



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



**Nillumbik Municipal Emergency  
Management Planning Committee**

## Statement of Assurance

### Certificate of Assurance for the Nillumbik Municipal Emergency Management Plan

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

This Plan was endorsed by the Committee on 31 May 2023 and supersedes the last Plan published on 17 May 2020.

Kim Halse  
Chair, Nillumbik Municipal Emergency Management Planning Committee  
31 May 2023

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## How to read this document

### Accessibility

In line with the Victorian Government Accessibility Guidelines, the Nillumbik Municipal Emergency Management Planning Committee (“Committee”) has formatted this document to increase its readability and accessibility to the wider community.

The Nillumbik Municipal Emergency Management Plan (“Plan”) has been written in plain English, as concisely as possible, and avoids the use of acronyms wherever possible.

### Hyperlinks

Because many of the documents, policies and websites referred to in this Plan are controlled by external authors and are subject to ongoing review and amendment, hyperlinks are provided throughout this document so that readers can access the most up-to-date version or content. The aim is to provide a ‘single source of truth’.

To assist the reader in navigating the linked document, wherever possible a page or table reference is given.

Hyperlinks are regularly checked to ensure they are correct, however documents and websites may be moved, relocated or removed by their owners. If you are having difficulty accessing a site linked from this Plan, please notify the Chair of the Committee on [emergency.management@nillumbik.vic.gov.au](mailto:emergency.management@nillumbik.vic.gov.au).

### Operational information

Previous Plans traditionally contained large amounts of council operational information and procedural detail relating to emergency management functions.

Instead, operational detail, standard operating procedures, and internal processes relating to emergency management within the municipality will now be incorporated into specific sub-plans (where there is a requirement for inter-agency coordination) or within internal documentation for each of the emergency service agencies represented on the committee.

More detail regarding the legislative changes can be found on [here](#).

### Distribution List

This Plan upon completion is to be distributed to the Committee, neighbouring committees and the North West Metro Regional Emergency Management Planning Committee.

### Questions or suggestions

If you would like to know more about emergency management within Nillumbik, have a specific question about this document, or would like to discuss how you or your community group could

become involved in making Nillumbik better prepared for emergencies, please send an email to [emergency.management@nillumbik.vic.gov.au](mailto:emergency.management@nillumbik.vic.gov.au) for the attention of the Committee Chair.

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

## Section 1 – Introduction

### Foreword

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

Reducing the likelihood, effect and consequences of emergencies involves both individuals 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 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 national, state and regional levels, by providing local knowledge and expertise and documenting capacity and responsibilities within a defined municipal district.

The preparation of a Plan involves identifying and reducing the risks specific to the geographical area, outlining capability and capacity of local agencies, and documenting relief and recovery strategies that can be delivered at a local level to help communities become safer and more resilient in the face of an emergency.

### Acknowledgement of Country



The Committee acknowledges the Wurundjeri people of the Kulin Nation as the Traditional Custodians of the land. The Committee also acknowledges and pays respect to Elders past, present and emerging and is committed to working with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island communities to achieve a shared vision of safer and more resilient communities.

### Authority

This Plan has been prepared in accordance with the [Emergency Management Act 2013](#) (“Act”) requirements, and complies with all of the [Guidelines for Preparing State, Regional and Municipal Management Plans](#) (“Guidelines”) issued under section 77 of that Act.

## Important changes to the Emergency Management Act 2013

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

These changes included a requirement for the establishment of a Committee (a summary of the reforms can be found [here](#)).

Under the revised legislation, the Committee becomes the peak planning body for emergency management within the municipal district. It is the forum for government and non-government agencies to develop policies, procedures, strategies, and frameworks to support coordinated emergency management planning for the municipal district.

'The new arrangements establish an enabling environment that supports collaborative planning and gives **flexibility to accommodate the different approaches** across Victoria.' Refer to [EMV Fact Sheet #2](#).

The Committee is a multi-agency collaboration group that includes local representation from all the emergency service control agencies, recovery and relief agencies in Nillumbik, as well as representation from relevant community groups and council (refer to [Municipal Emergency Management Planning Committee Terms of Reference](#) for Committee membership). Each member of the Committee brings organisation, industry or personal expertise to the task of emergency management planning for the municipal district.

The Committee is responsible for developing and revising the Plan and ensuring it meets all of the assurance criteria under the *Act* and Guidelines. This Plan builds on the arrangements outlined in the State and Regional Emergency Management Plan and details arrangements for mitigation, response, and recovery, and identifies the roles and responsibilities of each agency in relation to emergency management specific to the municipality.

This shift from a council 'owned' document to a collaborative document where council is now simply 'one of the many players' within the emergency management team, means that the Plan needs to transform from a plan largely containing council operational information, to a plan that guides and directs emergency management activities across all of the control and support agencies within the municipality.

In order to support this Plan, all member agencies of the Committee are expected to ensure that they develop, review and have in place their own agency plans, procedures and protocols to ensure that they are operationally ready should the need arise. The council operational information traditionally contained in the previous plan, now moves to Nillumbik Shire Council's own policies and procedure documents.

This Plan is not intended to be read or 'activated' during an emergency event, instead it provides the overarching context surrounding the planning activities of the Committee and provides information and direction to the many supporting documents, policies and procedures that contain the operational detail.



## Assurance

A Statement of Assurance (including a checklist and certificate) has been prepared and submitted to the North West Metro Regional Emergency Management Planning Committee pursuant to the [Emergency Management Act 2013](#) (s60AG).

## Approval

This Plan is approved by the North West Metro Regional Emergency Management Planning Committee. This Plan comes into effect when it is published and remains in effect until it is superseded by an approved and published update.

## Audience

The Committee has made a conscious decision to make this Plan more accessible by simplifying the language used and minimising the use of acronyms wherever possible. This way all members of the community will have a better understanding of how emergencies are managed within Nillumbik.

The vision for the [Victorian emergency management sector](#) is to 'build safer and more resilient communities' and this can only be achieved by ensuring that the community itself is involved and understands their role in the emergency management process.

## Avoiding duplication

*....to the extent possible, the emergency management plan does not conflict with, or duplicate, any other plans in relation to emergency management that are currently in force within Australia. [Emergency Management Act 2013](#) 60AC(c).*

During the development of this Plan, the Committee has considered the intent of the new legislation and has decided that to avoid duplication (and potential conflicts when higher-level documents are updated or changed), that this Plan will provide hyperlinks to any relevant legislation, document, policy or website, rather than repeat the information. This allows the Plan to always link to the most up-to-date and current version of each document, policy, or piece of legislation and allows for a 'single source of truth' that is maintained by the owner of that information.

To ensure that this Plan remains effective during its lifespan, the Committee will undertake a yearly review of the links to ensure their functionality.

