

# Bushfire Mitigation Strategy

2019–2023





**Acknowledgement of traditional owners**  
Nillumbik Shire Council acknowledges the Wurundjeri people who are the Traditional Custodians of Land known today as Nillumbik. We pay respect to the Elders both past and present and extend that respect to other Indigenous Australians.

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# A Message from the Mayor

The Nillumbik Shire is an amazing place to live and raise a family. However with our unique lifestyle, nestled within the environment we love and choose to live in, we face the real threat and challenge of bushfire. We must understand these challenges, respect the threat and build plans and mitigation measures into our lives.

As Mayor, I have sponsored the development of this strategy and along with all Councillors, I'm proud to be delivering on our promise for a safe and healthy environment through a focus on emergency management and the implementation of the 2019-2023 Nillumbik Shire Bushfire Mitigation Strategy.

The strategy acknowledges that we cannot deal with bushfire alone. We must align this with other challenges we face including environmental management, encouraging biodiversity and protecting our community.

The overarching operating principle and strategic priority are very clear and are underpinned by the protection of human life.

The strategy supports the need to understand and achieve a balance between bushfire mitigation and the environment. It has focused on relationships with the community and all partner agencies to ensure a shared responsibility and shared obligation of the Nillumbik bushfire risk, and the importance of building resilience.

It is now time for us all to champion a balanced and proactive approach, as bushfire will continue to be a key challenge within our communities and across our Shire. Council will continue to support the community and all partner agencies to adopt this strategy through the monitoring and support of its implementation.



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Karen Egan". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Cr Karen Egan  
**Mayor**

# A Message from the CEO

The Bushfire Mitigation Strategy is a key document developed by Council as part of the Shire's overall approach to emergency management. It has been developed with the significant expertise of the Nillumbik Shire community and other agencies and experts, considering environmental and biodiversity.

The strategy establishes a clear direction for Council that aims to improve community resilience by mitigating bushfire risk while enabling community members to live as safely as possible in what is recognised to be high risk locations. Importantly, the community has been at the centre of the strategy's development and this will continue in the implementation of the strategy.

The strategy is a proactive approach to bushfire mitigation. Its focus is on enhanced mitigation techniques, prevention strategies and improved preparedness for bushfire risk. The strategy adopts a broad set of strategic priorities including risk-based fuel management, as well as considering protection of the environment with the need to reduce fire risk overall. Community view and aspirations have played a key role in determining the focus of the strategy. It is important to note that it is not a strategy that considers response to, and recovery from, emergency events.

Bushfire mitigation in Nillumbik Shire is especially challenging with 91% of our Shire designated as Green Wedge and heavily vegetated. Therefore we must challenge ourselves to be well informed, with the latest know how to forge the most resilient community who will proactively lead, support and implement the strategy.

I commend the work of the community for their positive engagement with Council and its experts to produce this most important Bushfire Mitigation Strategy in serving the best interests of community safety and protection of the environment.



Carl Cowie  
**CEO**

# Executive Summary

Nillumbik Shire is one of the highest bushfire risk areas in the world. As such, Council has identified bushfire mitigation as a key Council priority.

There are unique challenges within Nillumbik Shire that make bushfire mitigation particularly complex. This includes its natural environment, its location on the urban fringe, proximity to national parks or river frontage with high fuel loads, its demographics including an ageing population, and the large proportion of privately-owned land.

The strategy identifies four strategic priorities, each with a series of associated objectives: reducing the number and impact of bushfire incidents; creating a community focused approach to bushfire; creating a coordinated approach between key agencies and the communities of Nillumbik; and ensuring strong advocacy.

It also identifies four operating principles for bushfire mitigation: protection of human life; balancing environmental protection with bushfire risk; shared responsibility; and reducing, managing and modifying fuels.

The strategic framework set out in this strategy will guide a *Bushfire Mitigation Implementation Plan*, which will appoint responsibility for actions that:

- mitigate bushfire risk
- reduce fuel loads
- increase safety
- fulfil legislative requirements
- promote best practice
- protect environmental assets and values
- empower community; and
- most of all, protect life and property.

Council will oversee this strategy and the associated *Bushfire Mitigation Implementation Plan* through its Municipal Fire Management Planning Committee (MFMPC), which is a sub committee of the Municipal Emergency Management Planning Committee (MEMPC). These committees comprise of various agency representatives that have shared ownership and responsibility for the implementation of this strategy.

Like any strategy, this strategy cannot be considered in isolation. It has been developed and will be implemented in conjunction with Council's emergency management documents including but not limited to the *Nillumbik Emergency Management Future Directions Plan*<sup>1</sup> and the *Green Wedge Management Plan*.

# Introduction



**'Nillumbik Shire is one of the most bushfire prone municipalities in Victoria with a history of significant bushfires that have impacted communities, caused death and injury to humans and animals; caused significant destruction of property; displaced individuals and families from their homes and caused catastrophic impacts on wildlife and the natural environment.'**

**- Craig Lapsley, former Victorian Emergency Management Commissioner**

## **This Bushfire Mitigation Strategy 2019–2023 is a major commitment in the Council Plan 2017–2021. It highlights the significance of bushfire in the Nillumbik Shire and the need to improve the way we prevent, prepare for, respond to and recover from fire.**

The potential for bushfire to impact our lives cannot be underestimated. It has the potential to kill, injure and change our lives forever. Therefore primacy of life must be paramount for us all.

Nillumbik Shire consists of connected, knowledgeable and caring communities that live in a wonderful rural setting adjacent to suburbia. It enjoys a very stable population and a community that is committed to environmental sustainability. The people of Nillumbik generally understand the risk and threat of bushfire, and fear what it can do to their lives, their community and the place they love and live.

As history has taught us, under certain conditions bushfire can travel quickly through the landscape, causing considerable devastation. Refer to the appendix map to view the history of bushfire occurrences across the Shire since 1927 (refer to page 26, map 4). The Shire landscape contains vegetation and terrain that allow fire to move with speed, with the potential for death and destruction. This is why the community has significant concern and rightfully demands a comprehensive mitigation strategy that respects their values and delivers improved safety.

Our community is reasonably well-informed about their rights and obligations in relation to local issues, including bushfire risk. They generally take responsibility for bushfire safety, but also hold others accountable. This highlights the importance of shared responsibility: we must collectively commit to mitigating, preparing for, responding to and recovering from bushfire.

This strategy guides the next steps in minimising the threat and impacts of bushfire in an area with significant bushfire history. It aims to achieve consistent and effective fire risk mitigation planning and practices through community engagement and a commitment to agency collaboration. This includes knowledge-sharing, and an increase in proactive bushfire related learning and behavior change.

This strategy will have a high profile to ensure that bushfire mitigation is a shared responsibility and shared obligation between Council, the community, businesses, agencies, organisations and other levels of government.



