



**G R E A T E R
S H E P P A R T O N**

MUNICIPAL FIRE PREVENTION PLAN

Endorsed by MFPC – 24/09/98

Adopted By Council – 3/11/98

Revised – 10/03/2004

Revised - 04/09/2007

SUMMARY OF ACRONYMS

BCA	Building Code of Australia
CEC	CFA Community Education Coordinator
CFA	Country Fire Authority
DPI	Department of Primary Industry
DSE	Department of Sustainability and Environment
EHO	Environmental Health Officer
EPA	Environment Protection Authority
FMO	(DSE) Fire Management Officer
FSO	CFA Fire Safety Officer
GBCMA	Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority
HVP	Hancock Victorian Plantations Pty. Ltd.
MBS	Municipal Building Surveyor
MCS	CFA Manager Community Safety
MEMPC	Municipal Emergency Management Planning Commi
MERO	Municipal Emergency Response Officer
MFP	Municipal Fire Prevention
MFPC	Municipal Fire Prevention Committee
MFPO	Municipal Fire Prevention Officer

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

CFA (Regional)	Regional Fire Prevention Plan
CFA (Local Brigades)	Local Information
FIRE PREVENTION STRATEGY STEERING COMMITTEE	Overview of the Strategy Development
GREATER SHEPPARTON CITY COUNCIL	Provision of reference documents/information and meeting facilities
RURAL WORKS Pty. Ltd (John Dunn)	Research and Preparation of the Strategy

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MUNICIPAL FIRE PREVENTION STRATEGY

1.0 FOREWORD

The Greater Shepparton City Council takes great pleasure in the release of the revised version of the Municipal Fire Prevention Strategy. In many instances the threat posed to public safety by fire is often ignored. Whilst it is recognised that the community is very well served by the CFA, its volunteers and DSE in undertaking fire fighting and fire suppression activities, the Council identified the need to continue to plan for long term fire prevention to ensure that community expectations of a fire safe environment were achieved.

The Strategy has been developed through public consultation involving the Council, CFA, stakeholders and the Public. The Document provides a comprehensive approach to fire prevention based on the identification and appropriate treatment of all risks associated with fire throughout the Municipality. As a result of this process the document compliments the Greater Shepparton Planning Scheme, Roadside Management Plan, Council Corporate Plan, Local Laws, Greater Shepparton 2030 Strategy Plan and the long-term policies of Council.

The development of technology and society as a whole, has led to a significant increase in the complexity of fire related risks. This coupled with changed legislative requirements and the recognition of the impact of fire on all aspects of life, has led to the need for the Council to broaden the base for the consideration of fire prevention issues. Identified risk environments now include dwellings, townships, rural residential, industrial, commercial, health care, public accommodation and tourist facilities, public assembly, rural, and transport and special.

The Council convened a steering committee with representatives drawn from a variety of backgrounds to guide the review of the strategy. The Council also undertook public consultation seeking comment on the document. As a result of this process the strategy reflects the views of the wider community, whilst at the same time addressing the specific needs of the Fire Services and Council.

The Strategy includes the goals and objectives for the management by Council of fire related risks as well as specific action plans. The actions detailed range from community education through to enforcement of legislative provisions. It is acknowledged that the full involvement of the whole community will be required to optimise the value of the Strategy.

The Greater Shepparton City Council is aware of the significant risk that fire can pose to its community, and fully endorses and supports the Strategy in assisting to make our community a safer place in which to live. I look forward to the implementation of the measures outlined in the document.

Cr. Jenny Houlihan
Mayor

2.0 VISION STATEMENT

The goal/vision of the strategy is to provide a safer community in which to live, work and visit.

2.01 *Background To Vision Statement*

The Strategy has been developed as an aid to prepare and protect the Municipality, its Residents and their assets from the threat of uncontrolled fire. It must however be stressed that fire prevention is a shared community responsibility, and the effectiveness of the strategy is limited by the preparedness of the community and individuals to meet their responsibilities, every day of the year.

This document should not be seen as overriding Local Fire Brigade Plans and Public Authority Plans, but has been developed to build on these plans and to provide a framework into which they should fit. It is critical that Local Fire Brigade Plans are developed and maintained for their areas. These Local Plans will contain specific details that are beyond the scope of this document.

The Strategy seeks to identify the major fire risks within the Municipality, and sets out a process for minimising those risks. The primary purpose of this Strategy is the protection of life and the minimisation of property loss.

The details contained in this document relating to roadsides should be seen as being complimentary to roadside native vegetation conservation.

Country Fire Authority (CFA) Region 22, and surrounding Municipalities Fire Prevention Strategies and their requirements, have been used in developing this strategy to ensure that the Greater Shepparton City Council Strategy fits within the overall regional and state requirements.

The strategy shall be reviewed by the Municipal Fire Prevention Officer (MFPO) in conjunction with the Municipal Fire Prevention Committee (MFPC) and updated annually, with a major review every 3 years.

3.0 OBJECTIVES OF THE STRATEGY

The objectives of the Greater Shepparton City Council Fire Prevention strategy are as follows:

- The identification (including areas, buildings and land use), quantification, isolation and management of known priority fire risks within the Municipality.
- The provision of a managed, coordinated and systematic approach to fire risks management and minimisation throughout the Municipality.
- The identification of responsibilities for the management of the fire risks.
- The documentation and definition of the location and type of fire prevention works required.
- The provision of a basis upon which the Council will be able to consider its responsibilities, including those listed in the CFA Act 1958, and the allocation of resources towards fire prevention.
- To provide the basis for coordination of fire prevention works within the Municipality.
- The provision of a clear Municipal Works Program that addresses each priority risk identified in the Strategy.
- The identification of the roles and responsibilities of the Municipal Fire Prevention Committee in relation to fire safety.
- To enable any resident of the Municipality to clearly understand the problems and requirements associated with fire risks in relation to personal safety, water resources for fire fighting, topography, fire breaks and road access etc.
- To encourage Land-holders to take responsibility for fire safety on their own property.
- To provide a document that will assist in the protection of people, property and livestock within the Greater Shepparton City Council Municipal area.
- The co-ordination of fire prevention and mitigation works to ensure that all work is undertaken in an environmentally responsible manner and that conservation / environmental / landscape values are respected.
- The identification of priority accesses, both road and rail.
- The identification of roads suitable for use as Control Lines/Strategic Fuel Breaks.
- To ensure the adequate provision and maintenance of Fire Plugs and where appropriate, access to strategic water supplies in rural areas.

4.0 COLLABORATING/INTERESTED ORGANISATIONS

4.01 *Greater Shepparton City Council*

The Greater Shepparton City Council has the legislative responsibility for the preparation and maintenance of the Municipal Fire Prevention Strategy (S55A CFA Act).

It is critical that the Council and its Officers are committed to the Municipal Fire Prevention Committee and its members. This support is required to ensure that the strategies and actions outlined in this document are carried out. Such support will require the dedication of staff time and funds.

The Council is also directly responsible for fire prevention work as outlined in Section 6 of this document.

4.02 *Municipal Fire Prevention Committee (MFPC)*

It is recommended that the MFPC meet at least three times per year. There should be two meetings prior to the beginning of the fire season (September and November), to allow the Committee to review the effectiveness of the Fire Prevention Strategy and its strategies. The operation of fire suppression work should be reviewed and assessed at the third meeting (February), near the end of each fire season, to determine any changes required for future operations. Some of the meetings may be by tele-conference rather than by face to face meetings.

The Municipal Fire Prevention Officer (MFPO) will set the date for the meetings and post an agenda to all committee members with at least 2 weeks prior to the proposed meeting date.

4.03 *Country Fire Authority*

The control of the prevention and suppression of fires in the country area of Victoria is vested in the Country Fire Authority under the Country Fire Authority Act 1958. As part of its responsibility under the Act the CFA has the power and duty to audit Municipal Fire Prevention Strategies against Section 55a of the Act.

The CFA representatives on the MFPC provide advice and recommendations to Council on fire prevention works and in the preparation of the Municipal Fire Prevention Strategy. The CFA must audit the Municipal Fire Prevention Plan at least once every three years.

The Greater Shepparton City Council is entirely contained within the CFA Region 22.

4.04 *Department of Sustainability and Environment, & Parks Victoria*

The Department of Sustainability and Environment (DSE) together with Parks Victoria are responsible for the care and management of Crown Land within the Municipality, including fire prevention and the conservation of native species and acts in accordance with the Code of Practice for fire Management on Public Land.

DSE has specific fire prevention plans for certain selected areas under its control. These are detailed in Appendix L. Where specific Fire Prevention Plans are not available, the Department will endeavour to undertake the works as listed in Section 6.

4.05 Vic Roads

Vic Roads and its Contractors have the direct responsibility for the care and maintenance of the Highways within the Municipality. This responsibility includes fire prevention work.

Highways, due to the large width of paved area, can be very useful to establish Control Lines. Alternatively, the large number of vehicles using them can also lead to the highways being a potential source of ignition.

It should be noted that the Highways are shown in the Regional Fire Prevention Plan as Fuel Reduced Corridors and as such play a major part in this Strategy.

Details of Vic Roads commitment to fire prevention work are listed in Section 6.

4.06 V/Line

There are two rail-lines traversing the Municipality. As with the Highways these can both be a Control Line and a source of ignition.

Vic Track is responsible for the maintenance of the rail lines and the rail reserve within the Municipality. Details of V/Lines' commitment to fire prevention work are listed in Section 6.

4.07 Electrical Power Distribution Companies

Powercor is generally responsible for the distribution of electricity within the Municipality (66 kV lines and less). The majority of the distribution network is via overhead power lines. As evidenced in the Ash Wednesday fires it is critical that appropriate measures are taken to prevent fires originating from powerlines. This requires all vegetation to be kept clear of exposed power lines. Both the Municipality and Powercor (and Eastern Energy where appropriate) undertake this clearance work.

4.08 SPI Powernet

SPI Powernet is responsible for the distribution of high voltage electricity within the Municipality (220 kV and above). No trees are permitted on Powernet Easements. Powernet or its Contractors undertakes all clearance work.

4.09 Origin Energy

Origin Energy is responsible for the distribution of reticulated gas (515 kPa and less) throughout the Municipality. Ruptured gas mains can provide a severe fire risk although such occurrences are rare. The other major risk being that of escaping gas, where a service or main has been damaged or ruptured during the course of a fire.

4.10 GPU GasNet

GPU GasNet is responsible for the high-pressure transmission gas mains that traverse the Municipality. Ruptured gas mains would provide a severe fire risk although such occurrences are very rare. The other major risk being that of a valve enclosure being involved and damaged or ruptured during the course of a wild fire or other incident. GPU GasNet ensures that a strip of land 20 m wide is mown around all valve enclosures.

4.11 Goulburn Valley Water

Goulburn Valley Water is responsible for all reticulated urban water supply and sewage disposal within the Municipality.

Goulburn Valley Water has a critical role to play to ensure that water supplies are maintained in the event of a major fire incident within the area of the reticulated water supply system.