## Section 2 – Nillumbik

### Introduction to Nillumbik

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

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

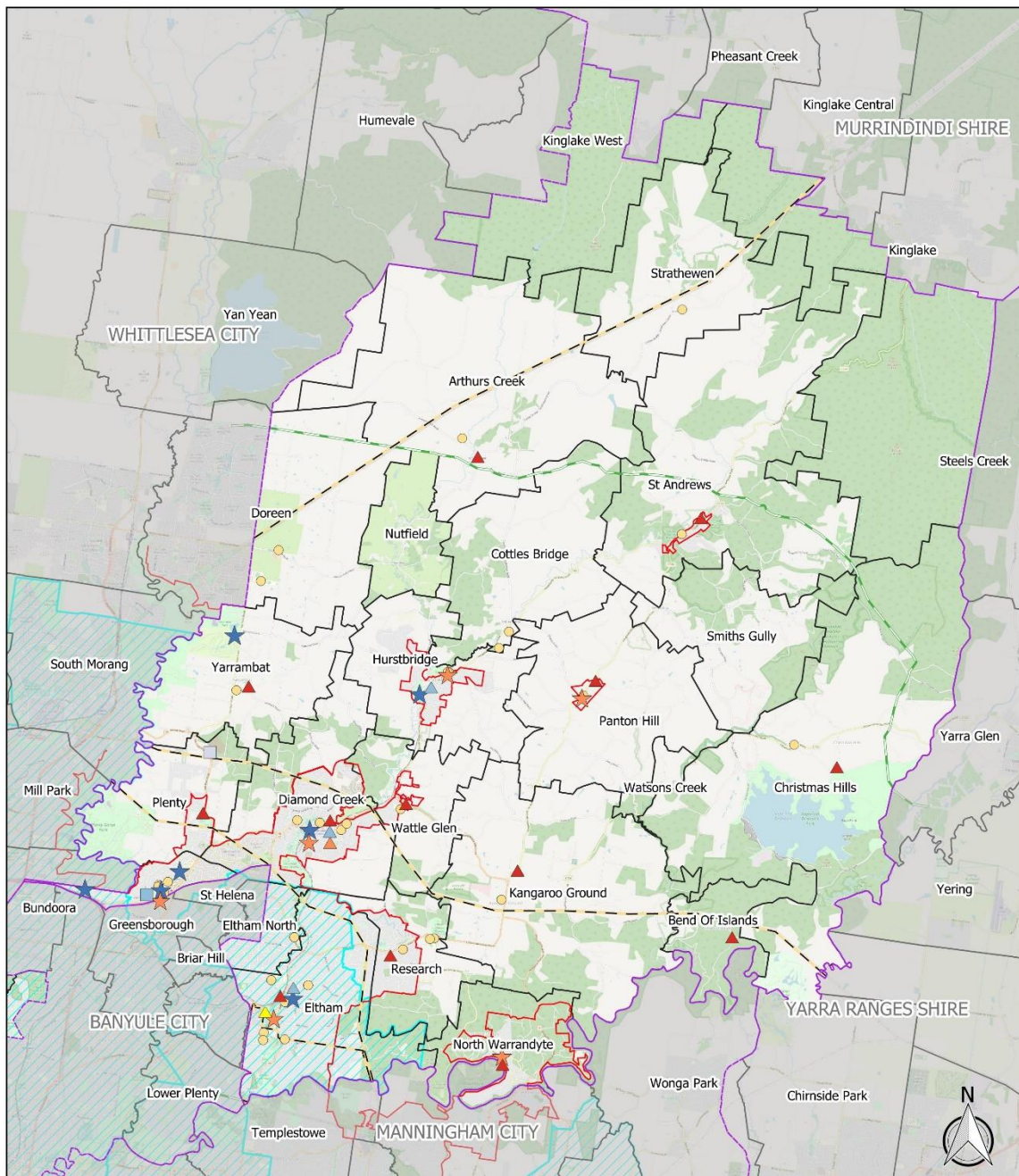
Nillumbik covers an area of 432 square kilometres and has an estimated population of 65,369 who live in close-knit communities that range from typical urban settings to remote and tranquil bush properties.

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

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

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

FIGURE 1 – MUNICIPAL LOCATION DIAGRAM



Legend		Nillumbik Municipal District	
	Operations Centre CEOC		School
	Shire Office CEOC		Transmission Line
	CFA Station		Gas Pipe Line
	VICSES Nillumbik Unit		Urban Growth Boundary
	Police Station		Suburb boundary
	Ambulance Station		FRV Region
	Neighbourhood Safer Place		

Basemap provided by OpenStreetMap, service locations are indicative  
 1:175,000 @ A4  
 IT Request No: NSCIT-23139  
 Printed on: 15/5/2023

If you would like to access more detailed or specific information about Nillumbik:

- The [Nillumbik Shire Council website](#) hosts a wide variety of information related to the municipality. The demographic information is used to inform a variety of [Council strategies, policies and plans](#) covering a diverse array of topics.
- The [Environmental Scan Report for the North West Metro Region](#) includes both demographic and major infrastructure information for all municipalities across the region, relating more specifically to emergency management and planning.

## Capacity and capability to deal with emergency incidents

Nillumbik is well serviced by all emergency service agencies with 3 Victoria Police stations, 16 Country Fire Authority brigades, 1 Fire Rescue Victoria station, 1 Ambulance Victoria station and 1 State Emergency Service unit.

Nillumbik Shire Council has dedicated emergency management staff including a Municipal Emergency Management Officer, Municipal Fire Prevention Officer and a Municipal Recovery Manager as required under the [Emergency Management Act 2013](#) along with other staff that have emergency management functions as part of their position descriptions.

The Municipal Emergency Management Officer is responsible for coordinating emergency management activities for council and liaising with other emergency service agencies about emergency management activities for their municipal district (a full role description can be found on page 64 of the [State Emergency Management Plan](#), and in Section 59 G of the [Emergency Management Act 2013](#)).

The Municipal Recovery Manager coordinates council and community resources to support recovery activities once an emergency event has impacted the community (a full role description can be found on page 67 of the [State Emergency Management Plan](#), and in section 59 H of the [Emergency Management Act 2013](#)).

The Municipal Fire Prevention Officer is responsible for assessing fire threats to life or property within the municipal district and has the power to issue fire prevention notices that require owners or occupiers of land to take steps to remove or minimise that threat (the role is required by section 96 A of the [Country Fire Authority Act 1958](#) and [Fire Rescue Victoria Act 1958](#)).

Each agency has a limited amount of capacity and capability within Nillumbik. The Committee have discussed the issues associated with increasing capacity in times of need, whilst still meeting workplace health and safety, insurance, and duty of care responsibilities for staff and volunteers.

In most cases, each agency has their own processes for escalation of their response and for resource sharing during times of increased need. Examples of this include the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action 'panel of contractors' that can be called upon during bushfires to provide plant and operators, and the [Protocol for inter-council resource sharing](#)

organised and hosted by the Municipal Association of Victoria, that allows council to share resources (both physical resources and human resources) during times of relief and recovery.

Agencies identify what resources are available locally based on experience and needs to meet their operational requirements. This includes establishing supplier/vendor financial arrangements to process purchase orders and payments.

The Committee does not control or maintain a list of local resources but can facilitate discussion or agreements between agencies to identify and access resources.

Protocols and processes for requesting support and resources are already defined in [Joint Standard Operating Procedure J03.09 Resource Request Process](#). All agencies are expected to initially use their own resources during an emergency. Where additional resources are required, there are detailed processes and protocols (p.24), including funding arrangements (p.34) detailed in the [State Emergency Management Plan](#).

Control or supporting agencies with a legislated role are expected to manage their own capability and capacity, but it is important that the Committee are aware of any short falls, or limitations of those agencies, understanding that capacity and capability will continue to evolve and change, particularly in the relief and recovery sector.



## Section 3 – Emergency management planning process

### Victoria's Emergency Management Framework

In Victoria there are three tiers of emergency management planning required under the [Emergency Management Act 2013](#) – state, regional and municipal. The [State Emergency Management Plan](#) states that each tier produces an emergency management plan that documents agreed arrangements for mitigation, response, and recovery with the aim to 'reduce the likelihood of emergencies, their effect, and consequences for communities' (p.6).