**'The recommendations we make give priority to protecting human life, and they are designed to reflect the shared responsibility that governments, fire agencies, communities and individuals have for minimising the prospect of a tragedy of this scale ever happening again.'**

**- 2009 Victorian Bushfires  
Royal Commission**

# Nilumbik Shire—profile and partnerships

Nilumbik Shire Council is an interface municipality located 25kms north-east of Melbourne's CBD. It has a population of approximately 64,000 residents and a land area of 43,200 hectares.

It is characterised by a high proportion of privately-owned land coupled with low population density and growth.

The minimal population growth rate of Nilumbik Shire can be attributed to an aging population, stringent state and local government planning laws, minimal high-density housing, and large privately-owned properties.

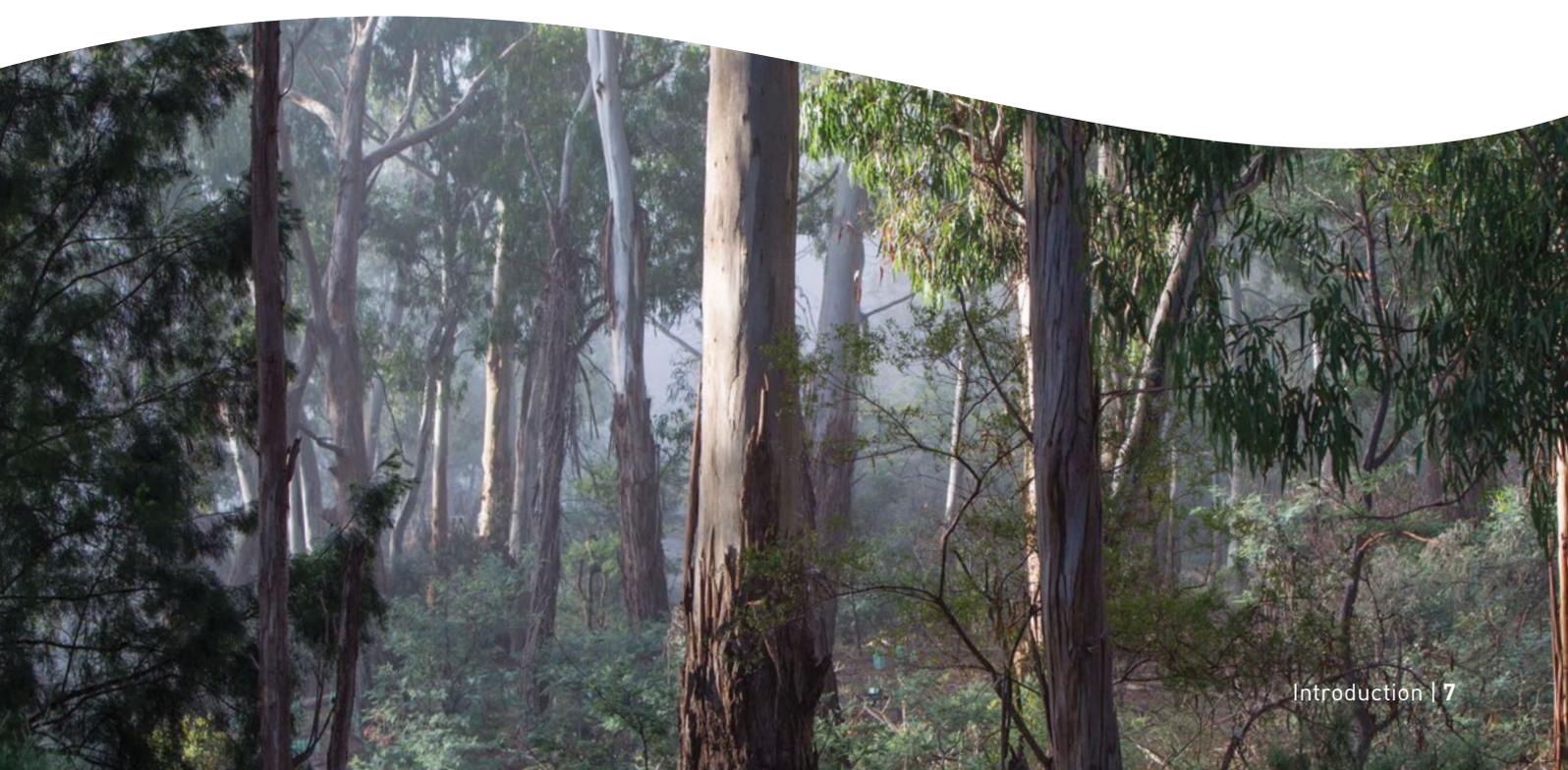
The majority of the shire is known as the 'Green Wedge' which is home to approximately 13,000 people.

With such a high proportion of private land, a significant portion of which is surrounded by public land (forested areas) and river frontage, it is imperative that Council and agencies work collaboratively with landowners to reduce fire risk. Planning restrictions such as the Bushfire Management Overlay (BMO) (refer to page 24, map 2) and the Environmental Significance Overlay (ESO) (refer to page 25, map 3) limit what landowners can do on their land to reduce fire risk.

Living in Nilumbik provides a unique rural lifestyle and experience with central Melbourne attractions and employment only a short distance away. However, the characteristics that make Nilumbik so liveable also contribute to it being one of the most bushfire prone areas in the world. Furthermore, bushfire risk is not confined to the Shire area, as neighbouring municipalities also have similar bushfire risk profiles (refer to page 23, map 1).

Liveability within a bushfire-prone landscape can only be achieved by acknowledging and managing the risk and impacts. Bushfire mitigation is a shared responsibility and shared obligation and will only work if all stakeholders foster strong partnerships with all involved. A community-centric model is needed, which relies on a connected community characterised by mutually respectful relationships, active partnerships, strong leadership and knowledge that guides improved decision-making.

To emphasise the importance the community places on bushfire mitigation and emergency management, the *2019 Nilumbik Shire Annual Community Survey* shows about one-sixth (14.4%) of survey respondents identified bushfire management and prevention as an issue for Council to address, which was rated second of the top five issues. The survey also identified bushfire and emergency management satisfaction level being 7.09 out of 10, a level of satisfaction categorised as "good".



# Historical management of bushfires

Part of the area north of the Yarra River, which is now identified as the Nillumbik local government area, is home to the Wurundjeri people.

Prior to European contact, the Wurundjeri people managed their landscape using techniques now identified as swidden agriculture or rotational farming. This meant the land was cleared using the 'FireStick' method (cool burns) and then left to regenerate for seasons before being farmed again. By using these 'slash and burn' methods to manage the land, the Wurundjeri were able to reduce fuel loads, which resulted in bushfires burning with less ferocity and intensity.

Bushfire occurred naturally within this landscape, such as by lightning strike. Many of the plants and animals found on Wurundjeri land have evolved to survive fire events, and are reliant on bushfire to regenerate. For centuries humans have actively used fire as a land management tool.

