Greater Dandenong

Municipal Fire Management Plan

2024 – 2027

Produced By:

Greater Dandenong MEMPC

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AMENDMENT REGISTER

In 2021 the Greater Dandenong Municipal Emergency Management Plan (MEMP) including all sub-plans underwent a major update in response to the changes to the Emergency Management Act 2013.

Previous versions of the MEMP are stored in the Greater Dandenong City Council's document management system. Contact emergency.managemnt@cgd,.vic.gov.au for requests of previous copies.

Amendments to the Municipal Fire Management Plan, are recorded in table 1 below:

Table 1: Amendments

Version ID	Changes	Date
Feb-21(DRAFT)	Changes to the content and structure of the MFMP because of the Emergency Management Planning Reform as discussed with the MFMPC at the 12 February 2021 meeting.	24 February 2021
Mar-21(DRAFT)	Updates to the following sections based on MFMPC feedback and discussion at the out of session meeting on 29 March 2021: objectives (Section 1.5), risk environments (2.8), fire history (2.10), related documents (3), fire mitigation activities table (4), community engagement (4), additional agency role descriptions (7), hazard tree procedure (Appendix B.1), and maps (Appendix C).	29 March 2021
Apr-21(DRAFT)	Content changes throughout Part 2; information regarding the BARR added to Part 3; EPA and WorkSafe agency descriptions, amended in Part 7; added BPA Map.	22 April 2021
Version 1	Finalised document; added cover photo; amended Fire History (Section 2.10); amended FRV Maps.	23 July 2021
Feb-24 (DRAFT)	General updates based on MEMPC feedback: layout, demographic data, section 3 – MFMPC and appendix 3 Maps.	13 Feb 2024
March-24 (DRAFT)	Second draft provided to MEMPC.	19th March 2024
Version 2	Final Draft emailed to MEMPC for endorsement.	30 April 2024
Version 2	Endorsement of final draft provided by MEMPC via email.	3 May 2024
Version 3	Updates made after REMPC feedback - Vic Roads changed to the Department of Transport and Planning (DTP).	28 May 2024

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

The Greater Dandenong Municipal Fire Management Planning Committee acknowledges and pays respects to the Bunurong people of the Kulin Nation, as the Traditional Custodians of the lands and waters in and around Greater Dandenong.

We value and recognise local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Cultures, heritage, and connection to land as a proud part of a shared identity for Greater Dandenong.

The Greater Dandenong Municipal Fire Management Planning Committee pays respect to Elders past and present and recognises their importance in maintaining knowledge, traditions, and Culture in our Community.

The Greater Dandenong Municipal Fire Management Planning Committee also respectfully acknowledges the Bunurong Land Council as the Registered Aboriginal Party responsible for managing the Aboriginal Cultural heritage of the land and waters where Greater Dandenong is situated.

PART ONE – INTRODUCTION

Uncontrolled fire presents a threat to rural, residential and industrial areas across the municipality of Greater Dandenong. This Municipal Fire Management Plan (MFMP) captures the municipal level arrangements for fire management before, during and after a fire and adopts a shared responsibility approach.

1.1 Authority

In 2020, the Emergency Management Legislation Amendment Act 2018 (EMLA Act 2018) amended the Emergency Management Act 2013 (EM Act 2013) to provide for new integrated arrangements for emergency management planning in Victoria at the State, Regional and municipal levels. It also created an obligation for a Municipal Emergency Management Planning Committee (MEMPC) to be established in each municipal district of Victoria. Each MEMPC is a multi-agency collaboration group whose members bring organisation, industry or personal expertise to the task of emergency management planning for the municipal district.

The Municipal Fire Management Planning Committee (MFMPC) is a sub-committee of the MEMPC and is authorised to prepare and update this Fire Management Plan subject to the endorsement of any changes by the MEMPC.

Once endorsed and adopted by the Greater Dandenong MEMPC, this MFMP will become a sub-plan to the Municipal Emergency Management Plan (MEMP) and supersede any prior versions.

1.2 Plan Assurance and Approval

This MFMP has been prepared in accordance with and complies with the requirements of the EM Act 2013 including having regard to the guidelines issued under section 77, Guidelines for Preparing State, Regional and Municipal Emergency Management Plans

A Statement of Assurance (including a checklist and certificate) has been prepared and submitted to the Southern Metro Regional Emergency Management Committee (SM REMPC) in accordance with EM Act 2013 (s60AG).

This current version of the MFMP was approved by the Southern Metro REMPC on 30 May 2024.

This plan comes into effect when it is published on the Greater Dandenong City Council Website and remains in effect until superseded by an approved and published update.

1.3 Plan Review

To ensure the plan provides for a current integrated, coordinated and comprehensive approach to emergency management and is effective, it is to be reviewed at least every three years or as required.

Urgent updates of this Plan are permitted if there is significant risk that life or property will be endangered if the plan is not updated (EM Act 2013 s60AM). Urgent updates come into effect when published on the Greater Dandenong City Council Website.

This plan will be reviewed not later than 7 May 2027.

This plan is current at the time of publication and remains in effect until modified, superseded or withdrawn.

1.4 How to Read this Document

This plan should be read in conjunction with the Greater Dandenong Municipal Emergency Management Plan (MEMP) and the State Emergency Management Plan (SEMP).

A summary of common acronyms used in this plan is outlined below in Table 2:

Table 2: Acronyms

Acronym	Full Term
AV	Ambulance Victoria
CA	Control agency
CERA	Community Emergency Risk Assessment
CFA	Country Fire Authority
CEOC	Council Emergency Operations Centre
DECCA	Department Energy Environment and Climate Action
DFFH	Department of Families, Fairness and Housing
DH	Department of Health
EM	Emergency Management
EM Act	Emergency Management Legislation Amendment Act 2018
EMT	Emergency Management Team
EMC	Emergency Management Commissioner
EPA	Environment Protection Authority
ES Act	Electrical Safety Act 1998
IEMT	Incident Emergency Management Team
FDP	Fire Danger Period

Acronym	Full Term
FFMV	Forest Fire Management Victoria
MFMP	Municipal Fire Mangemet Plan
FRV	Fire Rescue Victoria
CGD or Council	Greater Dandenong City Council
MEMP	Municipal Emergency Management Plan
MEMPC	Municipal Emergency Management Planning Committee
MFMP	Municipal Fire Management Plan
MFMPC	Municipal Fire Management Planning Committee
NSP	Neighbourhood Safer Place
PPRR	Prevention, Preparedness, Response & Recovery
PV	Parks Victoria
REMP	Regional Emergency Management Plan
REMPC	Regional Emergency Management Planning Committee
SEMP	State Emergency Management Plan
SM RSFMPC	Southern Metro Region Strategic Fire Management Planning Committee
VFRR-B	Victorian Fire Risk Register – Bushfire
VICPOL	Victoria Police

1.5 Plan Aim and Objectives

Aim:

The aim of this MFMP is to document, plan for and implement measures to minimise the occurrence of unplanned fires and hazardous materials incidents and mitigate their effects for the benefit of the people of the Greater Dandenong.

Objectives:

The objectives of this MFMP are to:

- Identify, analyse and treat potential fire risks.
- Plan and manage fire risks in a coordinated manner across prevention, preparedness, response and recovery.
- Engage with the community to educate about local fire risks and key safety messages
- Align with the Southern Metro Region Strategic Fire Management Plan.
- Monitor, review and evaluate the effectiveness of this plan.