Each of these tier plans may also have sub-plans that have been prepared and assured in the same collaborative, multi-agency manner as the main plan. Sub-plans are generally hazard-specific and give the opportunity to provide additional detail and describe more complex or specific arrangements where the consequences of a particular event are likely to be significant.

All plans and sub-plans are expected to be clear regarding hierarchy, and no plan or sub-plan should conflict with or duplicate any other management plans that exist. This provides for a consistent, integrated, and complementary approach where everybody understands their role in the management of emergencies.

### State Emergency Management Plan

The Victorian [State Emergency Management Plan](#), prepared by the Emergency Management Commissioner, provides the overarching detail regarding how emergencies are managed in Victoria.

The State Emergency Management Plan acknowledges that everyone has a role to play in emergency management – from individuals, families and businesses to responder agencies tasked with taking control during an emergency.

It contains comprehensive information about the classification of emergency events (p.18), and how the various responding agencies will work together, ensuring effective control, coordination and management of emergency events and the process for escalating and de-escalating through the emergency management tiers (p.19-29).

The State Emergency Management Plan has several sub-plans which detail more specific or complex arrangements in relation to certain risks/hazards:

- [State Animal, Plant, Marine and Environmental Biosecurity Sub-Plan](#)
- [State Bushfire Plan](#)
- [State Cyber Security Sub-Plan](#)
- [State Earthquake Sub-Plan](#)
- [State Energy Sub-Plan](#)

- [State Extreme Heat Sub-Plan](#)
- [State Flood Sub-Plan](#)
- [State Health Emergencies Sub-Plan](#)
- [State Maritime Emergencies \(non-search and rescue\) Plan](#)
- [State Public Transport Disruption Sub-Plan](#)
- [State Storm Sub-Plan](#)
- [State Tsunami Sub-Plan](#)
- [State Viral \(Respiratory\) Pandemic Sub-Plan](#)

The [State Emergency Management Plan](#) also has an entire sub-section defining the [roles and responsibilities](#) for each ‘agency’ involved in the emergency management sector. This includes responsibilities for mitigation, and during the ‘response’, ‘relief’ and ‘recovery’ phases of an emergency event. Many of these roles and responsibilities stem from requirements imposed under various other pieces of legislation, and the [agencies listed](#) may have different roles in different types of emergencies, or during different stages of the same emergency event.

Throughout this Plan, there are many references to the various emergency management roles, and the agencies responsible for activities before, during and after an emergency event.

Pages 45-83 of the [State Emergency Management Plan](#) provide a comprehensive list of ‘Who’s Who’, and pages 84-89 provide additional definitions.

There is also a full list of agencies, and a [Role Statement](#) for each which summarises their responsibilities.

All of the emergency service agencies represented within Nillumbik are committed to following the directions contained within the [State Emergency Management Plan](#) and fulfilling their responsibilities as defined.

## Regional Emergency Management Plan

Nillumbik sits within the Victorian Government’s ‘North West Metro’ Region, which includes 14 Local Government Areas.

The [North West Metro Regional Emergency Management Plan](#), prepared by the North West Metro Regional Emergency Management Planning Committee, provides further detail and context relevant to emergency management in the region. The North West Metro Regional Emergency Management Plan is one of eight (8) regional plans that sit underneath the [State Emergency Management Plan](#).

The [North West Metro Regional Emergency Management Plan](#) currently has one Regional Sub-Plan being the [North West Metro Regional Strategic Fire Management Plan](#).

Note: Similar to all pre-existing sub-plans, these regional sub-plans are currently under review. In line with the legislative changes, the updated and revised versions will be required to undergo the assurance process prior to being published on the [Emergency Management Victoria](#) website. More detail on sub-plans can be found [here](#).

## Municipal Emergency Management Plan

This Plan, prepared by the Committee, provides the local tier detail and context specific to the Nillumbik municipal district. It, along with the Municipal Emergency Management Plans from 13 other council areas, sits under the [North West Metro Regional Emergency Management Plan](#).

### Sub-Plans

At all levels of the Victorian Emergency Management Framework, there is the provision for the development of sub-plans. A sub-plan aims to manage a risk that is not the responsibility of a single legislated control agency and where an integrated, multi-agency effort is required.

At the municipal level, the Committee may decide to develop a sub-plan to outline more specific arrangements for managing an emergency event, or for managing a local risk that has significant consequences, where multiple agencies each have a role to play.

Under the revised legislation, Municipal Emergency Management Sub-Plans must be prepared in the same multi-agency, collaborative manner as the Plan itself. There are the same requirements for consultation, approval, review and assurance, and the sub-plan itself is published in the same way as the Plan on the [Emergency Management Victoria Website](#).

This Plan has two sub-plans for storm and flood and fire management. A list of sub-plans detailing emergency management arrangements in Nillumbik are included in [Appendix A](#).

The Committee has determined that all existing multi-agency sub-plans will need to be reviewed and undergo the new assurance process to ensure that they comply to the revised legislation, however until such time as this occurs, the existing sub-plans will continue to be used.

### Complementary Plans

Complementary plans are prepared by industry/sectors or agencies for emergencies that do not fall within the [Emergency Management Act 2013 Part 6A](#). They are often prepared under other legislation, governance or statutory requirements for a specific purpose. Complementary plans do not form part of this Plan and are not subject to approval, consultation and other requirements under the [Emergency Management Act 2013](#).

Examples of complementary plans are:



- A plan prepared by a water corporation under the [Water Act 1989](#).
- A responsible entity's emergency risk management plan prepared under the critical infrastructure resilience arrangements in [Emergency Management Act 2013](#) Part 7A.
- An individual agency's plan for a specific hazard.

A list of complementary plans that have significance to the comprehensive, coordinated and integrated emergency management arrangements in Nillumbik are at [Appendix A](#).

## Other plans

Each control agency has developed their own operational plans and procedures. These documents largely remain internal documents to those agencies but may be referred to and utilised during the management of emergency incidents within the Nillumbik municipal district.

There are also state level operational plans and operating procedures such as the [Victorian Emergency Operations Handbook](#), [Joint Standard Operating Procedures](#) and [Emergency Management Team Arrangements](#) that provide over-arching guidance and direction of agencies as they respond to an incident.

## Municipal Emergency Management Planning Committee - structure and process

The Committee consists of representatives as stipulated in Section 59A of the [Emergency Management Act 2013](#), namely:

The Chairperson is nominated by the Chief Executive Officer of Nillumbik Shire Council.

Representatives from the following as mandatory membership:

- Victoria Police
- Ambulance Victoria
- Australian Red Cross
- Country Fire Authority
- Department of Families, Fairness and Housing
- Fire Rescue Victoria
- Victoria State Emergency Service

Invited members with key skills or knowledge, including community representatives, local relief and recovery agencies, and those who hold a local role in relation to recovery from emergencies.

A copy of the Committee Terms of Reference is available on [Nillumbik Shire Council's website](#). The Committee has set the Strategic Planning Goals and Targets for 2023-2026 and can be found in [Appendix B](#).

It is important to note that the Committee does not have financial delegation and does not hold a budget. As Chair of the Committee, Council facilitate meetings and provide some limited secretariat function to the Committee to ensure that it functions efficiently.

## Risk – how do we identify and assess different types of risk

The Committee has the responsibility of ensuring preparedness and resilience to emergencies within the municipality. They share this role with both the state and regional level emergency management tiers, and it is through a coordinated and integrated approach that mitigation strategies and plans for response and recovery are developed and employed.