We can learn from this historical practice in the way that we manage future bushfire risk in the landscape. The 'FireStick' method of cool burning has a lower impact on life, animals, habitat and landscape than an unplanned, high intensity bushfire, which has the potential to harm humans and animals and destroy property and the environment.



*Image: eucalyptus resprouting after fire*

# Council's role and policy context

Bushfire mitigation is a key responsibility for agencies, with legislation providing accountabilities for Nillumbik Shire Council, the Country Fire Authority (CFA), Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP), Parks Victoria, Melbourne Water, Victoria Police, VicRoads and private landowners.

Council has a number of legislated responsibilities relating to bushfire mitigation, prevention, response, relief and recovery. These activities are supported by a shared responsibility approach that includes the community, business and other levels of government.

Council must have an adequate emergency plan to help mitigate the social, economic and environmental impacts of bushfire in Nillumbik, not to mention communities in surrounding municipalities.

This is not just a moral responsibility, it is a legislated part of Council's role under the *Country Fire Authority Act 1958*, the *Emergency Management Act 2013*, and the *Emergency Management Legislation Amendment Act 2018*.<sup>2</sup>

The 2009 Victorian Black Saturday bushfires have left a significant scar in the community and across the landscape, which has resulted in a new approach to bushfire management and include:

- *Victoria State Emergency Management Priorities*<sup>3</sup>
- *Safer Together*<sup>4</sup>
- *Community Resilience Framework for Emergency Management*<sup>5</sup>
- *Emergency Management Diversity and Inclusion framework*<sup>6</sup>
- *The National Fire Danger Rating system*
- *Australia Bushfire Policy—'Prepare, Stay and Defend or Leave Early'*.

These policies are supported by new technologies and information systems that help community members make better informed decisions about their safety.

# Challenges



## A unique set of social, economic, environmental and technological challenges within Nillumbik Shire make bushfire mitigation particularly complex.

The community	Challenges
Ageing population	<p>Nillumbik population data profiles<sup>7</sup> indicate that 35.8% of residents are aged over 50 with a higher percentage of retirees, older workers and pre-retirees (50 to 59), seniors and elderly than in Melbourne.</p> <p>This requires consideration and strategies that support an older more mature population utilising their knowledge and experience to support community bushfire mitigation.</p>
Extent of privately-owned land	<p>The high level of private land ownership in the shire, with the majority of private land in the designated Bushfire Prone Area (see page 21) poses significant challenge in reducing fire risk.</p> <p>Landowners have a responsibility to minimise risk to their own property and surrounding properties.</p> <p>Council also needs to work with other agencies to ensure the community is informed about the potential risks of bushfire and the threat of living in a bushfire risk location.</p>
'Lifestyle' change	<p>In the future an increasing number of people may move to larger properties for a 'lifestyle change'. These people are unlikely to understand bushfire risks and their obligations as landowners to reduce bushfire risks, nor have the skills or equipment to effectively prepare their property for bushfire.</p>
CFA	<p>A continued effort to maintain strong ties between the community and the CFA is vital during all stages of bushfire management. Community supported and viable CFA volunteer fire brigades are essential.</p>
Community expectations from Council	<p>The community expects a higher level of efficiency, transparency and accountability from Council in relation to bushfire management. In response, Council needs to strengthen and streamline its processes and increase its level of engagement with the community.</p>
Changes to traditional forms of information gathering	<p>During an emergency, online communication channels such as social media offer an immediacy of information that traditional media such as newspapers and television cannot.</p> <p>Council and other agencies need to use these communication channels to provide a primary news source to enable households to be better informed in preparing and enacting their fire survival plans. It remains critical to remember the importance of face-to-face conversations and ongoing information sharing.</p>
Community concerns about bushfire	<p>Living in a bushfire area can be challenging for households. There is a heightened concern for safety, which is sometimes displayed as fear. Trauma from previous bushfires, in particular Black Saturday, can feed into this fear and affect people's decisions and behaviour.</p> <p>Therefore, strategies that prevent, mitigate and manage bushfire must be supplemented by programs that build community resilience and wellbeing.</p>

<b>The environment</b>	<b>Challenges</b>
<b>Climate change</b>	The effects of climate change will increase the intensity and frequency of bushfires.
<b>Rural / urban interface</b>	Nillumbik's 'urban' residential area is predominantly in the southern part of the shire, at the interface with metropolitan Melbourne. High fuel loads near this interface pose a risk of bushfires created by embers travelling into the highly populated urban areas.
<b>Fuel load reduction and biodiversity</b>	Fuel load reduction targets on public land including Council land need to be met while also ensuring the region's biodiversity remains intact - something which is highly valued by the community.
<b>The economy</b>	<b>Challenges</b>
<b>Business</b>	Businesses need to be considered when implementing bushfire mitigation and emergency management plans. Business continuity is essential to reducing economic and social impacts: the sooner business can resume after a bushfire, the sooner business owners can regain their livelihoods and communities can feel a sense of normality return.
<b>Agriculture</b>	Working with large agricultural landowners is critical to mitigating bushfire risk.
<b>Visitors and tourism</b>	Communication with visitors to the region, particularly those unfamiliar with the area, should be carefully planned in the lead up to the bushfire season. Visitors need to be informed about the actions they need to take in the event of a bushfire. An increased emphasis on the rebuilding process after a bushfire event also encourages visitors back to the area to support the local economy.
<b>Technology and infrastructure</b>	<b>Challenges</b>
<b>Mobile phone black spots</b>	Mobile phone black spots continue to pose a significant risk in areas of a high bushfire risk.

# Strategy



# Strategic priorities

## Four strategic priorities shape the Bushfire Mitigation Strategy:

### 1. Reduce the number and impact of bushfire incidents

Improve bushfire mitigation across the municipality through improved prevention, planning and preparedness.

### 2. Creating a community focussed approach to bushfire

Create and implement a range of effective communication and community engagement information mediums and sources for use by households and communities so they are able to make better decisions and be better prepared before, during and after a bushfire.

