road (Mount Beauty to Falls Creek)
*   Bright-Tawonga Road
*   Buckland Gap Road
*   Buffalo River Road
*   Dederang Road
*   Glenrowan-Myrtleford Road (Snow Road)
*   Happy Valley Road
*   Mount Buffalo Road
*   Myrtleford-Yackandandah Road
*   Running Creek Road

For further information on main roads with ASC support contact the MEMO.

Airfields

There are airfields located at Porepunkah, Mount Beauty and Mount Hotham, with the latter operating charter flights on demand. The Porepunkah and Mount Beauty airports are open to aircraft throughout the year. Several private landing strips exist within the Shire. Airfield details are found in Appendix B4.

2.7 History of Emergencies

The Alpine Shire has a long history of emergency impacts including major bushfires, floods, storms, landslide, power and telecommunication outages and outbreaks of infectious disease. A summary of emergencies in the Alpine Shire can be found below in **Table 1**. A more detailed list of events and impacts can be found in Appendix A5.

The shire also has a significant history of non-major emergencies such as missing persons, high angle rescue, house fires, death of young people, industrial accidents, medical extractions and recreational, road accidents resulting in multiple deaths and aircraft accidents.

Table 1: Emergency History Summary

Emergency	Summary
	Significant fires, on forested public land, are of a frequent and serious nature in the Alpine Shire, with the most recent being the 2019-2020 Black Summer Fires.
	Areas within the Ovens and Kiewa Valley have experienced minor to major flooding throughout history with the most recent minor floods occurring in October 2022 and October 2023, impacting residential and farming properties. Myrtleford has a history of flooding in the township and shopping area.
	Storms of considerable severity (including windstorms, thunderstorms and hailstorms) have occurred throughout the municipality. These events have resulted in property damage, power outages and trees falling on roads and bike paths. The most recent event occurred in Mount Beauty in January 2024.
	The Bogong High Plains Road landslide, in October 2022, took 18 months to reopen both lanes of the road and had significant impact on residents and visitation to the area. This was the largest landside event in Victoria in 40 years.
	The Great Alpine Road between Harrietville and Mount Hotham has a history of incidents, such as stranded cars and busses, and closures during heavy snow fall and blizzards. The most recent event resulted in a road closure on 6th-8th Aug 2017 between Harrietville and Mt. Beauty. 3 buses and 40 cars were stuck on this section of road requiring ERCs and the evacuation of occupants from busses and some cars. Egress from Mt. Hotham was only available through Omeo.
	The Alpine Shire experienced a prolonged power outage in conjunction with a telecommunications outage with inability to call 000 in February 2024. This was part of a large-scale outage throughout the state impacting many municipalities. CFA placed a mobile communications unit in the main street of Bright to take all 000 calls and transfer through their internal communications.
	Alpine Shire was affected by the H1N1 epidemic in 2009, with over 2000 cases reported across Victoria.The impact of outbreak across the Alpine shire was minimal, however, lockdowns and cross-boarder issues created many issues. The Global COVID-19 Pandemic impacted the Alpine Shire throughout 2020-2022, with significant impact to health, social and economic practices, and behaviours.
	Australia's Bureau of Meteorology defines a heatwave as three consecutive days and nights of above average temperatures. The most significant heatwaves that have affected the Alpine Shire in recent years were the summers of 2009 and 2014.

3. EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PLANNING

3.1 Victoria's Emergency Management Planning Framework

This plan supports holistic and coordinated emergency management arrangements within the municipality. It is consistent with, and contextualises, the _State Emergency Management Plan_ (SEMP) and Hume _Regional Emergency Management Plan_ (REMP). This plan does not conflict with, or duplicate, in-force emergency management plans.

Communities can undertake their own localised emergency planning. MEMPCs must consider any local Community Emergency plan in the creation of a MEMP. Community plans connect into the Victorian Emergency Management Framework as seen in **Figure 2**.

Figure 2 _outlines the Plan relationships. This Plan should be read in conjunction with the SEMP and the Hume REMP._
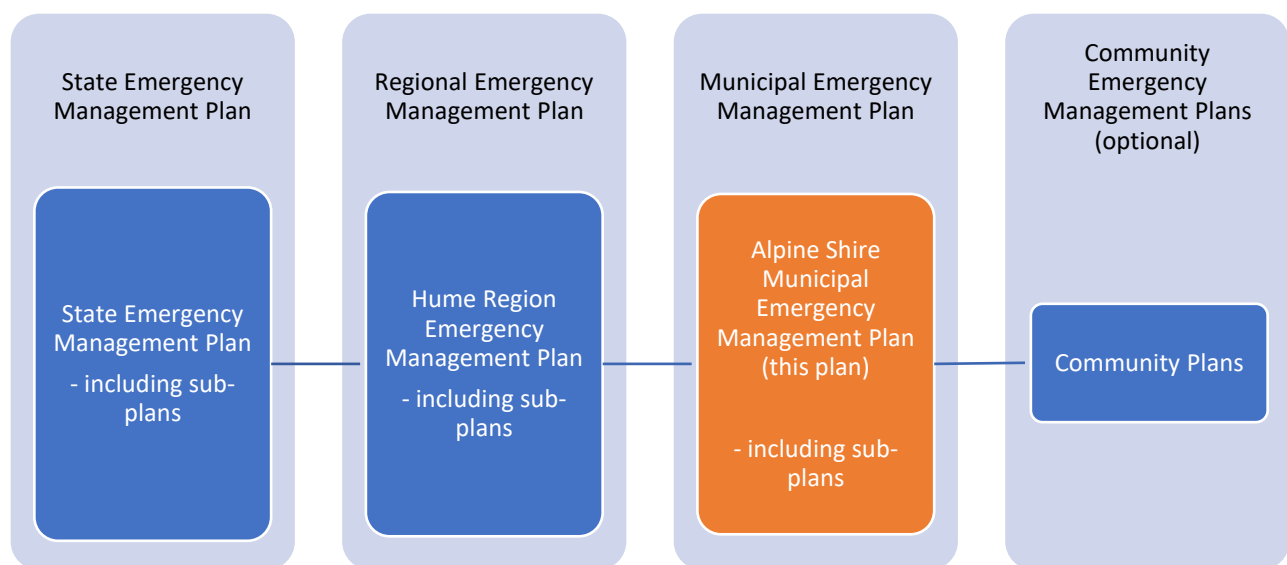
3.2 MEMPC, sub-committees and working groups

Municipal Emergency Management Planning Committee (MEMPC)

The Committee is formed pursuant to the EM Act (s59A to s59F).

The MEMPC is responsible for undertaking emergency management planning involving:

- Regular emergency risk assessments to understand and manage municipal risk profiles.
- Preparation, assurance and review of the MEMP.
- Considering Community Emergency Management Plans if they have been developed.
- Ensuring the MEMP is consistent with the SEMP and relevant REMP.
- Providing reports and recommendations to the region's REMPC in relation to any matter that affects or may affect emergency management planning in the municipal district.
- Sharing information with the region's REMPC and with other MEMPCs.
- Collaborating with any other MEMPC that the MEMPC considers appropriate including during the preparation of MEMPs.

MEMPC governance arrangements are in accordance with the EM Act, and are detailed in the Alpine Shire MEMPC Terms of Reference (Available from the MEMPC Chair, Alpine Shire Council)

Sub-committees and working groups

The Alpine Shire MEMPC forms or contributes to sub-committees and temporary working groups (municipal, regional or state based) as required. Sub-committees and working groups investigate and report on specific issues requiring an additional level of detail or planning that either enhance or contextualise this plan or assist the MEMPC in meeting its obligations under the EM Act. Examples include the creation of the NAFMPC for the Municipal fire management plan.

The MEMPC determine the Terms of Reference and reporting timeframes for any municipal sub-committees or working group. Further information about sub-committees and working groups can be found in the MEMPC Terms of reference, available from the MEMPC Chair (Alpine Shire Council).

North-East Hume Region Emergency Management Collaboration

Alpine, Indigo and Towong local government areas share common municipal boundaries, risk profile and many agency representatives. The North-East Hume Region Emergency Management Collaboration (NE Collaboration) was formed through Victorian Government Safer Together Program to enhance interoperability (efficiencies, capacity and the capability) across the three councils. The NE Collaboration aims to plan and prepare for emergencies together and share resources in a manner that ensures local government responsibilities are met, and provide the best outcomes for communities.

The NE Collaboration has developed joint *'Emergency Relief Centre Collaboration Arrangements'* and training. The NE Collaboration are continuing to develop joint processes and procedures enabling an integrated approach to council emergency preparedness, response, relief, and recovery. These documents are listed as Complementary Plans in Appendix B1.

Cross boundary event planning and collaboration

The MEMPC is aware that emergency events may cross municipal boundaries, requiring response and recovery activities from two or more municipalities or alpine resorts.

The MEMPC plans for cross boundary events by:

- Providing the Alpine Shire's MEMP to ARV and municipal councils bordering Alpine Shire Council.
- Working with the NE Collaboration for planning and exercising.
- Working with East Gippsland Shire.
- Maintaining cross boundary relationships via forums, projects, working groups, and meetings.

The Alpine Shire Council is a signatory to the MAV Protocol for Inter-Council Emergency Management Resource Sharing. For further information refer to Section 5.10 – Cross Boundary Events.

3.3   Sub-Plans and Complimentary Plans

Sub-Plans

The MEMPC in conjunction with the hazard control agency will determine if a committee or working group is required to develop a sub-plan. All sub-plans are multi-agency plans, where the consequences are likely to be significant, to detail more specific or complex arrangements that either enhance or contextualise this Plan. Sub-plans may also be supported by operational documents or complementary plans.

All sub-plans are subject to the same preparation, consultation, assurance, approval, and publication requirements as this plan, as outlined in Part 6A of the EM Act.

Agencies with roles or responsibilities in a sub-plan must act in accordance with the plan (EM Act 2013, s60AK).

These plans may also be supported by operational documents or complementary plans. A list of sub-plans relevant to the Alpine Shire are in Appendix B1.

Complementary Plans

Complementary plans are prepared by local government, industry/sectors or agencies for plans not administered under Part 6A of the EM Act. They are often prepared to meet other statutory requirements and governance arrangements for a specific purpose such as the *Water Act 1989*.

Complementary plans do not form part of this plan and are not subject to approval, consultation, and assurance under the EM Act.

Examples of complementary plans are:
- An agency's plan for a specific hazard that does not require an integrated approach.
- A risk management plan prepared under the critical infrastructure resilience arrangements in Part 7A of the EM Act.

A list of complementary plans relevant to the Alpine Shire are in Appendix B1.

3.4 Community Plans

The development of community plans allows members of a community to participate in decision making processes that directly affect them. These plans can be emergency management or resilience plans developed by communities with the support of the emergency management sector.

> *Working together as part of the community creates opportunities for people to learn from each other, while tapping into combined local knowledge, expertise and resources. Building on these strengths can support communities and organisations to develop and achieve mutual goals and solutions, while strengthening relationships that can also support people to cope during critical times of need.* (EMV, 2023).

Communities with emergency planning or resilience groups are encouraged to join the Alpine Resilience Partnership (ARP) where they can collaborate and be supported by response and support agencies and other community planning groups to achieve their emergency and resilience goals.

As part of a commitment to shared responsibility specified in the SEMP, the MEMPC must take into consideration any community emergency plan when developing the MEMP. The development of community plans allows members of a community to participate in decision making processes that directly affect them. These plans can be emergency management or resilience plans developed by communities with the support of the emergency management sector.

Further information on ARP and community plans can be found in Section 4.4 - Community Resilience.

Roles and responsibilities of businesses and community can be found in Section 7.2.

3.5 Legislated Municipal Roles

At the municipal level the EM Act details five roles that must be appointed or delegated for municipal planning:

Municipal Emergency Response Coordinator (MERC): appointed by the Chief Commissioner of Police to coordinate agencies and resources within a municipal district to support response activities (s56).

Municipal Emergency Management Officer (MEMO): appointed from within council, the MEMO is responsible for emergency management planning, liaising with agencies and coordinating

emergency management activities for council (s59G) including providing [supplementary response resources](#) via the MERC.

Municipal Recovery Manager (MRM): appointed from within council, the MRM is responsible for coordinating recovery resources in consultation with relevant agencies, liaising with the MEMO about the use of municipal council resources for recovery and supporting recovery planning and preparation (s59H).

Municipal Fire Prevention Officer (MFPO): appointed from within council, the MFPO is responsible for assessing fire threats to life or property within the municipal district and have the power to issue fire prevention notices that require owners or occupiers of land to take steps to remove or minimise that threat (*CFA Act 1958,* s96A).

The MFPO is also to ensure that council fulfills the requirements to take all practicable steps (including burning) to prevent the occurrence of fires on, and minimise the danger of the spread of fires on and from land or road under its maintenance or control. (CFA Act 1958, s43).

MEMPC Chair: council Chief Executive Officer (CEO), or a member of the municipal council staff nominated by the CEO, is to be the chairperson of the MEMPC (s59B).The chair is responsible for chairing meetings of the MEMPC, facilitating the MEMPC to perform its functions and providing information and recommendations to the Hume REMPC on behalf of the MEMPC.

Municipal Environmental Health Officer (EHO): has delegated responsibilities for promoting, maintaining, and protecting public health in regards to clean water, safe food and managing waste during in emergencies. This includes environmental risks in the natural and built environment that can impact on public health. This is not for medical matters which are under the *SEMP Health Emergencies Sub-Plan*.

Municipal Building Surveyor (MBS): has an important role in emergencies in single incident building fires as well as large scale fires and floods. They have the power to evacuate buildings or order immediate work to be undertaken to protect public safety. The MBS may be involved in assessing longer-term remediation to buildings required through issuing building orders and notices.

4. MITIGATION ARRANGEMENTS

The MEMPC reduce risks by promoting public safety through awareness of hazards, mitigating the impact of events, and minimising the consequences of emergencies that may occur within the municipality.

4.1   Risk Management

Risk management underpins all emergency management planning, including this MEMP.

As part of mitigation and preparedness, it is important to build the capacity of individuals, communities, and businesses to make their own decisions and to work with agencies. Examples of expectations are found on page 10 of the [SEMP.](#)

4.2   Risk Assessment Process and Results

The Alpine Shire MEMPC uses the [Community Emergency Risk Assessment](#) (CERA) to identify and analyse potential risks that could impact the community and visitors to the area.
The CERA is an "all hazards," "all agencies" integrated risk assessment tool developed and managed by the Victorian State Emergency Service. It draws on local and expert knowledge to identify hazards and mitigation strategies, systematically determining levels of risk and prioritising actions to reduce the likelihood and consequences of an emergency.

The outputs of the CERA are used to inform the MEMP, introduce risk action plans and ensure that communities are aware of and better informed about hazards and the associated emergency risks that may affect them. The CERA process predominantly focuses on hazards such as storm and fire and does not consider human behaviour-based risk factors such as drug and alcohol use or criminal behaviour.

The CERA provides the MEMPC with a framework for considering and improving the safety and resilience of the community to hazards and emergencies. The CERA process is consistent with:
- *International Risk Management Standard ISO31000:2108* – principles and guidelines
- *National Emergency Risk Assessment Guidelines* (NERAG) 2020

2024 CERA Review

The CERA is updated on an ongoing basis by the MEMPC and subject matter experts. Alpine Shire's CERA was reviewed in April-May 2024 to inform the development of this plan as required by the MEMP statement of assurance.