4.12 Goulburn Murray Water

Goulburn Murray Water is responsible for the operation of irrigation distribution channels, dams, lakes, and stock and domestic water diversion from streams. Goulburn Murray Water is responsible for the management of its assets, and the undertaking of fire prevention and fuel reduction works as part of their asset management.

The primary distribution channels may impede the progress of a fire but they also restrict access across them.

4.13 Goulburn –Broken Catchment Management Authority

The Goulburn Broken Catchment Management Authority is responsible for service delivery for waterways (rivers and streams) and floodplain management.

Although the Goulburn – Broken Catchment Authority is not the manager of the land, the spreading of fires is a consideration when undertaking new vegetation plantations.

4.14 Local Reserves Committees of Management

There are a considerable number of reserves throughout the Municipality, which are under the management of local Committees of Management. These Committees are responsible for fire prevention on those reserves. The extent of fire prevention work undertaken on those reserves should be determined after consultation with the local Fire Brigade.

4.15 Landcare

There are very active Landcare groups within the Municipality. Their main objective is to ensure the sustainable use of and the rehabilitation of the natural environment.

One of the activities undertaken by Landcare Groups is the planting of trees. It is acknowledged that trees play a vital part in the preservation of a healthy environment. However the location of trees can also be critical in the spread of wild fire and the safety of buildings. Tree planting on roads should only be undertaken after consultation with the Municipality, and should always have fuse breaks incorporated in any linear plantations.

Trees with a low degree of fire resistance should not be planted within the fuel reduced zone around buildings.

It must be noted that, pursuant to the Road Management Act 2004, a permit from Vic Roads is required before any trees can be planted, vegetation destroyed or areas ploughed, on the Highway/Main Roads Road Reserve. VicRoads will not grant permits to private landowners for fire prevention works on roadsides.

It is important that a high level of cooperation between all parties involved is maintained, to ensure the environment is managed in a manner that gives the highest benefit to all members of the community. This is particularly critical in minimising the threat to people and property from wildfire.

5.0 EXISTING CONDITIONS OVERVIEW

5.01 The Municipality

The Greater Shepparton City Council has an area of 2,422 square km, and a population of approximately 60,000, with major centres being Shepparton 28,900, Mooroopna 6,900 and Tatura 2,900. Other towns include Murchison, Merrigum, Tallygaroopna and Dookie.

The economy of the region revolves around a rich agricultural sector and food processing industries.

The land use is predominantly agricultural with high intensity dairying and fruit growing in the irrigated areas. Mixed farming predominates outside the irrigated areas, which includes wool, cattle and cropping.

The Municipality is well serviced by roads, however some roads within the Crown Land areas are of low quality. The Midland Highway, the Goulburn Valley Highway, and the rail lines to Shepparton, Dookie and Echuca also traverse the Municipality. These provide a high risk of potential fire ignition, whilst at the same time forming important fuel reduced corridors.

The Goulburn River, Broken River and major irrigation distribution channels provide major physical barriers across the Municipality. These form a natural firebreak, but also severely limit access to either side.

The Municipality is also traversed by a large number of creeks. These creeks may form a minimum fire break, but in many instances creek crossing is difficult as the creek gullies are deeply embedded in the surrounding land and access from one side to the other is often difficult.

5.02 Brigades and Recent Fires

Although there is a fire season every year, there have been only a small number of major outbreaks in the last 10 years. There was a large commitment of personnel and resources made by the fire services, from the Municipality to the 2006/07 North East fires. The most notable structure fire within the Municipality was the Anspac Cool-store fire in August 1997 that caused damage in the order of \$11,000,000.

There are 22 Fire Brigades that have all or part of their area within the Greater Shepparton City Council area. They are as follows:

Arcadia, Caniambo, Cooma, Cosgrove & Pine Lodge, Currawa, Dookie, Earlston, Katandra, Karramous, Kialla & District, Merrigum, Moorilim, Mooroopna, North West Mooroopna, Murchison, Stewarton, Shepparton, Shepparton East, Tallygaroopna, Tatura, Toolamba, and Undera.

All Brigades are well equipped, with a number of the brigades having four-wheel drive vehicles.

6.0 PRIORITY RISKS

6.01 *Priority Risks Summary*

Dwellings	The risks directly associated with the building, its contents and inhabitants irrespective of the location.
Townships	The risks relating to the land including vacant land, parks and reserves within the township, road reserves and the availability of water for fire fighting.
Rural Residential	The risks relating to the land for larger allotments outside the townships, the provision of access and services, and outbuilding located on those allotments.
Industrial	The risks relating to the building, operation, process, materials used and stored, and land associated with the premises irrespective of the location.
Commercial	The risks relating to the building, operation, goods stored, and land associated with the premises within the townships. Commercial premises do not include those where accommodation is provided.
Healthcare	The risks relating to the building, occupants, operation, goods stored, and land associated with the premises within the townships.
Public Accommodation & Tourist Facilities	The risks relating to the building, occupants, operation, and land associated with the premises irrespective of the location. Public accommodation premises are those where people are able to sleep overnight.
Public Assembly & Entertainment Venues	The risks relating to the building, occupants, and land associated with the premises irrespective of the location. People to not sleep over night at these premises unless special arrangement have been made and the relevant approvals obtained. Night clubs, cinemas, schools and preschools are included in this category.
Rural	The risks relating to the land for large allotments outside the townships and rural residential areas; the provision of access and water supplies, and outbuilding located on those allotments.
Transport	The risks relating to airports, and road and rail network, and the adjoining reserves and vegetation.
Special Risks	These are specific risks not included above.

6.02 Dwellings

6.02.01 Context

The residential population of the Municipality is spread with widely varying density throughout its length and breadth. The majority of the population of the Municipality resides within the cities of Mooroopna and Shepparton; the towns of Dookie, Murchison, Tallygaroopna, Tatura and Toolamba; and the rural districts of Arcadia, Bunbartha, Byrneside, Caniambo, Cosgrove, Congupna, Katandra, Kialla, Lancaster, Moorilim, Nalinga, Pine Lodge, Tamleugh and Undera.

There is a wide diversity of life styles and dwelling types within the general population.

Statistics indicate that burns and other associated injuries, particularly to children, occur far too frequently and the highest cause of fire related death originate from fires in the home. In the two years prior to April 2007, there were 2.5 deaths of children under 14 years old and in the fire year period 2000 to 2005 there were 333 hospital admissions for burns and scalds. 72% of the burns and scalds were for children under five years of age.

6.02.02 Risks, Strategies, Programs and Actions

Risk		Objective	Treatment/Program/Action	Responsibility	Others Involved	Time Frame
Details	Rating					
Loss of life.	Significant	Maintain nil level	Community Education targeting smoke detector and burning off requirements using the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brigades in schools (Home Fire Safety) • CFA mobile education unit (Home Fire Safety) - (Wen Available) • 6 monthly articles in the Shepparton News and Local Media. Information to be provided in languages other than English as deemed appropriate by the MFPO.	Municipality – MFPO & CFA -CEC	Fire Brigades	Ongoing.
Personal injury.	Significant	Minimise incidence and severity.	Inspect new and altered dwellings for smoke detector installation. Undertake random 24 checks per year of existing dwellings.	Municipal-MBS & Private Building Surveyors		Ongoing
Property loss.	High	Minimise incidence and severity	Home Help and Home Carers should be provided with Fire Safety Awareness training to reinforce the residential fire safety needs and requirements with those they provide services to. (Private Provider to provide training)	Municipality - MFPO	CFA-CEC	Ongoing Annually
			Home Carers to check for smoke detector operation when in dwellings.	Municipality - MFPO	CFA-CEC	Ongoing.
			Home Carers to be provided with training in smoke detector operation testing.	Municipality – Manager – Home Care	CFA-CEC	Ongoing.

6.03 Townships (Residential-General)

6.03.01 Context

The major cities within the Municipality are Mooroopna and Shepparton. Other population centres that may be classed as 'Townships' are Dookie, Dookie College, Katandra West, Merrigum, Murchison, Tallygaroopna, Tatura and Toolamba.

Some of these towns are located near rivers or streams and/or heavily timbered areas, and can be characterised as having many older timber buildings, an irregular layout, and in some cases are heavily treed. The random residential development, undeveloped lots and irregular street layout of these towns has created pockets of vegetation and areas of poor access within the residential areas. The moderate rainfall and associated vegetation growth further complicate this.

Neglected areas of land or buildings can pose a significant fire risk to the adjoining landholders/occupiers and wider community.

The vegetation patterns throughout the towns requires regular maintenance clearance to exposed aerial power conductors, hence also requiring regular inspection programs.

The cities of Mooroopna and Shepparton and the towns of Dookie, Dookie College, Katandra West, Merrigum, Murchison, Tallygaroopna, Tatura and Toolamba are provided with a reliable reticulated water supply that is available for fighting purposes. The availability of the supply needs to be regularly checked to ensure its continued availability at all points within the Township.

6.03.02 Risks, Strategies, Programs and Actions

Risk		Objective	Treatment/Program/Action	Responsibility	Others Involved	Time Frame
Details	Rating					
Property loss and loss of personal effects.	Significant	Minimisation of loss of property and personal effects.	Undertake property inspections under Section 41 of the CFA Act in conjunction with local CFA Brigades. Issue Fire Prevention Notices to owner/occupier who's property contains a fire /potential fire hazard.	Municipality - MFPO	Owner / Occupier/ Brigades	Early November Annually - Ongoing
Loss of life and personal effects.	Significant	Maintain nil loss of life and minimise personal injury	Undertake/coordinate inspection and maintenance of fire plugs and markers.	Municipality- MFPO	Brigades & Water Supply Authority	Ongoing.
Environmental damage	Moderate	Minimise damage	Community Education targeting fire hazard removal and burning off requirements using the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6 monthly articles in the Shepparton News and Local Media. Information to be provided in languages other than English as deemed appropriate by the MFPO.	Municipality MFPO	Fire Brigades/ CFA-CEC	Ongoing
			Undertake clearance of vegetation from power lines in the Declared Areas in accordance with the Code of Practice.	Municipality – Manager Waste & Open Space		Annually – Ongoing.

6.04 Expanding Urban Development/Urban Bushland/Rural Residential

6.04.01 Context

Rural residential areas are spread, with widely varying density, throughout the Municipality. This Risk Environment does not include those risks relating to any dwelling that may be contained on the property. (For details relating to dwelling see Section 6.02).

The expansion of residential development into rural areas can significantly increase the exposure of the residents of those areas to the impact of wildfire. Many Semi-Rural Residential developments may contain special fire related risk environments requiring specialised treatment, particularly where the residential areas adjoin or are in close proximity to bushland. These areas are recognised within the Wildfire Management Overlay.

The occurrence of isolated single dwellings specifically designed for the 'Isolated Lifestyle' is increasing. Fire related risks associated with these types of dwellings include isolation, restricted access, a lack of available water and vulnerable construction materials and design.

The residents at these premises may be absent during the week and/or absent for extended periods of many months. In some cases these properties contain unsightly land and a considerable accumulation of rubbish often as a result of bad housekeeping practices.

Planning Permits are generally required for all new developments in these locations and contain requirements for water supply, access and fuel reduced zones surrounding buildings.