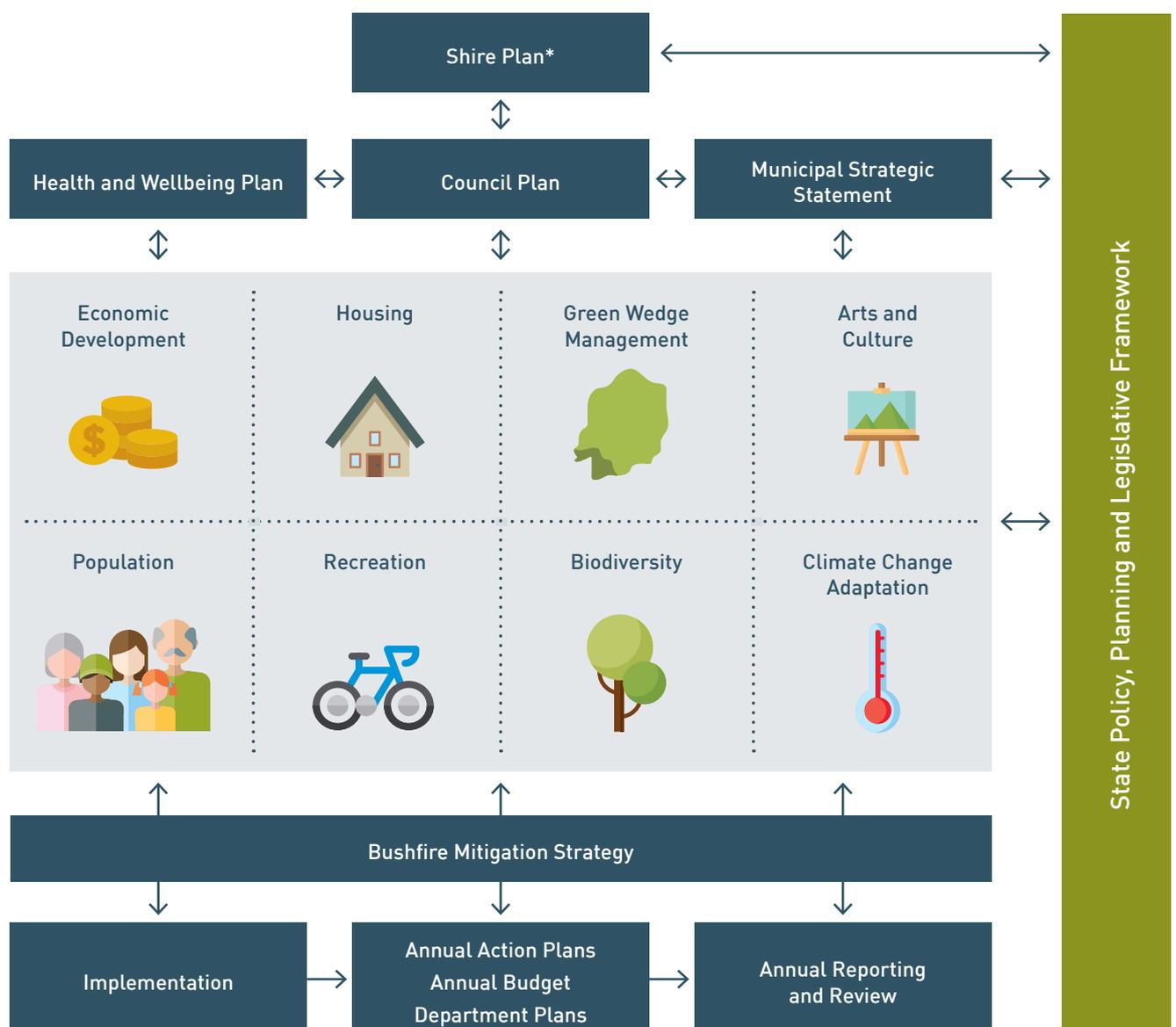
### 3. Creating a coordinated approach between key agencies and the community

Clearly define roles and responsibilities to ensure strong and mutually beneficial relationships are fostered and maintained with all agencies during all stages of bushfire management.

### 4. Ensuring strong advocacy

The Shire will advocate on behalf of the community to all levels of government to ensure a strong position in relation to bushfire and bushfire risk.

The *Bushfire Mitigation Implementation Plan*, managed by the MFMPC is designed to deliver tangible outcomes to improve bushfire safety for each of these strategic priorities.



\*Under development or review

# Operating principles

The following operating principles will guide Council's frameworks, plans and actions around risk management and bushfire mitigation within the Shire:



**1** Protection of human life



**2** Balancing bushfire risk mitigation with environment protection



**3** Shared responsibility, shared obligation and strong community connection



**4** Reducing, managing and modifying fuels

## 1. Protection of human life

Council's key operating principle will be, first and foremost, the protection of human life. This includes members of the community who are in immediate danger, but also the broader community and personnel of all associated agencies.

## 2. Balancing bushfire risk mitigation with environment protection

Council will work to strike a balance between working to mitigate and reduce the threat of bushfire, the impact on private property and businesses and protecting the environment, including the shire's unique flora and fauna.

## 3. Shared responsibility, shared obligation and strong community connection

To succeed in emergency management, the community must be willing to work with Council and associated agencies. The key focus is to establish and maintain shared responsibilities, shared obligation and being community centric. This will be achieved by using proven community engagement principles and learning from and responding to the needs of the community where feasible. Applying shared responsibilities, shared obligation principles and being community centric and connected is a responsibility of agencies, government departments, Council, private landowners and community groups.

## 4. Reducing, managing and modifying fuels

Fire intensity is well researched and a key element of fire behavior that determines the type of fire experienced. When a bushfire has a high fire intensity it will be unpredictable, difficult to control, and will cause significant damage that has the potential to cause death and destruction.

Fire intensity can be reduced by modifying fuel density and fuel configuration. A holistic approach is needed to reduce fuel taking into account the combination of private and public land in the Shire:

- private land that has significant fuel vegetation
- Council-owned and managed reserves
- private roads and roads that are owned and managed by the state or Council
- state-owned and managed national parks, forests and bushland
- grasslands
- river frontage bush areas.

These private and public parcels of land are managed separately however they must be considered together to identify the best mitigation and prevention treatments for reducing fuel.

When the Fire Danger Rating is Extreme and Code Red, weather created by the fire, and ignition locations will be a key determinants of fire behaviour rather than fuel types or dryness. These are the days that fire will move into and through Nillumbik communities leaving destruction in its wake.

# Objectives



**Each strategic priority outlined in the table below has been allocated high-level objectives that will guide the three-year *Bushfire Mitigation Implementation Plan*.**

Council will oversee this plan through the MFMP. The MFMP will develop and implement this plan with the support of Council management and community engagement. The plan will appoint responsibility for actions to increase safety, promote best practice, fulfil legislative requirements, and balance these factors with environmental assets and values, and most of all, protect life and property.

The four strategic priorities will be implemented in conjunction with Council’s emergency management documents including the *Nillumbik Emergency Management Future Directions Plan* and the *Green Wedge Management Plan* and the State emergency management documents. The strategies, issues and approaches in these documents will inform and align with each another.