Seven hazards of significance are identified in the Alpine Shire found in **Table 2**. Tables for each hazard identifying possible causes, mitigation strategies, consequences and impacts planning documents, what's being done and what community can do refer to Appendix A6.

Table 2: Significant hazards in the Alpine Shire

Hazard Category	Hazard	Residual Risk Rating	Control Agency
Natural Disasters	Bushfire – Grassfire	High	CFA / DEECA
	Storm	High	VICSES
	Flood	High	VICSES
	Extreme Temperatures (Heat)	High	EMC
Biological	Human Disease / Pandemic	High	DH
Infrastructure	Essential Service Disruption - Electricity	Medium	DEECA
Transport	Transport Incident - Road	High	Victoria Police

All sub-plans and complementary plans can be found in **Appendix B1** and are available on Alpine Shire Council website.

Victorian Fire Risk Register (VFRR)

The Victorian Fire Risk Register – bushfire (VFRR-B) is a CFA product that is used to identify and address bushfire risks within the Alpine Shire municipal district. https://www.vfrr.vic.gov.au/ It is a systematic process that helps to identify assets at risk from bushfire, assess the level of risk to these assets and highlights the treatments currently in place along with the responsible agencies for implementing these strategies using the Australian/New Zealand Risk Management Standard ISO:3100. The assets of the VFRR-B are divided into four classes

- human settlement,
- economic,
- environmental, and
- cultural heritage.

The VFRR-B is reviewed regularly as determined by the CFA. Risk identification is ongoing. Outputs from the VFRR-B process inform and support this MEMP and the Northern Alpine Fire Management Sub Plan.

Other Plans and Supporting Documents

The MEMPC, and its agency members, provide knowledge, guidance and support for community led emergency and resilience planning and the Alpine Resilience Partnership (ARP).

The local Control Agencies have community awareness, engagement, and education programs, with many responsible for the local implementation of State-based education campaigns to support community in planning and preparation.

4.3   Electric Line Clearence

Under the Electricity Safety Act 1998 Division 2A Municipal Emergency Management plans must specify procedures for the identification of trees that are hazardous to electric lines.

The Alpine Shire Electric Line Clearance Management Plan (ELCMP) has been prepared in accordance with the Electricity Safety Act 1998 and with Regulation 9 – Preparation of Management Plan, Part 2 of the Electricity Safety (Electric Line Clearance) Regulations 2020 (Vic).

The ELCMP outlines the management responsibilities, procedures and practices to be adopted and observed in managing vegetation in the vicinity of electric lines and to minimise danger of electric lines causing fire or electrocution to fulfil its duties as set out in the Electricity Safety (Electric Line Clearance) Regulations 2020.

For further information regarding the ELCMP contact the MEMO.

4.4   Community Resilience

Alpine Resilience Partnership (ARP)
The Alpine Resilience Partnership (ARP) is made up of representatives from local government and non-government emergency and support agencies, community groups and community representatives to develop strategies and frameworks to support coordinated resilience planning for the municipality. The ARP has a focus on preparedness, planning and resilience and seeks to represent communities and their interests across the Alpine Shire.

ARP supports communities to understand the nature of shocks and disasters and to actively prepare, plan for and mitigate against the impacts of emergencies.

The Alpine Shire MEMPC is committed to supporting ARP with any community resilience planning and programs.

ARP is the conduit between community, resilience groups and the MEMPC. The ARP Chair is a MEMPC member.

ARP helps identify community issues and concerns. Where appropriate, the APR Chair will raise issues to the MEMPC for support and advice, or advocate and lobby, in conjunction with the community, government departments, other agencies and Council to implement programs and initiatives to address these concerns.

ARP maintains an awareness of existing municipal capability and capacity to support the effective conduct of mitigation, response, and recovery activities. Where appropriate the Committee may facilitate or assist with activities that support capability and capacity uplift. This may include, but is not limited to, community engagement activities or multi-agency exercises and training that provide

for continuous learning and improvement. ARP may establish ongoing sub-committees or time-limited working groups to investigate or address specific issues or undertake key tasks that may support MEMPC planning.

Further information on the ARP and their *Terms of Reference* stored on the Alpine Shire Council website.

72hr Program

The Alpine Shire MEMPC supports the 72hr Program developed by Alpine Shire, in collaboration with Moira Shire and in conjunction with CFA, SES and Albury Wodonga Ethnic Communities Council (AWECC).

The 72hr Program is based on a simple *flyer* and *worksheet* aimed to support individuals, households, businesses and communities to plan for all emergencies. This program is designed to generate conversations and empower community members to connect with the experts in each specific risk who can support them to make decisions in developing a plan catered to their individual needs.

This program forms part of community education and awareness across the shire and help to inform community profiles. For more information on community profiles refer to the Alpine Shire website.

Community Resilience and Emergency Planning Groups

There are communities throughout the Alpine Shire who are engaged in community led emergency or resilience planning. Refer to Section 3.4 - Plans – Community Plans.

Information regarding community led planning and community led resilience groups can be found on the Alpine Shire website. The development of relevant and appropriate community education resources and activities

Community Education and Awareness

Community education is a vital component of prevention and preparedness. The Alpine Shire Council, together with emergency management services/agencies actively engage the community through a range of mechanisms including community programs and projects, media releases, advertisements, Council's website, and newsletters. These programs, such as the 72hr Program, are to empower the community, equip them emotionally and physically and enhance their resilience.

Resilient communities are well prepared, better able to respond to an emergency, and therefore better able to recover from the impacts of an emergency.

Programs available can be found in **Table 3** – Community Education and Awareness. These resources often have translated versions to support CALD communities.

Table 3: **Community Education and Awareness.**

RISK	PROGRAM	AGENCY
Fire	Brigade Community Engagement Coordinators and Community Liaison officers	CFA
Bush and grassfire	Fire safety essentials	CFA
Bush and grassfire	Practical bushfire planning workshops	CFA
Bush and grassfire	Community Fireguard	CFA
Bush and grassfire	Tourism business bushfire plan	Tourism Vic CFA
House fire	Home Fire Safety program	CFA
House fire	Fire Safe Kids	CFA
House fire	Smoke Alarms	CFA
Fire	EPAS Emergency Planning Advice Service (vulnerable people support)	CFA Red Cross
Fire	Annual Prevention Program, including advice and courtesy letters prior to fire season.	ASC
Community firesafety - Programs	Community meetings and education programs Contact District 24 (02) 6043 4400	CFA
Businesses -Various	Emergency management plans for business CFA Guides for Businesses and Councils Prepare your business for an emergency	CFA SES
Farms - Fire	Farm fire preparedness	Ag VIc
Fire and other risks	Safer Together – Community Based Bushfire Management	CFA DEECA
Bushfire	Interactive map	DEECA
Bushfire	Planned burning awareness	DEECA
Flood, storm, earthquake, tsunami, landslide, and rescue	Community Education Facilitators and Community Resilience Coordinators	SES
Flood	15 to Float	SES
Flood, Storm, Landslide	Plan and Stay Safe – plan for emergencies at home, work, school, holidays etc.	SES
Flood, Storm, Landslide	Educational Activities	SES
Extreme heat	Survive the heat	DH
Extreme heat	Heat and pets	Ag Vic
Extreme heat	How to Prepare for a Heatwave	Red Cross
Power Outages	Power Outages	DEECA
All Emergencies	Vic Emergency – Prepare and get ready	EMV
All Emergencies	72hr Program	ASC, MSC, CFA, SES, AWECC
All Emergencies	Preparing for Emergencies	Red Cross
All Emergencies	RediPlan	Red Cross

5. DURING - Response and Relief Arrangements

Emergency response and relief activities are the actions taken immediately before and during the first period after an emergency to reduce the impact and consequences of emergencies on; people, communities, their livelihoods and wellbeing, essential and community infrastructure, industry, the economy, and the environment.

5.1 Response Arrangements

The Victorian State Emergency Management Priorities are found in the SEMP. These priorities underpin and guide all decisions during a response to any emergency.

The SEMP provides the mechanism for the build-up of appropriate resources to cope with emergencies throughout the State. It also provides for the ability for the State to request physical assistance from the Commonwealth when resources have been exhausted.

Emergency Response operations are managed via three operational tiers which include state, regional and incident levels. Most incidents are of local concern and can be coordinated from local municipal resources. When resources are exhausted further regional support may be requested in accordance with arrangements outlined in the Hume REMP, firstly from neighbouring regions, then secondly on a state-wide basis.

All response arrangements within this document are consistent with the arrangements detailed in the SEMP to ensure the continuity of resources with all levels of government.

Particular effort has been made by agencies and Council to ensure relationships have been formed. In the first instance, the Alpine Shire Council will make a request to the NE Collaboration for additional resources before escalating to the region and the state.

Classes of Emergency

Emergency	Description
Class 1 emergency	Means (a) A major fire (b) any other major emergency for which Fire Rescue Victoria, the Country Fire Authority or the Victoria State Emergency Service Authority is the control agency under the SEMP — EM Act 2013 s 3
Class 2 emergency	Means a major emergency which is **not**: (a) A Class 1 emergency; or (b) A warlike act of act of terrorism, whether directed at Victoria or a part of Victoria or at any other State or Territory of the Commonwealth; or (c) A hi-jack, siege or riot. — EM Act 2013 s 3
Class 3 emergency	A warlike act or terrorist act, whether directed at Victoria or a part of Victoria or at any other State or Territory of the Commonwealth, or a hijack, siege or riot. Class 3 emergencies may also be referred to as security emergencies. — *Class 3 Emergencies sub-plan* This definition is derived from the Victoria Police Class 3 Emergencies sub-plan and is not defined in the *EM Act 2013*.

Non-major emergencies

According to the definition in the [SEMP](#) a non-major emergency is:
- Any emergency that is not a major emergency.
- A small emergency incident managed by the public or through the business-as-usual arrangements of agencies or private enterprises in a small area, promptly and without call on further resources.
- Significant consequences for the community are not anticipated and major emergency arrangements are not proposed.

Reponses to non-major emergencies will be managed as a business-as-usual activity.

ASC has developed the Non-Major Emergency Protocol which outlines agencies and actions which need to be undertaken following an emergency. An information booklet has also been developed to assist community members affected by a non-major emergency. Activation for relief in a non-major emergency can be done via the MEMO. For further information on Protocol and booklet contact the Alpine Shire MRM.

The Six C's of Emergency Management

The 6Cs of Victoria's emergency response arrangements are traditionally organised under the functions of Command, Control and Coordination. These response arrangements (including relief) for this MEMP are focused on these and further functions of, Consequence, Communication and Community Connection, collectively known as the Six Cs. Information on the *Six Cs* can be found on the EMV website.

Victoria Police is responsible for the coordination function at the municipal and regional tier whilst the Emergency Management Commissioner is responsible at the State tier supported by the Senior Police Liaison Officer.

5.2   Local Response Arrangements and Responsible Agencies

Control and Support Agencies

A Control Agency is the primary agency responsible for responding to a specified type of emergency. It is the responsibility of the Control Agency to formulate action plans for a given emergency in consultation with Support Agencies.

For the full list of Control and key Support Agencies that have been predetermined for emergencies in Victoria see [SEMP Table 9](#)

5.3   Emergency Management Teams

The function of the Emergency Management Team (EMT) at both incident and regional level is to support the Incident Controller in determining and implementing appropriate Incident Management Strategies for the emergency.

If an emergency involves more than one agency, the IEMT is to support the Incident Controller to manage the effects and consequences of the emergency:

The IEMT consists of:
- Chair: Incident Controller, MERC, IERC or MRM (recovery)
- Representative of Council /s affected by the emergency
- Incident-tier: representatives of agencies delivering services to the public
- MRM or RRC
- Other specialist persons as required (agency, community, and/or business representatives appropriate for the emergency

5.4 Activation of Response

Typically, the MERC or responsible authority will contact the MEMO to request activation of particular arrangements or resources.

The MEMO is responsible for notifying the MRM of the potential need for relief and recovery services. Together they will assess the relief and recovery needs of the emergency. In some instances, the Regional Recovery Coordinator may inform the MRM of the need for recovery activities.

Relief arrangements should be implemented at the earliest possible opportunity for the impacts of an emergency to be minimised The MEMO or MRM can also activate the relief and/or recovery components of the MEMP if it is deemed these services are immediately required in response to an emergency event, before the MERC or another responsible authority has had time to assess the situation. For further information refer to Section 5.12 – Activation of relief services.

5.5 Response Coordination

Incident and Regional Control Centres (ICC)

As per the _Victorian Emergency Operations Handbook_, Class 1 and some types of Class 2 emergencies are managed from the State Control Centre (SCC), Regional Control Centres (RCCs) and either an Incident Control Centre (ICC), in filed control/command points, site office or other location determined by the Emergency Management Commissioner or Incident Controller.

The Level 3 Incident Control Centre for fire in the Alpine Shire is generally located at the Ovens DEECA office. Dinner Plain sits within the Gippsland ICC footprint for fire.

Information on operating Incident control Centres and contacts can be found in EM-COP desktop.

Staging Areas

A staging area is a designated area where emergency response/service personnel, vehicles, resources, and equipment are assembled in an emergency.

Maps including locations of CFA Staging Areas, Incident Control Centres (ICC) and Relief Centres can be found in Appendix B5**.**

5.6 Municipal Emergency Coordination

The Emergency Management Team communicates through the Incident Control Centre (ICC). The team comprises the MERC, control agencies, the MEMO and EMLOs. The main role and function are to assess agency readiness, which includes their capacity for deployment and determine the extent of resources available locally. The MRM coordinates relief and recovery.

Municipal level roles and responsibilities are outlined in the _SEMP_. Council has developed a series of internal processes and procedures to achieve their responsibilities in readiness, response and emergency relief and recovery services to be coordinated and delivered at the local level. This may include the following roles:

Communication with the Incident Control

The coordination of the emergency response as a whole will be delivered from an Incident Control Centre (ICC). A Municipal Emergency Management Liaison Officer (EMLO) is welcomed and may be requested to attend the ICC to support the transfer of information between Council and the ICC.

Further information on the EMLO can be found in the Council Operational Guidelines noted in Appendix B1.

Council's Emergency Operation Centre (CEOC)

In an emergency, Council may stand up a virtual or physical CEOC to manage Council's response and support the coordination of emergency communications, relief and recovery.
The Alpine Shire EMLO (if required) will support communications between the CEOC and those in the within the ICC. Further information can be found in the Alpine Shire CEOC Operational Guidelines noted in Appendix B1.

Evacuation

Evacuation is the planned relocation of persons from dangerous or potentially dangerous areas to safer areas and their eventual return. Evacuations may be pre-warned or immediate depending on the circumstances. Evacuation may be undertaken by individuals, families, and households on their own volition and independent of advice, or it may be after an assessment of information provided by a Control Agency.

The five stages of Evacuation are:

1. Decision
2. Warning/recommendation
3. Withdrawal
4. Shelter
5. Return

The decision to recommend any evacuation in the Alpine Shire is made by the Incident Controller in conjunction with VICPOL. *VICPOL is responsible for the coordination of evacuation on behalf of the Control Agency.*

Council is required to provide details and strategies for BPLR, and places where vulnerable people and others may spontaneously gather to support evacuation planning.