Planning considerations include the full spectrum of prevention, preparedness, response, and recovery and apply to all hazards and all communities. Potential risks considered by the committee are not just the obvious ones such as bushfire and flood, but also those risks that may affect the built, economic, social and natural environments within the municipal district.

There is also the consideration of potential consequences associated with each risk type and the potential on-flow impacts to the community following an emergency event. Consequence management is an important part of planning for emergency events and community recovery.

The history of emergencies within Nillumbik are varied, but mainly relate to bushfire and floods and can be found in [Appendix C](#). These emergencies had a significant impact on the community or were large enough to activate a municipal (or wider) response.

Lessons management involves the identification and learning of lessons captured through assurance and learning activities (including debriefing, monitoring and reviews) occurring before, during and after emergencies. Learnings from these events inform and continuously improve the Plan.

## How risks are identified and assessed in Nillumbik


Municipal level planning aims to apply risk-based analysis to identify and interrogate potential risks that could impact the local area.



All of the significant emergency risks that have previously been identified with a potential to occur within Nillumbik are reviewed and considered regularly, taking into account changes and development within the municipal district, and in light of lessons learned from events across the emergency management sector. This includes the 14 [Victorian Significant Emergency Risks](#) that have been identified in the [State Emergency Management Plan](#) and form the basis of the [roles and responsibilities tables](#).

New or emerging local risks may also be identified by the various emergency service agencies, emergency management planning committee members, or via the state or regional emergency management tiers, and raised for consideration by the Committee.

Once a risk has been identified, a documented and consistent process needs to be used to analyse the risk and its potential consequences, determine the ownership of the mitigation, response, and recovery efforts, and implement municipal level strategies or treatments to reduce the occurrence and consequences of emergencies and improve community outcomes.

FIGURE 2 – EMERGENCY RISKS IN VICTORIA

Victorian Significant Risks	Risk Control Agency	Risk Mitigation
 <b>Bushfire</b>	Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action/Forest Fire Management Victoria – public land Country Fire Authority/Fire Rescue Victoria – private land	State Bushfire Plan Bushfire Management Overlay Joint Fuel Management Program
 <b>Earthquake</b>	Victoria State Emergency Service Geoscience Australia	State Earthquake Sub-plan Building Code of Australia Critical Infrastructure Resilience Strategy
 <b>Electricity Supply Disruption</b>	Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action Australian Energy Market Operator Energy Safe Victoria Australian Energy Regulator	State Energy Sub-Plan Critical Infrastructure Resilience Strategy
 <b>Emergency Animal Disease</b>	Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action Agriculture Victoria	State Biosecurity Sub-Plan Livestock Production Assurance Emergency Animal Disease Response Agreement Australian Veterinary Emergency Plan
 <b>Emergency Plant Disease</b>	Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action Agriculture Victoria	Animal, Plant, Marine and Environmental Biosecurity Sub-Plan Emergency Plant Pest Response Deed Australian Emergency Plant Pest Response Plan
 <b>Flood</b>	Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action Victoria State Emergency Service	State Flood Sub-plan Land use planning (strategic and statutory) Victorian Floodplain Management Strategy Victoria State Emergency Service Community Resilience Strategy 2016-19 and Renewal Strategy 2019-22
 <b>Gas Supply Disruption</b>	Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action Australian Energy Market Operator Energy Safe Victoria Australian Energy Regulator	State Energy Sub-Plan Critical Infrastructure Resilience Strategy
 <b>Hazardous Materials Incident</b>	Country Fire Authority/Fire Rescue Victoria Environment Protection Authority	Environment Protection Act 2017 National Industrial Chemicals Notification and Assessment Scheme Australian Dangerous Goods Code
 <b>Heatwave</b>	Emergency Management Commissioner	State Extreme Heat Sub-plan Heat Health Plan for Victoria
 <b>Maritime Emergency</b>	Department of Transport Australian Maritime Safety Authority Country Fire Authority/Fire Rescue Victoria	State Maritime Emergencies (non-search and rescue) Plan National Plan for Maritime Environmental Emergencies
 <b>Pandemic Influenza</b>	Department of Health	Victorian Action Plan for Pandemic Influenza Health Emergencies Sub-Plan

Victorian Significant Risks	Risk Control Agency	Risk Mitigation
 <b>Storm</b>	Victoria State Emergency Service Bureau of Meteorology	State Storm Sub-Plan
 <b>Water Supply Disruption</b>	Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action	Integrated Water Management Framework for Victoria Critical Infrastructure Resilience Strategy Water Sector Adaptation Action Plan

## Community Emergency Risk Assessment

The Community Emergency Risk Assessment process is designed to systematically identify hazards, determine risks and prioritise actions to reduce the likelihood and effects of an emergency.

The Committee, in June and July of 2022, reviewed the risks identified in the Community Emergency Risk Assessment and has updated and refined the risks and strategies for Nillumbik (refer Figure 3 below).

The Committee considered emergency risk within the following context using the International Standard ISO 31000:

- Whole of community perspective;
- Responsibility for the whole municipality;
- Consideration of events which require multi agency responses;
- Consideration and acknowledgement of existing controls;
- Mitigation activities and their effectiveness, and
- Residual risk.

Risks were assessed and rated according to consequence and likelihood scales and risk matrices in the Community Emergency Risk Assessment tool kit. Through the Community Emergency Risk Assessment process an overall 'risk rating' ranging from medium to high was determined.

FIGURE 3: UPDATED LIST OF RISKS IN NILLUMBIK

Risk	Confidence rating	Residual risk rating
Bushfire	High	High
Extreme Temperatures - Heat Health	High	High
Human Epidemic/Pandemic	High	High
Storm and Flood	High	Medium
Essential Services Disruption	High	Medium
Structural Failure - Dam	High	Low
Landslide	High	Low

To ensure appropriate planning and mitigation strategies are in place for the risks identified, hazard specific plans have been developed and adopted as Sub-Plans to this Plan. Additional plans detailing relief and recovery considerations, arrangements and planning have also been developed as a Complementary Plan.

The Community Emergency Risk Assessment was conducted in a manner that did not intend to exclude any form of emergency, with the document adopting a flexible “all hazards approach”.

The Committee is responsible for reviewing the Community Emergency Risk Assessment process at least once every three years prior to audit. This process will be administered by the Victoria State Emergency Service and if required an updated Plan will be presented to the Committee for endorsement. Sub-Plans will be reviewed for currency annually or as required. When required this work will be the responsibility of the relevant sub-committee or working group for that hazard.

Although the Community Emergency Risk Assessment tool provides a standardised method for assessing and comparing identified risks, there also needs to be consideration of the residual risk to the community, as well as the consequences should an emergency event occur. Consequences have the potential to significantly impact local communities just as much as the emergency event, these may also need to be managed or mitigated to minimise their impact.

## External risk registers

Since the development of the previous Plan, there have been risk management strategies and assessment tools developed at the state level as a result of emergency management reforms.

Examples include:

- [Critical Infrastructure Resilience Strategy](#)
- [Victorian Preparedness Framework](#)
- [State Emergency Risk Assessment Report](#)

The [Victorian Fire Risk Register – Bushfire](#) is a systematic process that helps to identify assets at risk from bushfire, assesses the level of risk to those assets and highlights the treatments currently in place. This register is used to identify and address bushfire risks within Nillumbik and informs this Plan and the Nillumbik Municipal Fire Management Plan.