The provision of electrical power by the use of exposed overhead conductors has a high potential for the occurrence of fire necessitating regular inspections/maintenance of the assets throughout the area

These areas generally are not provided with a reticulated water supply necessitating the use of dams and storage tanks, that are in turn dependant on annual rainfall and supplementation by other means when required.

6.04.02 Risk Environments, Strategies, Programs and Actions

Risk		Objective	Treatment/Program/Action	Responsibility	Others Involved	Time Frame
Details	Rating					
Loss of life from the effects of uncontrolled fire (external to the building).	Significant	Maintain nil level	Ensure that water for fire fighting purposes and access requirements for any new development and/or subdivision meet the provisions as required in the 'Planning Guidelines for Subdivisions' (Country Fire Authority 1991).	Municipality - Manager Planning	CFA-FSO/MFPO	Ongoing
Loss of property from the effects of uncontrolled fire (external to the building).	Significant	Minimise incidence and severity.	Consider fire safety issues in conjunction with consultation with the CFA when considering Outline Development Plans for major expansions to urban areas.	Municipality – Planners	CFA-FSO/MFPO	Ongoing
Personal injury as a result of the effects of uncontrolled fire (external to the building).	Moderate	Minimise incidence and severity.	Community Education targeting fire hazard removal and burning off requirements using the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6 monthly articles in the Shepparton News and Local Media. 	Municipality – MFPO	CFA-CEC & Fire Brigades	Ongoing
Environmental damage and loss of habitat	Significant	Minimise incidence and severity.	Information to be provided in languages other than English as deemed appropriate by the MFPO.			
			Enforcement of Planning provisions. Undertake 2 inspections per year.	Municipality – Planners	CFA-FSO	Ongoing
			Inspection of all properties within all urban areas to ensure that there are no unacceptable fire hazards. The issuing of notices and appropriate follow up for the removal of fire hazards in Urban areas as required under Section 41 of the CFA Act.	Municipality - MFPO	CFA-FSO & Fire Brigades	Late Spring Annually - Ongoing

6.05 Industrial

6.05.01 Context

There is a significant number of large regionally based industries within the Municipality that rely on the supply of raw materials from the local area. The major industries at risk are the food processing plants, cool-stores, timber processing plants, engineering/fabrication works, and bulk fuel depots. There are a number of risks associated with these industries that include fire, hazardous materials spills (both storage and transport), and environmental damage from pollution and/or spillage.

There are a number of smaller depots and industries that are located within all the townships where smaller amounts of dangerous goods are stored. This has in turn lead to an abundance of chemicals and dangerous goods being stored and used throughout the Municipality. Storage volumes are generally very low and therefore their use is not obvious to anyone other than the proprietors.

Due to changes in ownership and operation, there can be significant areas of neglected land or vacant buildings where rubbish and general fire hazards accumulate.

Generally the controls on Industries are quite stringent and hence the likelihood of any major incident is low. However should a major incident occur, there would be a significant impact on the community both economic and potentially to life.

6.05.02 Risks, Strategies, Programs and Actions

Risk		Objective	Treatment/Program/Action	Responsibility	Others Involved	Time Frame
Details	Rating					
Loss of life and personal injury from the effects of uncontrolled fire.	significant	Minimise incidence and severity.	When inspecting buildings, ensure that the Fire Protection Equipment including appropriate signage is in place and functioning as required by the relevant legislation	Municipality-MBS / CFA-FSO		Ongoing.
Property loss and resultant Economic loss both Public and Private.	Significant	Minimise incidence and severity.	Ensure that water for fire fighting purposes and access requirements meet the provisions required by the Referral Authority (CFA).	Municipality-Manager Planning	CFA-FSO	Ongoing.
Environmental damage.	Significant	Minimise incidence and severity.	Inspection of all properties within all urban areas to ensure that there are no unacceptable fire hazards. The issuing of notices and appropriate follow up for the removal of fire hazards in the Township areas as required under Section 41 of the CFA Act.	Municipality-MFPO	Brigades	Early November - Ongoing.
			Community Education including details in accordance with the Emergency Manual eg Dangerous Goods audits requirements using the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6 monthly articles in the Shepparton News and Local Media. Information to be provided in languages other than English as deemed appropriate by the MFPO.	Municipality-MFPO	CFA-FSO/WorkCover Authority	Ongoing.

6.06 Commercial

6.06.01 Context

There are a number of vibrant major Commercial Centres within the Municipality that are located within cities of Mooroopna and Shepparton and the towns of Dookie, Murchison, Tallygaroopna, Tatura and Toolamba; with isolated establishments located within the other Villages and Hamlets. There are a number of risks associated with the occurrence of fire related to these commercial centres that include; a higher concentration of flammable materials and the proximity to other similar premises. The loss of these premises as a result of fire, may result in major economic loss and the loss of employment.

Due to the nature and operation of the Commercial Premises, shortfalls in the provision of adequate house-keeping practises and general fire safety can raise the level of risk to the general public and the owners/employees.

6.06.02 Risks, Strategies, Programs and Actions

Risk		Objective	Treatment/Program/Action	Responsibility	Others Involved	Time Frame
Details	Rating					
Loss of life from the effects of uncontrolled fire.	Significant	Maintain current nil level.	Risk management, including the inspection of Essential Safety Measures. A minimum of 12 properties per year on a random basis as necessary. Provide information to owners/occupiers as required. Follow up with inspections and application of enforcement under the BCA as necessary.	Municipality – MBS		Ongoing
Loss of property from the effects of uncontrolled fire.	Significant	Minimise incidence and severity.	Include information about fire hazards in Commercial Areas in Column in the Shepparton News and Local Media, 6 monthly. The information will be provided in languages other than English as deemed appropriate by the MFPO.	Municipality – MFPO		Ongoing
Personal injury from the effects of uncontrolled fire.	Moderate	Minimise incidence and severity.	When inspecting buildings, ensure that exits are unobstructed and functioning as required by the relevant legislation.	Municipality - MBS & CFA-FSO		Ongoing
Environmental damage.	Significant	Minimise incidence and severity.	Ensure that water for fire fighting purposes and access requirements meet the provisions required by the Referral Authority (CFA).	Municipality - Planners	CFA-FSO	Ongoing
			When inspecting buildings, ensure that the Fire Protection Equipment including appropriate signage is in place and functioning as required by the relevant legislation.	Municipality - MBS & CFA-FSO	FEM Brigades	Ongoing

6.07 Health Care

6.07.01 Context

There are Health Care Centres located in Shepparton, Mooroopna, Tatura and Murchison. By nature they contain a population that in general are dependent on outside assistance for mobility, day to day living, control and direction. Consequently this group that encompasses; special accommodation, nursing homes, hostels and hospitals are very vulnerable to a wide range of events.

There is a risk inherent in all these facilities of multiple injuries and loss of life should a significant incident occur. Generally fire controls are high (eg fire protection equipment and structural safety), however any incident involving these premises, taking participant numbers into consideration, can lead to major consequences.

6.07.02 Risks, Strategies, Programs and Actions

Risk		Objective	Treatment/Program/Action	Responsibility	Others Involved	Time Frame
Details	Rating					
Loss of life from the affects of uncontrolled fire.	Significant	Maintain current nil level.	Identify and maintain a database of at risk premises. Details to be placed in Appendix F.	Municipality – MFPO/MBS	Department of Health & Community Services, CFA-FSO & WorkCover Authority	December 2007 and then updated annually-ongoing.
Loss of property from the affects of uncontrolled fire.	Significant	Reduce incidence and severity	Risk management, including the inspection of a minimum of 5 properties per year and encourage compliance with the BCA where necessary.	Municipality - MBS & CFA -FSO	WorkCover Authority & Fire Brigades	Ongoing
Environment al damage.	Moderate	Maintain current nil level.				

6.08 Public Accommodation and Tourist Facilities

6.08.01 Context

There is a wide variety and range of these premises within the Municipality with a ranging from hotels and caravan parks to hostels for the aged. The type, size and age of the premises has a very significant impact on the potential for the loss of both life and/or property. As a general rule these types of premises can contain a high number of people who will be sleeping on the premises and are unfamiliar with their surroundings, are exposed to varying standards of serviceability, and different or a lack of safety procedures. In some cases the occupants have very little control over their surroundings and invariably have little interest in the risks associated with the accommodation.

In some instances a lack of knowledge or commitment by the operators of the premises leads to a situation where the premises do not comply with safety requirements.

Although the likelihood of a large fire in these premises or facilities is rare, the consequence in the event of fire is major (loss life).

6.08.02 Risk Environments, Strategies, Programs and Actions

Risk		Objective	Treatment/Program/Action	Responsibility	Others Involved	Time Frame
Details	Rating					
Loss of life.	High	Maintain current nil level.	Fire Prevention Planning. Develop a database of all at risk premises. Details to be added in Appendix G. Analyse database for risk and rank in priority order.	Municipality – MFPO/MBS	CFA-FSO, & DSE	December 2007 and then updated on an ongoing basis.
Loss of property.	Significant	Reduce incidence and severity	Risk management, including the collection Annual Essential Safety Measure Reports for a minimum of 5 properties per year on a random basis and application of enforcement under the BCA where necessary.	Municipality - MBS	CFA-FSO & Hospitality Industry	Commence December 2007 then annually ongoing.
Economic loss both Public and Private.	High (Non Urban)	Reduce incidence and severity	Environmental Health Officers to recognise fire risks in Caravan Parks in accordance with Emergency Management Plans. Particular attention to be made in relation to requirement under the Residential Tenancies and Movable Dwelling Act & Regulations and the 'Caravan Park Fire Safety Guidelines'-Published by the CFA 2006.	Municipality-Manager Sustainability & Environment	CFA-FSO	Ongoing.
	Low (Urban)		Environmental Health Officers to recognise fire risks in registered premises. EHO's to be provided with a Checklist to be used when undertaking their inspections on Registered Premises.	Municipality – Manager Sustainability & Environment	Municipality -MBS	Ongoing.
			When inspecting buildings, ensure that the Fire Protection Equipment including appropriate signage is in place and functioning as required by the relevant legislation.	Municipality – MBS/CFA - FSO	CFA-FSO	Ongoing.
			When inspecting buildings, ensure that exits are unobstructed and functioning as required by the relevant legislation.	Municipality – MBS / CFA - FSO	CFA-FSO	Ongoing.
			Ensure that water for fire fighting purposes and access requirements meet the provisions as required by Referral Authorities.	Municipality – Manager Planning	CFA-FSO & DSE	Ongoing.

6.09 Public Assembly and Entertainment Venues

6.09.01 Context

There are two levels of risk. A number of these premises within the Municipality including public theatres, public halls, outdoor festivals/public entertainment/events, sporting complexes, churches, TAFE Colleges, schools, preschools and childcare centres are relatively low risk. The high risk premises could include night clubs, and special events. Each facility or premises has its own particular risk that will require individual evaluation.

As a general rule these types of premises can contain a high number of people who will be gathering together on the premises and are unfamiliar with their surroundings. These premises have varying standards of maintenance, and have a varying or lack of safety procedures. In some instances a lack of knowledge or commitment by the operators of the premises leads to a situation where the premises do not comply with safety requirements.