Council may also be required in the evacuation process to:
- Assist Victoria Police with management of traffic flow including provision of information regarding road availability, capacity, and safety.
- Assist Regional Roads Victoria to maintain list of road closures (public information).

Council is responsible for the provision of emergency shelter for evacuees and managing emergency relief centres. DFFH and Red Cross will assist Council in the provision of relief and registration of evacuees.

The control agency is responsible for ensuring evacuation messaging goes out through official emergency broadcasters and channels.

Access to the Vulnerable Persons Register (VPR) for evacuation is through the link located in Crisisworks: https://vpr.crisisworks.com VicPol has access to the VPR for emergency purposes.

5.7 Bushfire Place of Last Resort (Neighbourhood Safer Place) – BPLR – NSP and Community Fire Refuges

Bushfire Places of Last Resort (BPLR) – BPLR is a place to go when an individual's plans have failed. They should not be part of shelter in place or evacuation strategy. A BPLR is a place where a person's prospects of survival **may** be better than other places but cannot be guaranteed.

Council annually reviews and identifies suitable sites (buildings and open space) which CFA assess and approve for use and formal designation as BPLRs. For more information https://www.cfa.vic.gov.au/plan-prepare/your-local-area-info-and-advice/neighbourhood-safer-places

All Alpine Shire's BPLRs are signposted as Bushfire Places of Last Resort at each location.

The full list is contained in **Table 4** and on the [CFA](#) or Council [website](#).

Community Fire Refuges - Alpine Shire **DOES NOT** have any designated fire refuges.

In Victoria there are design, siting, and construction regulations for private bushfire shelters, including:

- They must comply with Victorian Building Regulations 2006 and National Construction Code performance requirements
- A building permit **must** be obtained prior to construction
- A planning permit may be required.

Further information at: https://www.cfa.vic.gov.au/plan-prepare/private-bushfire-shelters-or-bunkers

BPLR Locations

Table 4: BPLR Locations

Alpine Shire Bushfire Places of Last Resort - BPLRs		
TOWN(S)	**BUSHFIRE PLACES OF LAST RESORT**	**COORDINATES**
Bright and Wandiligong	Pioneer Park Oval 64/72 Coronation Avenue, Bright	-36.737131 146.970934
Harrietville	Refer to CFA or Alpine Shire Website	
Porepunkah	Porepunkah Hall and oval	-36.698301 146.911356
Dederang	Memorial Hall Kiewa Valley Highway, Dederang	-36.475587 147.021267
Myrtleford	RC McNamara Reserve oval Lewis Avenue, Myrtleford	-36.567486 146.723026
Mount Beauty	Mount Beauty Sports Stadium Pool Road, Mount Beauty	-36.741793 147.168774
Tawonga	Refer to CFA or Alpine Shire website	

5.8   Resource Supplementation

The incident control agency will draw on its own resources and arrangements to respond to an incident. If an incident escalates, incident control may require resource supplementation.

EMV has developed a comprehensive *Practice Note – Sourcing Supplementary Emergency Response Resources* to guide both agencies and Council through Municipal Resource Sharing.

5.9   Financial Considerations

Control agencies are responsible for all costs involved in that agency responding to an emergency from their normal budgets.

Financial accounting for Municipal resources utilised in emergencies must be authorised by the MEMO or the MRM and shall be in accordance with the normal financial arrangements of Alpine Shire Council. The MEMO is responsible for ensuring financial expenditure is tracked in an emergency event.

Where equipment or resources are not owned by council and must be sourced through a third-party contractor, the control agency requesting the equipment or resource will bear all costs associated with the request.

Depending on the magnitude of the emergency, some government financial assistance may be available for prevention, response, and recovery activities. Confirmation of funding availability and/or application to receive funding will be undertaken by the CEO, MEMO, and MRM.

Financial Considerations reference document: Sourcing Supplementary Emergency Response Resources through Municipal Councils – Practice Note

5.10 Cross Boundary Events

Planning for both response (including relief) and recovery the Alpine Shire is part of the NE Collaboration to increase the capability and capacity of all three shires during an emergency and works towards solving cross-boundary issues that may exist during or because of an emergency.

For further information refer to Section 3.2 – Integrated Approach.

MAV Protocol for resource sharing

The Alpine Shire Council is a signatory to the Protocol for Inter-Council Emergency Management Resource Sharing. The protocol provides an agreed position between Victorian Municipal Councils for the provision of inter-Council assistance for response and recovery activities during an emergency. The Protocol is commonly enacted for emergency support staff to fulfill CEOC and ERC shifts.

Requests for resources must be made by the MRM or MEMO with the approval of the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) to the CEO (or officer with the delegated authority to action requests for support) of the assisting council.

Requests need to be made in writing using the resource request form and, in most cases, these will be logged on to Crisisworks.

The MERC or RERC of the assisting Council should be contacted before the resources are moved.

The Alpine Shire Council, in the first instance, will seek the assistance from the NE Hume Collaboration prior to going to the region to reduce travel times and expenses.

5.11 Relief Arrangements

As outlined in the SEMP relief is the provision of assistance to meet the essential needs of individuals, families, and communities during and in the immediate aftermath of an emergency. Table 11 of the SEMP outlines relief services, coordinating agencies, relief lead agencies and relief support agencies at the incident tier.

This Plan applies a municipal lens to relief arrangements that will be applied when a multi-agency effort is required to manage an emergency event within the Alpine Shire.

Relief Services

Relief can be provided at the site of an emergency, a dedicated relief centre, relief hubs, places of community gathering, to isolated communities, transit sites or other safe locations as appropriate.

Relief encompasses:

- Community information
- Emergency Shelter (including Emergency Relief Centres)
- Food and water to individuals
- Drinking water to households

- Food supply continuity
- Psychological support
- Disbursement of material aid (non-food items)
- Reconnecting family and friends
- Healthcare and first aid
- Emergency financial assistance
- Animal welfare
- Legal aid
- Coordination of good will (including spontaneous volunteer management)

Several agencies have been identified to provide and/or coordinate the provision of these services within the Alpine Shire, they are detailed in **Table 5** - Alpine Shire Relief Arrangements.

5.12 Activation of Relief Services

Any requests from an Incident Controller for relief activation may come to council via the MERC, or the IC will discuss needs with Council's MRM before determining if a relief or recovery related response should be provided.

During emergency response, emergency relief is managed by the MEMO in partnership with the MRM. At the transition from response to recovery, the MRM will assume full responsibility for relief activities, with support provided by the MEMO.

The MRM will liaise with all local relief and recovery agencies, groups, organisations, the MEMO, and Incident Controller to ensure that relief is delivered in an integrated and timely manner.

Support for maintaining the identity, dignity and autonomy of affected individuals, families and the community is a high priority. Relief and recovery information and services will therefore be responsive to the needs of affected persons.

Once a relief or recovery request is received the MRM will utilise the MRM checklist within the Alpine Shire MRM Operational Guidelines as a guide to ensure all relevant stakeholders are notified and actions carried out.

For further information can be found in Appendix B3 or by contacting the MRM via email at mrm@alpineshire.vic.gov.au.

Activation of Community and Non-Government Groups/Resources for Relief

As part of it's relief coordination role, council may request the activation of non-government and community groups and/or relief providers to support relief provision in the Alpine Shire during an emergency.

Groups who have the ability to support a relief response who are not currently identified are encouraged to make themselves known to the Alpine Shire MRM. This can bedone by emailing mrm@alpineshire.vic.gov.au

Where these groups/or any other group self-activates during an emergency, they should make contact with the Alpine Shire EMC or MEMO as soon as practicable to ensure their efforts are coordinated with the overall relief response. This can be done by emailing em@alpineshire.vic.gov.au

Table 5: Alpine Shire Relief Arrangements

ALPINE SHIRE RELIEF ARRANGEMENTS			
RELIEF NEED	**FUNCTION**	**RELIEF LEAD AGENCY**	**SUPPORT**
Community Information	Provide relief and recovery information to assist communities to make informed decisions about their safety.	Control Agency	ASC Alpine FM DFFH DH
Emergency shelter	Arrange emergency shelter and accommodation for displaced residents and visitors.	ASC	DFFH
Food and water	Co-ordinate provision of food and water for community at emergency relief centres or other locations as required	Australian Red Cross	Rapid Relief Team Food Bank Victoria Salvation Army Myrtleford Neighbourhood Centre Mount Beauty Neighbourhood Centre Lions Club Rotary Club
Drinking water / supply	Provide relief drinking water to households in non-reticulated area.	DEECA	North-East Water
	Restoration and provision of reticulated water supply	DEECA	North-East Water DH (advice)
Essential water for agriculture	Supply of water for replacement of essential water	North East Water	DEECA ASC
Food and grocery supply continuity	Support food and grocery supply logistics continuity planning and operations with the major food distribution operators.	DJPR	
Psychosocial support	Personal support (psychological first aid and emotional-spiritual care) in relief and recovery centres and through community outreach.	DFFH	VCCEM Red Cross Gateway Health Wellways
Material aid	Provide essential material aid (non-food items) to emergency affected persons including clothing, bedding and other personal requisites.		Salvation Army St Vincent de Paul
Reconnecting families	Operate Register. Find. Reunite in relief centres, enquiry centres or online, to reconnect people with family, friends, and their communities.	Vic Pol	Australian Red Cross
First aid / Primary care	Provide pre-hospital care to people affected by emergencies.	AV	DH St John Ambulance
	Establish field primary care clinics	AV	DH Alpine Health
	Provide other health and medical relief assistance measures.	AV	DH St John Ambulance Alpine Health
Financial assistance	Administer relief payments to help individuals meet their basic needs - Personal Hardship Assistance Program (PHAP)	DFFH	Centrelink
	Assist with gift cards, food vouchers, loans, and grants.		Australian Red Cross St Vincent de Paul Salvation Army CWA Good Shepherd
	Wildlife welfare.	DEECA	Wildlife carers

ALPINE SHIRE RELIEF ARRANGEMENTS			
RELIEF NEED	FUNCTION	RELIEF LEAD AGENCY	SUPPORT
Animal welfare	Housing of displaced and lost/stray companion animals.	ASC	
	Animal welfare (other than wildlife) and support services	Ag Vic (DEECA)	ASC RSPCA VFF
Legal Aid			
Coordination of Good Will	Coordination of volunteers during the relief and recovery process	ASC	Albury Wodonga Volunteer Resource Bureau MNC MBNC
	Financial donations	ASC	Giveit
	Food donations	ASC	MNC MBNC
	Material goods	ASC	

Contact details for agencies and relevant supports are kept up to date. For further information please contact the Alpine Shire MRM or EMC.

5.13 Emergency Relief Centres (ERCs)

At the local level, Council with the support of ERV and other appropriate organisations, is responsible for implementing relief including establishing and managing Emergency Relief Centres (ERC). An ERC is a building or place that has been activated to support the immediate needs of displaced people and those affected by or responding to an emergency impacted.

Council has identified facilities around the shire that are potentially suitable for use as an ERC. The decision to activate an ERC will be through the authority of the MERC in consultation with the MRM/MEMO.

When deciding which facility to activate, consideration will include the type of emergency, number of community members who may be displaced and factors such as location and path of the emergency.

ERC venue information will not be in the public version of this document. During an emergency, once an appropriate venue has been identified for activation communications will be distributed to inform the community.

The MRM will arrange to prepare the site for activation. The Incident Controller will arrange for appropriate communications to inform the public.

Further details can be found in the Emergency Relief Centre Collaboration Arrangements which can be found in Appendix B1.

Relief Hubs

Dependant on the type of emergency, relief may also be provided to community by Council via a virtual or physical Relief Hub which support any consequences to the community because of the emergency and may include access to:
- Information, advice, and support.
- Wi-Fi access.
- Power to charge phones, tablets, or laptops.
- Toilet, shower or washing facilities.
- Food, water, basic material aid.

5.14 Relief Communication

Communication in relief is vital and assists the community to remain safe, understand support and services available to them and inform family and friends away from the incident about the emergency. Relief and recovery communications are to be relevant, clear, targeted and timely and must include localised emergency relief information.

Community Information in relief, is the responsibility of the Incident Controller (IC) and the Control Agency through the agency's own arrangements. Council will coordinate relief services information and with other agencies assist with the dissemination of official messaging.

For further information refer to the Alpine Shire Emergency Communications Plan.

Strengthening Telecommunications Against Natural Disasters (STAND) Sites

The STAND program which aimed to increase community communications connectedness, through installation of NBN satellite internet connections in high-risk areas. These connections are designed to support response, relief, and recovery activities if normal communication networks fail and provide community members with access to the internet. Via this program, 9 NBN satellite connections have been installed across the Alpine shire.

For information on STAND locations or access please refer to Appendix B3 or contact the Alpine Shire MEMO.

5.15 Relief Escalation

Relief and recovery coordination and delivery commences at the local level. Escalation (from local to regional) builds on the Alpine Shire's existing local arrangements, rather than replacing them. If assistance is required because capacity is exceeded, additional support is sought in the first instance through the NE Collaboration.

Where an emergency is likely to exceed the capacity of the Alpine Shire Council, with NE Collaboration support, to coordinate emergency relief, council may request the Regional Relief and Recovery Coordinator, ERV, to support the coordination of relief at the regional level. Escalation may occur when:

- Local resource capacity has been exceeded.
- An emergency has affected multiple municipalities in one region.
- An emergency has a significant community-wide impact, in which case the Victorian Government may establish an event specific relief or recovery coordination structure to oversee a whole-of sector response.

5.16 Transition to Recovery

Relief and recovery activities are integrated with response and managed under response arrangements until such time as a transition occurs. Response agencies may be required after transition to support recovery.

The Incident Controller, MERC, MEMO, and MRM as soon as possible after the impact of an emergency to develop a plan and reach agreement on the timing and process of transition from response to recovery.

Transition decisions will be impacted by considerations of the risk of a reoccurring threat, the need for a staged or prolonged transition, the extent of known loss and damage, ongoing relief needs and availability of resources for effective recovery.

In determining the timing and process of handover from response to recovery consideration is given to:

- Notification of all organisations, stakeholders, and the community.
- Media coordination.
- Management of community information sessions.
- Verification and validation of information.
- Operation of the Council Emergency Coordination Centre (CEOC).
- A staged and seamless approach.

The IC takes the lead in planning for and decision making about the transition, as it marks the end of the response phase which the IC manages.

To assist in the handover process 'An agreement for transition of coordination from response to recovery' will be developed. This document includes a schedule for transition arrangements, which may provide some guidance to prioritisation of tasks such as:

- A description of the event.
- Authorisation arrangements.
- Response handover.
- Financial handover.
- Initial Impact Assessment (IIA) data.
- Needs analysis form.
- Transition activities and tasks to ensure continuity of essential community support.
- Information and communication arrangements.

Initial Impact Assessment

The Initial Impact Assessment (IIA) is completed under the direction of the Incident Controller as part of the transition documentation. The IIA will be used to determine the nature and scale of the impact of people, critical infrastructure, and community infrastructure, economic, natural, built, and agricultural environments. It is designed as a holistic approach to impact assessment. Council will set up an Impact assessment team, as early as practicable,to perform the following tasks:

- Survey the extent of damage and provide an early estimate of anticipated financial and material aid required.
- Provide a priority listing for restoration of community needs to assist agencies in the performance of their functions.
- Monitor the acquisition and application of financial and material aid needed or made available in the restoration period.