There are also a variety of department-specific risk registers such as the Department of Education’s [Bushfire At-Risk Register](#) (listing at risk schools, kindergartens and child care centres), the Vulnerable Persons Register and Vulnerable Facilities Register (Department of Health via Council). This is informed by the [Vulnerable People in Emergencies Policy](#).

The Committee recognises that their role is not to duplicate the information or risk management strategies conducted at state, regional, and control agency level, but to be aware of the various risk registers and risk management strategies and to understand the municipal context in supporting the conduct of mitigation, response and recovery activities for risks managed at a higher tier.

An example of this is the use of information from the [Victorian Fire Risk Register – Bushfire](#) to develop and inform mitigation strategies within the municipality. This links the Committee with local and regional representatives of agencies such as Country Fire Authority and the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action, along with Council and Traditional Owners to work in partnership to reduce fuel loads.

## Assurance process

One of the more significant changes introduced by the [Emergency Management Legislation Amendment Act 2018](#) is the transition from external ‘auditing’ of Municipal Emergency Management Plans, to an ‘assurance’ system.

The new assurance system requires the authors of the document, in this case the Committee, to prepare a statement outlining how they have met the [assurance criteria](#) in the Plan, and for them to certify that all the legislated requirements for an emergency management plan have been included within the document.

This Plan along with the assurance checklist and [certificate](#) has been submitted to the North West Metro Regional Emergency Management Planning Committee for approval and endorsement on 31 May 2023.

## Scheduled review of Municipal Emergency Management Plan

All Plans are required to be reviewed and updated at least every three years to ensure that they provide up to date information.

This Plan, once published, will be reviewed no later than June 2026.

Emergency management plans are ‘living documents’. They link to, refer to and rely on sources of information that are being constantly reviewed, modified, and updated. Plans need to constantly evolve and develop to ensure that they consider new and emerging risks, learnings from emergency events, and demographic and capability changes within the area they cover.

Urgent updates of the Plan are permitted if there is significant risk that life or property will be endangered if the plan is not updated ([Emergency Management Act 2013](#) 60AM).

## Other opportunities for review and learning

The Committee aims to learn from each event, even those that have no direct impact on the municipal district, and to strive towards constant improvement across all of the areas of emergency management that this Plan covers in line with the [Lessons Management Framework](#).

The Committee can meet to formally facilitate a review or debrief following any emergency event. This process aims to ensure that the Plan remains current, and in line with best practice learning outcomes.

## Section 4 – Mitigation

### Introduction

The Victorian State Emergency Management Plan defines mitigation as ‘the elimination or reduction of the incidence or severity of emergencies and the minimisation of their effects.’(p.14)

Mitigation involves employing strategies to reduce the risk of an emergency occurring, and for those events that cannot be prevented, reducing the impacts or intensity of such an event, should it occur.

Because all members of the community have a role in reducing risk, mitigation includes educating and engaging the community so that individuals, households, and families can better understand the risks that may impact them or their property, and what they need to do to reduce these risks. With information, they can then play their part in preparing for emergency events.

Strategies at the municipal level also aim to promote community resilience and mitigate the post-emergency complications and consequences seen during the relief and recovery stages of an emergency. This includes undertaking pre-planning events and facilitating the development of community plans and ensuring community resources/facilities are fit for purpose should an emergency event occur.

### Mitigation – roles and responsibilities

The Victorian State Emergency Management Plan is very clear in regard [to the roles and responsibilities](#) of each of the agencies, including local council, in relation to mitigation.

‘The organisations listed in this document are those with either broad or state-wide presence, Government organisations, those with a statutory emergency management involvement and some private corporations with specific roles.’ [State Emergency Management Plan.](#)

Much of the mitigation responsibility for those emergencies considered ‘landscape risks’ (such as bushfire and flooding) and those unlikely to be restricted to a single municipality (such as pandemic, exotic animal disease or disruptions to power or gas supplies) reside with control agencies at the state and regional levels, or with state government departments and authorities.

A full list of the Mitigation Roles and Responsibilities listed in the Victorian State Emergency Management Plan can be downloaded by [clicking here](#).



Figure 4 – An example of mitigation roles and responsibilities taken from the [Victorian State Emergency Management Plan](#) (Note: the State Emergency Management Plan has a listing of all acronyms used)

Emergency Risk: Storm

Activity	Participating agencies
Drainage systems (drainage standards and strategy)	<a href="#">Melbourne Water</a> <a href="#">Municipal councils</a>
Buildings compliant to engineering standards (building standards/regulations)	Australian Building Code Board Australian Building and Construction Commission <a href="#">DELWP</a> Housing Industry Association <a href="#">Municipal councils</a> <a href="#">VBA</a>
<a href="#">BoM</a> weather and warning network and systems	<a href="#">BoM</a>
Equipped, trained and prepared essential services including power, water, gas and transport	<a href="#">DoT</a> Electricity companies Gas companies <a href="#">Water Corporations</a>
Community engagement, education and awareness	<a href="#">VICSES</a>

## Risk mitigation in Nillumbik

For every potential risk assessed by the Committee, a recommendation is made regarding the need for mitigation treatments. Each potential hazard is assessed in regards to the municipality’s exposure, vulnerability, and resilience. For existing risks undergoing review, there is also monitoring and assessment of the success of any mitigation strategies already in place, so that resources are directed at those strategies that are most successful.

The [State Emergency Management Plan](#) is very specific in regards to assigning the roles and responsibilities for mitigation strategies for all 15 of the [Significant Victorian Emergency Risks](#), most of which could potentially occur in Nillumbik. Agencies tasked with mitigation roles are



required by law to undertake mitigation activities in all regions and locations affected by the risk, and they do this in conjunction with their locally based staff.

It is not the place of this Plan to duplicate or contradict the state or regional emergency management plans. Instead, at the municipal level, the mitigation focus is to support these higher-level mitigation strategies, and ensure documented roles and responsibilities are carried out in the local context.

## **Mitigation activities within Nillumbik**

Throughout Nillumbik, local units of the various emergency service agencies are involved in supporting the mitigation strategies of state and regional level agencies. These activities are wide-ranging and include local fuel reduction activities, 'readiness planning', community safety and education activities and day to day management of resources within the municipal district.

## Section 5 – Response and Relief

### Responding to emergencies

The [Victorian State Emergency Management Plan](#) defines ‘response’ as the ‘action taken immediately before, during and in the first period after an emergency to reduce the effects and consequences of the emergency on people, their livelihoods, wellbeing and property; on the environment; and to meet basic human needs (p.16).’

Although most people would think of ‘response’ as the actual combatting of the emergency, there are several activities that may all occur as part of the response phase:

The [Victorian State Emergency Management Plan](#) (p.5) provides the following definitions:

**Readiness** – increasing the ability for timely response with activities immediately before and in anticipation of an emergency.

**Command, Control and Coordination** – combating the emergency and providing rescue services through command, control, and coordination.

Command is ‘the direction of response activities internally within an agency to use its people, resources, governance, systems and processes to discharge its responsibilities in line with relevant legislation.’

Control is ‘the direction of response activities across agencies, horizontally, including the coordination and tasking of other agencies.’

These are the activities that most people would traditionally consider as ‘response’ – members of the relevant emergency service agencies responding to an incident and working cohesively together until the danger has passed.

**Relief** – providing assistance during and immediately after an emergency to meet essential individual and community needs. This includes essentials such as food, water, and shelter, along with medical and immediate psychosocial support.

To ensure that the response is appropriate and coordinated, the State Emergency Management Plan has detailed sections outlining the roles and responsibilities for all classes of incident, including ‘non major emergencies’. There is further detail outlined in the various [‘Hazard-specific’ Sub-Plans](#) that form part of the state plan.