This plan also approaches fire management with the following goals in mind:

1. Minimise the occurrence of unplanned fires.
2. When the occurrence of fires cannot be prevented, measures will be put in place to mitigate the intensity of such fires. Reducing their intensity will have the effect that these fires will not become too large or too difficult to control.
3. When the intensity of fires cannot be mitigated against, the loss of life and property needs to be minimised as much as possible.
4. On rare occasions, fires will claim lives and destroy or damage property. When this happens, reducing the long-term consequences to the community is the priority.
5. It is recognised that even with all reasonable prevention and mitigation measures being adopted, there is still the possibility of events that are beyond the capabilities of the relevant authorities to control or to prevent significant long-term damage to the community.

1.6 Fire History

Greater Dandenong does not have a history of major bushfires, however, structure fires over the past 10 years have been significant. In the period of 2011 to 2020 a total of 1,280 fires involving structures occurred in the Greater Dandenong municipality. Greater Dandenong represented 17% of the statewide total for the same period (based on information drawn from the CFA's Fire and Incident Report System). There has also been a history of occasional relatively small grass and scrub fires in the Green Wedge areas and areas of remnant bushland.

As the Greater Dandenong area is not undergoing significant development of new residential housing estates, most residential homes are generally older. This suggests older electrical wiring and appliances are used. Where these appliances are not serviced regularly there is an increased risk of electrical fault and potentially house fires. For example, un-serviced air conditioners and evaporative coolers have caused an increase in house fires, particularly over the warmer months. Households struggling financially may find it difficult to afford regular servicing.

PART TWO – MUNICIPAL CHARACTERISTICS

2.1 Summary

Greater Dandenong is located approximately 35km southeast of the Melbourne CBD. In addition to being an important strategic industrial location, it is also the most culturally diverse Local Government Area in Australia.

The municipality encompasses an area of 129 square kilometres and is bounded by Police Road in the north, Dandenong Creek and South Gippsland Freeway/ Westernport Highway to the east, Thompson Road in the south, and by Westall Road, Springvale Road and Mornington Peninsula Freeway to the west.

In 2024 the population of the municipality was estimated to be 164,000. By 2034, the number of residents in Greater Dandenong is expected to rise by 13% to 185,000.

Further demographic information can be obtained from Greater Dandenong City Council - Statistics and Data. For a full overview of the characteristics of the municipality as it related to emergency management, please refer to the MEMP on the Greater Dandenong City Council Website.

2.2 Cultural Diversity

Greater Dandenong is still the most culturally diverse community in Australia, with residents from over 150 birthplaces, 63% of residents were born overseas, and 83% of local people have at least one overseas-born parent. Major birthplaces include Vietnam, Cambodia, China, Malaysia, Philippines, India, Sri Lanka and Afghanistan.

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Languages other than English are spoken by 69% of residents. Reflecting this diversity, one in seven (14%) residents has limited fluency in the use of spoken English - four times the metropolitan level and the highest in the State of Victoria.

2.3 Children and Young People

10,160 children are aged 0 to 4 years, representing 6.2% of Greater Dandenong's population. This compares with 5.8% for the average across the whole of Victoria.

18,260 children are aged between 5 and 14 years. This represents 11.1% of the local population. This compares with 11.9% of the Victorian population.

Finally, 21,780 people are aged between 15 and 24 years. This is 13.2% of Greater Dandenong's population and slightly higher than the Greater Melbourne average of 12.6%.

2.4 Mature-aged People

49,890 people, or nearly 33% of Greater Dandenong's population, are aged over 50. This is comparable to the average figure for Victoria.

17,230 residents are aged 70 years or more representing 10.5% of the Greater Dandenong population. This is slightly less than the corresponding portion of the population over 70 across Victoria, at 12%.

2.5 Vulnerable People

The needs of vulnerable people, who are isolated due to their socio-economic situation and/or their mental and physical state, adds further complexity to the development and implementation of emergency prevention and preparedness activities.

A range of community groups and individuals may be vulnerable to fire risks and could include:

- frail and/or elderly people living alone
- people with physical and/or mental impairment due to age, illness and/or disability
- visitors to, or people working in the municipality
- multicultural or emerging communities, particularly where English literacy skills are limited.

Further information about the locations of vulnerable persons in contained in the MEMP, Part 4.

2.6 Businesses

Greater Dandenong is home to approximately 20,000 businesses who employ an estimated 113,000 people in the municipality. Over 23,000 of these are in the manufacturing sector. The healthcare, construction and retail trade sectors all employ over 10,000 workers each.

Wholesale trades, transport, postal, warehousing and the education/training sector round out the top sectors of employment within the municipality.

2.7 Local Areas

Greater Dandenong has three distinct geographic areas:

- The residential and commercial heart in the central and northern suburbs of Springvale, Noble Park, Keysborough, Dandenong and Dandenong North.
- The industrial hub in Dandenong South.
- The green wedge covering Dandenong South, Bangholme and Lyndhurst.

2.8 Risk Environments, Major Hazard Facilities and Critical Infrastructure

Greater Dandenong has a number of 'priority risk environments', which represent the diverse property types and uses within the municipality. These sites can be subject to structure fires, hazardous materials incidents and/ or bushfire and grassfires. The priority risk environments include:

- residential areas
- public accommodation (rooming houses)
- health care facilities
- commercial and industrial areas
- transport and critical infrastructure
- agriculture, farming and natural environments
- other areas or locations, which can be described as hoarding or squatting.

Greater Dandenong also has a number of Major Hazard Facilities. A Major Hazard Facility is a site that stores, manages or processes large quantities of chemicals and/or dangerous goods. Emergency services have developed individual plans for these sites. These sites include:

- APA Gas Net Australia (Operations) Pty Ltd – 180 Greens Road, Dandenong
- BOC Limited – 351 Hammond Road, Dandenong South
- Elgas Ltd – 120 Greens Road, Dandenong South
- Melbourne Water Treatment Plant– Thompson Road, Bangholme
- Supagas Holdings Pty Ltd – 23 Commercial Drive, Dandenong South

A number of waste and resource recovery facilities are situated in the industrial areas of Greater Dandenong. The activities of these facilities are diverse, ranging from consolidation of residual waste, processing of organic waste and the conversion of chemical wastes. In accordance with the EPA's Management and storage of combustible recyclable and waste materials guideline these sites must understand the fire hazards associated with their activities, take steps to reduce the fire risk and prepare an emergency management plan in response to a fire emergency. See also EPA's factsheet 1759.1: Fire prevention: combustible recyclable and waste materials | Environment Protection Authority Victoria.

Greater Dandenong is also home to a number of critical infrastructure sites that may be susceptible to the impacts of fire. Further details about critical infrastructure and Major Hazard Facilities is contained within the MEMP.

2.9 Climate Change

In January 2020 Greater Dandenong City Council joined a growing number of cities around Australia and declared a 'Climate and Ecological Emergency' committing Council to emergency action on climate change.

The MFMPC recognise that climate change has a direct impact on fire management in the Greater Dandenong area. The impacts of climate change on fire management will result in:

- an increase in the frequency, intensity and size of bushfires and grassfires
- the possibility of longer fire danger periods
- an increase in numbers of total fire ban days.

This will place an increased demand on fire services, increase the capacity to manage resources and require more planning to respond to extreme fire events. MFMPC member organisations will also need to consider the extent of their vulnerability to the effects of climate change that impacts their ability to deliver fire management services to the Greater Dandenong community.

An increase in fire weather may increase:

- fire-related respiratory illnesses
- the risk of human injury, trauma and death
- the risk of fire-related damage to property and other assets and infrastructure
- the exposure of insurance companies to further losses
- the level of inter-agency cooperation necessary to mobilise sufficient response and recovery capacity.