Council will also activate a system for impacted residents resgister impacts which will become part of a Secondary Impact Assessment (SIA). For further information on SIAs refer Section 6.2.

Information and data sharing

It is critical to ensure that duplication is minimised between organisations and that timely reporting occurs to key stakeholders, including government and other potential providers of financial and physical support.

The MRM will liaise with the Regional Recovery Coordinator to determine the frequency and format of information reporting to support the provision of relief and recovery services.

5.17 Debriefing Arrangements

When required, a debrief should take place as soon as practicable after an emergency. The control agency is responsible for conducting a debrief post an emergency. The MERC or RERC is responsible for ensuring the control agency for the emergency organises an operational debrief with participating agencies (including recovery), with a view to assessing the adequacy of the response

and to recommend any changes to the relevant agencies plan(s) and future response activities. If a municipal debrief is required all agencies should hold their own internal after-action review or debrief prior to the municipal debrief.

After-Action Review

When required, an after-action review should take place as soon as practical after an emergency. The MERC will ask the MEMO to organise the review with agencies who participated to assess the adequacy of this MEMP and Sub-Plans and recommend any changes.

The Chair of the MEMPC, or appropriate facilitator, should chair the review based on any findings from the formal debrief. All debrief and after-action review information will be disseminated to all MEMPC members and others present at the debrief.

6. AFTER - Recovery Arrangements

As outlined in the SEMP (p 31) recovery is the assisting of persons and communities affected by emergencies to achieve a proper and effective level of functioning. Tables 12 to 15 of the SEMP outline the recovery roles and responsibilities of agencies at the state and regional level.

At the local level, the coordination and delivery of recovery services should be aligned with the following National Principles for Disaster Recovery:

6.1   Recovery Objectives

Recovery at the municipal level is founded on ensuring the community is supported in a way where it can return to a proper level of functioning. Council's role in leading this is vital, as council is closest to the community and has capacity to scale up to deal with more widespread and complex issues or needs. This capacity to scale and support however relies on non-government organisations, community groups, businesses, and others - in this sense, recovery is a whole-of-community initiative.

Further details on the objectives of Recovery, including context around events and communities can be found in Victoria's EMV Resilient Recovery Strategy which aims to support community resilience, streamline recovery services and allow individuals and communities to lead and act to shape their future after an emergency.

6.2   Impact Assessments and Consequence Management

Recovery requires timely, accurate and progressively more comprehensive information about the impact of the emergency. Different disasters impact people in many ways which makes it impossible to quantify the total impacts and consequences. Assessments are the best way to inform the type of relief and recovery services that may be required.

Under the United Nations for Disaster Risk Reduction, disaster impacts may include negative effects (eg. economic losses) and positive effects (eg. economic gains) to give the "total" effect of a hazardous event or disaster. This includes economic, human, and environmental impacts and may include death, injuries and other negative effects on human physical, mental and social well-being.

The impacts lead to consequences. Consequences may be described as what follows those immediate and very short-term impacts through to the medium and long term. These may not be obvious without consideration of how the whole community and systems handle the impacts and changing circumstances over time. It should also be acknowledged that the consequences can evolve over time, and that some consequences may not be present until long after the event occurs.

Secondary Impact Assessment (SIA) and Post Emergency Needs Assessment (PENA)

Following the transition to recovery, the ASC, will establish a team to undertake a Secondary Impact Assessment (SIA). Council will work with the relevant community profiles and may co-opt persons within the community, agencies or organisations with the appropriate knowledge or expertise to assist with the assessment.

The data collected will be provided to any Recovery Committee or Group that has been established, and/or support agencies, to support recovery activities and (if required) develop a recovery plan.

A Post Emergency Needs Assessment (PENA) will be completed at a time determined by the MRM. Council will refer to the Disaster Recovery Toolkit for Local Government as a guide for checklists, templates and procedures on impact and needs assessments.

6.3   Recovery Environments

In the SEMP (p32), four environments (social, economic, built, and natural environment listed in **Table 6** and their functional areas are described which can be adapted to meet the needs of people and communities affected, with consideration given to Aboriginal Culture and healing.

Further information on the recovery environments can be found in the SEMP and the Hume REMP.

Aboriginal Culture and Healing

Recovery within the Alpine Shire will take into account that Aboriginal trauma is addressed, healing is supported, Aboriginal culture is valued and respected and Aboriginal cultural safety, participation and ownership is promoted.

For more information on Aboriginal culture and healing please refer to the ER*V* *Strategy for Aboriginal Community-led Recovery*.

Table 6: Recovery environments

ENVIRONMENT	CONSIDERATIONS
Social	The direct and indirect effects an event may have on the health and wellbeing of individuals, families, and communities. This environment is primarily concerned with safety, security and shelter, health, and psychosocial wellbeing.
	Impacts in the social environment may include psychological stress on impacted people, damage to houses, family separation, interruptions to or missing cultural events, etc.
Economic	The direct and indirect effects an event may have on businesses, primary producers, and the broader economy.
	Impacts in the economic environment may include interruptions to business operations, damage to business assets, changes in insurance costs, and reductions in tourism.
Built	The effects an event may have on essential physical infrastructure including essential services, commercial and industrial facilities, public buildings and assets and housing.
	Impacts in the built environment may include damage to roads, levees, and bridges, loss of power, and destruction of community assets.
Natural	The effects an event may have on a healthy and functioning environment, which underpins the economy and society. Components of the natural environment include air and water quality; land degradation and contamination; plant and wildlife damage/loss; and national parks, cultural and heritage sites.
	Impacts in the natural environment may include build-up of waste and debris, damage to flora and fauna, damage to farmland/paddocks, the emergence of new weed varietals, loss of habitat, and so on.

Municipal Recovery

The MRM will manage and coordinate the relief and recovery process within the Alpine Shire Council to the extent that both the Alpine Shire Council and the nominated service providers have the capacity to do so.

When the physical, human, and economic resources of the Council and / or the nominated provider groups within the community are exhausted, the resourcing of those recovery services and/or coordination will be escalated to the ERV at the regional level.

Emergency Recovery Victoria (ERV) coordinates state and regional emergency recovery as the principal recovery planning and management agency for the following:

- Regional recovery coordination.
- Funding and Grants.
- Community information.
- Coordination of volunteers.
- Management of donated goods.
- State led clean-up activities.
- Establishment of regional recovery committees and coordination of some regional recovery programs.

For detailed information on municipal recovery arrangements including activation, transition from response to recovery and return to business as usual refer to the Alpine Shire Relief and Recovery Operational Guidelines.

Municipal Recovery Committee

Dependent on the scale of the emergency it may be necessary to establish a Municipal Recovery Committee and Community Recovery Committee(s). The decision to form a committee rests with the MRM.

In establishing a Municipal Recovery Committee, it is important to consider the functional areas of recovery. The Committee and structure should be flexible, scalable, and adaptable to reflect the scale of the emergency and the diverse range of community needs.

The composition of the committee will vary depending on the affected area. The membership of the committee should include Alpine Shire Council, community leaders, representatives of relevant Government agencies, community groups, non-government agencies, representatives from the business community and representatives from Community Recovery Committees.

A Municipal Recovery Committee should be a sub-committee of the REMPC or MEMPC dependant on the context of the emergency.

Community Recovery Committee (CRC) or Community Recovery Group (CRG)

Depending on the level and nature of an emergency incident that impacts one or more Alpine Shire communities it may be necessary to establish a CRC/CRG to support local recovery through a community informed approach.

The decision to support the establishment of a committee or group rests with the MRM in consultation with the impacted communities. If required, the Alpine Resilience Partnership (ARP) may be asked to support the formation of the committee.

The composition of the committee or group will vary dependent on the affected area. The membership of the committee should include Alpine Shire Council MRM, community leaders, representatives of relevant Government agencies, community groups, non-government agencies, representatives from the business community.

In establishing a CRC or CRG, it is important to consider the functional areas of recovery. It must also support a flexible approach that reflects the scale of the emergency and the diverse range of community needs.

The following is a list of tasks that may be undertaken by a CRC or CRG:
- Represent community needs after an event. Monitor overall progress on the affected community.
- Identify community needs and resource requirements and make recommendations to the appropriate recovery agencies, Council, Alpine Shire MRM and MEMPC.
- Undertake specific recovery activities.
- Liaise, consult, and negotiate, on behalf of affected communities, with recovery agencies, government departments and Council. Liaise with ERV delegate.
- Undertake specific recovery activities as determined by the circumstances and committee.
- Support Council with circulating information about recovery services and events to impacted community members.

As outlined in the SEMP (p 30) recovery is the assisting of persons and communities affected by emergencies to achieve a proper and effective level of functioning.

Recovery should always commence at the onset of an emergency. The MRM will convene a meeting of the relevant municipal relief and recovery representatives as soon as is practical where the emergency is of a magnitude that requires their involvement. A range of relief and recovery activities may be required after an emergency.

At the local level, the coordination and delivery of recovery services should be aligned with the *National Principles for Disaster Recovery* and Victoria's Resilient Recovery Strategy aims to support community resilience, streamline recovery services and allow individuals and communities to lead and act to shape their future after an emergency.

6.4 Recovery Operations

The MRM will coordinate and lead recovery operations for the municipality.

An incident specific recovery plan will be developed to specifically guide recovery following an emergency. The Disaster Recovery Toolkit for Local Government provides a range of tools, resources, and literature to help council and communities prepare for, respond to and recover from disasters.

In situations where ERV is coordinating regional recovery, ERV's regional teams may also play a role in supporting ASC to determine, in consultation with the community, the operational requirements, pathways, and activities for recovery. At these times, the Alpine Shire MRM will work cooperatively with ERV.

Activation of Community and Non-Government Groups/Resources for Recovery

As part of this coordination role, Council may request the activation of non-government and community groups and/or providers to support recovery in the Alpine Shire.

Table 7 provides a summary of the non-government and community groups who have been identified by the Alpine MEMPC as being able to provide support to any recovery service provision in the Alpine Shire. These non-government and community groups will be activated by the MRM as required. Groups who have the ability to support a recovery service response who are not currently identified are encouraged to make themselves known to the MRRPC. This can be done via em@alpineshire.vic.gov.au

Where these groups/or any other group self-activate during an emergency, they should contact the MRM as soon as practicable to ensure their efforts are coordinated with the overall recovery operations. This can be done via em@alpineshire.vic.gov.au

Table 7: Alpine shire recovery arrangements

ALPINE SHIRE RECOVERY ARRANGEMENTS			
Recovery environment	Recovery activity	State/ regional coordination agency	Municipal lead and support
	SOCIAL ENVIRONMENT		
Social environment:	Support securing interim accommodation	DFFH	Beyond Housing ASC
	Building advice and information to residents	VBA	ASC
	Survey and determination re occupancy of damaged buildings		ASC
	Transition to permanent housing	DFFH	Beyond Housing ASC
	Personal Hardship Assistance Program	DFFH	DFFH
	Australian Government Disaster Recovery Financial Assistance	EMV	Services Australia
	Insurance advice and **information** to customers	DTF VMIA	ICA Victoria Legal Aid
	Psychological first aid and emotional and spiritual care, in relief and recovery centres and through community outreach	DFFH	ARC ASC VCC EM Gateway Health
	Family violence services and information	DFFH (FSV)	Centre Against Violence Orange Door
	Counselling	DFFH	Alpine Health Gateway Health
	Support for the bereaved	Coroners court Victims Support agency	VCC EM
	Support in emergencies caused by criminals	Victims support agency	VCC EM Victims of Crime Helpline
	Specialist staff provide support and advice to aid schools and early childcare services	DET	DET

ALPINE SHIRE RECOVERY ARRANGEMENTS

Recovery environment	Recovery activity	State/ regional coordination agency	Municipal lead and support
	Referrals to services for primary producers and animal owners	DJPR DFFH	ASC
	Public health advice	DoH	ASC Alpine Health
	Advice on wellbeing in recovery	DoH	Australian Red Cross ASC VCC EM Nav Space
	Primary and acute health services	DoH	Alpine Health Other primary and acute health services and agencies
	Community information	EMV	ASC
	Formation, leadership, and support of municipal/community recovery committees	ASC	ASC
	Aboriginal Cultures are valued and respected.	ASC	Traditional owner groups
	Provision and management of community development services		ASC
	Provision and staffing of recovery information centres		ASC Australian Red Cross
	Organisation of state-wide public appeals	DPC	
	Coordination of spontaneous volunteers	Australian Red Cross Volunteering Victoria	ASC

ALPINE SHIRE RECOVERY ARRANGEMENTS			
Recovery environment	**Recovery activity**	**State/ regional coordination agency**	**Municipal lead and support**
Built environment:	**BUILT ENVIRONMENT**		
	Telecommunications assets reinstatement and return to reliable supply	DJPR	Telstra Optus NBN
	Electricity services assets reinstatement and return to reliable supply	DEECA ESV AEMO	Ausnet Services
	Gas services assets reinstatement and return to reliable supply	DEECA ESV AEMO	Elgas Myrtleford
	Restoration of liquid fuel supply	DEECA	**Bright** - BP - Shell - Ampol **Porepunkah** - Independent **Myrtleford** - Caltex - Ampol - Liberty **Mount Beauty** - Mobil **Tawonga South** - Ampol
	Recovery and rehabilitation of essential water supply for domestic use	DEECA	NEW
	Restoration of sewerage, sanitation systems and wastewater management	DEECA	NEW

ALPINE SHIRE RECOVERY ARRANGEMENTS			
Recovery environment	**Recovery activity**	**State/ regional coordination agency**	**Municipal lead and support**
	Replacement of essential stock and domestic water used in bushfire fighting	DEECA	NEW ASC
	Airports restoration to normal activity	DOT	Airport owners -Mount Hotham - Mount Beauty - Porepunkah
	Restoration of major arterial roads and bridges	DOT	RRV VicTrack
	Restoration of bus and rail services	PTV	VLine Alpine Spirit High Country Coaches Mount Hotham Bus Falls Creek Coach Service
	Assist with food supply logistics, interdependencies, contingencies, and reconstruction	DJPR	Freight and warehouse operators Other businesses as required
	Coordination of clean-up		ASC
	Restoration, clearing and rehabilitation of public buildings and assets managed within agencies' portfolios		Relevant asset owner or managing agency
	Oversight and inspection of rebuilding/redevelopment		ASC
	Provision of financial assistance to councils for the restoration of essential municipal assets	EMV	

ALPINE SHIRE RECOVERY ARRANGEMENTS			
Recovery environment	**Recovery activity**	**State/ regional coordination agency**	**Municipal lead and support**
Economic environment:	ECONOMIC ENVIRONMENT		
	Implement available DRFA initiatives to assist voluntary non-profit groups, communities, and economies	EMV	ASC
	Implement approved actions and projects to assist economic recovery	DJPR	ASC
	Encourage and bring forward the resumption of local trade and economic activity		
	Monitor broad economic impacts and consequences		
	Assist businesses to access available information and advice	DJPR	ASC
			Bright & District Chamber of Commerce
			Myrtleford Chamber of Commerce and Industry
			Mount Beauty Chamber of Commerce
			Dinner Plain Residents and Business Operators Society
			Harrietville Community Forum
			Upper Kiewa Valley Community Association
	Information and advice to small businesses to support decision making and encourage a return to business	DJPR	DJPR SBV