Depending on the type, scale, and severity of the emergency, there are documented roles and responsibilities for nearly every player in the emergency management sector including a variety of state government departments. These roles may be lead roles, support roles or relief roles, but they are all clearly defined for each emergency type.

A full listing of the roles and responsibilities for response and relief can be found in the [State Emergency Management Plan](#) or in the [roles and responsibility statements](#). There is further detail on [incident management](#) provided in a number of other documents and procedures including the [Victorian Emergency Operations Handbook](#), the [Emergency Management Team Arrangements](#), and the [Joint Standard Operating Procedures](#).

## Response to emergencies and incidents in Nillumbik

The majority of incidents that occur in Nillumbik are classified as Level 1 incidents (Table 3, p.18 in the [State Emergency Management Plan](#)) – they are fairly simple, isolated incidents where the response is considered ‘day-to-day’ business for the control agency.

Level 1 incidents are usually resolved quickly, there is no need for activation of regional or state level controls, and they can be dealt with using the resources located within the municipal district. Level 1 incidents have little or no impact on the wider community or infrastructure, so relief and recovery activities are usually not required, or the control agency will request relief and recovery assistance directly from Council for those individuals affected.

If an incident in Nillumbik escalates, or is a more significant event, there are clear guidelines in the [State Emergency Management Plan](#) for the escalation and de-escalation of control, command and coordination and for the requesting of additional resources from outside the local area.

All control agencies within Nillumbik are legally required to follow the processes outlined within the [State Emergency Management Plan](#), which includes the [Fundamentals of Emergency Management](#), the [Victorian Emergency Operations Handbook](#) and the [Joint Standard Operating Procedures](#).

## Council emergency operations centre

Under the [Emergency Management Act 2013](#) it is not mandatory for councils to establish a physical Municipal Emergency Coordination Centre during an emergency, although councils can elect to do so if appropriate. Nillumbik Shire Council has planned for the establishment of a ‘Council Emergency Operations Centre’. This allows for the ongoing coordination and delivery of some, or all, of Council’s regular day-to-day services even when Council staff or buildings have been impacted by the event.

## Evacuation

Evacuation is the planned relocation of persons from dangerous or potentially dangerous areas to safer areas and their eventual return. The decision to evacuate rests with the Incident Controller.

Self-relocation may be undertaken by individuals, families and households of their own volition and independent of advice, or it may be after an assessment of information provided by the control agency. Evacuations may be pre-warned or immediate depending on the circumstances.

Victoria Police is responsible for the coordination of evacuation in consultation with the incident controller. Consideration must be given to the area that is to be evacuated, the route to be followed, the means of transport and the location to which evacuees will be asked to attend.

A Joint Standard Operating Procedure for [Evacuation for Major Emergencies](#) standardises the procedures for the decision, warning withdrawal, shelter and eventual return of persons impacted by major emergencies.

## Relief and Recovery Plan enactment

Larger scale events may trigger the enactment of all or parts of the Nillumbik 'Relief and Recovery' Plan. This enactment is in line with identified needs and as directed by the Incident Controller in consultation with the Municipal Recovery Manager, and the Municipal Emergency Response Coordinator (the definitions of these roles are on pages 64, 65 and 66 respectively of the Victorian [State Emergency Management Plan](#)).

The existing Nillumbik Relief and Recovery Plan provides detailed operational information about the provision and activation of the full spectrum of relief activities during an emergency, including the activation and operation of relief and recovery centres, impact and needs assessments, communication, dealing with spontaneous volunteers and donations, and community engagement.

For larger scale emergencies, relief activities may be undertaken at the regional and state levels with [Table 11 of the State Emergency Management Plan](#) outlining the roles and responsibilities for relief services and coordination across all three tiers of the emergency management framework.

## Relief and Recovery Plan review

The Committee understands that planning for relief activities during emergency events is just as important as other aspects of emergency planning, with consideration of single incident support through to relief during large-scale emergency events required.

Emergency relief (and recovery) planning within the municipality has transitioned from being the responsibility of Nillumbik Shire Council and its emergency management staff, to being a truly multi-agency responsibility under the legislative reforms. In the future, to facilitate this change, and to prepare a revised plan that meets all of the requirements for collaboration and consultation, the Committee may formalise a 'Relief and Recovery' Working Group to review the existing plan document and make the necessary changes.

The revised Relief and Recovery Plan will continue to provide high-level detail and local context in regards to the activation of emergency relief activities within Nillumbik - from activation of support for single incident events, to the process of operating and staffing one or more Emergency Relief Centres in a large-scale emergency event – all through a multi-agency lens.

The Relief and Recovery Plan sets the direction, determining the current and future requirements for emergency relief and recovery and outlines the responsibilities and resources required for emergency relief, to ensure that the core needs of those affected by an emergency can be met.

Given the key role that Council plays in the coordination of emergency relief, and the complex roles of the Municipal Recovery Manager and Municipal Emergency Management Officer within relief coordination and recovery activation, these players will undertake a lead role in the development of the Relief and Recovery Plan.

## Municipal resources during response and relief

In an emergency, Council is considered a 'supporting agency' and may be called upon to assist with provision and coordination of resources (including equipment, personnel and services), coordinating and providing relief services to the affected community and planning for and early coordination of recovery programs.

Council has an assigned 'Municipal Emergency Management Officer' who is responsible for working with the Incident Controllers to achieve this and is the contact point for all Council support activities – from clearing Council owned roads, providing plant and equipment, to determining alternate routes on Council-owned roads should roads need to be closed in line with municipal councils role in the [State Emergency Management Plan Roles and Responsibilities](#).

Note: The role descriptions for both the Municipal Emergency Management Officer (p.63) and the Municipal Recovery Manager (p.66) positions can be found in the [State Emergency Management Plan](#).

## Emergency relief centres

Council, assisted by other organisations, and with the support of the Department of Families, Fairness, and Housing, is responsible for implementing relief measures including establishing and managing emergency relief centres. The Nillumbik Relief and Recovery Plan details the current arrangements for relief activities, including the activation, staffing arrangements, and locations of potential emergency relief and recovery centres, should they be required.

## Sharing of resources/cross boundary events

Large scale emergency events can easily cross municipal boundaries, requiring response and recovery activities from more than one municipal council or control agency. Events of this size and nature are automatically escalated to regional (or even state level) control and coordination under the [State Emergency Management Plan](#).

All agencies are expected to cover their own costs and utilise their own resources to fulfil their emergency management responsibilities. During an emergency event, the sharing of resources and equipment is covered under the funding arrangements outlined in the [State Emergency Management Plan](#) (p.34-35).

To further facilitate the sharing of resources and activation in cross-boundary events, municipal relief and recovery partners will work closely with their counterparts at the regional level and maintain relationships with emergency management staff at neighbouring councils.

A number of [Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements](#) exist. These applies to events such as flooding and bushfires. These funding arrangements aim to assist the municipality with relieving some of the burden of these larger scale events.

## Transition to recovery

Although recovery activities commence concurrently with response and relief, there is a detailed process within the [State Emergency Management Plan](#) (p.28-29) that describes the formal de-escalation of response and relief activities and the 'Transition to Recovery'.

The Nillumbik Relief and Recovery Plan provides further detail on the transition process, impact assessments, communication and community engagement in the relief and recovery phases.