Strategic Priorities	Goals
<p><b>1. Reduce the number and impact of bushfire incidents</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1.1. Reduce the number of bushfire ignitions by developing a program to prevent arson in Nillumbik and in areas that may affect Nillumbik, and reduce reckless behaviour that starts bushfires.</li> <li>1.2. Support Nillumbik’s Electric Line Clearance program to reduce the number of bushfires caused by electric lines in urban areas.</li> <li>1.3. Strengthen the annual roadside slashing, box clearance, woody weeds removal on roads identified in the MFMP, and maintain a hazardous tree removal program.</li> <li>1.4. Nillumbik Shire to be a ‘role model’ by providing best practice fuel risk reduction on land they own or manage.</li> <li>1.5. Establish and maintain an active indigenous burns program to reduce fuel on private and public land.</li> <li>1.6. Establish a rolling three year fuel reduction plan and an annual multi-agency works program to reduce bushfire risk that aligns with Nillumbik’s MFMP.</li> <li>1.7. Create an annual fuel reduction program on private property to enable households and community groups to carry out strategic fuel reduction and complete bushfire risk mitigation measures that is supported by the provision and promotion of the 10/30 and 10/50 exemptions, and the provision of improved green waste collection during the Fire Danger Period.</li> <li>1.8. Broaden the membership and range of activities of the MFMP.</li> <li>1.9. Maintain, manage and enhance the network of static water tanks and fire access tracks.</li> <li>1.10. Promote the establishment of improved road access and egress and the installation of passing bays.</li> <li>1.11. Maintain, and conduct a needs analysis of Neighbourhood Safer Places (Bushfire Places of Last Resort) and consider the establishment of Community Fire Refuges.</li> </ul>

Strategic Priorities	Goals
<p><b>2. Creating a community focussed approach to bushfire</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2.1. Implement an annual program, facilitated by Nillumbik and involving all agencies, that raises bushfire risk awareness for households; community groups; and the business, commerce, education and health sectors.</li> <li>2.2. Support the enhancement of CFA's Community Fireguard program.</li> <li>2.3. Conduct a Community Values Forum to capture and describe the main reasons people live in Nillumbik and what is valued and important to them. The outcomes will support Council decision making and underpin future bushfire plans and actions.</li> <li>2.4. Develop a suite of fire intensity tools and engage with the community on the link between fuel reduction and fire intensity.</li> <li>2.5. Develop a suite of environmental tools, and engage with the community on environmental values, fuel management (including weeds) and methods to protect the environment and achieve improved fire mitigation and environmental outcomes.</li> <li>2.6. Develop Community Emergency / Bushfire Plans for communities of St Andrews, Strathewen, Panton Hill, Hurstbridge, Christmas Hills, Smiths Gully and others, taking into account the 2018 Emergency Management legislation and the <i>Community Based Emergency Management</i> framework.</li> <li>2.7. Develop a dynamic annual consultation and communications plan that includes all mediums and modes of communication to reach the entire community before, during and after an emergency.</li> <li>2.8. Facilitate the development and provision of a content framework and a suite of tools for households; community groups; and the business, commerce, education and health sectors to support them to prepare for bushfires, and make good decisions to protect their lives, pets, animals and assets.</li> <li>2.9. Coordinate a community Emergency Management Volunteer Development and Resilience Program that assists the Shire through emergency management agencies and volunteer organisations. Facilitate an annual emergency management volunteer development and resilience program to foster a diverse, inclusive, well lead and agile volunteer workforce that assists the Shire and emergency management agencies.</li> </ul>

Strategic Priorities	Goals
<p><b>3. Creating a coordinated approach between key agencies and the communities of Nillumbik</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3.1. Work with agencies to develop Incident Management Plans.</li> <li>3.2. All agency plans are consistent and aligned to the MEMP.</li> <li>3.3. Continue to externally audit the MFMP to ensure it is compliant with legislative requirements.</li> <li>3.4. Develop with agencies an annual Communications Plan describing strategies and approaches to reach the entire community before, during and after an emergency.</li> <li>3.5. Participation at MEMPC and MFMPC be a priority and the representative be able to lead, contribute and commit to the issues being discussed.</li> <li>3.6. Council will continue to lead the facilitation of fire and emergency management planning at the municipal and local level.</li> <li>3.7. Evaluate, assess and update any agreements for the provision of mutual aid established between key partners including neighbouring municipalities and regional agencies.</li> </ul>
<p><b>4. Ensuring strong advocacy</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4.1. Actively advocate to ensure legislation, policy and infrastructure investment meets the needs of the community.</li> <li>4.2. Seek increased government and industry funding for the removal of mobile phone black spots.</li> <li>4.3. Support and facilitate the provision of resources to enable private property to assess and manage fuel.</li> <li>4.4. Create evidence based approaches based on performance reporting and an assessment of bushfire prevention and mitigation programs to assist understanding of short, medium and long term outcomes.</li> </ul>

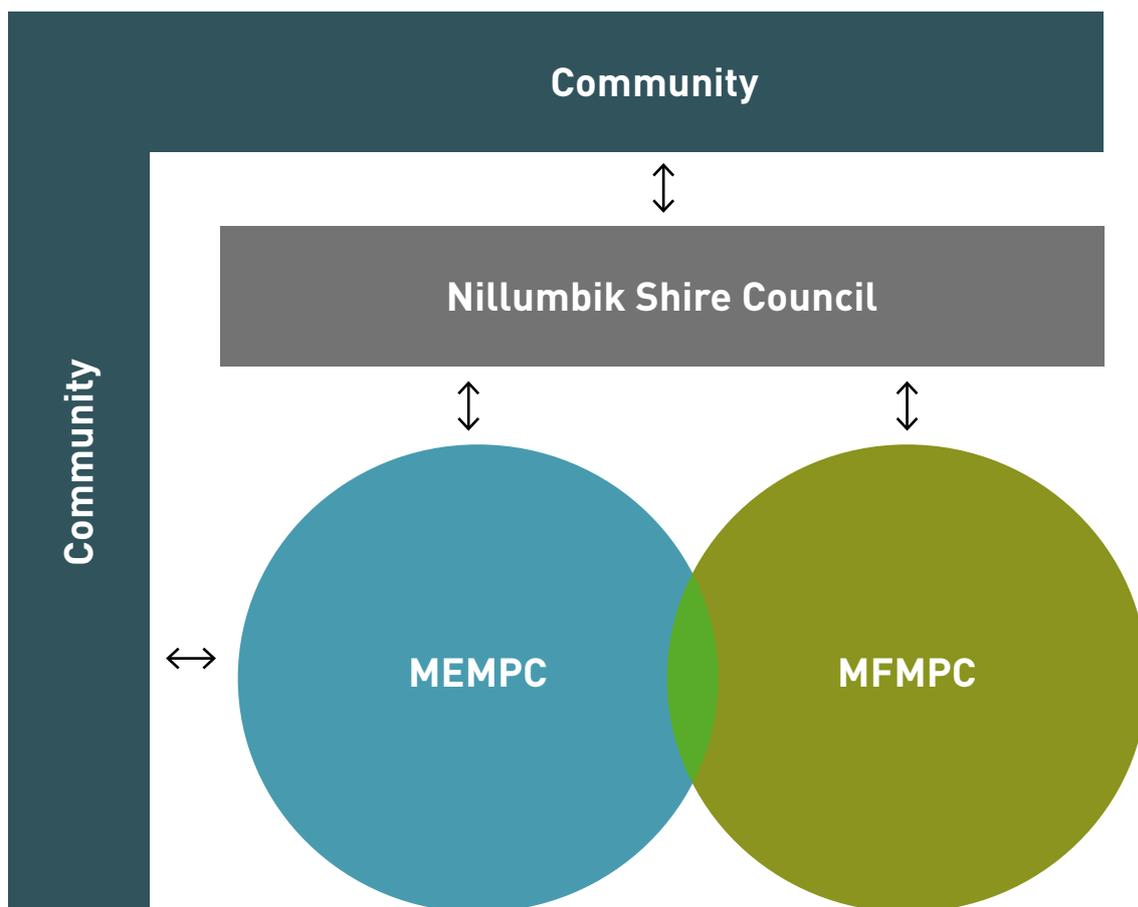
# Monitoring, Reporting and Improvements



## Council will oversee this plan through the MFMPC.

The MFMPC will develop and implement the plan with the support of Council. The implementation plan will appoint responsibility for actions and MFMPC will be responsible for measuring performance. The MFMPC will report quarterly to the MEMPC on its progress towards implementing the strategy.