ALPINE SHIRE RECOVERY ARRANGEMENTS			
Recovery environment	Recovery activity	State/ regional coordination agency	Municipal lead and support
	Implement available DRFA initiatives to assist small business recovery	EMV	DJPR RFCV
	Implement approved actions to assist business recovery	DJPR	ASC
	Provide opportunities for the enhancement of knowledge and skills within small business	DJPR	ASC
			Bright & District Chamber of Commerce
			Myrtleford Chamber of Commerce and Industry
			Mount Beauty Chamber of Commerce
			Dinner Plain Residents and Business Operators Society
			Harrietville Community Forum
			Upper Kiewa Valley Community Association
	Coordinate the insurance industry response, information, advice, and government liaison	DTF	ICA
	Implement available DRFA initiatives to assist primary producers' recovery	EMV	RFCV

ALPINE SHIRE RECOVERY ARRANGEMENTS			
Recovery environment	Recovery activity	State/ regional coordination agency	Municipal lead and support
	Delivery of recovery programs and advice to primary producers, rural land managers	DJPR Ag Vic	VFF ASC Industry Bodies
	Provide technical advice to primary producers and rural land managers on re-establishment or alternative strategies	DJPR Ag Vic	VFF Industry Bodies
	Assist farmers repair and restore fences damaged by fire suppression activities	CFA DEECA	
	Assist farmers to restore fences damaged by emergencies	DEECA	ASC Blaze Aid Rural Aid Landmate Program Local volunteer fencing programs

ALPINE SHIRE RECOVERY ARRANGEMENTS			
Recovery environment	Recovery activity	State/ regional coordination agency	Municipal lead and support
Natural environment:	NATURAL ENVIRONMENT		
	Undertake erosion and debris flow control on public land	DEECA CFA PV DTP	
	Restoration, clearing and rehabilitation of public land and assets directly managed by DEECA, PV, or CMA	DEECA PV	NECMA Landcare
	Provision of advice and information services to municipal councils and delegated public land managers and community groups	DEECA EPA	NECMA
	Surveying and protecting threatened bird, marsupial, aquatic and plant species	DEEC APV	Landcare
	Develop and implement protection activities to support ecosystem recovery and regeneration	DEEC APV	
	Monitoring the rehabilitation of injured wildlife	DEEC APV	
	Waste pollution management strategies	DEECA EPA	
	Protection and rehabilitation of cultural and heritage sites	DEEC APV	

Contact details for agencies and relevant supports are kept up to date. For further information please contact the Alpine Shire MRM or EMC.

6.5   Volunteers

Almost every aspect of recovery may involve volunteers. Volunteers could work across all four areas of the recovery (built, natural, social, and economic) to support people affected by the emergency. These activities include but are not limited to:
- Providing material aid and support (e.g. Salvation Army and church groups);
- Organising social events and bbqs; arts and sporting groups
- Undertaking environmental work; fencing construction; weed control (e.g. Landcare); gardening; working bees; and
- Community Recovery Committees

Council, where possible, will work with volunteer groups to ensure work is auspiced by groups with insurance:
- Volunteer activity is well managed and effectively coordinated
- Volunteer initiatives on private property are suited to the needs and sensitivities of residents.
- Activities such as fencing and environmental work are carried out (where possible) by groups with trained and insured volunteers.
- Provide (where possible) Community Development and administrative support to the local volunteer committees and groups to help sustain their involvement in the recovery process.

7. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

7.1 Agency Roles and Responsibilities

Roles and responsibilities in this plan align with those in the SEMP. The SEMP details emergency management roles and responsibilities for mitigation (Table 8), response (including relief) and recovery (Table at a state, regional, municipal level, community, household, and individual level. This includes existing duties, functions, power, responsibility, or obligation conferred on an agency by law, licence, agreement, or arrangement and indicate the Victorian Preparedness framework (VPF) core capability alignment.

This plan details the local emergency management roles and responsibilities for: mitigation, response (including relief), and recovery at a local level. This MEMP notes that existing duties, functions, power, responsibility, or obligation conferred on an agency by law, licence, agreement, or arrangement prevail to the extent of its inconsistency with this plan (EM Act 2013 s60AK).

All agencies with responsibilities under the Alpine Shire MEMP should provide written confirmation of their capability and commitment to meet their obligations. This can be evidenced by their endorsement of the draft MEMP, including revisions, before it is presented to the REMPC for consideration. Refer to **Table 8** below for further detail.

7.2 Community and Business Organisation Roles and Responsibilities

There is no State Emergency Management Plan role/responsibility description for Community and Business Organisation representatives. The SEMP (page 10) states:

"No single actor can be responsible for emergency mitigation, preparedness, response or recovery, and that shared responsibility in emergency management is everyone's business. Individuals, communities, organisations, businesses, all levels of government and the not-for-profit sector all have some role to play in planning for, responding to and recovering from emergencies."

Some of the examples of expectations include:

- Community members being self-sufficient for a defined period (e.g. up to 72 hours) after an emergency event,
- Community members have a home emergency kit,
- Community members moving houses proactively inform themselves of the emergency risks in their new neighbourhood.
- Community members build and strengthen their social connectedness and situational awareness

The role of community and business organisation representatives is to provide advice and feedback, advocate for community views and collaborate with Council and agencies in any community-led planning.

This can be through the Alpine Shire Emergency Management Team or as membership on the Alpine Resilience Partnership who provides a representative to the MEMPC. This brings valuable perspectives to the MEMPC as they further develop this MEMP.

Table 8 - Roles and Responsibilities in the Alpine Shire

Roles and Responsibilities	
RESPONSIBILITY AREA	**ACTIVITY**
Mitigation	**Alpine Shire Council** is a participating agency for bushfire, earthquake, flood storm, Hazmat and heatwave planning and mitigation.
	Forest Fire Management Victoria (FFM Vic) function of DEECA is accountable to deliver emergency mitigation across all public land management in Victoria. The main mitigation is in the area of fuel reduction through planned burning and mulching.
	Alpine Shire Fire Prevention Officer (MFPO) is responsible for inspections, issuing fire prevention notices and ensuring compliance on private property and council land throughout the municipality.
	Country Fire Authority (CFA) - Victoria's volunteer fire service, operating across the state to reduce the occurrence and impacts of fire and other emergencies
Response (including Relief)	Control Agencies for Response are found in *SEMP Roles and Responsibilities (Table 9)* Lead Support Agencies for response are found in *Table 10*
	Alpine Shire Council is responsible for relief coordination on a local level and relief support for animal welfare, community information and emergency shelter
Relief	Relief activities and coordinating agencies are found in the *SEMP Roles and Responsibilities (Table 11 & 12)*
	Alpine Shire Council is also responsible for setting up, staffing and running Emergency Relief Centre/s as part of relief.
Recovery	Recovery Coordination arrangements can be found in the *SEMP Roles and Responsibilities (Table 13 to 18)*
	Alpine Shire Council is responsible for recovery coordination at the local level and recovery support for all environments under recovery

8. ACRONYMS & DEFINITIONS

AIIMS	AUSTRALASIAN INTER-SERVICE INCIDENT MANAGEMENT SYSTEM
AO	ADMINISTRATION OFFICER
AV	AMBULANCE VICTORIA
ARP	ALPINE RESILIENCE PARTNERSHIP
ASC	ALPINE SHIRE COUNCIL
BOM	BUREAU OF METEROLOGY
CEO	CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
CEOC	COUNCIL EMERGENCY OPERATION CENTRE
CERA	COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RISK ASSESSMENT
CFA	COUNTRY FIRE AUTHORITY
DET	DEPARTMENT of EDUCATION & TRAINING
DEECA	DEPARTMENT of ENERGY, ENVIRONMENT and CLIMATE ACTION
DJPR	DEPARTMENT of JOBS, PRECINCTS AND REGIONS
DFFH	DEPARTMENT of FAMILIES, FAIRNESS and HOUSING
DH	DEPARTMENT of HEALTH
DTF	DEPARTMENT TREASURY AND FINANCE
DTP	DEPARTMENT of TRANSPORT AND PLANNING
EHO	ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH OFFICER
EMC	EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COMMISSIONER
EM-COP	EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COMMON OPERATING PICTURE
EM Act 13	EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT ACT 2013
EMLA	EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT LEGISLATION AMENDMENT ACT 2018
EMLO	EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT LIAISON OFFICER
EMT	EXECUTIVE MANAGEMENT TEAM
EMV	EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT VICTORIA
EPA	ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION AUTORITY
ERC	EMERGENCY RELIEF CENTRE

FFMV	FOREST FIRE MANAGEMENT VICTORIA
FRV	FIRE RESCUE VICTORIA
GMW	GOLBURN MURRAY WATER
ICC	INCIDENT CONTROL CENTRE
IEMT	INCIDENT EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT TEAM
IERC	INCIDENT EMERGENCY RESPONSE COORDINATOR
IIA	INITIAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT
IMT	INCIDENT MANAGEMENT TEAM
JSOP	JOINT STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE
LGV	LOCAL GOVERNMENT VICTORIA
MAV	MUNICIPAL ASSOCIATION VICTORIA
MECG	MUNICIPAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT GROUP
MEMEG	MUNICPAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT ENHANCEMENT GROUP
MEMO	MUNICIPAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICER
MEMPC	MUNICIPAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PLANNING COMMITTEE
MEMP	MUNICIPAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PLAN
MEMT	MUNICIPAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT TEAM
MERC	MUNICIPAL EMERGENCY RESPONSE COORDINATOR
MFMP	MUNICIPAL FIRE MANAGEMENT PLAN
MFPO	MUNICIPAL FIRE PREVENTION OFFICER
MoU	MEMORANDAUM OF UNDERSTANDING
MRM	MUNICIPAL RECOVERY MANAGER
NDRRA	NATURAL DISASTER RELIEF and RECOVERY ARRANGEMENTS
NEW	NORTH EAST WATER
NSP-POLR	NEIGHBOURHOOD SAFER PLACES – PLACES OF LAST RESORT
PENA	POST EMERGENCY NEEDS ASSESSMENT
PPE	PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT
PV	PARKS VICTORIA
REMP	REGIONAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PLAN
REMPC	REGIONAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PLANNING COMMITTEE

REMT	REGIONAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT TEAM
RERC	REGIONAL EMERGENCY RESPONSE COORDINATOR
RRV	REGIONAL ROADS VICTORIA
RSPCA	ROYAL SOCIETY for the PROTECTION of CRUELTY to ANIMALS
SCC	STATE CONTROL CENTRE
SEMP	STATE EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PLAN
SEWS	STATE EMERGENCY WARNING SIGNAL
SHERP	STATE HEALTH EMERGENCY RESPONSE PLAN
SIA	SECONDARY IMPACT ASSESSMENT
SIP	SHELTER IN PLACE
SMS	SHORT MESSAGE SERVICE
SOP	STANDART OPERATING PROCEDURE
ToR	TERMS of RERERENCE
TFB	TOTAL FIRE BAN
VBA	VICTORIAN BUILDING AUTHORITY
VCC EM	VICTORIAN COUNCIL of CHURCHES EMERGENCY MINISTRIES
VFF	VICTORIAN FARMERS FEDERATION
VFRR	VICTORIAN FIRE RISK REGISTER
VICPOL	VICTORIA POLICE
VICSES	VICTORIAN STATE EMERGENCY SERVICE
VPF	VICTORIAN PREPAREDNESS FRAMEWORK
VPR	VULNERABLE PERSONS REGISTER
VMIA	VICTORIAN MANAGED INSURANCE AUTHORITY

9. MEMP APENDICES

A   ADMINISTRATION

Appendix A1 - Restricted operational information

Section 60AI(2) of the Emergency Management Act 2013 allows the MEMPC and Emergency Management Victoria to exclude information from this plan that is related to critical infrastructure, personal information or information that is of a commercially sensitive nature.

A short summary of restricted information is included here, including who the contact point is should the user of this plan seek access to this information.

Summary of Restricted Information	Reason for Restriction	Agency/ies that hold this information in full	Contact point/s
Vulnerable Person Facilities	Confidential Information	ASC MRM	mrm@alpineshire.vic.gov.au 03 5755 0554
Contacts Directory	Confidential Information	ASC EMC	Emergency Mgt Coordinator em@alpineshire.vic.gov.au 03 5755 0555
Plant Equipment	Confidential Information	ASC MEMO	memo@alpineshire.vic.gov.au 03 5755 0511

Appendix A2 - Amendment History

Document Title	Alpine Shire Municipal Emergency Management Plan
Version No.	6.0
Date of Release	
AMENDMENT HISTORY	
Date	Description
Prior to December 2020	Previous Version - 4.0 – 2018 to 2021 Versions prior to Version 5.0 of the MEMP were a plan of the Alpine Shire Council under the old MEMPC and Emergency Management Act 2013.
January to September 2021	Version 5.0 Following the commencement of the the newly formed multi-agency Alpine Shire MEMPC, this document was completely re-written to reflect recent *Emergency Management Legislative Amendment Act 2018*, whilst also addressing need to prepare document for scheduled self-assurance by MEMPC, before ultimate endorsement by REMPC.
February to September 2024	Version 6.0 Full review of MEMP with changes to reflect shared responsibility and ensure that the MEMP can be easily understood by the general public as well as the EM sector. This includes additions of SEIFA information, First nations people, Electric line clearance, Community profiles, 72hr program, Demographics update, Change of resorts MEMPCs to Alpine Resorts Victoria, agency name changes and history of emergencies timeline. All changes are documented in the May, August and September MEMPC update notes.

Appendix A3 - Contact directory

An up-to-date **Hume Regional Emergency Management Team contact list** can be found in EM COP – Desktop – Hume Region – contacts or email hume-remt@cfa.vic.gov.au to become of the group distribution list. Any changes to the list to be sent to roc.hume@cfa.vic.gov.au

Local contacts for MEMPC members and local arrangements are updated by the Alpine Shire EMC and stored in SharePoint and MEMPC Teams page. Current membership consists of:
- Alpine Shire Council (chair)
- VicPol
- CFA
- Vic SES
- AV
- DFFH
- Redcross
- DEECA (FFM)
- ERV
- DH
- ARP

To request a copy or further information contact emergencymanagement@alpineshire.vic.gov.au or Alpine Shire Council:

MEMO   5755 0511
MRM   5755 0554
EMC   0474 359 874
Alpine Shire Council 5755 0555

Appendix A4 - Alpine Shire MEMP Distribution List

An electronic version of this MEMP and Sub-Plans will be made available on the Alpine Shire Website. Printed copies of the MEMP will be distributed on request. The Alpine Shire EMC will also upload amended versions to the following:

- Emergency Management Victoria (EMV) website
- Council SharePoint
- MEMPC teams page files
- Legal deposit with National eDeposit system
- Emergency Management Victoria (EMV) document library
- Crisisworks

The MEMP will be distributed electronically via email to the following:
- Alpine Shire Council MEMO and MRM
- REMPC Executive Officer
- Hume Regional partners – EMC, MEMO and MRM
- South Gippsland partners – EMC, MEMO and MRM

Appendix A5 – History of emergencies

Date	Event	Affected Area	Summary
1993 Feb	🔥	Mount Buffalo area	Burnt 51,400ha
1993 Oct	🏠	Ovens Valley	90 homes and 32 businesses affected. Roads and bridges damaged causing road closures. Caravan parks, motels and businesses inundated. Extensive damage to crops, livestock, pumps, fencing, plant and machinery.
1996 Oct	🏠	Myrtleford area	Approx. 20-year ARI causing moderate flooding
1998 Sept	🏠	Ovens and Kiewa Valleys	Major flooding in Ovens and Kiewa Valleys (largest on record for Kiewa Valley) 112 buildings flooded above floor level in Myrtleford. Extensive flooding in the floodplain between Happy Valley Creek and the Ovens River. 207mm rainfall at Harrietville. Damage to Vic Attridge Bridge, flow breakout above and below School bridge.
2003 Jan	🔥	Ovens and Kiewa Valleys	Geographically large fires over 59 days that covered the southern parts of the Shire including Buffalo River, Mount Buffalo and across to the Bogong areas impacting tourism and river health
2003 2004	⛈️	Myrtleford	Severe windstorm passed through Myrtleford; tore roofs from about 40-50 homes
2006 Dec-Jan 2007	🔥	Ovens and Kiewa Valleys	A campaign fire burning over 1 million ha over 69 days threatening Mount Beauty, Bright, Wandiligong and Tawonga resulting in 4 deaths.
2009 Jan	🌡️	Victoria	Over the five days, 27–31 January 2009, maximum temperatures were 12–15°C above normal over much of Victoria. The temperature was above 43°C for three consecutive days from 28–30 January reaching a peak of 45.1°C on 30 January 2009 resulting in 374 deaths relating to heat across the state.
2009 Feb	🔥	Barwidgee Creek, Mudgegonga, Gapsted, Dederang, Rosewhite, Havilah, Kancoona, Kancoona South, Running Creek.	The fire was rapid and referred to as "Black Saturday" resulting in 2 fatalities in Mudgegonga, death of over 200 stock and domestic animals, destruction of many houses and pine plantations.