## Section 6 – Recovery

### Introduction and objective of recovery

Once the initial threat of an emergency has subsided or resolved and the immediate survival needs of those affected have been addressed, the recovery process encompasses all the steps and strategies that work towards rehabilitation of the community and the local environment; from addressing the emotional, physical and economic effects of those impacted by the emergency, to restoring infrastructure and rehabilitation of the natural environment.

Recovering from an emergency may take many years depending on the scale of the event, and it has been acknowledged that, in many instances, it will be a return to a ‘new normal’ rather than a return to an identical pre-emergency state.

‘There is no timeframe for recovery. Recovery cannot be measured by how long it takes or by a definition of what a successful recovery looks like. It is impossible to return to a pre-disaster state. In many instances, people may never recover fully from a disaster’. – [Resilient Recovery Strategy](#).

Ideally, the process of recovery begins as soon as possible after an emergency occurs, with some strategies being implemented concurrently with response and relief activities. This can only occur if there is the capacity and capability at the municipal level, and clarity around the coordination and support for recovery activities. Therefore, planning for recovery is a very important step in the emergency management process.

A lot has been learned from the large-scale emergencies of the last decade, and there are now a raft of resources such as the [Resilient Recovery Strategy](#), [National Principles for Disaster Recovery](#) and the [Disaster Recovery Toolkit for Local Government](#) to help direct those involved in the recovery planning process. It has been recognised that recovery cannot be prescriptive, instead it needs to include the community and address their actual, rather than perceived, needs.

Under the [Resilient Recovery Strategy](#), the strategic priorities of recovery include:

1. **Deliver a people and community centred recovery.** A community-centred approach ensures government and those delivering recovery services partner with community and allow people to play a greater role in their recovery.
2. **Strengthen recovery through better emergency management planning.** By bringing community into the planning process before an emergency, and drawing on community involvement after an emergency, recovery activities will be able to better reflect community needs and values.
3. **Streamlined and flexible recovery system.** Improving operating processes and providing clearer, more-timely resourcing for recovery will ensure recovery services and supports are delivered in a more coordinated and effective way.
4. **Support the recovery workforce.** This strategy aims to better connect and enhance existing support and wellbeing programs across the sector to ensure appropriate wellbeing support for all people working in recovery.

## Managing recovery

Emergency Recovery Victoria set out five [lines of recovery](#) – people and well-being, Aboriginal culture and healing, business and economy, environment and biodiversity, and buildings and infrastructure. The State Emergency Management Plan provides details of the [roles and responsibilities in recovery](#) under the established recovery coordination arrangements.

Even when the scale of the emergency dictates that regional or state level assistance is required, escalation builds on the local arrangements. Council staff with dedicated recovery roles coordinate the recovery activities and are assisted and supported by other agencies as required.

## Nillumbik Relief and Recovery Plan

The existing Nillumbik Relief and Recovery Plan contains extensive detail in regards to the process and responsibilities for delivering relief and recovery activities within the municipality and will continue to form the basis of recovery efforts until the revised plan has been assured under the new legislation.

When enacted at the time of an emergency event, the Nillumbik Relief and Recovery Plan outlines the roles of the various recovery staff and how assistance is to be secured from supporting agencies.

## State and regional-based recovery programs

Depending on the size and severity of an emergency event, there may be cases where a state-based or regional level recovery program is put into place. Examples of this include the involvement of [Emergency Recovery Victoria](#) after a large-scale fire, or the State and Federal Government Relief and Recovery Strategies for the COVID-19 pandemic.

As the coordinating agency for local recovery, the role of Council is to understand the various higher-level programs put into place, and to support these activities with local education and awareness, as well as calling in the various support agencies available to act at the local level as required.



## Section 7 - Roles and responsibilities

An agency that has a role or responsibility under this Plan must act in accordance with the Plan.

The Victorian [State Emergency Management Plan](#) and the [North West Metro Regional Emergency Management Plan](#) outline agreed agency roles and responsibilities.

No additional roles and responsibilities have been identified at the municipal level.

## Section 8 – Appendices

### Restricted operational information

Section 60AI(2) of the [Emergency Management Act 2013](#) allows the Nillumbik Emergency Management Planning Committee and Emergency Management Victoria to exclude information from being published that is related to critical infrastructure, personal information or information that is of a commercially sensitive nature.

## Appendix A – List of Nillumbik Emergency Management Plans

Sub-Plans currently endorsed under the Plan are publicly available on the [Nillumbik Shire Council Website](#).

Name of Plan	Last Published	Schedule Review	Plan Status
Nillumbik Municipal Emergency Management Plan 2023-2026	2023	2026	Assured
Nillumbik Municipal Fire Management Plan 2023-2026	2023	2026	Sub-Plan (pending assurance)
Nillumbik Storm and Flood Emergency Plan	2023	2026	Sub-Plan (pending assurance)
Nillumbik Relief and Recovery Plan	2023	2026	Complementary Plan (pending Committee endorsement)

## **Appendix B – Strategic Planning Goals and Targets for 2023-2026**

### **Goals and Targets for 2023-24**

Review all of the current Sub-Plans and Complementary Plans associated with the Nillumbik Municipal Emergency Management Plan and determine which plans will be required to be developed and assured as Sub-Plans under the new definitions. Establish a program of works to conduct the review and update over the period of this Plan.

### **Goals and Targets for 2024-25**

Participate in multi-agency training exercises to test capability and capacity and assess preparedness. Aim is to undertake one exercise focussing on provision of relief during an emergency event, and one exercise focussing on recovery planning, and actively seek out training opportunities for emergency management staff across the municipality.

### **Goals and Targets for 2025-26**

Commence planning for the Nillumbik Municipal Emergency Management Plan 2026-2029.

## Appendix C – History of emergencies in Nillumbik

The history of emergencies within Nillumbik are varied, but mainly relate to bushfire and floods (Table 2). The emergencies listed identify events which had a significant impact on the community or were large enough to activate a municipal (or wider) response. This table will continue to be updated throughout the lifecycle of this document as required.

It is not the intention of this list to include every emergency that response agencies respond to, however, learnings from those events can inform and continuously improve the Plan.

Table 2: History of emergencies in Nillumbik

Date(s)	Type/Name	Location	Details/Impacts
2022 (October)	Storm and Flood	State-wide	Nillumbik experienced significant damage from severe weather which impacted roads, bridges and infrastructure, recreation facilities including trails, parks and playgrounds.
2021 (9 June)	Storm and Flood	Eastern Metro and Gippsland regions	Following the severe storm event Nillumbik experienced damage from trees blocking roads and impacting infrastructure, trails, parks and playgrounds. There were some power outages. Community members continued to be impacted by power outages following storm activity on 29 October. Community Bank Stadium was opened to provide shower and power facilities for those affected.
2019 (30 December)	Bushfire	Plenty Gorge	Fire started in Plenty Gorge Park, starting at the Tanunda Wetlands area. Approximately 65 hectares was burnt. The fire was attended by the CFA, MFB and staff from Forest Fire Management Victoria, including Parks Victoria.
2014 (14 January)	Bushfire	Kangaroo Ground	Fire started in Ironbark Road. An Emergency Relief Centre was opened in Eltham. Fire was monitored for several days due to high temperatures and strong winds. Significant rehabilitation was required for damaged roads and erosion control, tree assessment, track reinstatement and fence replacement.
2011 (25 December)	Flood	Diamond Creek	Flood waters severely impacted some residents late in the afternoon of Christmas Day in Nillumbik and Banyule with severe hail stones also being reported in the area. Roads, drains, cars, homes and fences were in some cases destroyed by the torrent of water caused by the storm.
2009 (7 February)	Black Saturday	Victoria	Devastating, fast moving fire burnt through Strathewen, St Andrews and Christmas Hills. The fires progression towards the centre of St Andrews, Smiths Gully, Panton Hill, Kangaroo Ground and towns in the southern part of the Shire was halted by south westerly wind changes, which drove the fire front further east, destroying the towns of Kinglake and Steels Creek. Many lives and houses were lost.