The intensity and increasing frequencies of fire highlights the need to improve broad scale community education and preparedness programs.

The Green Wedge in the City of Greater Dandenong and covers a total of 3,741.3 hectares, or 29% of the municipality. Green Wedge Areas highlight the importance of balancing the need for fire management, including fuel reduction, with protecting the natural environment.

Fuel reduction programs, increasing and building resilience to the impacts of fire, local planning controls and greater community awareness are all actions that should be considered and implemented to better mitigate against the effects of fire.

PART THREE – PLANNING ARRANGEMENTS

The Emergency Management Legislation Amendment Act 2018 repealed the sections of the Country Fire Authority Act (1958) which previously required municipal councils to prepare and maintain a MFMP. Despite this, the MEMPC, acting on the advice of the MFMPC, has decided that the Greater Dandenong risk profile calls for the development of a MFMP to be a sub-plan of the MEMP in accordance with the Emergency Management Act 2013.

Earlier iterations of MFMP across Victoria have focused solely on bushfire. However, the Greater Dandenong municipality does not have large areas of bushland where this is a significant type of risk. Rather the development of this Fire Management Plan is a way to bring together the necessary partners to evolve integrated fire management planning across all fire risks. The plan will be further developed as updated urban fire risk assessment tools become available.

This plan has been developed with reference to a range of strategic documents, including:

- Southern Metro Region Strategic Fire Management Plan
- Metropolitan Bushfire Management Strategy 2020
- Greater Dandenong Municipal Emergency Management Plan
- Greater Dandenong City Council – Council Plan (incorporating the Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan) 2021-2025
- Greater Dandenong Community Engagement Planning Framework 2022

3.1 Municipal Fire Management Planning Committee (MFMPC)

The MFMPC is a sub-committee of the MEMPC. Its members include staff from Greater Dandenong City Council, Country Fire Authority (CFA), Fire Rescue Victoria (FRV), Victoria Police (VICPOL), and Forest Fire Management Victoria (FFMV). It is chaired by the Municipal Fire Prevention Officer (MFPO) of Council. The multi-agency participation in the MFMPC demonstrates a collaborative approach to fire management in the Greater Dandenong area.

The MFMPC meets twice a year, when the Fire Danger Period is declared and after the Fire Danger Period ends. The MFMPC meets to review this Fire Management Plan and update as required, discuss mitigation works, local response and recovery activities, and act as a platform to escalate any local fire management issues.

The MFMPC will be guided by the MEMPC and Southern Metro Region Strategic Fire Management Planning Committee (SM RSFMPC). The chair of the MFMPC will represent the committee on the MEMPC and SM RSFMPC.

3.2 Community Emergency Risk Assessment (CERA)

CERA is an all-hazards risk assessment tool which aims to identify, mitigate and reduce emergency risks within the community following the Australian Standard for risk management, ISO 31000.

The CERA was last updated for Greater Dandenong on 22 August 2023. Both bushfire/grassfire, and fire-commercial/industrial/high-rise received medium residual risk ratings.

For further information on the full CERA profile for Greater Dandenong refer to the MEMP.

3.3 Victorian Fire Risk Register - Bushfire (VFRR-B)

The VFFR-B is a process in which representatives from the MFMPC map assets at risk from a significant bushfire and assess the level of risk to those assets. Assets may include residential areas, children's services, hospitals, aged-care facilities, infrastructure, commercial industry, tourism events, and those that are culturally significant.

Participants in the VFRR-B process also record the current treatments which are conducted to mitigate the fire risk to those assets. Treatments may include fire prevention, community education and hazard reduction.

For a copy of the current VFRR-B data for Greater Dandenong contact the MFMPC via emergency.managment@cgd.vic.gov.au or visit Victorian Fire Risk Register (vfrr.vic.gov.au).

3.4 Bushfire At Risk Register (BARR)

The Bushfire at Risk Register (BARR) is managed by the Department of Education and identifies those schools, kindergartens and childcare facilities in high bushfire risk locations. All facilities listed on the BARR must pre-emptively close on declared catastrophic days for their fire weather district.

There are no facilities listed on the BARR within the Greater Dandenong municipality.

For further information on the BARR visit: Bushfire At-Risk Register (BARR).

PART FOUR – MITIGATION ARRANGEMENTS

Mitigation activities are those that are intended to eliminate or reduce the incidence or severity of emergencies and minimise their effects on and consequences for the community. The mitigation of fires includes a range of activities that require allocating resources (human and financial) and enlisting multi-agency support to ensure a coordinated and well-planned approach and outcomes.

Mitigation activities takes many forms, including legislation, risk assessments, and specific programs and plans. Much of this work is integrated within everyday business and the operational activities of MFMPC member organisations including Council, agencies and the community.

4.1 Fire Mitigation Activities

Table 3 below indicates which agency (or agencies) are responsible for fire mitigation activities.

Table 3: Fire mitigation activities

What/ Description	Who
Development of this Municipal Fire Management Plan.	MFMPC
Development of the Municipal Emergency Management Plan which provides the framework of managing all emergencies at the local level.	MEMPC
Minimise the occurrence of uncontrolled burn offs. Regulate burning off during the Fire Danger Period utilising inspection processes and Schedule 12, 13 & 14 permits as required.	CFA, FRV
Enforce the Local Law relating to burning off on private land outside the Fire Danger Period.	CGD
Inspect buildings for compliance with Essential safety measures.	CGD, CFA, FRV
Planning requirements for buildings in bushfire prone areas.	CGD, CFA
Arson prevention and detection programs.	VICPOL
Community awareness arson prevention – Media campaign.	VICPOL
Undertake risk assessments to inform fire management planning such as CERA and VFRR-B.	All
Development of fire management plans and/ or inclusion of fire management considerations in bushland management plans.	Relevant Land Manager
Implementation of fuel management works including mechanical treatments (mowing, slashing, mulching and using herbicides) and planned burning off programs including when located on roads and reserves.	Relevant Land Manager
Inspect privately owned land and issue Fire Prevention Notices as required in the lead up to and during Fire Danger Period.	CGD, CFA, FRV
Inspect Emergency Management Plans at caravan parks within the Municipality.	CGD, CFA, FRV
Implementation of the Electrical Line Clearance Management Plan.	CGD
Develop and/or promote community engagement initiatives and campaigns locally.	CGD, CFA, FRV
Develop response pre-plans for high-risk sites within the municipality.	CFA, FRV
Training & exercising for fire emergencies.	All
Declaration of the Fire Danger Period and days of Total Fire Ban.	CFA
Patrols of high bushfire risk areas on days of elevated Fire Danger Rating.	FFMV
Enhanced readiness on days of elevated Fire Danger Rating including staffing Incident Control Centres, pre-staging resources and active monitoring of fire activity within the municipality.	CGD, CFA, FRV, FFMV, VICPOL

Develop coordinated arrangements for dealing with high house fire risk settings including vacant properties/ squatter locations and hoarding properties.	MFMPC

4.2 Community Engagement and Education

Community engagement, through the development of relevant and proper community education resources and activities, is a vital part of mitigation.

Resilient communities are well prepared, better able to respond to a fire emergency, and therefore are better able to recover from the impacts of the emergency. MFMPC member organisations invest significant resources into community engagement and education to help people be better prepared for fires that could affect them.