Date	Event	Affected Area	Summary
2010 Sept		Ovens and Kiewa Valleys	Major flooding across the Ovens and Kiewa Valleys. Flood peak recorded at Eurobin was 6.83m and affected 18 low lying homes in Myrtleford backing onto Happy Valley Creek affecting carpark behind Target and shops.
2010 Dec		Ovens and Kiewa Valleys	Major flooding in the Ovens and Kiewa Valley (but smaller than Sept 2010) 19 People evacuated from the Myrtleford and Arderns Caravan Parks, Barwidgee Creek experienced greater impact than that experienced in the September 2010 event. Nimmo Bridge under water
2011 Feb		Ovens and Kiewa Valleys	Storm and moderate flooding causing unsealed road damage restricting access to some homes.
2012 Feb		Ovens and Kiewa Valleys	Storms and moderate flooding -130mm over 2 days. Trees down on multiple roads.
2013 Jan		Extending Harrietville to Mount Hotham	Encompassing 37,00ha a significant amount of bush and council resourcing was affected. Threat to tourism and large community impact to Harrietville and the surrounding ecosystem.
2014 Jan			Between 14 and 17 January 2014, Victoria experienced the hottest 4-day period on record for the state resulting in 25% increase in ambulance calls and deaths across the State.
2015 Dec		Eurobin	Debris flow Intense rain event that caused multiple mudslides on gullies in Eurobin. Two houses were inundated, and Valley homestead sustained damage. Great Alpine Road blocked for two days and restricted for a week.
2016 Jan		Mount Beauty	Storm event resulted in building damage to 4 homes
2016 Oct		Ovens & Kiewa Valley	Widespread rainfall resulting in evacuation of Myrtleford and landslides along Great Alpine Road, Tawonga Gap Road and Bogong High Plains Road isolating 200 people at Falls Creek. 63 properties at risk of flooding when the Ovens River peaked at 6.18M at Major Flood Class Level. Many properties isolated on the Ovens River and Happy Valley Creek Flood Plain. Evacuation message sent as predicted Flood height was above the Major Flood level Myrtleford Holiday Park and operation of pumps at Myrtleford sewerage plant impacted for 2 days.
2017 Dec		Bright	Storm event resulted in Building damage to 4 homes

Date	Event	Affected Area	Summary
2019	Blizzard	Great Alpime Road beween Harrietville and Mount Hotham	Blizzard conditions closed Great Alpine Road after multiple vehicles became stuck in cold, slippery conditions. Evacuation of people from stuck vehicle to Mount Hotham and Harrietville conducted.
2020 Jan		Alpine Area, Ovens and King Valley	29% of footprint impacted with 6% impacting private land and the balance public land or plantations. 1 home, sheds, cattle yards, fencing, farm equipment and 63 livestock lost. Economic impacts estimated over $90M for first quarter, including visitation, plantations, grapes, and wine producers.
2020 Mar		Worldwide	The Coronavirus Pandemic was declared by the World Health Organisation heavily impacting tourism in the Alpine Shire A cross agency co-ordinated effort was led by local community health and various levels of government to navigate the impacts and pandemic measures that were in place over this period. The adjustments to COVID-19 continue as communities recover toward "living with COVID"
2022 Oct		Ovens & Kiewa Valley	Minor to moderate flooding along the Ovens and Kiewa Rivers. Localised road closures and sand bagging sites set up, innundation of one home over floor level in Eurobin reported.
2022 Oct		Bogong Village, Mount Beauty and Falls Creek	On 10 October 2022, Bogong High Plains Road in North-East Victoria was impacted by a large slow-moving landslip above Bogong Village. Bogong Village was evacuated of all residents with 13 residents displaced. From 21 October, this landslip cut off access to Falls Creek, Bogong Village, and Howman's Gap communities completely. Single lane access was restored on 23 April 2023 with dual lane open in April 2024.
2023 Oct		Ovens & Kiewa Valley	Minor flooding of the Ovens and Kiewa rivers. Localised road closures and sandbagging sites set up, no inundation of homes or buildings reported.
2024 Jan		Mount Beauty, Tawonga	Localised storms resulting in widespread trees down across the Mount Beauty area. Approximately 400 trees down resulting in damage to cars, fences, roofs, and roads. Minor damages to council buildings and residential homes. One home and one caravan crushed in Freeburg resulting in extraction of an occupant.
2024 Feb		Bright area	Power and telco outage on 14 February 2022 resulting in no power, limited ability to obtain fuel and make 000 calls across parts of Bright and surrounding area until approximately 1900hrs. Many local businesses were forced to close and discard food.

Appendix A6 – Hazards

Busfire Hazard

Risk:	BUSHFIRE	
Residual Risk Rating	**High**	Further information available at CERA online
Risk Description: the likelihood of a fire starting, spreading, and impacting on people, property, and the environment.		
Possible causes of risk:	• Human activity • Lightning strikes • Dry vegetation and fire weather	
Impact/Consequences:	• Negative impacts on health and loss of life • Loss of infrastructure, impacts on critical infrastructure • Significant social and economic disruption • Damage to environment	
Planning documents	• Integrated Fire Management Plan • State Emergency Management Plan • DEECA Hume Fire Operations Plan - https://www.ffm.vic.gov.au/bushfire-fuel-and-risk-management/fire-operation-plans	

What is being done	Responsible Agency
Education campaigns and community engagement	CFA DEECA Council
Property preparation	CFA Council
Vegetation management and fuel reduction	CFA DEECA Council
Integrated planning	CFA DEECA Council
Town planning – Bushfire Management Overlays	Council
Fire management	CFA DEECA

What community members can do
It is recommended that community members and businesses have a well thought out plan for bushfire or grassfire. This includes planning for various scenarios. The 72hr Program has prompts on areas to consider. Further information on how to prepare for bushfires can be found on the CFA website.

Storm hazard

Risk:	STORM	
Residual Risk Rating	**High**	Further information available at CERA online

Risk Description: Alpine Shire like all municipalities in NE Victoria is at risk of storm events. These events are split into 2 categories. Severe Weather Warnings are issued for: Sustained winds of gale force (63 km/h) or more, Wind gusts of 90 km/h or more (100 km/h or more in Tasmania), Very heavy rain that may lead to flash flooding, Abnormally high tides (or storm tides) expected to exceed highest astronomical tide, unusually large surf waves expected to cause dangerous conditions on the coast and widespread blizzards in Alpine areas. Severe thunderstorm warnings are for events that produce any of the following: Large hail (2cm in diameter or larger) Giant hail (5cm in diameter or larger) damaging or destructive wind gusts (generally wind gusts exceeding 90 km/h) heavy rainfall which may cause flash flooding and tornadoes. Due to the complex nature of storms it is very difficult for BoM forecasters to predict the locations of events and what damage may occur cannot be determined until it happens. Storms can occur at any time of the year and do not have a season. The flash flood risk is increasing with storm intensity all year around and we are seeing people trapped in flood waters during almost every flash flood event. Some fatal in the region.

Possible causes of risk:	• Severe weather/Thunderstorm systems • Atmospheric conditions • Topography • Building design and maintenance
Impact/Consequences:	• Rescue persons • Loss of life • Loss/damage of infrastructure, business, residence, • Impacts on critical infrastructure • Impact of business continuity of essential services/needs eg. health, food, water • Damage to environment • Access/Egress
Planning documents	• Alpine Shire Flood & Storm Plan • GAR Road Protocol

What is being done	Responsible Agency
Monitoring devices - Radar, Weather stations, Rain gauges	BOM
3 X VICSES Response Units within Municipality	VICSES

What community can do	
It is recommended that community members and businesses have a well thought out plan for storms and severe weather. This includes planning for various scenarios. The 72hr Program has prompts on areas to consider. Further information on how to prepare for storms can be found on the Vic SES website.	

Flood hazard

Risk:	FLOOD	
Residual Risk Rating	**High**	Further information available at CERA online

Risk Description: riverine and localised flooding. Inundation of properties, closures and damage to roads and bridges. Flood trends show Alpine Shire as prone to fast moving floods which recede quickly. Flash flooding risk. High risk of vehicles entering flood waters and being washed away.

Greatest risk to infrastructure in the municipality is the township of Myrtleford.

Possible causes of risk:	• Severe weather/Thunderstorm systems • Atmospheric conditions • Topography • Drain blockages or overflow
Impact/Consequences:	• Loss of life • Loss of infrastructure, impacts on critical infrastructure • Impact of business continuity of essential services/needs eg health, food,water • Damage to environment
Planning document	• Alpine Shire Flood & Storm Plan • Myrtleford Flood Guide

What is being done	Responsible Agency
Monitoring devices - Radar, Rain Gauges, Weather systems, River Gauges	BOM, DEECA
Flood Education Program	VICSES
Town planning – Flood Inundation Overlays	Council
Flood Warning System - VicEmergency app website and Emergency Alert	EMV VICSES
Local Knowledge and Community Flood Observers	VICSES Council
What Community members can do	
It is recommended that community members and businesses have a well thought out plan for flood and severe weather. This includes planning for various scenarios. The 72hr Program has prompts on areas to consider. Further information on how to prepare for floods can be found on the Vic SES website.	

Extreme risk hazard

Risk:	EXTREME HEAT	
Residual Risk Rating	High	Further information available at CERA online

Risk Description: A period of excessively hot weather that may affect human health and damage infrastructure. Extreme heat can be lethal, especially in vulnerable demographics.

Often linked to high fire danger.

Possible causes of risk:	• Summer heatwaves • Loss of power to cool houses
Impact/Consequences:	• Loss of life • Loss of infrastructure, impacts on critical infrastructure • Negative impact on health (especially vulnerable people, outdoor workers, and sport participants)
Planning document	• Alpine Shire Heatwave Plan • SEMP Health Emergency Sub-Plan (HESP)

What is being done	Responsible Agency
Education	DH Council
Heat Alert Systems	DH BOM Council
Alerts and Warnings – through VicEmergency	EMV
Local Face to Face Support	Council Alpine Health

What community can do
To prepare for a heatwave, the following can be undertaken before the weather gets too hot: • Look at the things you can do to make your home cooler, like installing awnings or shade cloths • Check fans and air-conditioners are clean and working well • Stock up on food and water, and put ice blocks and packs in the freezer • Store medicines safely at the recommended temperature • Check on neighbours or people you know to be isolated or otherwise vulnerable The Australian Red Cross website has further information on how to prepare for a heatwave. You can subscribe to heat health alerts. Further information can be found on the Vic Health website.

Risk:	PANDEMIC	
Residual Risk Rating	**High**	Further information available at CERA online

Risk Description: A pandemic occurs when a highly infectious new strain emerges for which humans have little or no immunity. During a pandemic, the virus spreads rapidly around the world causing high rates of illness and death – and resulting in severe social and economic disruption. Illnesses can result in hospitalisations and deaths mainly among high-risk groups (the very young, elderly or chronically ill).

An influenza or COVID pandemic occurs when:

• a new type of virus emerges which most people have not been previously exposed to and are, therefore, highly susceptible
• the virus has potential to cause disease in humans
• the virus is easily and rapidly spread between humans, infecting large numbers of people worldwide with the potential to cause many deaths.

Possible causes of risk:	• New type of virus emerges • Ease of international/ cross border travel and trade • Special Settings- ie Aged Care centres, childcare
Impact/Consequences:	• Loss of life • Impact of business continuity of essential services/needs eg. health, food, water • High risk groups- very young, elderly or those with chronically illnesses
Planning document	• [SEMP Viral (Respiratory) Pandemic Sub-Plan](#) • Alpine Shire Pandemic Plan

What is being done	Responsible Agency
Education	DH AV

What community can do

Individuals can do the following when preparing for pandemics such as COVID-19
- practise good hygiene and regularly and thoroughly wash your hands;
- maintain physical distancing, keep at least 1.5 metres away from others;
- wear a face mask if unwell;
- if you feel unwell do not go to work;

Further information can be found on the Victorian [Better Health Channel](#).

[Essential service disruption hazard](#)

Risk:	**ESSENTIAL SERVICE DISRUPTION – ELECTRICITY**	
Residual Risk Rating	**Medium**	Further information available at CERA online

Risk Description:

Possible causes of risk:	- Vehicle collision - Extreme weather event - No wheel chains carried - Fallen trees - Vehicles impacted by the conditions and stuck on the road.
Impact/Consequences:	- Public requiring rescue - Road condition - impacted to the extent of being shut - Loss of life - Loss of infrastructure, impacts on critical infrastructure - Impact of business continuity of essential services/needs eg. health, food, water
Planning document	[SEMP Energy subplan](#) - State Operations Plan – Class 2 Electricity Emergencies - Victorian Electricity Emergency Communication Protocol - Great Alpine Road (GAR) Protocol

What community can do

It is recommended to prepare a plan for a power outage ([72hr plan](#)) which will include:
- Access to a phone (charged mobile phone or landline – back up phone powerbank)
- Alternative back up lighting or a torch (include additional batteries for torch)
- Alternative for cooking, heating, or cooling
- Radio for emergency messaging (can be car or battery powered radio)
- Access to fresh water

Further information can be found on the [Victorian energy website](#).