Date(s)	Type/Name	Location	Details/Impacts
2005 (February)	Flood	Diamond Creek	Eltham received 140 millimetres of rain in 24 hours. This resulted in flooding of Diamond Creek which damaged the Brougham Street Pedestrian bridge, caused flooding of Eltham Leisure Centre car park and Brougham Street and also resulted in the evacuation of the Eltham North Community Centre, Wattletree Preschool, Nillumbik Community Health Centre, Eltham Preschool, Eltham Child Care Cooperative and Hohnes Road Playhouse.
1991 (13 January)	Bushfire	Pound Bend (Warrandyte)	Fire started at Pound Bend and burned across the Yarra River into North Warrandyte burning a total of 45 hectares.
1969 (8 January)	Black Wednesday	Diamond Creek through to Research and Warrandyte	Fire started in Diamond Creek with a north westerly wind behind it. The fire burnt through Diamond Creek, St Helena, North Eltham, Research, Kangaroo Ground and North Warrandyte. Not long afterwards another fire started in Laceys Road, Cottles Bridge. The fire burnt through Panton Hill. In all, 54 houses were destroyed in the former Shire of Eltham.
1965 (3 March)	Bushfire	Research/North Warrandyte	Fires burnt through St Helena, North Warrandyte and North Eltham. Another fire started in Research and burnt through North Warrandyte, jumping the Yarra River in Warrandyte. In all, three lives were lost and fifteen houses destroyed.
1962 (14 January)	Bushfire	St Andrews, Warrandyte	Fire started in Christmas Hills with a south easterly wind behind it, taking it towards Dixons Creek, Steels Creek and Kinglake. On early Tuesday 16 January the wind changed to a raging hot northerly driving the fire through St Andrews, Smiths Gully, Panton Hill, Watsons Creek, Kangaroo Ground, Warrandyte and Wonga Park. Lives were lost and 180 houses were destroyed.
1957 (28 February)	Bushfire	Plenty/ Greensborough	Fire started in Plenty Gorge and burnt through Plenty, Diamond Creek, St Helena and Greensborough. One life was lost, and a church were destroyed.
1944 (14 January)	Bushfire	Wattle Glen/Research	Fire burnt from Wattle Glen through to Research. Ten houses were destroyed and approximately 700 hectares were burnt.
1939 (13 January)	Black Friday	Strathewen	Flames leapt large distances, giant trees were blown out of the ground by fierce winds and large pieces of burning bark (embers) were carried for kilometres ahead of the main fire front, starting new fires in places that had not yet been affected by flames. The townships of Warrandyte, and Yarra Glen were badly damaged. The Strathewen area was also badly affected.

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

## Appendix D – Emergencies and privacy

Emergency and privacy organisations hold a wide variety of personal information relating to individuals and may collect information for a wide variety of purposes. Such information can be of significant use and benefit for organisations that deal with emergency situations. The [Victorian Privacy and Data Protection Act 2014](#) recognises that in an emergency the public interest in safety will override the privacy requirements of the *Act*.

Information privacy law is not a barrier to appropriate information sharing in emergencies. The *Act* includes provisions that permit personal information not to be shared where there is a countervailing public interest, such as where an individual's life or safety is at risk. A decision to share personal information must be made carefully, but privacy laws do not stand in the way; life trumps privacy and the laws are written to reflect that. For more guidance, please refer to the [Victorian Commissioner for Privacy and Data Collection website](#), and [Emergencies and Privacy Information Sheet](#).

## Appendix E – Useful Links

### Victorian Legislation

[Victorian legislation](#)

[Emergency Management Act 2013 \(legislation.vic.gov.au\)](#)

[Emergency Management Act 1986 \(legislation.vic.gov.au\)](#)

[Emergency Management \(Critical Infrastructure Resilience\) Regulations 2015 \(legislation.vic.gov.au\)](#)

[Emergency Management Legislation Amendment Act 2018](#)

### Emergency Management Victoria

[Emergency Management Victoria \(emv.vic.gov.au\)](#)

[State Emergency Management Plan Sub-Plans | Emergency Management Victoria \(emv.vic.gov.au\)](#)

[Roles and Responsibilities | Emergency Management Victoria \(emv.vic.gov.au\)](#)

[North West Metro Regional Emergency Management Plan | Emergency Management Victoria \(emv.vic.gov.au\)](#)

[Critical Infrastructure Resilience | Emergency Management Victoria \(emv.vic.gov.au\)](#)

[Victorian Preparedness Framework | Emergency Management Victoria \(emv.vic.gov.au\)](#)

[Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements \(DRFA\) | Emergency Management Victoria \(emv.vic.gov.au\)](#)

[Resilient Recovery Strategy | Emergency Management Victoria \(emv.vic.gov.au\)](#)

[Disaster Recovery Toolkit for Local Government | Emergency Management Victoria \(emv.vic.gov.au\)](#)

[Community Resilience Framework for Emergency Management | Emergency Management Victoria \(emv.vic.gov.au\)](#)

[Emergency Management Planning Resource Library | Emergency Management Victoria \(emv.vic.gov.au\)](#)

### Risk Assessment

[National Emergency Risk Assessment Guidelines \(NERAG\) Handbook \(aidr.org.au\)](#)

[Community Emergency Risk Assessment \(CERA\)](#)

[National Disaster Risk Reduction Framework \(homeaffairs.gov.au\)](#)

### Control and Support Agency Website

[Ambulance Victoria Home - Ambulance Victoria](#)

[Welcome to CFA | CFA \(Country Fire Authority\)](#)

[Fire Rescue Victoria \(frv.vic.gov.au\)](#)

[Victoria Police](#)

[Victoria State Emergency Service \(ses.vic.gov.au\)](#)

[Australian Red Cross | Act for humanity](#)



[Department of Health](#)

[Department of Families Fairness and Housing Victoria | Department of Families, Fairness and Housing \(dffh.vic.gov.au\)](#)

[Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action \(deeca.vic.gov.au\)](#)

Other Links

[Victorian Fire Risk Register \(vfrr.vic.gov.au\)](#)

[Safer Together - Safer Together](#)

[Vulnerable people in emergencies policy - DFFH Service Providers](#)

[Family violence in emergencies - DFFH Service Providers](#)

[Emergency management - DFFH Service Providers](#)

[Informing EAD Responses - AUSVETPLAN - Animal Health Australia](#)

[How we respond to outbreaks | National pest & disease outbreaks](#)

[Planning for pets in emergencies | Pets and emergencies | Animal Welfare Victoria | Livestock and animals | Agriculture Victoria](#)

[Australian Institute Disaster Resilience | Home \(aidr.org.au\)](#)

Volunteer Recovery Groups

[Victorian Landcare Gateway \(landcarevic.org.au\)](#)

[BlazeAid volunteers rebuild fences after fires, floods, drought and cyclones. | BlazeAid helping communities rebuild after Natural Disasters.](#)

[Volunteering Victoria - State Peak for Volunteering](#)

[WeVolunteer – Supporting communities on the road to recovery](#)

Traditional Owners

[Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation](#)

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

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**Nillumbik Municipal Emergency  
Management Planning Committee**