The MFMPC will review its performance every six months and identify opportunities for improvement. The improvement opportunities will be documented in an improvement action plan and reported to MEMPC.



# Definitions

## **Bushfire Management Overlay**

applies to areas identified as having high bushfire hazard. Together with the planning requirements for bushfire protection in Clause 52.47, this overlay controls development in order to mitigate risk to life, property and community infrastructure. Planning Practice Note 64 – Local Planning for bushfire Protection explains the use of this overlay in more detail (refer to map 2).<sup>8</sup>

## **Bushfire mitigation**

describes activities to reduce the severity and impact of bushfires. It recognises that while not all bushfires can be prevented, effective planning and preparation can minimise the consequences of these events.

## **Bushfire Prone Areas**

are areas that are subject to or likely to be subject to bushfires. The Minister for Planning has determined that specific areas are designated Bushfire Prone Areas for the purposes of the building control system.

## **Bushfire Protection: Exemptions (“10/30 and 10/50 rules”)**

Following recommendations by the *2009 Victorian Bushfires Royal Commission*, the Victorian State Government introduced changes to the Victorian Planning Provisions. The changes enable landowners to clear fuel to create defensible space, around buildings used for accommodation, as well as along existing fence lines.

Coming into effect in November 2011, they were revised in 2014 and in 2018.<sup>9</sup> The provisions allow property owners, in specified locations, to clear fuel (including trees) without the need to obtain a planning permit from local council.

## **Environment Significance Overlay**

is a planning control and is an overlay concerned with ensuring that the development of land does not affect identified environmental values and qualities of particular areas within the Shire.

## **Green Wedge**

land is defined under the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* as land outside an Urban Growth Boundary as described in the metropolitan fringe planning scheme.<sup>10</sup>

## **Municipal Emergency Management Planning Committee (MEMPC)**

is a committee established by Council, consistent with legislation. Membership of the MEMPC includes representatives from local emergency service organisations, relief and recovery agencies, local health services and utilities as well as relevant State government departments. The MEMPC facilitates planning, preparedness, operational coordination and community participation for the prevention of, response to and recovery from an emergency event.

## **Municipal Fire Management Planning Committee (MFMP)**

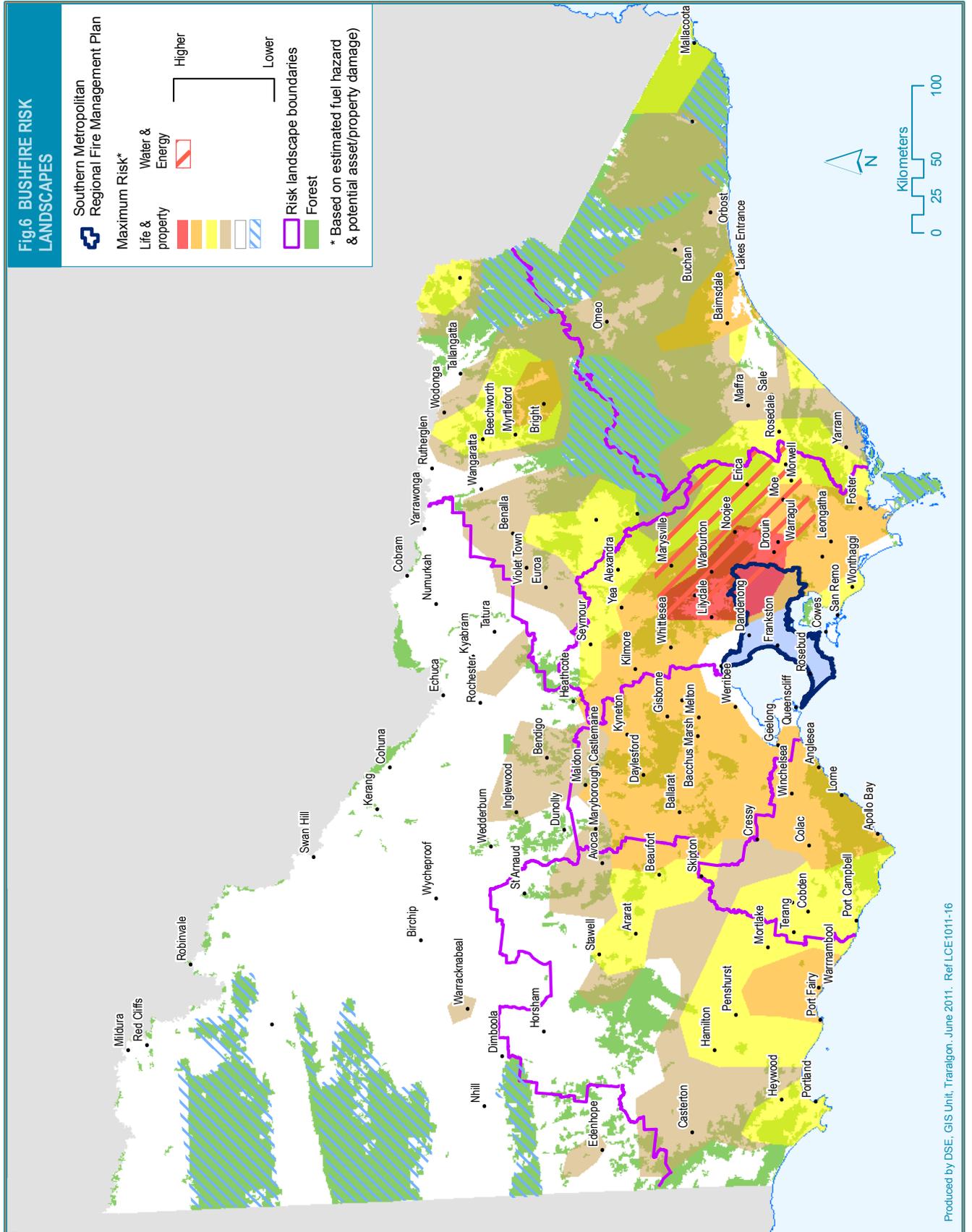
is a subcommittee of the Nillumbik Municipal Emergency Management Planning Committee (MEMPC) and is responsible for the development of a Municipal Fire Management Plan to meet the requirements for a Municipal Fire Prevention Plan under the *Country Fire Authority Act 1958*.