Transport incident hazard

Risk:	TRANSPORT INCIDENT – ROAD	
Residual Risk Rating	**High**	Further information available at CERA online

Risk Description: The Great Alpine Road (GAR) is the main arterial route that connects the north-east of Victoria to East Gippsland, travelling over the Great Dividing Range and incorporates the Mount Hotham snow resort, reaching altitudes of close to1800m. The road is frequently impacted by extreme weather events (particularly during the winter months) and can include blizzards, heavy snow (down to low levels), high winds, hail, and severe thunderstorms. It is not uncommon for motorists to be caught in these weather events, and they can quickly become immobile due to the conditions. It is also not uncommon for these events to turn into an event that requires an emergency response. The road can become impassable, and issues include traffic blockages, resident displacement, damage to infrastructure and disruption to service delivery. Appropriate road closures and diversions routes need to be planned, and the information conveyed to drivers of vehicles via SMS, personally or media alerts

Possible causes of risk:	• Vehicle collision • Extreme weather event • No wheel chains carried • Fallen trees • Vehicles impacted by the conditions and stuck on the road.
Impact/Consequences:	• Public requiring rescue • Road condition - impacted to the extent of being shut • Loss of life • Loss of infrastructure, impacts on critical infrastructure • Impact of business continuity of essential services/needs eg. health, food, water
Planning document	• Great Alpine Road (GAR) Protocol • Emergency management plans – VicPol and RRV

What is being done	Responsible Agency
Community alerts & warnings	VICPOL BOM RRV Council
Signage	RRV Council

What community can do

It is recommended before travelling that you plan your trip by:
- Checking for any road closures on the Vicroads traffic website
- Understanding what is required for visiting the snow such as driving tips, snow chains and using alpine diesel

Further information on travelling to the snow can be found on the Mt Hotham website.

B   SUPPORTING PLANS & ARRANGEMENTS

Appendix B1 –Sub-plans, Complementary Plans and Training

Plan Name	Revision Date	Responsible Agency	Link / Contact
Sub-Plans			
North East Alpine Fire Management Plan	Sept 2024	CFA	ASC Website
Municipal Emergency Flood and Storm Plan	Nov 2021	Vic SES	ASC Website
Complementary Plans			
Municipal Heatwave Plan	Apr 2019	ASC	ASC Website
Municipal Pandemic Plan	Apr 2020	ASC	ASC Website
Municipal Emergency Animal Welfare Plan	Dec 2019	ASC	ASC Website
Community Profiles	ongoing	ASC	Contact EMC
Emergency Relief Centre Collaboration Arrangements	Oct 2021	NE Collaboration	EM-COP
ERC Facility Plans	Apr 2023	ASC	EM-COP
Municipal Emergency Communications Plan	2018	ASC	Contact EMC
Municipal Response Operating Guidelines		ASC	Contact MEMO
Council Emergency Operations Centre (CEOC) Operating Guidelines		ASC	Contact MEMO
Protocol for the management of the Great Alpine Road (Harrietville-Mount Hotham)	May 2023	VicPol	Contact MEMO
Mount Hotham Airport Aerodrome Emergency Plan (not a public document)			EM-COP

Municipal Business Continuity Plan		ASC	Contact EMC
ASC Fire Readiness Matrix	Dec 2022	ASC	Contact EMC
ASC Flood readiness Matrix	Aug 2022	ASC	Contact EMC
Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan	2021-2025	ASC	
ASC Electric Line Cleaence Management Plan	Oct 2024	ASC	Contact EMC
Other			
Local Flood guides		VicSES	Contact VicSES
Community emergency plans		ASC	Contact EMC
Accomodation providers list		ASC	Contact EMC
List of facilities			
Exercises, Activations and Training History	ongoing	ASC	Contact EMC
Relief & Recovery desktop exercise – Run by DFFH	24/10/2018		
Summer ready ERC exercise	12/11/2019		
Activation of MEMP in 2019 and 2020 – bushfires and COVID	2019-2020		
White claw exercise to test NE collaboration ERC arrangements with Indigo & Towong shires	21/09/2021		
Flood exercise and implementation of flood matrix	28/09/2022		
Activation of MEMP – Floods and landslide	November 2022		
Activationof MEMP and CEOC – Floods and storm	October 2023		
Various training for MRM, MEMO and EMLO	Refer to EMC	ASC	Contact EMC

Appendix B2 – Reference Documents

Plan Name	Date	Responsible Agency
Guidelines for preparing State, Regional and Municipal Emergency Management plans.	Sept 20	Minister for Police and emergency
Victoria's Science Report 2019	2019	DEECA
Victorian Emergency Operations Handbook	Dec 2019	EMV
Victorian Preparedness Framework	May 2018	EMV
Victorian Emergency Management Strategic Action Plan	April 2019	EMV
Victorian State Emergency Management Plan	Dec 2023	EMV
MEMPC Document Template	Oct 2020	EMV
Fact Sheet – Integrated Emergency Management Planning	Dec 2023	EMV
Fact Sheet – Municipal Level planning	Dec 2020	EMV
Community Recovery Handbook	V2 - 2018	AIDR
National Emergency Risk Risk Assessment Guidelines		AIDR
Emergency Management Act 2013	2013	EMV
Interim Impact Assessment Guidelines	2022	EMV

Appendix B3 – Emergency Relief Centre (ERC) Locations & STAND sites

The following emergency relief centres have been assessed and found to be potentially suitable for use in times of emergency. The Incident Controller, in consultation with the MRM, must take into consideration the prevailing circumstances and number of people needing assistance when selecting a site or sites for providing relief. Refer to Section 5.11 for further details.

All ERC locations are designated STAND sites. For further information refer to **Section 5.14**.

ALPINE SHIRE RELIEF CENTRE LOCATIONS			
TOWN / AREA	NAME OF FACILITY	ADDRESS	Coordinates (DD)
Bright	Bright Community Centre	Railway Avenue	-36.729979 146.960007
	Pioneer Park Pavilion (STAND site)	Coronation Avenue	-36.737979 146.970260
Harrietville	Harrietville Community Hall (STAND site)	Great Alpine Road	-36.891763 147.063336
Mount Beauty	Mount Beauty Community Centre (STAND site)	Kiewa Crescent	-36.743049 147.170726
	Mount Beauty Swimming Pool & Sports Stadium (STAND site)	Service Road	-36.741793 147.168774
Dederang	Dederang Multipurpose Building	Kiewa Valley Highway	-36.475780 147.019609
	Dederang Golf Club	Kiewa Valley Highway	-36.476216 147.019199
	Dederang Memorial Hall (STAND site)	Kiewa Valley Highway	-36.475587 147.021267
Myrtleford	Myrtleford Sports Stadium (STAND site)	Yackandandah Road	-36.544230 146.728207
	Myrtleford Senior Citizens Centre (STAND site)	Smith Street	-36.557872 146.721989
Dinner Plain	Dinner Plain Community Centre (STAND site)	Big Muster Drive	-37.022096 147.238166

*Ovens DEECA Office (ICC) is also a STAND site.

Appendix B4 – Airfields

AIRFIELD DETAILS	
AIRFIELD	**COORDINATES (DD)**
Mount Hotham: Mount Hotham Airport YHOT can be found approximately 10 kilometres South East of Dinner Plain on the Great Alpine Road towards Omeo. More info at: https://www.mthotham.com.au/discover/explore/hotham-airport	-37.051636 147.337835
Mount Beauty: Approximately one kilometre north of Mount Beauty. It is immediately north of the hydropower station regulating pondage and approximately one kilometre east of the Kiewa Valley Highway. More info at http://www.ymbt.org.au/	-36.733983 147.169562
Porepunkah: Two nautical miles south of Porepunkah located in the Buckland Valley on the east side of Mount Buffalo National Park. More info at http://www.ypok.org.au/	-36.716715 146.890576

Appendix B5 – Staging Areas

CFA has given advice for certain locations may be utilised as staging areas for fire incidents in Alpine Shire:

It should be noted that Alpine Shire Council does not manage any of these facilities and the controlling agency may choose a different location to support any operational incidents.

ALPINE SHIRE STAGING AREAS		
TOWN	**LOCATION**	**Coordinates** (decimal degrees)
Myrtleford	McNamara Reserve Oval, Lewis Avenue, Myrtleford	-36.567486 146.723026
Ovens	DEECA Ovens, Great Alpine Road, Ovens	-36.607367 146.789044
Mount Beauty	Mount Beauty Secondary College, Pool Rd, Mount Beauty	-36.740309 147.167580
Dederang	Dederang Football Ground, Kiewa Valley Highway, Dederang	-36.475186 147.020256

C   MAPPING

Appendix C – Maps

Maps of towns showing NSP, ERC, ICC and staging area locations

Bright

Dederang

Dinner Plain

Harrietville

Mount Beauty

Tawonga South

Tawonga

Myrtleford

Porepunkah

Wandiligong

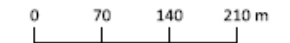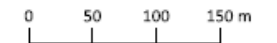Emergency Response and Relief Locations

Bright

Legend

Locations
- ICC
- CEOC
- NSP-BPLR
- Relief
- Staging

Property Owner
- AMBULANCE VICTORIA
- COUNTRY FIRE AUTHORITY
- PARKS VICTORIA
- STATE EMERGENCY SERVICES
- VICTORIA POLICE

0   100   200   300 m

N

Coordinate System
GDA2020 / MGA zone 55

ALPINE
SHIRE COUNCIL

While every care is taken by Alpine Shire Council and the Victorian Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) to ensure the accuracy of this data, Alpine Shire Council, DELWP jointly and severally make no representations or warranties about its accuracy, reliability, completeness or suitability for any particular purpose and disclaim all responsibility and all liability (including without limitation, liability in negligence) for all expenses, losses, damages (including indirect or consequential damage) and costs which may be incurred as a result of data being inaccurate or incomplete in any way and for any reason.

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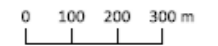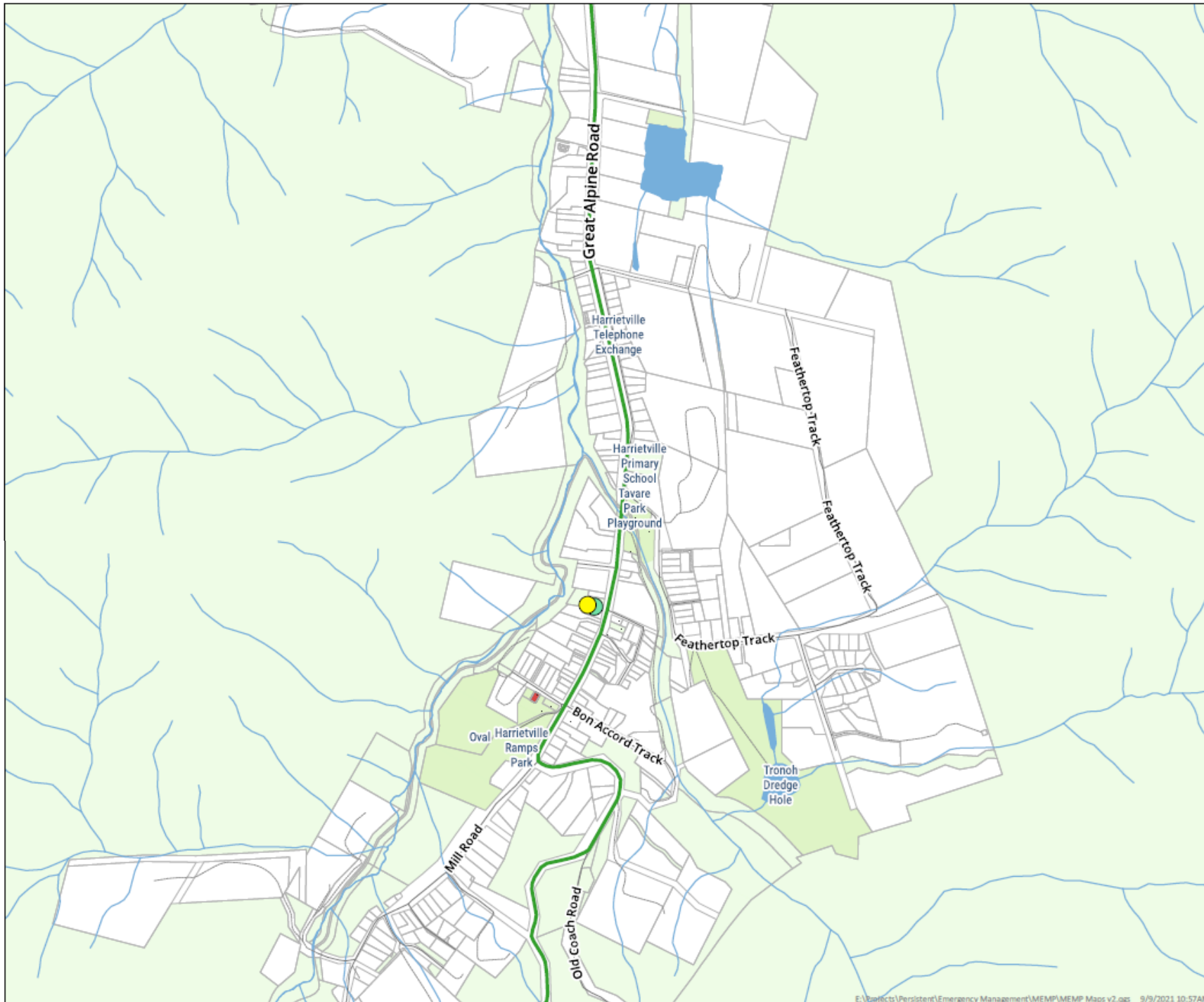Emergency Response
and Relief Locations

Dederang

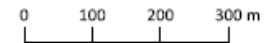**Legend**

Locations
- ICC
- CEOC
- NSP-BPLR
- Relief
- Staging

Property Owner
- AMBULANCE VICTORIA
- COUNTRY FIRE AUTHORITY
- PARKS VICTORIA
- STATE EMERGENCY SERVICES
- VICTORIA POLICE

0   70   140   210 m

N

Coordinate System
GDA2020 / MGA zone 55

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Police Lane

Rowe Lane

Rowe Lane

Rowe Lane

Police Lane

Police Lane

Briggs Lane

Hull Street

Streets Lane

Kiewa Valley Highway

Dederang
Bowls
Club

Equestrian
Centre

Rogers Lane

Dederang
Community
Post
Agent

Dederang
Catholic
Church

E:\Projects\Persistent\Emergency Management\MEMP\MEMP\Maps v2.qgs   9/9/2021 10:57

Great-Alpine-Road

Great-Alpine-Road

Dinner
Plain

Horsehair Bend

Tabletop Fork

Jb Crook

Horseshoe Circle

Dinner
Plain
Visitor
Information
Centre

Drybone Lane

The
Alpine
School

Halter Lane

Big Muster Drive

Scrubbers End

Geebung Road

Alpine
Shire
Dinner
Plain
Depot

0   50   100   150 m

N

Coordinate System
GDA2020 / MGA zone 55

ALPINE
SHIRE COUNCIL

Legend

Locations
- ICC
- CEOC
- NSP-BPLR
- Relief
- Staging

Property Owner
- AMBULANCE VICTORIA
- COUNTRY FIRE AUTHORITY
- PARKS VICTORIA
- STATE EMERGENCY SERVICES
- VICTORIA POLICE

Great Alpine Road

Harrietville
Telephone
Exchange

Feathertop Track

Feathertop Track

Harrietville
Primary
School
Tavare
Park
Playground

Feathertop Track

Bon Accord Track

Oval
Harrietville
Ramps
Park

Tronoh
Dredge
Hole

Mill Road

Old Coach Road

0   100   200   300 m

N

Coordinate System
GDA2020 / MGA zone 55

ALPINE
SHIRE COUNCIL

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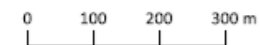Emergency Response and Relief Locations
Mount Beauty