The occupants generally have very little control over their surroundings and invariably have little interest in the risks associated with the premises.

Although the likelihood of a large fire in these premises or facilities is rare, the consequence in the event of fire is major (loss life). Past experience has shown that fires in dance halls or similar locations can have catastrophic consequences.

6.09.02 Risks, Strategies, Programs and Actions

Risk		Objective	Treatment/Program/Action	Responsibility	Others Involved	Time Frame
Details	Rating					
Loss of life from the affects of uncontrolled fire.	Significant	Maintain current nil level.	Fire Prevention Planning. Develop a database of all high risk buildings and events. Details to be added in Appendix H. Analyse database for risk and rank in priority order and determine inspection needs.	Municipality - MFPO/MBS	CFA-FSO, WorkCover Authority & Dpt Health	Commence December 2007 then annually ongoing
Loss of property from the affects of uncontrolled fire.	High	Reduce incidence and severity	Risk management, including the inspection of properties where necessary.	Municipality – MBS/Planning /Local Laws (As Required)	CFA-FSO, WorkCover Authority & Dpt Health	Ongoing
Social/ Economic loss both Public and Private.	Significant	Reduce incidence and severity	Ensure that water for fire fighting purposes and access requirements meet the provisions required by the Referral Authority (CFA).	Municipality – Town Planners	CFA-FSO	Ongoing.
			When inspecting buildings, ensure that the Fire Protection Equipment including appropriate signage is in place and functioning as required by the relevant legislation.	Municipality – MBS/ CFA-FSO		Ongoing.
			When inspecting buildings, ensure that exits are unobstructed and functioning as required by the relevant legislation.	Municipality – MBS/ CFA-FSO		Ongoing.

Risk		Objective	Treatment/Program/Action	Responsibility	Others Involved	Time Frame
Details	Rating					
			The provision of fire prevention information from Event Operators for distribution to participants, and all relevant authorities.	Event /Facility Operator	Municipality – Special Events Manager, Relevant Building Surveyor, DSE , CFA - CEC Parks Victoria, & Brigades	Ongoing
			Ensure that Planning Permits for events on private property include the requirement to provide approved Emergency Management Plans.	Municipality – Planning Officer	Referral Authorities	Ongoing

6.10 Rural

6.10.01 Context

There is a wildfire season most years with a serious threat being experienced during periods of extended low rainfall. The topography ranges from broad open valleys with tree lined rivers and creeks that are used for grazing and cropping, to flat irrigated land, hence there is a significant variation of risk across the Municipality. Specific risk areas are identified in the Wild Fire Management Overlay Maps. The occurrences of fires during dry years are predominantly caused by natural events (lightning) and accidental/ malicious man made ignitions.

During average climatic years fire activity is generally extinguished by conventional suppression efforts. Although significant fire weather is experienced throughout the summer period these are usually isolated events. Severe fire risk is associated with low summer rainfall years followed by the occurrence of hot dry conditions and the depletion of water supplies. High winter and spring rainfall can cause excessive vegetation cover which when dried increases the fuel load and associated risk. This phenomenon creates a volatile and hazardous situation. Fires experienced during these periods have the potential to cause significant loss of life and major destruction to natural resources, communities and the environment.

The mitigation of fire is an essential activity throughout the Municipality, concentrating on those areas that statistically indicate frequent causes of fires including power-lines, vehicle/machinery malfunction, lighting strikes and specific human activities (eg angle grinders etc).

Some rural activities require control burning to remove excess vegetative material. If the control measures are not undertaken correctly this can pose a significant risk to adjoining landholders/occupiers and the wider community.

The fruit growing areas pose a special risk during the fruit picking season when a large number of casual labours are employed. Many of these casual labours have little knowledge of the risks or fire hazards involved with their work or place of employment.

Scattered smaller lots are sometimes occupied by absentee landowners. These lots and the buildings on them can become neglected and contain significant fuel loads and general debris.

The major distribution channels can contain significant fuel loads as well as being a significant obstacle to the passage of fire fighting vehicles.

Access is limited in some locations, particularly along the major river frontages. The provision of fire brigade support in these locations by road in a bushfire situation is difficult increasing the time taken for ground fire crews to reach the scene of the fire.

6.10.02 Risk Environments, Strategies, Programs and Actions

Risk		Objective	Treatment/Program/Action	Responsibility	Others Involved	Time Frame
Details	Rating					
Loss of life due to passage of wildfire.	High	Maintain current nil level.	Alleviate the risk through strategic identification of priority access roads, control lines, and fire Access Roads and, undertake maintenance as required. Undertake appropriate works to ensure the safety of the travelling public and provide safe access for Emergency Services in the time of fire.	Municipality - MFPO	MFPC, DSE, VicRoads & Local Brigades	August – November Annually Ongoing.
Loss of property due to the passage of wildfire.	High	Reduce incidence and severity	Hazard minimisation around critical assets in accordance with AS 4360-2004 Risk Management.	Asset Owner	Municipality - MFPO	Ongoing
Loss of infrastructure due to passage of wildfire.	High	Maintain current nil level.	Community Education targeting fire hazard removal and burning off requirements using the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6 monthly articles in the Shepparton News and Local Media. Information to be provided in languages other than English as deemed appropriate by the MFPO.	Municipality - MFPO & CFA-CEC	Landholder, DSE, Landcare, Trust for Nature & Local Brigades	Updated annually, ongoing.
Loss of livestock due to the passage of wildfire.	Significant	Reduce incidence and severity	Provide an information bulletin about fire hazards in rural locations to the Fruit Processing Company for distribution to all supplying landholders to distribute to their casual labourers. The information will be provided in languages other than English as deemed appropriate by the MFPO.	Municipality - MFPO	CFA-CEC	November Annually - Ongoing.
Social/ Economic loss both Public and Private.	Low	Reduce incidence and severity	Provide an information bulletin about fire hazards in rural locations to the Fruit Picking Labour Exchange for distribution to all people applying for casual fruit picking work. The information will be provided in languages other than English as deemed appropriate by the MFPO.	Municipality - MFPO	CFA-CEC	November Annually - Ongoing.

Risk		Objective	Treatment/Program/Action	Responsibility	Others Involved	Time Frame
Details	Rating					
Environmental damage/loss.	Significant	Reduce incidence and severity	Ensure that water for fire fighting purposes and access requirements meet the provisions required by the Referral Authority (CFA).	Municipality – Town Planners	CFA-FSO	Ongoing.
			Community Education targeting all farming activities requirements using the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6 monthly articles in the Shepparton News and Local Media and Local Media. 	Municipality - MFPO & CFA-CEC	Landholder, DPI & Local Brigades	Ongoing.
			Issue permits to burn in accordance with the agreed policy	Municipality - MFPO	CFA –OM, MFPC & Brigades	Ongoing.
			Ensure uniformity between Municipal Fire Prevention Plan and the DSE Northeast Region Fire Prevention Plan	Municipality – MFPO/DSE FMO		Ongoing.
			Develop a database of all critical assets and inspect 4 per year on a random basis. Application of enforcement where necessary.	Municipality - MFPO	Municipality - GIS	Commence November 2007 then ongoing

6.11 Transport

6.11.01 Context

The Midland Highway, the Goulburn Valley Highway, and the rail lines to Shepparton, Dookie and Echuca traverse the Municipality. These links are critical to economy of the region, as the Greater City region is one of the biggest road freight centres in the nation outside of Melbourne and Sydney. These transport links however provide a potential fire ignition source due to vehicle malfunction, accident or inappropriate disposal by the users of burning material such as cigarettes.

All roads carry traffic to various degrees, depending on their location. The higher the traffic usage, the higher is the requirement for the road to be able to provide safe passage for vehicles during a wild fire and to provide an area for refuge on the road shoulder.

There are a wide variety of dangerous goods transported with the ever-present potential for incidents involving loss or damage to those goods.

The vegetation on the road reserve varies significantly from open grass land to that of the bushed hills, giving a wide range of risk environments and hence the associated treatments must vary accordingly.

6.11.02 Risk Environments, Strategies, Programs and Actions

Risk		Objective	Treatment/Program/Action	Responsibility	Others Involved	Time Frame
Details	Rating					
Loss of life from the affects of uncontrolled fire.	Significant	Maintain current nil level.	Liaison with Vic Roads and V Line to ensure that fuel reduction works on the land under their control is optimised and undertaken prior to December each year.	Municipality – MFPO & CFA-MCS	Brigades	October Annually – Ongoing.
Loss of property from the affects of uncontrolled fire.	Significant	Reduce incidence and severity.	Alleviate the risk through strategic identification of priority access roads, control lines, and fire Access Roads and, undertake maintenance as required. Undertake appropriate works to ensure the safety of the travelling public and provide safe access for Emergency Services in the time of fire.	Municipality - MFPO, VicRoads, Public Transport Corporation, DSE & CFA -MCS	WorkCover Authority, Landholders	August to November Annually
Environmental damage.	Significant	Prevention/reduction of environmental damage as a result of uncontrolled fire.				

VicRoads requires that local land holders and Brigades wishing to undertake fire prevention work along the road frontage of Highways and Freeways under the direct control of VicRoads must obtain approval. The application shall be in accordance with the process defined in the CFA Guidelines and Procedures for Rural Roadside Fire Management Works prior to undertaking any work. (It should be noted that no new ploughed or graded fire-breaks will be approved).

6.12 Special

6.12.01 Context

Each Fire Brigade within their own locality will identify these risks. These identified risks should have adequate water storage for fire fighting purposes, appropriate fire suppression equipment and ready access provided for Fire Fighting Vehicles at the site.

The following specific sites have been identified:

- Goulburn Valley Aero Club
- Undera Speedway
- Shepparton Aerodrome
- Ardmona Kids Town
- Causeway
- Fuel Reduction burning along the Broken River at Kialla and along the Murchison East Road at Moorilim
- Forest Bike Paths
- Maude Street Mall

6.12.02 Risks, Strategies, Programs and Actions

Risk		Objective	Treatment/Program/Action	Responsibility	Others Involved	Time Frame
Details	Rating					
Loss of life from the affects of uncontrolled fire.	High Moderate Significant	Prevention of loss of life and injury reduction.	The provision of fire prevention information from Event Operators for distribution to participants, and all relevant authorities.	Event /Facility Operator	Municipality – Special Events Manager/ Special Events Manager , Relevant Building Surveyor, DSE , CFA - CEC Parks Victoria, & Brigades	Ongoing
Loss of property from the affects of uncontrolled fire.			Liaise with management, facility operators and local authorities to encourage familiarity with emergency response plans and practises.	Event /Facility Operator		
Environmental Damage		Reduce incidence and occurrence.				

7.0 PUBLIC SAFETY

7.01 *Fire Refuge*

It is generally accepted that the home should be safe from fire. However recent experience has shown that, without adequate attention to the removal of hazards and proper construction practices, the home may offer limited protection.

If the home has been properly prepared, the chances of the home surviving the passage of a fire front are greatly increased by the occupants remaining and being able to extinguish any ember ignitions.

The CFA advises residents that is a safe and worthwhile option to stay and defend their home during wildfire if.