MFMPC member organisations also actively engage the community through a range of programs including community education projects, media releases, advertisements, public forums, regular newsletters (including print and digital), websites and through local community networks. Specific measures have been developed to engage with key culturally and linguistically diverse groups.

One example of a locally driven community engagement program is "Emergency Prepare – Are you prepared for an emergency?" website and booklet. This ongoing program is led by the Greater Dandenong City Council in partnership with neighbouring councils Frankston, Kingston, Casey and Mornington Peninsula with the involvement of over 20 other emergency management organisations.

4.3 Hazard Trees

The Electricity Safety Act 1998 (Vic) (ES Act 1998) describes that a MEMP must specify:

- Procedure and criteria for the identification of trees that are likely to fall onto, or come into contact with, an electric line (called Hazard Trees).
- Procedures for the notification of responsible persons of hazard trees in relation to electric lines for which they are responsible.

Under the ES Act 1998, the person responsible for maintaining vegetation and clearance space around power lines is referred to as the 'responsible person'.

The "Hazard Trees - identification and notification procedures" are described in Appendix 1.1.

Council undertakes an inspection and maintenance program for all trees under its management which are or may become Hazard Trees. Street trees are pruned on a two- year cycle however trees in high-risk areas are pruned annually.

PART FIVE – RESONSE ARRANGEMENTS INCLUDING RELIEF

Local response and relief arrangements for all emergencies, including fire, within the Greater Dandenong municipality are outlined in the MEMP.

5.1 Neighbourhood Safer Places (NSPs) / Places of Last Resort

In late 2009, the Country Fire Authority (CFA) Act was amended to include Neighbourhood Safer Places and/or Place of Last Resort provisions, in areas named by that Act. This change arose from the Royal Commission interim report into the Black Saturday Bushfires of February 2009. The Greater Dandenong municipality is partly within the designated boundaries of CFA area of Victoria.

A Neighbourhood Safer Place or Place of Last Resort may provide some protection from the effects of radiant heat during a bushfire. Neighbourhood Safer Places or Place of Last Resort are only intended for use when all other bushfire plans have failed and are not intended to be considered as a site to move to when leaving early, i.e., they are not meant to be used as relief/recovery centres. Neighbourhood Safer Places or Place of Last Resort also do not replace personal bushfire survival plans such as leaving early.

Although Greater Dandenong partially falls within a CFA area, the risk of a significant bushfire for this municipality is quite low. An assessment was undertaken of Greater Dandenong's fire risk rating by the MEMPC. It shows that structure (building) fires are the greatest risk in this municipality, while bushfire risk is quite low. With this information in hand, the MFMPC have reviewed the Neighbourhood Safer Places and Place of Last Resort requirements and decided that such facilities do not need to be established within the Greater Dandenong municipality.

The principal reasons for this are because Greater Dandenong is an urban municipality with relatively minimal risk of bushfire. Integrated Fire Management Planning data for Greater Dandenong shows that structure fire is the greatest risk in this municipality, with the causes of such fires generally being found within the structure.

Those areas of Greater Dandenong that may be at risk of bushfire are serviced by significant major road networks which allow rapid evacuation of residents and tourists. Evacuation to nearby urban areas is therefore seen as the safest and most practical way for people in these areas.

5.2 Community Fire Refuges

Community Fire Refuges are purpose-built or modified buildings that provide protection from radiant heat and embers. They are designed to be a last resort option where nearby residents or visitors can seek shelter if they are trapped by a significant fire. Similar to the reasoning when considering the establishment of Neighbourhood Safer Place or Place of Last Resort, Community Fire Refuges were also deemed not required for Greater Dandenong by the MFMPC.

PART SIX – RECOVERY ARRANGEMENTS

Local recovery arrangements for all emergencies, including fire, within the Greater Dandenong municipality are outlined in the MEMP.

Key recovery considerations following a fire emergency include:

Social:

- provision of up-to-date information
- temporary accommodation
- provision of material aid
- financial assistance
- psychological support
- companion animal welfare
- health and medical support
- additional support for vulnerable people
- donations and spontaneous volunteer coordination
- community re-development.

Built:

- clean up activities
- restabilising essentials services / utilities
- re-building damaged and destroyed assets
- streamlining planning and building approvals.

Economic:

- local employment opportunities
- small business and industry support
- economic development
- agriculture impacts
- livestock welfare.

Natural:

- air and water quality impacts
- land rehabilitation
- fauna welfare
- waste management.

Aboriginal Cultural Healing Environment:

The Aboriginal Culture and Healing aspect of recovery guides us and our recovery partners to maximise opportunities for operating under the Victorian Aboriginal Affairs Framework 2018-2023, ensuring Aboriginal individuals, families, communities, businesses and Traditional Owner groups are supported and informed appropriately in relief and recovery responses.
Aboriginal Culture and Healing includes the following outcomes:

- Aboriginal culture is valued and respected
- Aboriginal trauma is addressed, and healing is supported
- Aboriginal cultural safety is promoted
- Aboriginal participation and ownership is promoted.

PART SEVEN – ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The roles and responsibilities of all organisations involved in the municipal level emergency management arrangements for Greater Dandenong are outlined in the MEMP and the roles and responsibilities defined in the State Emergency Management Plan (SEMP).

The following is a summary of the roles key fire agencies will perform. Each organisation will:

- meet its existing legislative responsibilities and those outlined in the SEMP
- work to a common understanding of fire risks within communities
- develop strategies needed to avoid and mitigate those risks at a local level.

7.1 Ambulance Victoria (AV)

Ambulance Victoria is responsible for the delivery of emergency pre hospital health care to the Victorian community. Through its network of specialised resources, and clinical skills, and emergency management planning engagement, AV works closely with control agencies to ensure the safety and wellbeing of both the community and responders, though all phases of emergencies. In addition to emergency response, Ambulance Victoria, assists VICPOL in managing evacuations, provides health monitoring and support to control and lead support agency personnel, and to support DH coordinate other health and medical relief assistance measures.

7.2 Country Fire Authority (CFA)

The CFA is a community-based fire and emergency service whose mission is to protect lives and property. The CFA is one of the world's largest volunteer-based emergency service organisations. CFA brigades respond to a range of emergency incidents, as well as conduct broader activities within local communities such as community education.

The Greater Dandenong municipality is located within the CFA District 8, South East Region. Two CFA Brigades service the municipality – Keysborough Fire Brigade and Noble Park Fire Brigade along with CFA volunteers who are co-located at the FRV fire stations of Dandenong and Springvale.

7.3 Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

The EPA have a role in fire mitigation, including inspecting waste resource recovery facilities. In emergency situations such as fire, the EPA's role is to support response agencies by providing advice regarding matters relating to the environment and human health that are impacted by those emergencies.

7.4 Fire Rescue Victoria (FRV)

FRV is a new modern fire and rescue service that was established on 1 July 2020 as part of Victoria's Fire Service Reforms. FRV respond to fires, complex rescues, road crashes, emergency medical calls and hazardous chemical spills. They serve and protect communities across Melbourne and Victoria's major regional centres. The municipality is serviced by Fire Stations 87 (Dandenong), 88 (Hallam), 89 (Springvale) and 90 (Patterson River).

7.5 Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA)

DEECA responds to a range of emergencies across Victorian communities that impact the environment, water and energy sector. These emergencies often relate to major impact events such as bushfires, floods and/or storms.

DECCA reduce the risk and impacts of bushfires on Victoria's parks, forests and other public land through Forest Fire Management Victoria (FFMV). FFMV is made up of skilled staff from DEECA, Parks Victoria (PV), Melbourne Water (MW) and VicForests.