# References

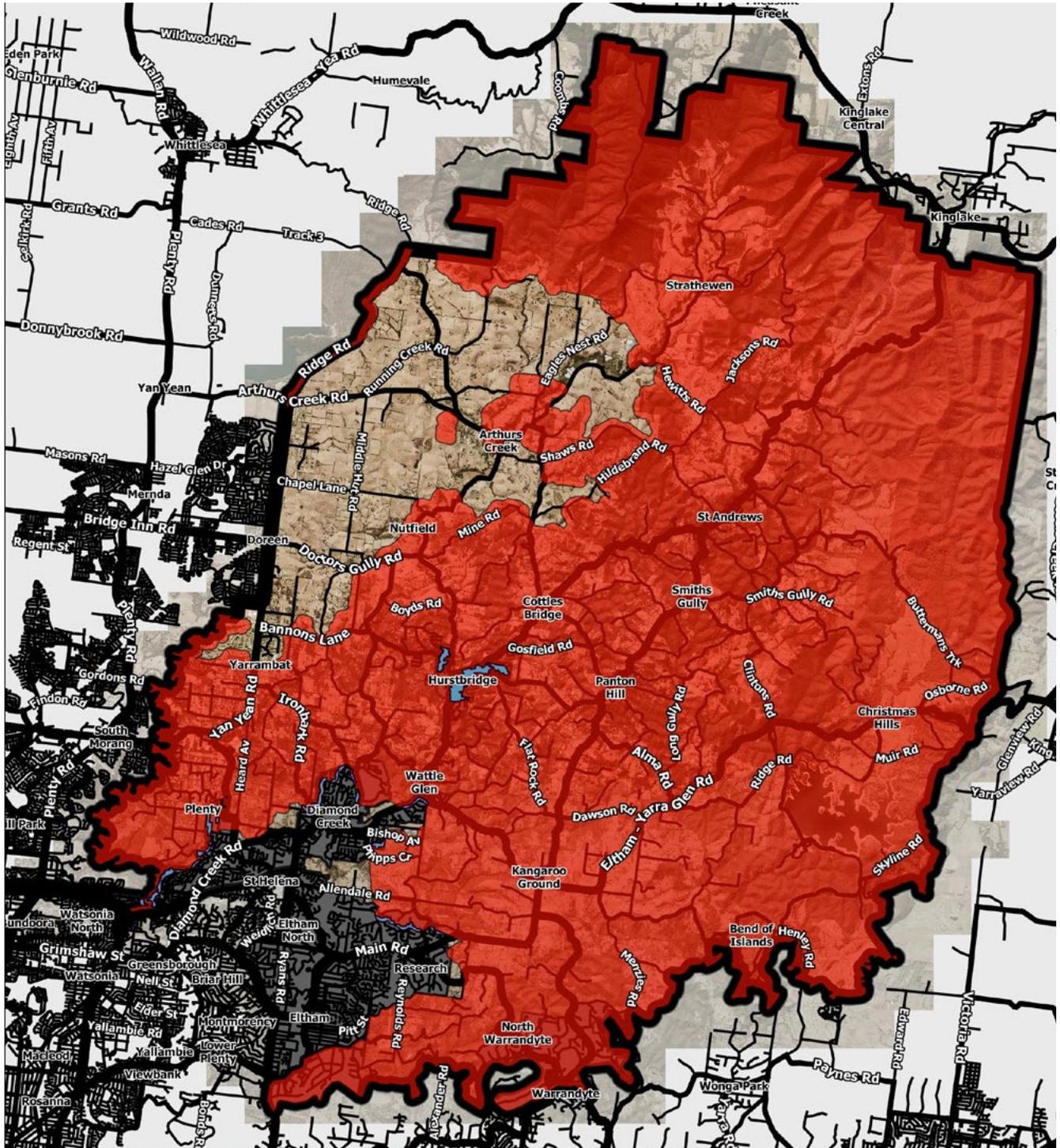
## Footnote links

1. [Nillumbik Emergency Management Future Directions Plan](#)
2. [Emergency Management Legislation Amendment Act 2018](#)
3. [Victoria State Emergency Management Priorities](#)
4. [Safer Together](#)
5. [Community Resilience Framework for Emergency Management](#)
6. [Emergency Management Diversity and Inclusion framework](#)
7. [Nillumbik population data profiles](#)
8. [Planning Practice Note 64 – Local Planning for bushfire Protection](#)
9. [Victorian Planning Provisions](#)
10. [Green Wedge Planning Provisions](#)