Legend

Locations
- ICC
- CEOC
- NSP-BPLR
- Relief
- Staging

Property Owner
- AMBULANCE VICTORIA
- COUNTRY FIRE AUTHORITY
- PARKS VICTORIA
- STATE EMERGENCY SERVICES
- VICTORIA POLICE

0   100   200   300 m

N

Coordinate System
GDA2020 / MGA zone 55

ALPINE
SHIRE COUNCIL

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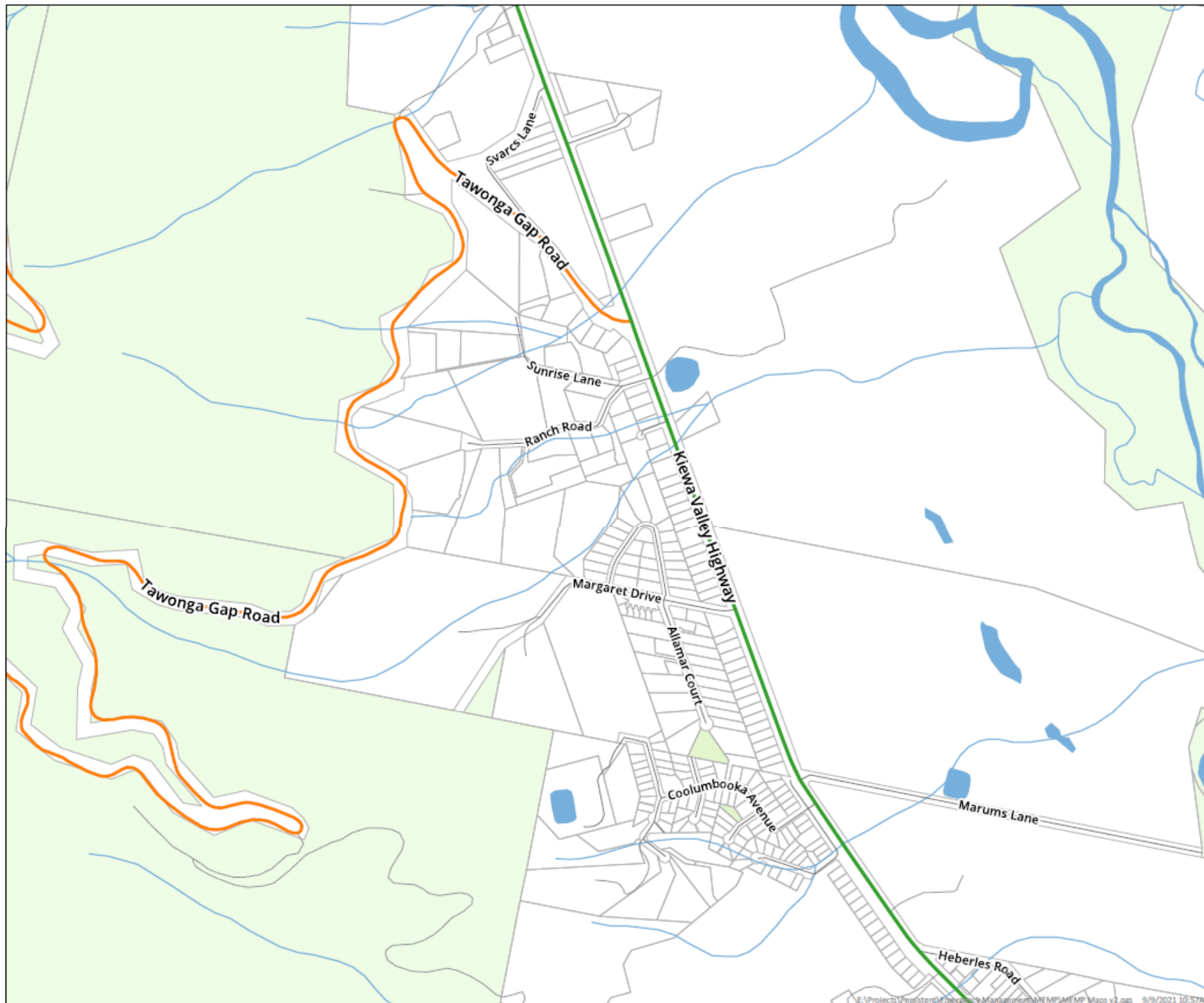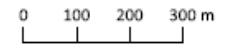**Emergency Response and Relief Locations**

Tawonga South

Legend

Locations
- ● ICC
- ● CEOC
- ● NSP-BPLR
- ● Relief
- ● Staging

Property Owner
- ■ AMBULANCE VICTORIA
- ■ COUNTRY FIRE AUTHORITY
- ■ PARKS VICTORIA
- ■ STATE EMERGENCY SERVICES
- ■ VICTORIA POLICE

0   100   200   300 m

N

Coordinate System
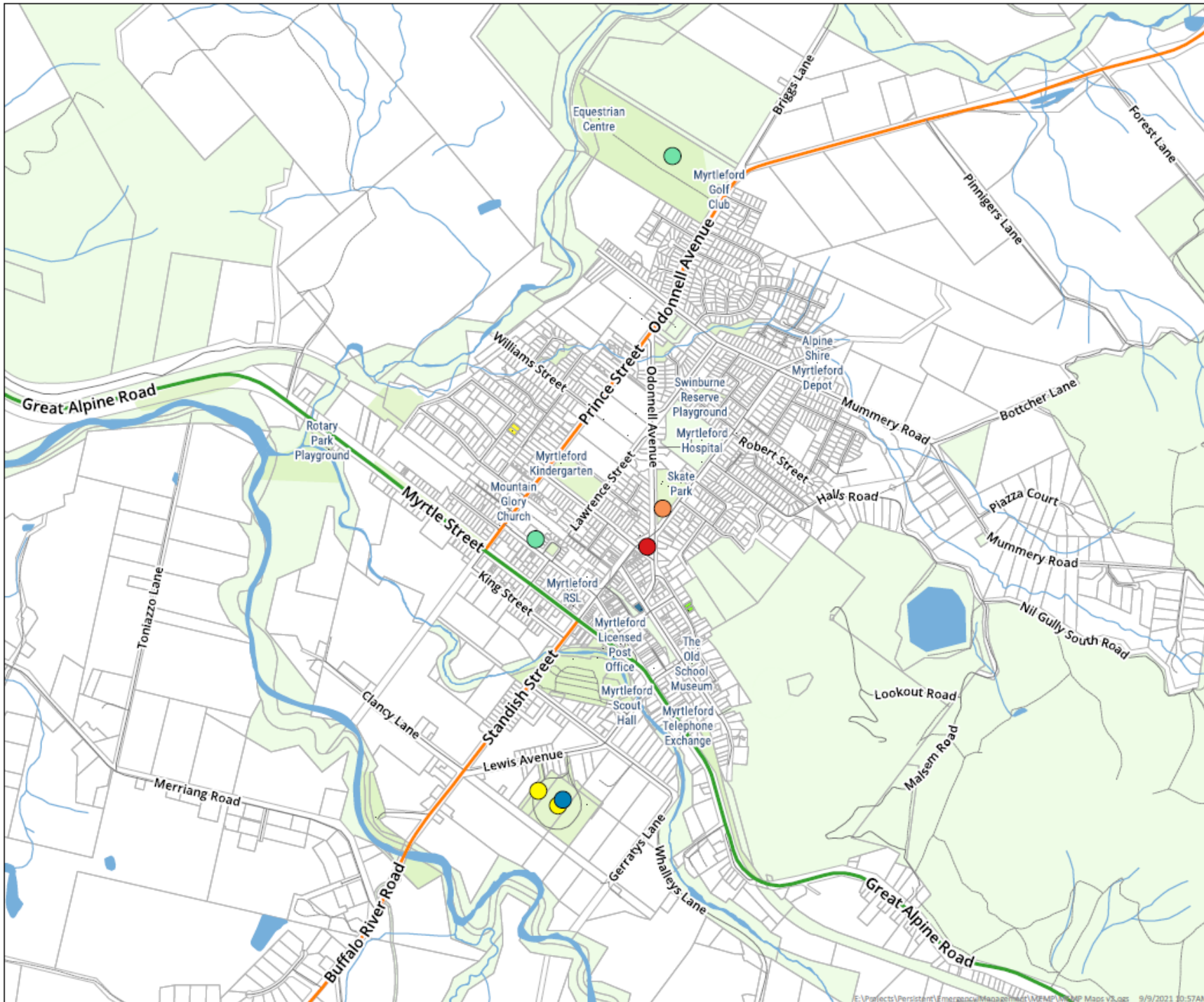GDA2020 / MGA zone 55

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Map labels: Svarcs Lane, Tawonga Gap Road, Sunrise Lane, Ranch Road, Kiewa Valley Highway, Margaret Drive, Allamar Court, Coolumbooka Avenue, Marums Lane, Heberles Road

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Emergency Response and Relief Locations
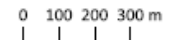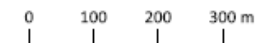
Tawonga

Legend

Locations
- ● ICC
- ● CEOC
- ● NSP-BPLR
- ● Relief
- ● Staging

Property Owner
- AMBULANCE VICTORIA
- COUNTRY FIRE AUTHORITY
- PARKS VICTORIA
- STATE EMERGENCY SERVICES
- VICTORIA POLICE

0   100   200   300 m

N

Coordinate System
GDA2020 / MGA zone 55

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Map labels: Charles Street, Cooper Street, Tawonga Scout Hall, Tawonga Primary School, Kiewa Valley Highway, Ropers Road, Mountain Creek Road, Ryders Lane, Hores Lane, Tawonga Bowling Club, Diggings Road

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Emergency Response and Relief Locations

Myrtleford

Legend

Locations
- ICC (red)
- CEOC (orange)
- NSP-BPLR (yellow)
- Relief (green)
- Staging (blue)

Property Owner
- AMBULANCE VICTORIA (green)
- COUNTRY FIRE AUTHORITY (red)
- PARKS VICTORIA (olive)
- STATE EMERGENCY SERVICES (yellow)
- VICTORIA POLICE (blue)

0 100 200 300 m

N

Coordinate System
GDA2020 / MGA zone 55
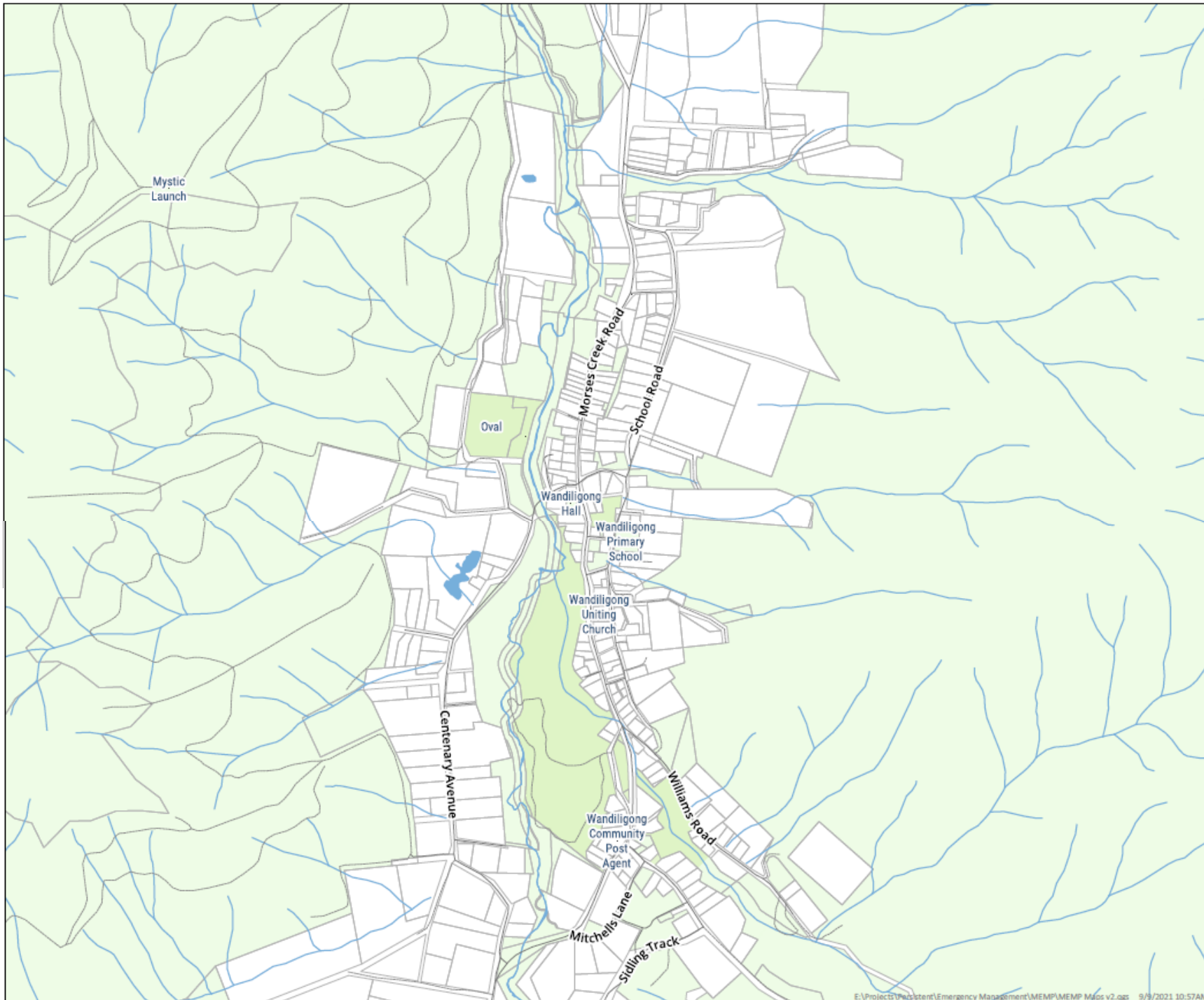
ALPINE
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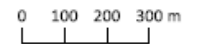# Emergency Response and Relief Locations

Porepunkah

Legend

Locations
- ICC
- CEOC
- NSP-BPLR
- Relief
- Staging

Property Owner
- AMBULANCE VICTORIA
- COUNTRY FIRE AUTHORITY
- PARKS VICTORIA
- STATE EMERGENCY SERVICES
- VICTORIA POLICE

0   100   200   300 m

N

Coordinate System
GDA2020 / MGA zone 55

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Emergency Response and Relief Locations

Wandiligong

Legend

Locations
- ● ICC
- ● CEOC
- ● NSP-BPLR
- ● Relief
- ● Staging

Property Owner
- ▢ AMBULANCE VICTORIA
- ▢ COUNTRY FIRE AUTHORITY
- ▢ PARKS VICTORIA
- ▢ STATE EMERGENCY SERVICES
- ▢ VICTORIA POLICE

0 100 200 300 m

N

Coordinate System
GDA2020 / MGA zone 55

ALPINE
SHIRE COUNCIL

Map labels:
- Mystic Launch
- Morses Creek Road
- School Road
- Oval
- Wandiligong Hall
- Wandiligong Primary School
- Wandiligong Uniting Church
- Centenary Avenue
- Williams Road
- Wandiligong Community Post Agent
- Mitchells Lane
- Sidling Track