7.6 Forest Fire Management Victoria (FFMV)

FFMV is responsible for fire suppression and management on public land, including planned burning for ecological and risk management objectives. FFMV's objective is to protect communities and critical infrastructure from fire and promote healthy and resilient ecosystems.

7.7 Greater Dandenong City Council

Greater Dandenong City Council is responsible for the management of fire risk on all Council-owned property, as well as ensuring that private landowners appropriately manage bushfire risk on their own land in accordance with the requirements of the CFA Act 1958 and FRV Act 1958. Council has appointed a Municipal Fire Prevention Officer (MFPO) and several Assistant MFPOs to oversee its fire management responsibilities.

In the lead up to and during the Fire Danger Period (FDP), the MFPO and Assistant MFPOs inspect privately owned properties within the municipality to assess the potential risk of a bushfire. If the condition of the property is deemed to contribute significantly to the risk of a bushfire, Council may issue a Fire Prevention Notice and take enforcement action in the event of non-compliance.

Council also implements its annual fire prevention roadside and reserve slashing program. Council is responsible for clearance of vegetation under power lines where the vegetation is on Council land. Council also assists in fire mitigation through implementing planning and building controls such as Bushfire Prone Areas, Bushfire Attack Level requirements, the Bushfire Management Overlay and Essential Safety Measures in buildings.

Council is committed to working alongside agencies in an integrated way to target urban and industrial fire risks within the municipality such as high-risk waste sites and combustible cladding.

Council is the lead agency for relief and recovery coordination in the event of a fire emergency.

7.8 Melbourne Water (MW)

MW maintains an active involvement in fire protection and suppression in its water supply catchments to minimise the risk of bushfires to communities and the potential impact on water quality and yield.

7.9 Parks Victoria (PV)

PV is responsible for preserving the natural and heritage values of the parks, bays and waterways in Victoria. PV works with DEECA to undertake fire prevention, response and recovery works in national parks.

7.10 Department of Transport and Planning (DTP)

The DTP manages the Victorian arterial road network and its use as an integral part of the overall transport system. DTP is responsible for maintaining roadsides, developing detour plans and managing traffic in the event of an emergency.

7.11 Victoria Police (VICPOL)

VICPOL is responsible for ensuring a safe and secure community. VICPOL are empowered under the CFA Act to enforce provisions relating to burning off during the Fire Danger Period and on days of Total Fire Ban. During a fire emergency, they will manage roadblocks and coordinate evacuations.

7.12 Victoria State Emergency Service (VICSES)

VICSES is a volunteer-based organisation responding to natural disasters and working to ensure the safety of communities around Victoria. VICSES role in fires is as a support agency providing assistance during events with lighting, tree clearance, staging area management as well as undertaking roles in the Incident Management Team (IMT).

7.13 WorkSafe Victoria (WorkSafe)

In emergency situations such as fire or chemical releases WorkSafe will support response agencies by providing advice regarding dangerous goods, asbestos management and the safety of employees (including responding agencies). Where these incidents occur at workplaces or involve dangerous goods, WorkSafe's role post the incident may include investigation and enforcement action for possible breaches of the Occupational Health and Safety Act and Dangerous Goods Act. WorkSafe also regulate industries who store and handle dangerous goods and undertake proactive visits to ensure suitable control measures are implemented to reduce risk of dangerous goods incidents.

PART EIGHT - APPENDICES

Appendix 1 - Special plans and arrangements

Appendix 1.1 - Hazard Trees – identification and notification procedures

1.1.1 What is a Hazard Tree?

According to the ES Act, a Hazard Tree is a tree which,

> '*is likely to fall onto, or come into contact with, an electric line*.'

The Electricity Safety (Electric Line Clearance) Regulations 2010 (the Regulations) further provide that a responsible person may cut or remove such a tree:

> '*provided that the tree has been assessed by a suitably qualified arborist; and that assessment confirms the likelihood of contact with an electric line having regard to foreseeable local conditions*.'

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

1.1.2 Who is responsible for a hazard tree?

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

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

Municipal councils are responsible for trees on public land within their municipalities, for which they are the land manager, where these are also within a Declared Area for the purposes of the ES Act. Councils Electric Line Clearance Management Plan (ELCMP) is updated annually and is published on Greater Dandenong City Council Website.

Primary responsibility for vegetation clearance and management within the municipality, for areas which are not within a Declared Area, will usually fall to the relevant electricity distribution company.

1.1.3 Responsible Persons within Greater Dandenong

United Energy has responsibility for line clearance in Greater Dandenong.

1.1.4 Other relevant information

Responsible persons, other than private persons, must have an electric line clearance management plan in place for areas for which they have responsibility (refer Electricity Safety (Electric Line Clearance) Regulations, 2020).

1.1.5 Procedures and criteria for identifying Hazard Trees

In the course of everyday duties, potentially hazardous trees may come to the attention of staff or volunteer members of the agencies represented on the MFMPC, or other persons, including members of the public.

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

The following criteria may be used to assist in identifying a Hazard Tree:

- The size of the tree suggests that it is likely to come into contact with an electric line. For example, because it appears to be encroaching or growing into the line clearance space.
- There is an excessive lean on the tree, or branches hanging off the tree, and the tree is in proximity to an electric (power) line.
- The size or appearance of the tree suggests it could come into contact with the line including under foreseeable local conditions.

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

1.1.6 Procedures and criteria for notifying Hazard Trees

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

- The person with responsibility for the highest percentage of lines within the municipality (the primary responsible person) is the person to whom potentially hazardous trees should be reported.
- The primary responsible person (or their representative) is referred to in these procedures as the Primary Responsible Person Representative (PRPR).
- Where any person becomes aware of, or receives a report of, a potentially hazardous tree within the municipality, this should be referred to the PRPR. Where the Committee becomes aware of, or receives a report of, a potentially hazardous tree within the municipality, this must be referred to the PRPR.
- Reports of potentially hazardous trees must be provided to the PRPR for action as soon as practicable. Reports must include, at a minimum:
    - The name and contact details and any relevant qualifications (where known) of the person making the report.
    - As much detail as possible about the location of the tree (including, where known, GPS co-ordinates, details of numerical/name plate on nearest pole, name of nearest road or crossroads, closest landmark, whether tree is on private land or road reserve, etc.).
    - A description of the tree (including, if known, the genus and species of tree).

  - The primary reasons given for the tree being identified as potentially hazardous (e.g., the tree is in proximity to an electric line and there is evidence of structural weakness and/or excessive lean and/or appears to be encroaching into line clearance space, etc.).
  - An indication of whether or not urgent action is needed.
- The PRPR must take all necessary steps to advise the person responsible for the tree that it may be hazardous.

1.1.7 Primary Responsible Person Representative (PRPR)

For the purposes of this part of the plan, notification of a potentially hazardous tree can be made through the Municipal Hazard Tree Notification Form.

1.1.8 Procedures for Notification of Responsible Persons

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

Step 1
Report provided to PRPR.

Step 2
PRPR to determine who the responsible person is in relation to the reported tree. (If necessary, the PRPR can seek assistance from ESV for this step.)

Step 3
Is the responsible person the Primary Responsible Person?

Yes - applicable internal procedure for referral and assessment of potentially hazardous tree to be followed.

No - proceed to Step 4.

Step 4
Did the report indicate that urgent action is required?

Yes - the responsible person should be notified as soon as possible, and by the close of the next business day.