# Map 1: Bushfire Risk Landscapes



# Map 2: Bushfire Management Overlay (BM0)



### Bushfire Management Overlay

- BM0
- BM01

### Roadways

- Freeway
- Highway
- Arterial
- Sub Arterial
- Collector
- Local

### Green Wedge status

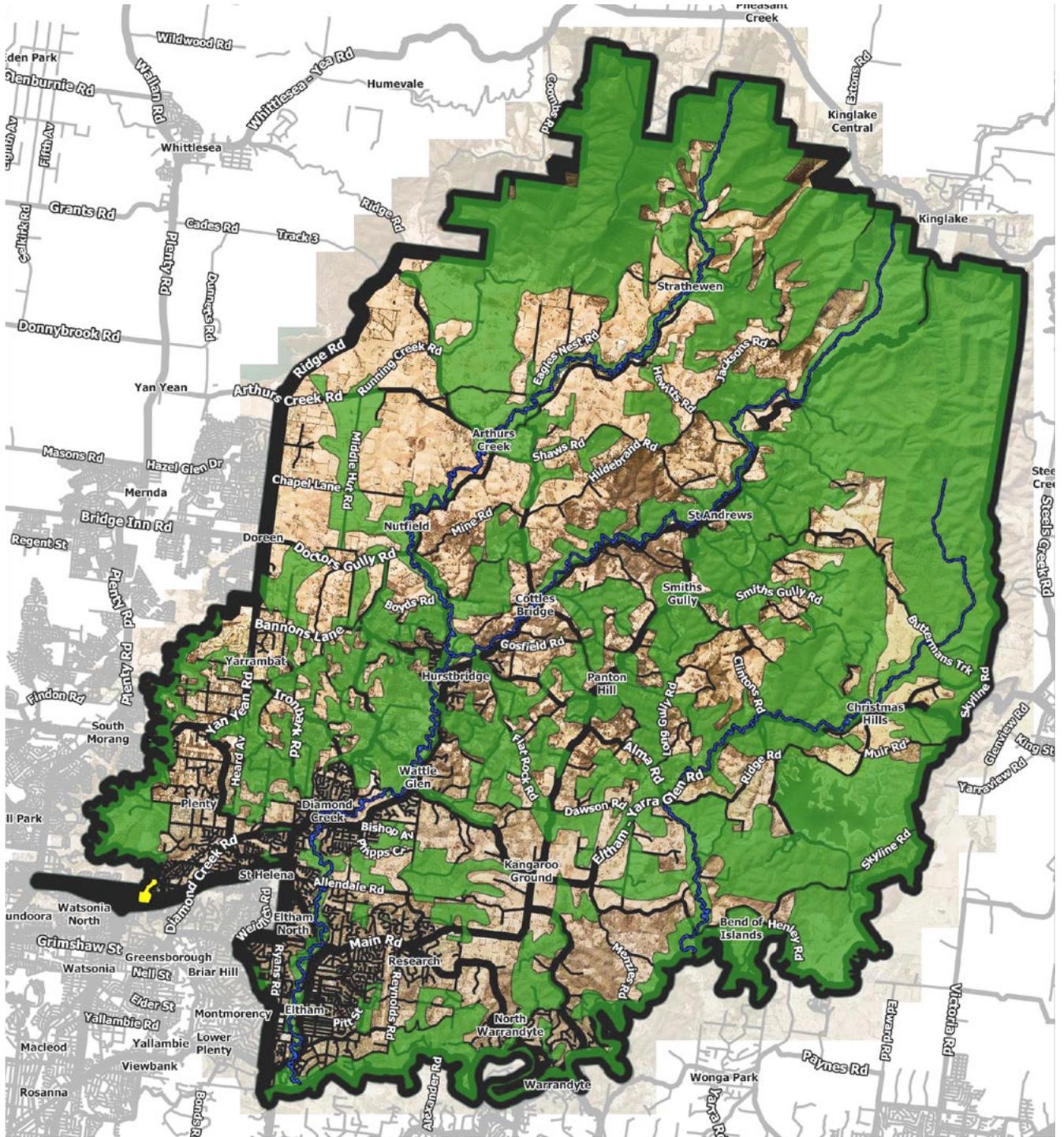
- Reservoirs

### Administrative boundaries

- Nillumbik Shire Boundary

Source: DELWP

# Map 3: Bushfire Environmental Significance Overlay



## Environmental Significance Overlay

- ES01
- ES03
- ES04

## Roadways

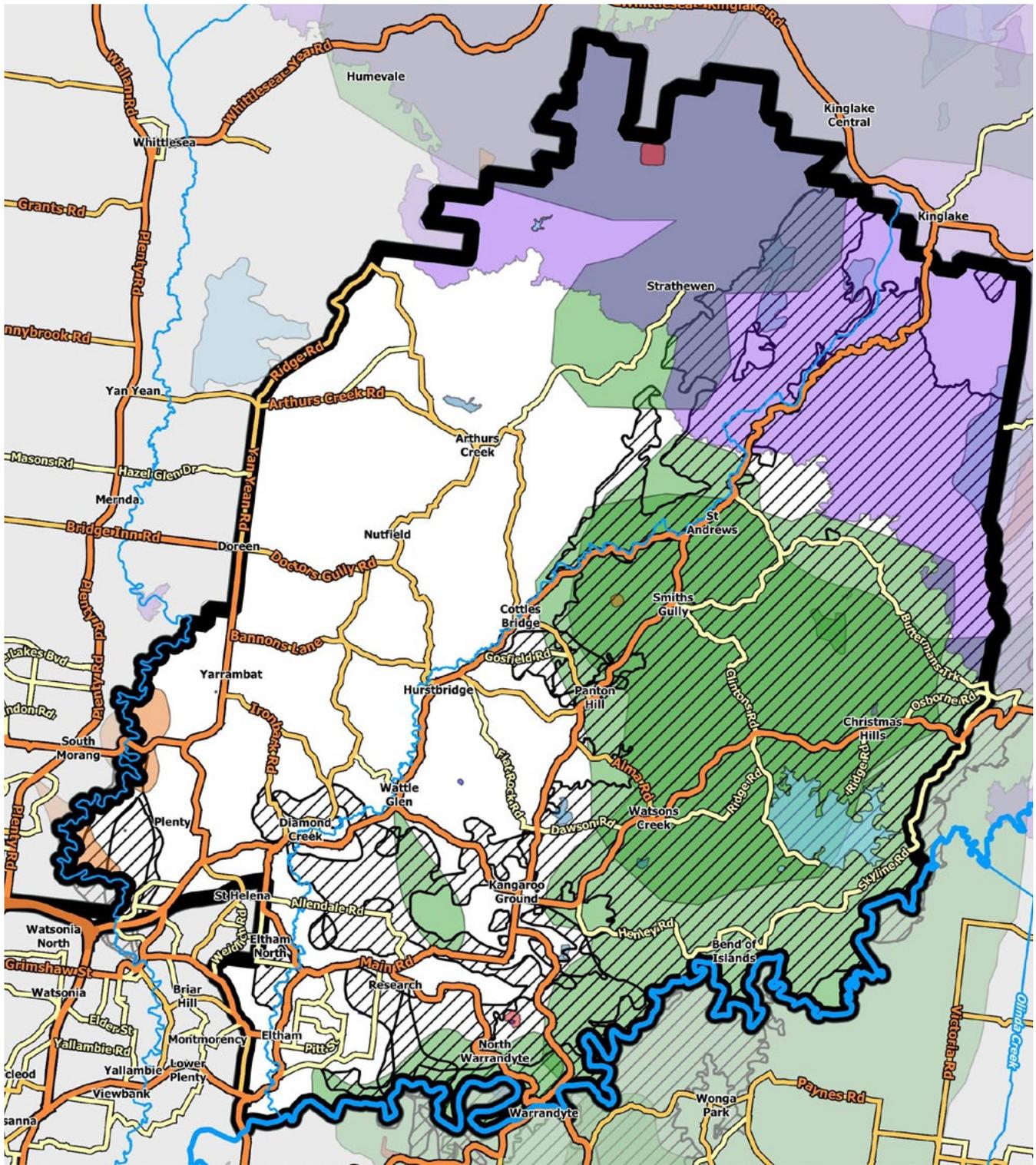
- Freeway
- Highway
- Arterial
- Sub Arterial
- Collector
- Local

## Administrative boundaries

- Nillumbik Shire Boundary

Source: DELWP

# Map 4: Bushfire Occurrence



- Bushfire Occurrence**
- Year 1927–1950
  - Year 1951–1960
  - Year 1961–1970
  - Year 1971–1980
  - Year 1981–1990
  - Year 1991–2000
  - Year 2001–2010
  - Year 2011–2016

- Administrative boundaries**
- Nillumbik Shire Boundary

- Watercourse**
- Hierarchy: High
  - Hierarchy: Medium

- Major water bodies**
- Reservoirs

- Roadways**
- Freeway
  - Highway
  - Arterial
  - Sub Arterial
  - Collector

Source: DELWP



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