- They are physically able and mentally prepared to defend their home and
- They have a well prepared home with adequate defensible space.

Residents are advised to leave the area well before the fire arrives if:

- They do not have the physical capacity and psychological readiness to actively defend their house and will not be supported by others in the household the house is likely to be subject to excessive amounts of radiant heat and direct flame contact due to extreme fuel loads touching or very close to the house.

7.02 *Community Fire Refuges*

A fire refuge is a place or building designated for public use where people may seek short-term shelter from the fire front during a wildfire.

There are no identified fire refuges within the Municipality.

7.03 *Buffer Zones*

Buffer zones are a tool used in the treatment of a variety of situations. Eg:

- Community assets.
- Individual dwellings
- Golf courses or parks located in a strategic position.
- High density population areas.

Further details will be provided when the appropriate information becomes available.

7.04 *Evacuation*

It is acknowledged that people can only be advised to evacuate and no person can be forced to leave. The CFA encourages early evacuation where the decision to evacuate has been made or planned.

8.0 CONSERVATION STRATEGY

Since European settlement there has been a very significant impact on native flora and fauna. In many instances road reserves contain the only remaining indicators of the original flora of the region, and also act as habitat for rare and endangered species. The remnant native vegetation on roadsides is genetically and physically diverse and acts as wildlife corridors that are critical to the long-term survival of some species and general bio-diversity. To assist in the preservation of native flora and fauna the Greater Shepparton City Council has a Roadside Management Plan. This Plan details the requirements for the preservation of the remaining roadside native vegetation within the Municipality. The classification within this Plan of roads into high, medium and low conservation value has considerable importance when considering fire prevention works on roadsides. The Roadside Management Plan specifically details the means by which roadside fire prevention work (including fuel reduction works) and the retention of roadside vegetation can be both undertaken. It's of critical importance that the details given within this Strategy coincide with the needs and requirements of the Roadside Management Plan.

As mentioned in section 4.15, 'Landcare' planting of trees on the sides of roads is now seen as critical for the conservation of natural flora and fauna in some localities. However the fire risk involved with roadside plantations also has to be considered.

Inappropriate works or works undertaken at the wrong time can destroy the native vegetation and allow exotic species to gain a foothold. Generally these exotic species require more fire prevention works to be undertaken than the original native vegetation. In all fire prevention works undertaken on roadsides, care must be taken to ensure that the works disadvantage weed species and enhance, or at least do not degrade the native vegetation. A good reference guide for this work is the 'Roadside Management Guidelines - For Fire Prevention Planners' prepared by the CFA.

9.0 DECLARED FIRE DANGER PERIOD

The recommended date for the introduction and termination of the Declared Fire Danger Period shall generally be determined by the CFA after consultation with the Group Officers the MFPO and DSE.

10.0 ADDITIONAL MUNICIPAL RESPONSIBILITIES

- The provision of plant, equipment and personnel to support fire-fighting activities. This would include, but not be limited to, the provision of water tankers, graders and loaders. Such instructions would be the responsibility of the Municipal Emergency Response Officer (MERO).
- The planning, provision and siting of supportive equipment in appropriate locations prior to the summer fire danger period.
- The maintenance and checking, in conjunction with the Local Fire Brigades, of fireplugs and surrounds. This includes plug maintenance costs, the installation of signs, marker posts and covers. All fireplugs are to be clean, and accessible. The responsibility to ensure that the plugs are fully functional rests with the appropriate Water Authority. The MFPO is to liaise with Brigades in relation to fire plugs.
- The issue of Permits to Burn in accordance with the details provided in Appendix M.
- The support of the MFPO to ensure that sufficient time is allocated to Municipal Fire Prevention work and that the MFPO is adequately trained.

11.0 ADDITIONAL BRIGADE RESPONSIBILITIES

- The provision of delegates to Municipal Fire Prevention Committee meetings.
- The identification of fire hazards and notification of those hazards to the Municipal Fire Prevention Officer where appropriate.
- Whilst it is acknowledged that there is no legal responsibility to undertake the work, Fire Brigades are encouraged to undertake the cleaning and checking of fire plugs. Due to the very large number of fire plugs within the Shepparton Fire Brigade's area it is recognised that this Brigade's responsibility is limited to checking the fire plugs in the Commercial and Industrial areas only. Where work is required the Brigade is to notify the MFPO in writing, in order that the appropriate remedial work can be undertaken. It must also be noted that Goulburn Valley Water has directed that Fire Brigades must not check for water availability whilst undertaking their fire plug checking work.
- Assisting with the promotion and provision of the Fire Safety Message within their local community.

12.0 REVIEW OF THE STRATEGY

As this Strategy has been in place for some time, it is thought appropriate that it be updated annually with a major review undertaken every 3-years.

APPENDIX A

DEFINITIONS

Buffer Zones

A zone that includes an area of minimum fuel or a vegetative hazard (forest, long grass, etc) that is maintained in a fuel reduced condition.

Bush Fire Prone Areas

All or part of a Municipal district that has been designated bushfire prone for the purpose of the Building Act 1993.

Class 1 buildings constructed in a designated bushfire prone area shall be provided with a greater resistance to wildfire to reduce the danger to life and reduce the risk of loss of the building.

Control Line

Is an inclusive term for all the constructed or natural barriers used to gain control of a fire.

Declared Fire Danger Period

It is that period declared pursuant to the Country Fire Authority Act 1958, to be the fire danger period in respect of the said country area or any part thereof (as the case may be).

Exposure

An object or situation that is subject to the action or influence of fire.

Fine Fuel

Almost all the combustible material in grasslands may be described as fine fuel. For forest this means dead, fallen material such as leaves, bark, twigs and branches up to 6 mm in diameter. Grass and the foliage and stems of other small plants up to 6 mm in diameter, may also be considered as fine fuel.

Fire Access Road

A road that has been identified or partially funded by the CFA to: -

- provide access to a high fire risk areas and
- provide a link between established routes in order that travelling time may be reduced for fire fighters and
- provide alternative means of escape.

Fire Hazard

An existing condition, or the potential occurrence of a situation that may be a threat, or cause harm or damage to property, the environment or life as a result of the impact an uncontrolled fire.

Fire Hazard Reduction

The elimination, reduction or removal of the potential occurrence of flammable/combustible material that may be a threat, or cause harm or damage to property, the environment or life as a result of the impact an uncontrolled fire.

Fire Hazard Reduction is performed to minimise the occurrence, retard the spread of, or reduce the intensity of an uncontrolled fire.

Fire Prevention

The planning and implementation of measures necessary to minimise the occurrence of and mitigate the effects of fire on the community.

Fire Protected Area

Any area of State Forest, National Park and Protected Public Land plus the 1.5 kilometre margin around these areas unless excised.

Fuel Reduced Corridors

These are planned to provide the following-

- (a) Provide a means of minimising the occurrence of initial spread of a fire and retarding the advance of a low intensity fire.
- (b) Enable control lines to be established where fire brigades may directly or indirectly attack the fire.
- (c) Provide a clear traffic route, which should ensure access prior to, during and immediately after a fire front has passed.

The identification process for Fuel Reduced Corridors shall include:

- (a) The requirements for roadside vegetation conservation.
- (b) The feasibility and practicality of undertaking the work.
- (c) The ability of the Council and/or Local Brigades to fund the work.
- (d) The relevance of the location to the identified wildfire risk.

Fuel Reduced Zone

An area of minimum fuel or vegetative hazard that is maintained in a fuel reduced condition to the extent that the passage of fire will be restricted, (eg short green lawn, paths, driveway).

A fuel reduced zone should generally be located in the area between a high fire risk environment and significant private or public assets.

Fuse Break

Fuel reduction across a relatively narrow linear strip such as a road reserve to

- (a) Prevent continuous heavy fuel loads acting as a linear fuse.
- (b) Provide ready access for fire fighting vehicles to adjacent land.

Hazardous Materials

Those materials/goods that have the potential to cause loss, damage and/or harm to the community and/or environment.

Hazard Reduction

See Fire Hazard Reduction

Priority Access Road

A road identified as being critical for:

- the provision of an ensured means of transport for the travelling public, commercial users and fire fighters
- the provision of a link between critical locations in order that travelling time may be reduced for fire fighters

Prohibited Period

That period declared under the Forests Act.

- applies all year in State Forests, National Parks and Protected Public Lands, and
- applies for the period declared by the Minister each year in the 1.5 km margin (*where not excised*)

Public Land

Unoccupied Crown Land, State Forest, National and State Parks and other land under the responsibility of Government Departments or Public Authorities.

Strategic Fuel Break

A fuel free zone or a very low fuel flammability zone, usually with a mineral earth break along its length, utilised to segregate, stop and/or control the spread of a fire.

Spot Fire

Isolated fires started by sparks, embers or other ignitable material ahead of the main fire front.

Water Supply Points

May be located on permanent streams, reticulated mains or at static storage (tanks or dams), within the Municipality, to provide water for brigades for fire fighting and mopping up operations. Tanks should have a capacity of at least 20,000 litres, and a valved 64 mm outlet fitted with a 3 threads to 25 mm male standard CFA coupling, installed at the base of the tank. Dams should have a capacity of at least 1 MI minimum capacity, and ready all-weather vehicular access should be provided.

Wild Fire

A general term for an unplanned fire that may be burning over a large area, possibly in a variety of different fuels. Based on fuel types, the following types of wild fires are generally recognised in Victoria.

Grass Fires

Fires affecting the broad acre primary producing areas of the State.

Bush/Forest Fires

Fire affecting the non commercial and commercially productive timber and scrub areas of the State.

APPENDIX B

REFERENCES

The following documents contain information relative to the details contained within the Strategy.