No - the PRPR must advise the responsible person of the existence and location of a potentially hazardous tree in accordance with the reporting timelines in 1.1.9 below.*

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

1.1.9 Reporting Timelines

The PRPR should provide reports to the relevant responsible person as soon as practicable.
In circumstances where:

- The potentially hazardous tree is located within a high bushfire risk area (as per s.80 of the ES Act) and the potentially hazardous tree is reported during the fire danger period declared under the Country Fire Authority Act 1958 (Vic), and/or
- The report indicates that there is an imminent danger that the tree will contact or fall onto lines as a result of minor environmental changes, the potentially hazardous tree must be referred to the relevant responsible person for action as soon as possible, and by the close of the next business day.

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

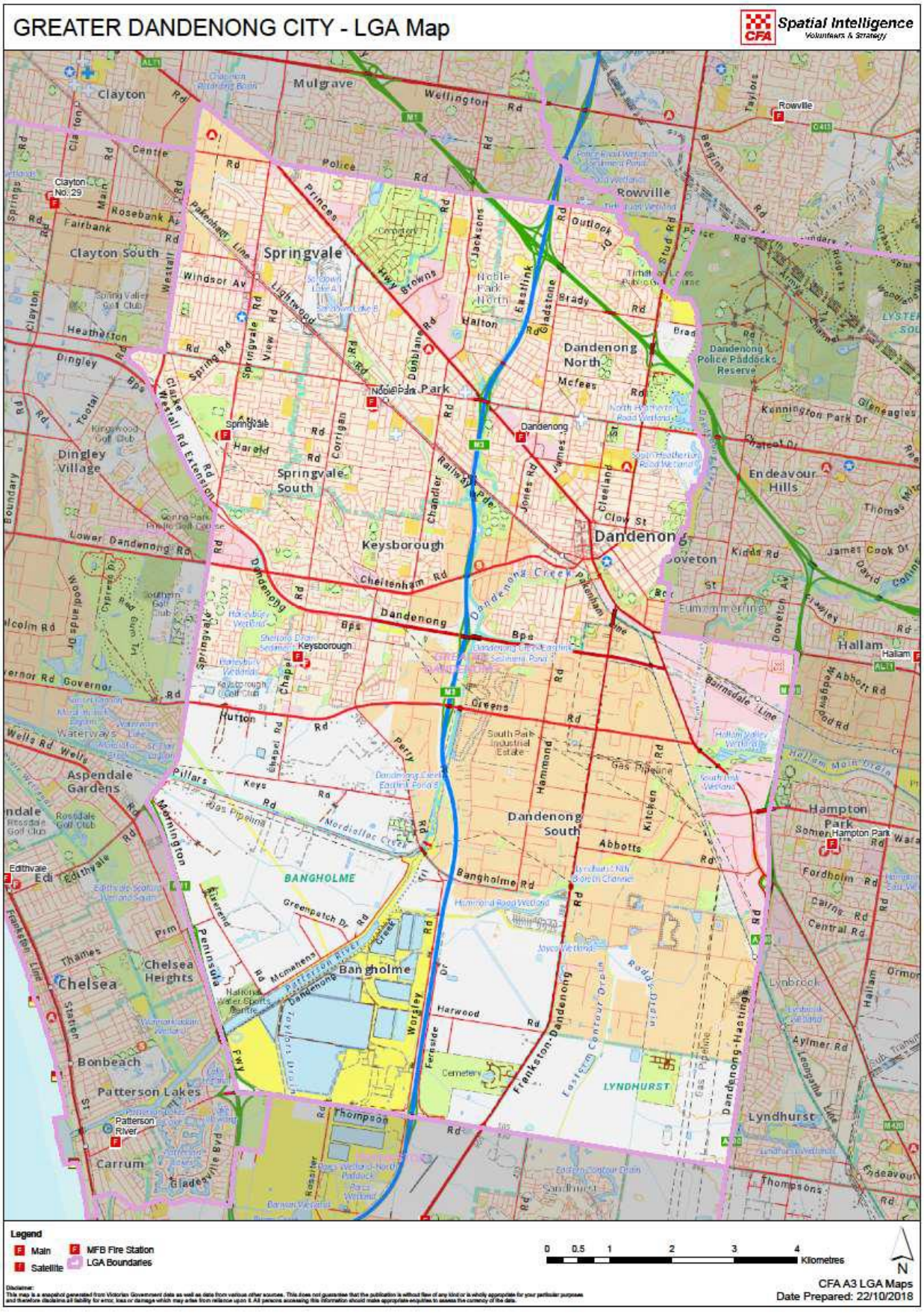
1.1.10 Register

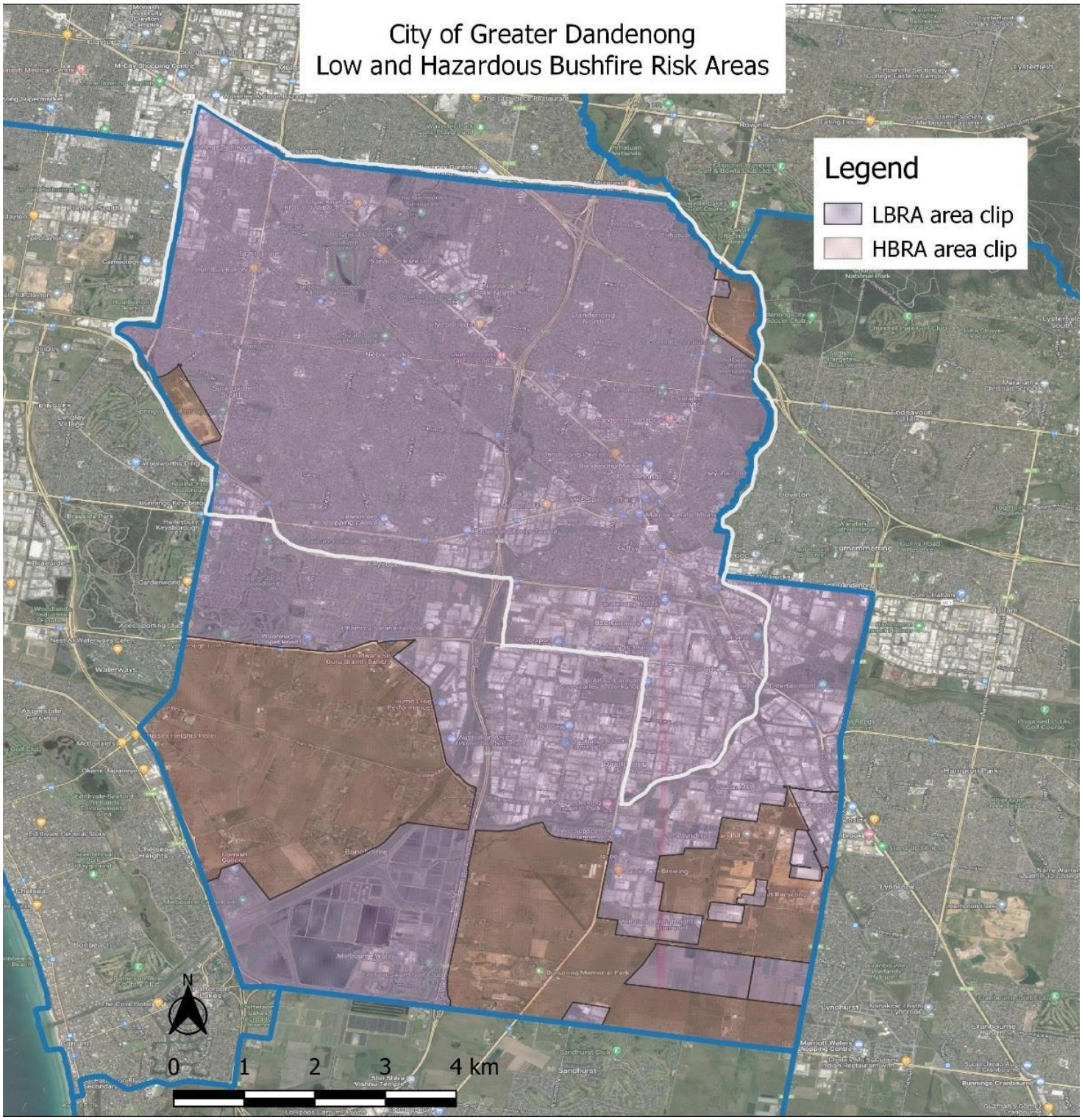
It is recommended that the PRPR maintain a register in which all notifications are recorded together with the date of receipt of the notification and the date the notification was reported to the responsible person. It is recommended that responsible persons also maintain a register of notifications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

1.1.11 PRPR Consultation

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

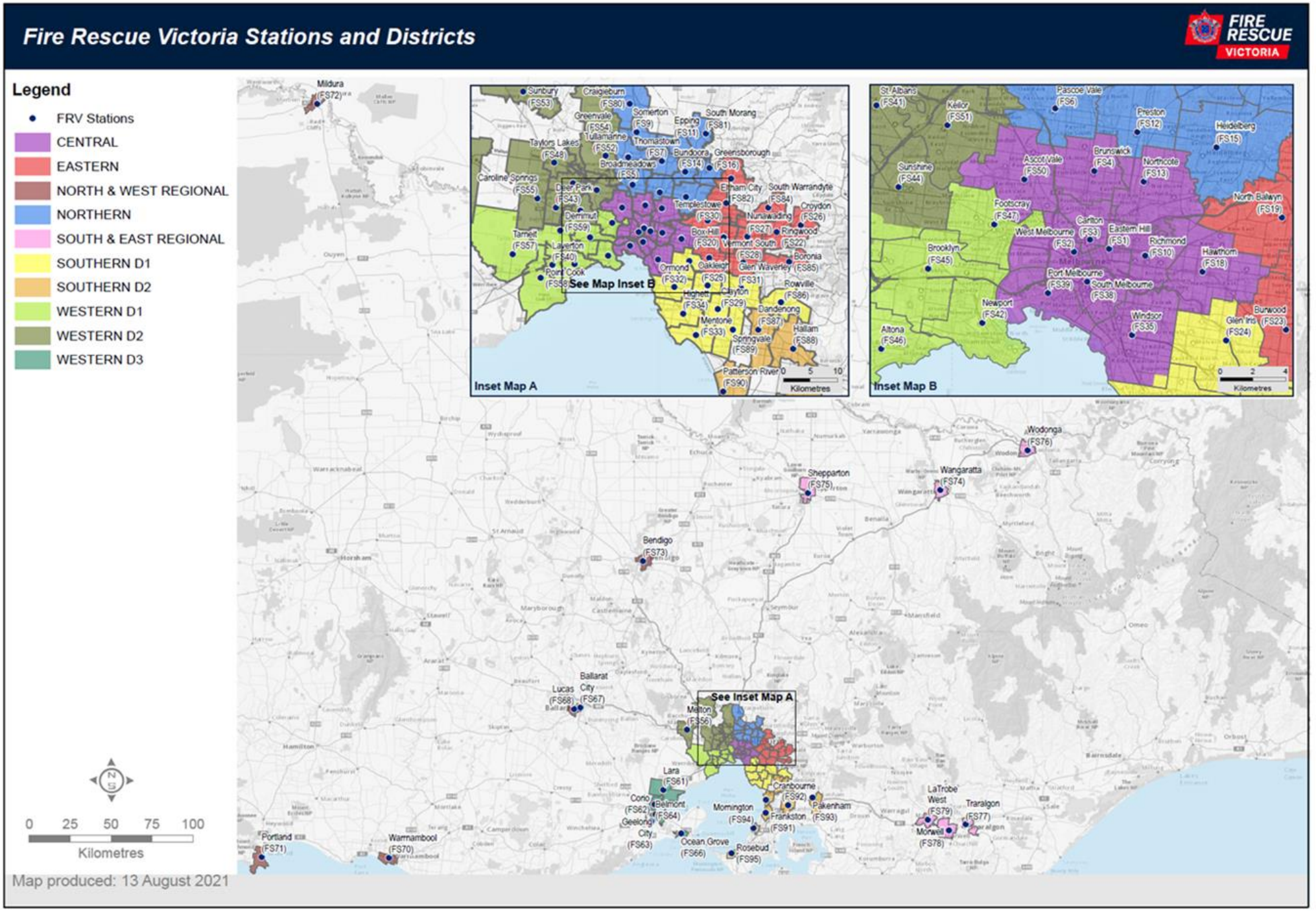
Appendix 2 – Maps



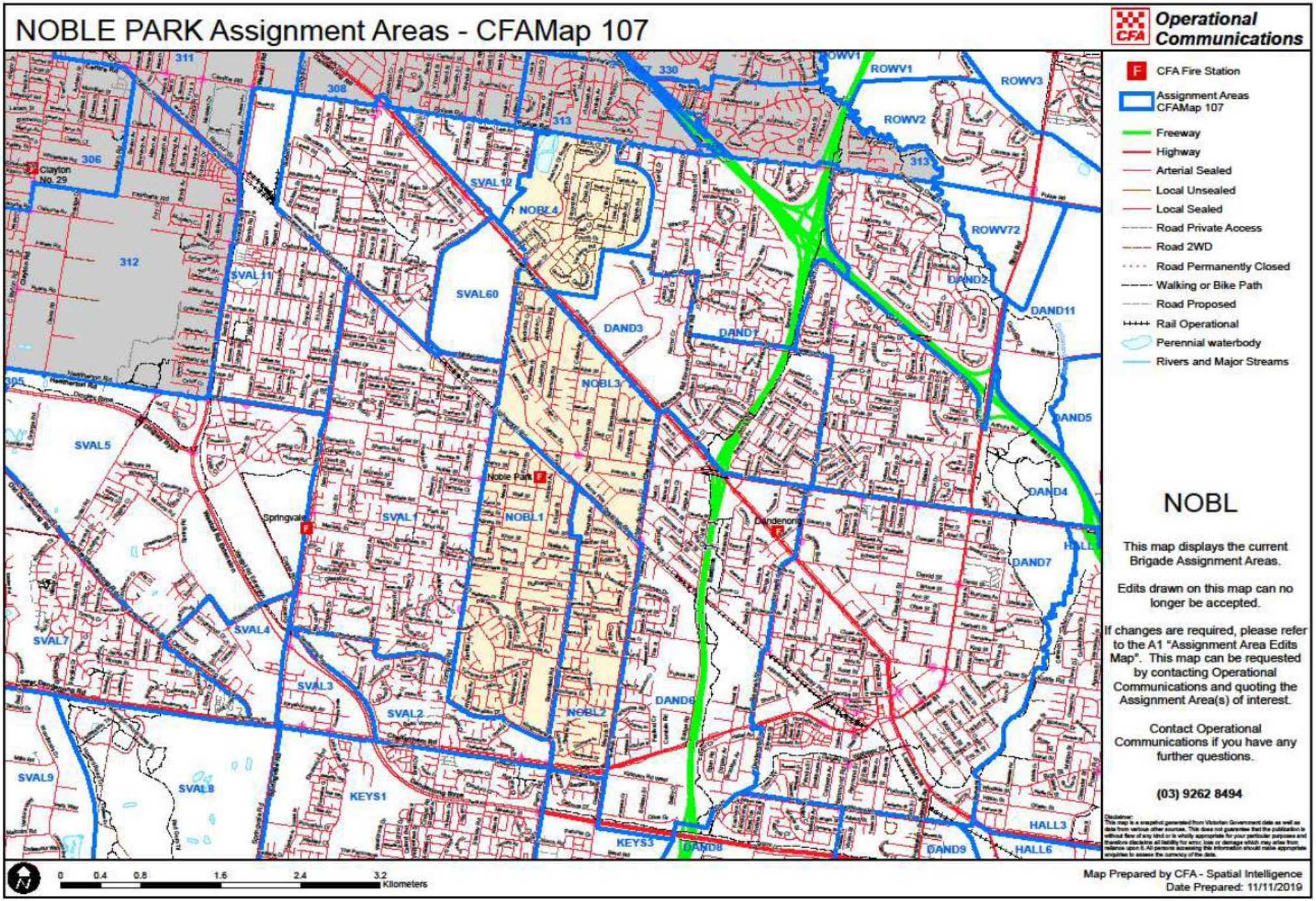


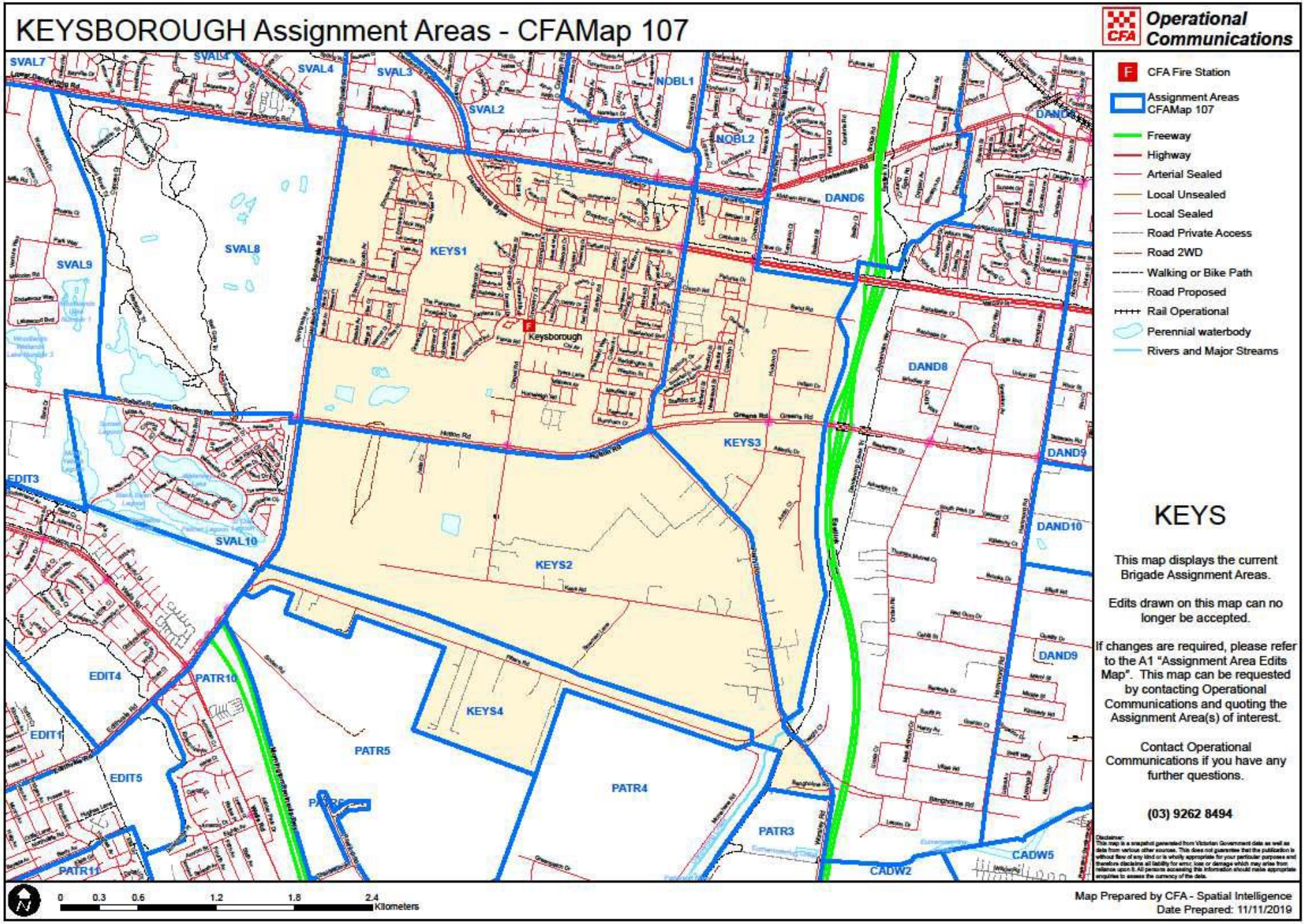
Coloured map of the bushfire risk areas within the City of Greater Dandenong.
The Declared Area is outlined in white. The Low Bushfire Risk Areas (LBRA) are shown in the purple areas and the Hazardous Bushfire Risk Areas (HBRA) are shown in the red areas. Areas 1 & 2 are in the Declared Area.

Fire Rescue Victoria Stations and Districts



Version 3.0: May 2024 Review by: May 2027


NOBLE PARK Assignment Areas - CFAMap 107
Operational Communications
CFA Fire Station
Assignment Areas CFAMap 107
Freeway
Highway
Arterial Sealed
Local Unsealed
Local Sealed
Road Private Access
Road 2WD
Road Permanently Closed
Walking or Bike Path
Road Proposed
Rail Operational
Perennial waterbody
Rivers and Major Streams
NOBL
This map displays the current Brigade Assignment Areas.
Edits drawn on this map can no longer be accepted.