- **Country Fire Authority Act, 1958.** This Act requires the CFA to “take all necessary steps for the prevention and suppression of fires” (Section 20). This is a broad and comprehensive requirement that this plan, in part, addresses. In addition the Municipal Fire Prevention Committee is required “to recommend...any action... to be taken for reducing the risk of an outbreak of fire” (Section 55(d)) and to “plan the burning or clearing of fire breaks” (Section 55(a)).
- **Forests Act, 1958.** Empowers the Department of Sustainability and Environment (DSE) to undertake fire prevention and suppression in every State forest, National Park and on all protected public land. In addition an Officer authorised under this Act may direct an owner/occupier to remove any fire hazard within 1.5 kilometres of the boundary of any State Forest, National Park or protected public land.
- **Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act, 1988.** This Act provides for the conservation and management of Victoria’s native flora and fauna. It may also place controls on threatening processes. This Act will predominantly apply when fire protection or pre-suppression works threaten a protected community or species.
- **Building Act, 1993.** Generally provides the framework for fire protection in the built environment. Specifies the Building Code of Australia as the standard for building performance. Regulation 6.4 allows the Municipal Council, in consultation with the CFA to declare Bush Fire Prone Areas. The Building Code of Australia requires houses built in a Bushfire Prone Zone area to comply with AS 3959, Construction of Buildings in Bushfire-prone Areas.
- **Building Regulations, 2006**
- **Residential Tenancies Act.1999**
- **Building Code of Australia, 2007**
- **City of Greater Shepparton Planning Scheme.** The Planning Scheme documents building controls and referral authorities for the Municipality.
- **Planning and Environment Act, 1987**
- **Subdivision Act, 1988.** This act controls subdivision and consolidation of land. Applications that are referred to the CFA for comment may have conditions placed on them or be refused.
- **Risk Management, AS 4360, 1995**
- **Construction of buildings in bushfire-prone areas, AS 3959, 1991**
- **Municipal Fire Prevention Planning Guidelines, CFA 1997**
- **Audit Arrangements for Municipal Fire Prevention Plans, CFA 1998**
- **Planning Conditions and Guidelines for Subdivisions, CFA 1991.** This document guides Developers, Municipalities and Planning Authorities in preparing subdivision plans to provide an adequate level of fire hazard control and minimisation.
- **Requirements for water supplies and access in subdivisions in residential 1 and 2 township zones, CFA 2006**
- **Design and Siting Guidelines-Bushfire Protection for Rural Houses, CFA and Ministry for Planning and Environment 1989.** Gives guidelines to siting houses to minimise exposure to wildfires. Also contains design principles for houses to minimise chances of loss due to wildfire. Should be read in conjunction with AS 3959 Construction of buildings in bushfire prone areas.
- **Fire Safety in Sawmills, CFA 1997**
- **Caravan Park Fire Safety Guideline, CFA 2006**
- **Recreational Accommodation Safety Guidelines, CFA 1997**
- **Roadside Management Guidelines for Fire Prevention Planners, CFA 1994**
- **Roadside Management Guidelines, CFA 2001**

- **Wildfire Policy, CFA** The CFA's policy on the management of the wildfire risk is:
 - * to promote and where appropriate, to implement the assembly and efficient application of resources to:
 - minimise people-caused wildfire, and
 - protect life and property together with significant community assets in the event of wildfire.
 - * that every individual, municipality and public authority in Victoria has a responsibility in fire prevention.
 - * that fire prevention legislation, planning and codes of practise should recognise and be actioned in a manner appropriate to the needs of the human and natural environment.
- **Evacuation During Wildfire, CFA Policy OP.03 1998.** The decision to evacuate or stay is made by the individual concerned. The decision should be made well before the fire approaches. The decision should be based on an understanding of fire behaviour, the degree of preparedness, and an understanding of the conditions that are likely to occur. People who doubt their preparedness or ability to cope should evacuate early, as late evacuation has been shown to reduce the chance of survival.
- **North East Region, Regional Fire Protection Plan, Department of Conservation and Natural Resources.** Describes the Department's fuel reduction priority zones for township and asset protection. This plan also contains the Department's fuel reduction burning policy and other material, which is relevant to this plan.
- **Rethinking the Role of Fire Management Agencies-Fire Management Quarterly No. 12 June 1995**
- **Design and Siting Guidelines, Bushfire Protection for Rural Houses, CFA and Ministry for Planning and Environment, 1989.**
- **City of Greater Shepparton Municipal Emergency Management Plan, 2000.** This plan deals with the full spectrum of emergency management planning, from preparation to recovery.
- **Roadside Management Guide, VicRoads 1990**
- **Draft Code of Practise for Powerline Clearance [Vegetation], Office of the Chief Electrical Inspector 1996**
- **Bushfires-Preserving Your Home, Trees and Safety, Trees and Natural Resources, Natural Resources Conservation League of Victoria, December, 1992**
- **Greater Shepparton Roadside Management Plan April 2001 or as amended**
- **Greater Shepparton 2030 Strategy Plan**

APPENDIX C

FUEL REDUCED CORRIDORS/PRIORITY ACCESS ROADS

General

It is acknowledged that Fire Brigades may identify and undertake treatments on local roads as Fuel Reduced Corridors within their own brigade boundaries, which may not necessarily be identified in the Municipality Strategy. These Fire Prevention works are not always undertaken annually, however all such works are undertaken specifically to minimise the threat to life and property from uncontrolled wildfire. The works that have been undertaken in the past form an integral part of the Fire Prevention Strategy of the Municipality and are supported by this document.

Brigade Fire Prevention Plans must be endorsed by the Municipality in consultation with the MFPC.

Fire Brigades are encouraged to submit annually to the Council for consideration by the MFPC, prior to the Fire Season, details of proposed Fuel Reduction Works proposed to be undertaken on roads and/or reserves, and within Townships.

Prior to undertaking any burning on a roadside the brigade(s) must contact the regional headquarters in Shepparton who will coordinate the appropriate approvals for traffic and conservation management.

All works are to be undertaken in accordance with the details following.

Priority Access Roads

Priority Access Roads must be sufficiently fuel-reduced to minimise the risk and travel time for the travelling public and emergency service vehicles.

Priority Access Roads must be cleared of all low overhanging obstructions less than 5 m above the road pavement and dangerous trees/limbs need to be removed. A 3.0 m minimum width fine-fuel reduced area on both sides of the road must abut a clear travelled path that has a 6.0 m minimum width.

These roads must be inspected annually by the controlling road authority and maintained prior to the fire danger period.

One or all of the following methods can be used to meet the requirements:

- (a) Mowing or slashing a strip 3 metres wide on one or both sides of the road reserve, adjacent to the shoulders of the pavement, at the appropriate time to prevent regrowth and accumulation of dry slashed material.
- (b) The grading of a strip to bare earth 3 metres wide on both sides of the road reserve adjacent to the shoulders of the pavement. The over burden from the graded break should be removed to prevent the accumulation of earth and dry vegetation next to the break. The maximum grading width for grassland sites shall be 6.0 m.
- (c) The spraying of herbicide where other treatments are not practical or cost effective, to create a strip at least 3 m wide with little or no vegetation present on both sides of the road reserve adjacent to the shoulders of the pavement. Burning may then follow as required. Spraying of native grasses should be avoided.
- (d) Removing dangerous trees.

Appendix D contains a diagram for typical works on Priority Access Roads.

The following Priority Access Roads have been identified:

- Midland Highway
- Murchison Bendigo Road
- Goulburn Valley Highway
- Barmah Shepparton Road
- Shepparton Dookie/Dookie Devenish Road

It should be noted that all the above roads are managed by VicRoads

Fuel Reduced Corridors

Fuel Reduced Corridors must be sufficiently fuel-reduced to minimise the risk to the travelling public, provide a means of establishing a control line, reduce the time of travel to low-risk areas and to slow the spread of fire on the road reserve. It should be noted that these roads may be closed to the general public when they are impinged upon by fire.

Fuel Reduced Corridors should where applicable have the fine fuel reduced for a distance of 3 m behind the guideposts on either side of the road where practical. All overhanging obstructions less than 5 m above the road pavement must be removed, and dangerous trees/limbs need to be removed to allow the safe passage of fire fighting appliances. They must be inspected annually by the controlling road authority and maintained prior to the fire danger period.

One or all of the following methods can be used to meet the requirements:

- (a) Mowing or slashing a strip at least 3 metres wide on one or both sides of the road reserve, either adjacent to the shoulders of the pavement, or next to or inside the adjoining property, at the appropriate time to prevent regrowth and accumulation of dry slashed material.
- (b) The grading of a strip to bare earth not less than 3 meters wide on both sides of the road reserve adjacent to the shoulders of the pavement. The over burden from the graded break should be removed to prevent the accumulation of earth and dry vegetation next to the break.
- (c) The ploughing of an earth strip not less than 2 meters wide on both sides of the road reserve adjacent to the fence-line, where there has been a past history of ploughing.
- (d) Fuel reduction low intensity burning by fire brigades on a coordinated basis. Fuel reduction burning shall only be required when the fuel load exceeds 4 tonne per hectare. Fuel loadings on the roadsides identified for burning are to be reviewed annually by the Municipality in the spring of each year.
- (e) The spraying of herbicide where other treatments are not practical or cost effective, to create a strip a minimum of 3m wide with little or no vegetation present on both sides of the road reserve adjacent to the shoulders of the pavement. Burning may then follow as required. Spraying of native grasses should be avoided.
- (f) Thinning out of vegetation within the reserve or easement, and removing dangerous trees.

Appendix D contains a diagram for typical works on Fuel Reduced Corridors.

Fuel Reduced Corridors are to be identified in Brigade Fire Prevention Plans. Both the Council and Brigades may undertake works on these roads as resources permit.

The following Fuel Reduced Corridors have been identified:

- No Fuel Reduced Corridors have been identified at this time, however extensive slashing/spraying is carried out by the Shire on the shoulders of most sealed roads throughout the fire season.

Fire Access Roads

These roads are required to provide summer access for fire fighting vehicles and will be maintained by the Council accordingly, prior to the summer period.

The following DSE Fire Access Roads have been identified:

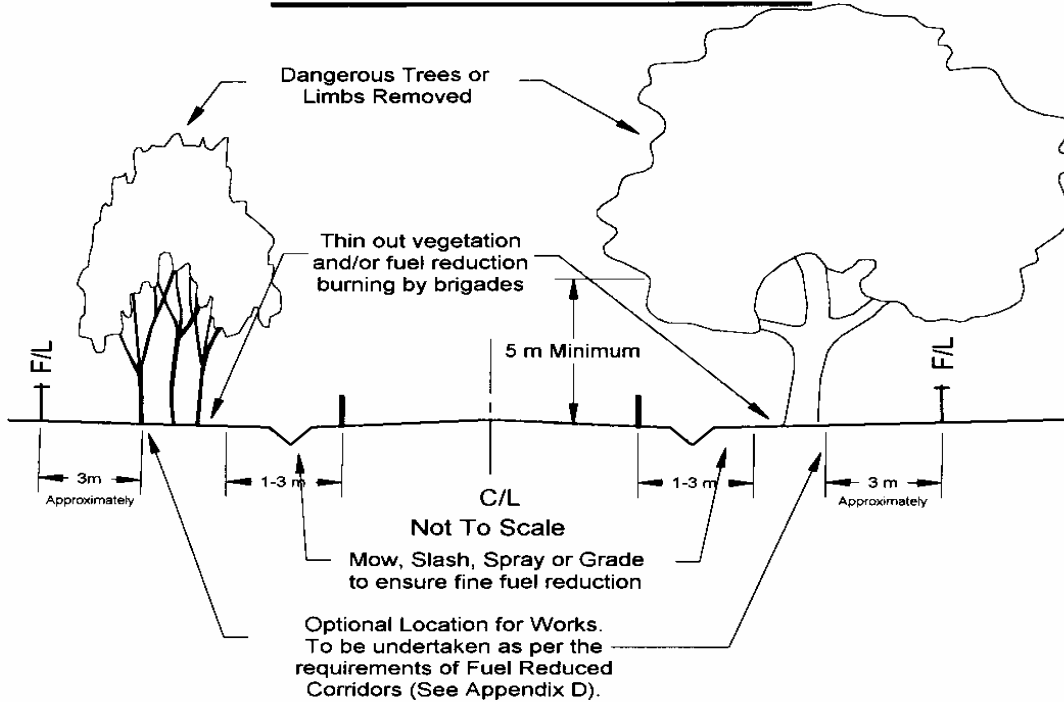
- Nil

APPENDIX D

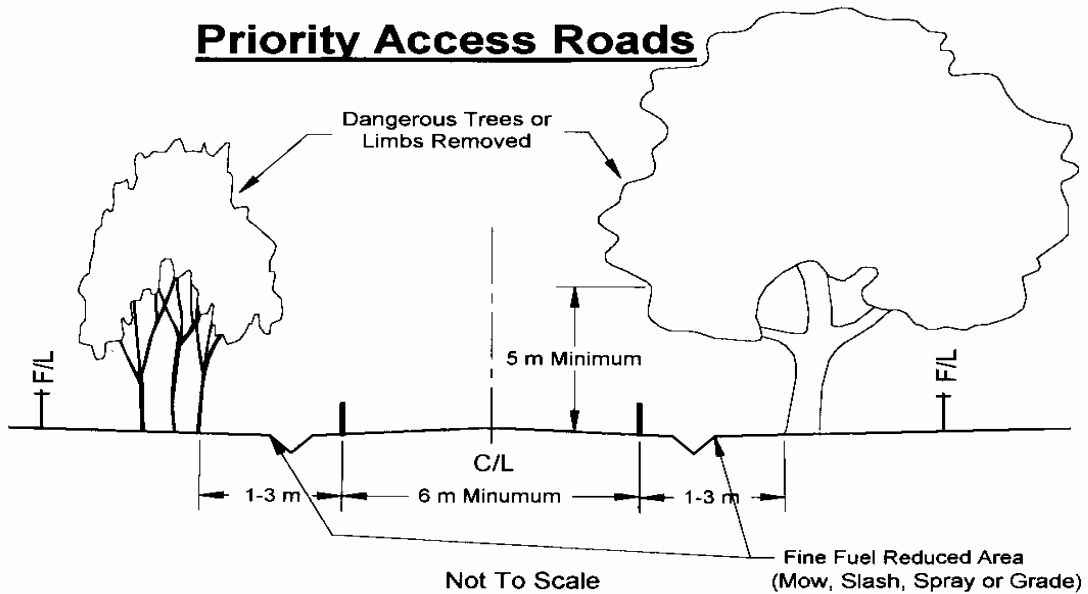
DIAGRAMS OF TYPICAL WORKS ON ROADS

NOTE: The following diagrams show the optimum desirable situation. It must be noted that this may not be achievable or practical in all situations.

Fuel Reduced Corridors



Priority Access Roads



APPENDIX E

FIRE HAZARD REMOVAL/ FUEL REDUCTION AND HAZARD ISOLATION

On-going liaison shall be maintained between the MFPO and the local Fire Brigades to ensure that fire hazards are minimised throughout the year. Council Officers shall be instructed to note any occurrence during their normal inspections, which may be thought to constitute a fire hazard. When such a hazard is identified the MFPO will instigate appropriate measures to have the hazard removed.

Fire hazards/risks associated with commercial and industrial properties are controlled by legislation, such as the Building Code of Australia and the Planning and Environment Act. Where hazards are identified at these locations this specialist legislation should be used, in addition to the powers provided under the CFA Act.

The property owners or occupiers shall complete Fire Hazard Removal, Reduction and Isolation, including the clearing of blocks pursuant to section 41 of the CFA Act prior to the introduction of the declared fire danger period. This must include blocks that have been cleared and have regrown.

Public Notices shall be placed in the Local Papers in mid October advising the public of their responsibilities for the removal of Fire Hazards from private land and the consequences of non compliance. This is appropriate as it corresponds with Fire Awareness Week activities.

Depending on seasonal conditions it is expected that the MFPO will commence formal inspections of the Townships in the late spring, generally early November, to determine which blocks require clearance. The inspections shall be undertaken prior to the declaration of the fire danger period. Owners who have not undertaken the works will then be issued with a Fire Prevention Notice. Following the expiration of the allowed time for the work to be undertaken (generally two weeks), and not more than 4 weeks later, the MFPO will undertake a further inspection of the Townships. Property owners who have failed to have the work performed will have the work undertaken by others, at the direction of the MFPO, at their expense, and may have infringement notices issued to them.

Urban Residential Allotments

It is recommended that Urban Residential Allotments should have all the grass, weeds and undergrowth cut to a height of less than 75 mm including all grass up to and against fences, buildings and trees. However it is recognised that special circumstances may require a variance to this standard. The vegetation is to be removed, together with any dead wood or other flammable refuse from the allotments. Where the grass is less than 400 mm in height prior to cutting, it shall only be necessary to remove any cut grass from the area within 3.0m of the property boundary.

Larger Allotments

Larger allotments, exceeding 1 hectare and less than 25 hectares, should have the fuel reduced by cutting, removing, effective grazing and ploughing for a distance of 20m around dwellings and other assets and a strip of 3 m to 6 m maximum, width around the boundary, or as deemed suitable by MFPO. Spraying, if undertaken at the appropriate time can be used to make these breaks.

Rural Allotments

The MFPO shall use his/her discretion when undertaking hazard assessments, in accordance with the CFA Act.

Forest Areas

In forest areas it is recommended that:

- All flammable vegetation and undergrowth be removed for a safe distance around buildings and other assets.
- Trees should be thinned, and cut trees and limbs removed.
- Clumps of dense vegetation should be isolated.
- A 6m minimum width firebreak should be constructed around the perimeter of the property by ploughing or spraying, where practical.

The above may be varied as deemed necessary by the MFPO and Council Planning Provisions must be observed when removing vegetation.

Grassland

In grassland areas fuel reduction should be undertaken by cutting, grazing or ploughing for a distance of 20m around buildings and assets and other installations requiring protection. A 3m to 6 m minimum width break around the perimeter of the property should also be undertaken where practical. If necessary the MFPO may issue further directions.

Municipal Reserves and Municipal Public Land

Undeveloped Municipal Reserves and Municipal Public Land should have a fire break or fuel reduction strip 3 m to 6 m wide, as deemed suitable by MFPO, constructed around the perimeter of the Reserve where practical. This may be varied as deemed necessary by the Municipal Fire Prevention Officer. Access for fire fighting vehicles should be provided.

Rural Dwellings

The following CFA documents should be reviewed for the location and construction of rural dwellings:

- Design and Siting Guidelines-Bushfire Protection for Rural Houses
- Living in the Bush – Bushfire Survival Plan Workbook.
- Building in a Wildfire Management Overlay – Applicant Kit.

APPENDIX F

IDENTIFIED HEALTH CARE PREMISES

Any Health Care Facility identified as at risk as the result of an inspection by an Authorised Authority will be identified in the Database and Appendix until such time as the risk is removed.

These have been identified as the result of the Risk Analysis Process and are contained within the Essential Services and Safety Equipment registers. The details cannot be listed here as they contain personal and private information that cannot be provided in this public document.

APPENDIX G

IDENTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOMMODATION AND TOURIST FACILITIES/PREMISES

Any Public Accommodation, or Tourist Facility identified as at risk as the result of an inspection by an Authorised Authority will be identified in the Database and Appendix until such time as the risk is removed.

These have been identified as the result of the Risk Analysis Process and are contained within the Essential Services and Safety Equipment registers. The details cannot be listed here as they contain personal and private information that cannot be provided in this public document.

APPENDIX H

IDENTIFIED PUBLIC ASSEMBLY AND ENTERTAINMENT PREMISES

Any Public Assembly Premises identified as at risk as the result of an inspection by an Authorised Authority will be identified in the Database and Appendix until such time as the risk is removed.

These have been identified as the result of the Risk Analysis Process and are contained with the Essential Services and Safety Equipment registers. The details cannot be listed here as they contain personal and private information that cannot be provided in this public document.

APPENDIX I

BURNING WITHIN TOWNSHIPS

Extract from Local Law No 1 - Environment

2.6 Fires in Open Air

- (a) No person may, on property in a residential or commercial area, light or allow to be lit or to remain alight any fire, save and except:
- (i) a fire in a barbeque while being used for the purpose of cooking food;
 - (ii) a fire generated by a tool of trade while being used for the purpose for which it was designed;
 - (iii) a fire contained within a properly constructed fireplace within a dwelling for the purpose of heating;
 - (iv) a fire lit by a member of the Country Fire Authority in the course of his or her duty or a member of the public who holds a permit under the provisions of the Country Fire Authority Act.

Penalty

First offence – 2 penalty units

Second or subsequent offence – 4 penalty units

2.7 Burning of Offensive Materials

No person may burn or cause to burn any offensive materials including any substance which contains:

- (a) any manufactured chemical;
- (b) any rubber or plastic;
- (c) any petroleum or oil;
- (d) any paint or receptacle which contains or contained paint;
- (e) food waste

unless in accordance with a licence issued by the Environment Protection Authority or a permit issued by Council.

Penalty

First offence – 5 penalty units

Second or subsequent offence – 10 penalty units

2.8 Chimneys

No person shall cause or allow any chimney to discharge fumes, smoke, ash, soot or odours to such an extent that could be, in the opinion of an authorised officer, dangerous to health or offensive to another person.

Penalty

First offence – 2 penalty units

Second or subsequent offence – 4 penalty units

Excerpt from the Summary Offences Act 1966

Fire**11. Lighting of fires in the open air**

(1) Except as provided in sub-section (2), a person must not-

(a) light or use a fire in the open air or carry when lighted any flammable material resulting in the destruction, damaging or endangering of the life or property of others; or

(b) leave a fire in the open air which that person has lighted or of which that person is in charge without leaving another person in charge of that fire.

Penalty: 25 penalty units or imprisonment for 12 months or both.

(2) Sub-section (1) does not apply to the owner or occupier of any land or a person acting under the direction of an owner or occupier of any land who burns any grass, stubble, weeds, scrub, undergrowth or any vegetation, wood or other flammable material in an area of land if-

(a) a fire-break of not less than 3 metres and cleared of all flammable material has been prepared around the perimeter of the area of land and

(b) at least two hours before burning is commenced, notice of intention to burn has been given to each owner or occupier of land contiguous to the area of land.

(3) This section does not apply in the country area of Victoria within the meaning the Country Fire Authority Act 1958 during a fire danger period within the meaning of that Act.

(4) This section does not affect the right of any person to sue for and recover at common law or otherwise compensation for or in respect of any damage caused by reckless or negligent use of fire.

No. 6337 s. 21.

S. 11 amended by Nos 7854

s. 2, 7877 s. 2(2) S. R. No.

137/1974

reg. 2(b)(c), Nos

9019 s. 2(1), 9554

s. 2(2), substituted

by No. 50/1989

s. 51.

APPENDIX J

DSE FIRE PREVENTION PLAN

As this Plan is a complete document in its own right and is quite extensive it is not physically possible to attach it to this document. However this Plan is held by the Council and can be made available when requested.

Co-ordination may be required between DSE and the Council where there are joint responsibilities.

APPENDIX K

PERMITS TO BURN

The Council will undertake annually a publicity program via the local press to highlight the responsibilities of permit holders and the consequences of non-compliance.

Permits to burn shall be issued in accordance with the following guidelines. (Seasonal conditions may lead to the need to vary the requirements as listed):

- Permits to Burn may be issued to individuals up to two weeks after the introduction of the Declared Fire Danger Period. Permits for community burn projects may be issued to fire brigades up to four weeks after the introduction of the Declared Fire Danger Period.
- No Permits to Burn shall be issued between the 24th of December and the second Week in February. This requirement can be varied by the MFPO after consultation with the Brigade Captains.