If changes are required, please refer to the A1 "Assignment Area Edits Map". This map can be requested by contacting Operational Communications and quoting the Assignment Area(s) of interest.
Contact Operational Communications if you have any further questions.
(03) 9262 8494
Clayton No. 29
Noble Park
Springvale
Dandenong
0 0.4 0.8 1.6 2.4 3.2 Kilometers
Map Prepared by CFA - Spatial Intelligence
Date Prepared: 11/11/2019


KEYSBOROUGH Assignment Areas - CFAMap 107
Operational Communications
CFA Fire Station
Assignment Areas CFAMap 107
Freeway
Highway
Arterial Sealed
Local Unsealed
Local Sealed
Road Private Access
Road 2WD
Walking or Bike Path
Road Proposed
Rail Operational
Perennial waterbody
Rivers and Major Streams
KEYS
This map displays the current Brigade Assignment Areas.
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(03) 9262 8494
Keysborough
SVAL7
SVAL4
SVAL3
SVAL2
NOBL1
NOBL2
DAND6
SVAL8
SVAL9
KEYS1
DAND8
KEYS3
DAND9
EDIT3
SVAL10
KEYS2
DAND10
EDIT4
PATR10
KEYS4
EDIT1
PATR5
EDIT5
PATR4
PATR3
CADW5
CADW2
PATR11
0 0.3 0.6 1.2 1.8 2.4 Kilometers
Map Prepared by CFA - Spatial Intelligence
Date Prepared: 11/11/2019