The procedure for individuals obtaining Permits to Burn, is as follows:

- Permits to Burn shall only be issued for the burning of stubble and grass (not for general burning of rubbish).
- If, as stated above, it is safe for burn offs to be under-taken, the applicant must apply for a permit from the Municipal Fire Prevention Officer. The application can be made by fax or in person, but must be before midday of the day prior to the day of the proposed burn off.
- The Permit shall include the CFA Region 22 map number, grid reference, the road on which the property is located and the property number if applicable. The Permit shall specify that appropriate fire control equipment (generally a minimum of one unit of minimum capacity of 400 litres and two adults) is on hand during the burn. The MFPO may specify more equipment and personnel than the minimum where appropriate. The Local CFA Brigade Tanker cannot be included in the required fire control equipment as it may be called away. The generally accepted minimum width of the required perimeter breaks being 3 m.
- The MFPO will issue the Permit, and a copy to be given/sent to the applicant. The applicant must supply a copy to the relevant Brigade Nominated Officer and notify VicFire of their intention to burn. The copies of the permit can be faxed if those facilities exist. The applicant must notify the contiguous landholders of the proposed burn off.
- The February meeting of the MFPC will determine the recommended starting time for Burn-offs for the remaining summer and autumn period.

- All permits shall expire at midnight on the Sunday irrespective of the day on which they were issued. Extensions of the time to burn may be made by the MFPO, subject to the applicant obtaining the relevant Fire Brigade Captain's approval.
- An appropriate fall of rain or a change of conditions shall be considered as a trigger for considering the issue of Permits. However due consideration should be given to issuing Permits at other times in the irrigated areas where the risk to adjoining property is minimal.
- Prior to the commencement of each fire season, brigades are to notify the MFPO as to who is the Brigade Nominated Person that the Permits to Burn are to be issued to.
- Permits to burn rubbish shall be obtained from the CFA and not from the Council.

DSE is responsible for Permits to Burn within the Fire Protected Area. A Prohibited Period applies all year round within State Forests, National Parks and Protected Public Land. For the 1.5 km margin around State Forests, National Parks and Protected Public Land (except where excised) the Prohibited Period is declared seasonally and where possible is aligned with the (CFA) Fire Danger Period.

Some of the Municipality is within the 1.5 km marginal area adjacent to the Fire Protected Area.

During the Prohibited Period a landholder intending to burn off property within the Fire Protected Area (*ie* within the 1.5 km margin) must obtain a Permit to Burn issued by NRE.

Outside the Prohibited Period a landholder intending to burn off property within the Fire Protected Area must notify the Department of their intentions.

APPENDIX L

STATIC WATER SUPPLY REQUIREMENTS – RESIDENTS IN RURAL AREAS

All new rural dwelling that do not have access to reticulated water supply must comply with the following, that clarifies the requirement to 'provide adequate storage for domestic use as well as for fire fighting purposes to the satisfaction of the Responsible Authority' in the planning scheme ;

1. Provided tanks with a minimum capacity of at least 20,000 litres, with a valved 64 mm outlet fitted with a 3 threads to 25 mm male standard CFA coupling, installed at the base of the tank,
2. or a dam with a capacity of at least 1 MI minimum capacity, with ready all-weather vehicular access suitable for use by fire trucks.

APPENDIX M

MUNICIPAL WORKS PROGRAM SUMMARY

Annual Ongoing

Description	October				November				December				January				February				March			
	1st Wk	2nd Wk	3rd Wk	4th Wk	1st Wk	2nd Wk	3rd Wk	4th Wk	1st Wk	2nd Wk	3rd Wk	4th Wk	1st Wk	2nd Wk	3rd Wk	4th Wk	1st Wk	2nd Wk	3rd Wk	4th Wk	1st Wk	2nd Wk	3rd Wk	4th Wk
Municipal Fire Prevention Committee Meeting					*															*				
Community Education targeting smoke detector and there residential requirements using the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brigades in schools • CFA mobile education unit • 6 monthly articles in the Shepparton News and Local Media. Information to be provided in languages other than English as deemed appropriate by the MFPO.																								*
Community Education targeting fire hazard removal and burning off and other township and rural requirements using the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6 monthly articles in the Shepparton News and Local Media. • Brigades in schools • CFA mobile education unit. Information to be provided in languages other than English as deemed appropriate by the MFPO.		*	*																					

Description	October				November				December				January				February				March			
	1st Wk	2nd Wk	3rd Wk	4th Wk	1st Wk	2nd Wk	3rd Wk	4th Wk	1st Wk	2nd Wk	3rd Wk	4th Wk	1st Wk	2nd Wk	3rd Wk	4th Wk	1st Wk	2nd Wk	3rd Wk	4th Wk	1st Wk	2nd Wk	3rd Wk	4th Wk
<p>Community Education targeting industrial premises requirements including details in accordance with the Emergency Manual eg Dangerous Goods audits requirements using the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6 monthly articles in the Shepparton News and Local Media. <p>Information to be provided in languages other than English as deemed appropriate by the MFPO.</p>																	*							
<p>Community Education targeting commercial premises requirements including details in accordance with the Emergency Manual eg Dangerous Goods audits requirements using the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6 monthly articles in the Shepparton News and Local Media. <p>Information to be provided in languages other than English as deemed appropriate by the MFPO.</p>													*											
<p>Undertake property inspections under Section 41 of the CFA Act.</p> <p>Issue Fire Prevention Notices to owner/occupier who's property contains a fire /potential fire hazard.</p>				*	*												*	*						
<p>Undertake clearance of vegetation from power lines in the defined Urban Areas in accordance with the Code of Practice</p>					*																			
<p>Ensure that water for fire fighting purposes and access requirements meet the provisions required by the Referral Authority (CFA).</p>																								

Description	October				November				December				January				February				March			
	1st Wk	2nd Wk	3rd Wk	4th Wk	1st Wk	2nd Wk	3rd Wk	4th Wk	1st Wk	2nd Wk	3rd Wk	4th Wk	1st Wk	2nd Wk	3rd Wk	4th Wk	1st Wk	2nd Wk	3rd Wk	4th Wk	1st Wk	2nd Wk	3rd Wk	4th Wk
Alleviate the risk through strategic identification of priority access roads, control lines, and fire Access Roads and, undertake maintenance as required. Undertake appropriate works to ensure the safety of the travelling public and provide safe access for Emergency Services in the time of fire.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*																
Liaise with VicRoads and V Line to ensure that fuel reduction works on the land under their control is optimised and undertaken prior to December each year.	*	*	*	*																				
Inspect new and altered dwellings for smoke detector installation.																								
Undertake random 24 checks per year of existing dwellings for smoke detector installation.																								
Ensure that water for firefighting purposes and access requirements for any new development and/or subdivision meet the provisions as required in the 'Planning Guidelines for Subdivisions' (Country Fire Authority 1991) and the Building Code of Australia.																								
Consider fire safety issues in conjunction with consultation with the CFA when considering Outline Development Plans for major expansions to urban areas.																								
When inspecting buildings, ensure that the Fire Protection Equipment including appropriate signage is in place and functioning as required by the relevant legislation																								
During inspections of buildings ensure that exits are unobstructed and functioning as required by the relevant legislation.																								

Description	October				November				December				January				February				March			
	1st Wk	2nd Wk	3rd Wk	4th Wk	1st Wk	2nd Wk	3rd Wk	4th Wk	1st Wk	2nd Wk	3rd Wk	4th Wk	1st Wk	2nd Wk	3rd Wk	4th Wk	1st Wk	2nd Wk	3rd Wk	4th Wk	1st Wk	2nd Wk	3rd Wk	4th Wk
When inspecting buildings, ensure that the Fire Protection Equipment including appropriate signage is in place and functioning as required by the relevant legislation.																								
Issue permits to burn in accordance with the agreed policy																								
Liaise with management, plant operators and local authorities to encourage familiarity with emergency response plans and practises.																								
Ensure uniformity between Municipal Fire Prevention Plan and the DSE Northeast Region Fire Prevention Plan																								
Undertake/coordinate maintenance to fire plugs and markers.																								
Fire Brigades to notify MFPO prior to pre fire season MFPC Meeting. MFPO to make application for Fire Access grants. Appropriate roadworks undertaken.																								

Annual Ongoing

Description	April				May				June				July				August				September			
	1st Wk	2nd Wk	3rd Wk	4th Wk	1st Wk	2nd Wk	3rd Wk	4th Wk	1st Wk	2nd Wk	3rd Wk	4th Wk	1st Wk	2nd Wk	3rd Wk	4th Wk	1st Wk	2nd Wk	3rd Wk	4th Wk	1st Wk	2nd Wk	3rd Wk	4th Wk
Municipal Fire Prevention Committee Meeting																					*			
Community Education targeting smoke detector and other residential requirements using the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Brigades in schools CFA mobile education unit 6 monthly articles in the Shepparton News and Local Media. <p>Information to be provided in languages other than English as deemed appropriate by the MFPO.</p>																								*
Community Education targeting fire hazard removal and burning off and other township and rural requirements using the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6 monthly articles in the Shepparton News and Local Media. Brigades in schools CFA mobile education unit. <p>Information to be provided in languages other than English as deemed appropriate by the MFPO.</p>		*																			*			
Community Education targeting industrial premises requirements, including details in accordance with the Emergency Manual eg Dangerous Goods audits requirements using the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6 monthly articles in the Shepparton News and Local Media. <p>Information to be provided in languages other than English as deemed appropriate by the MFPO.</p>																	*							

Description	April				May				June				July				August				September			
	1st Wk	2nd Wk	3rd Wk	4th Wk	1st Wk	2nd Wk	3rd Wk	4th Wk	1st Wk	2nd Wk	3rd Wk	4th Wk	1st Wk	2nd Wk	3rd Wk	4th Wk	1st Wk	2nd Wk	3rd Wk	4th Wk	1st Wk	2nd Wk	3rd Wk	4th Wk
<p>Community Education targeting commercial premises requirements including details in accordance with the Emergency Manual eg Dangerous Goods audits requirements using the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6 monthly articles in the Shepparton News and Local Media. <p>Information to be provided in languages other than English as deemed appropriate by the MFPO.</p>													*											
Home Help and Home Carers to be provided with Fire Safety Awareness training to reinforce the residential fire safety needs and requirements with those they provide services to. (CFA to provide training)						*																		
Undertake clearance of vegetation from power lines in the defined Urban Areas in accordance with the Code of Practice																	*							
Ensure that water for fire fighting purposes and access requirements meet the provisions required by the Referral Authority (CFA).																								
Alleviate the risk through strategic identification of priority access roads, control lines, and fire Access Roads and, undertake maintenance as required. Undertake appropriate works to ensure the safety of the travelling public and provide safe access for Emergency Services in the time of fire.																	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Inspect new and altered dwellings for smoke detector installation.																								
Undertake random 24 checks per year of existing dwellings for smoke detector installation.																								

Description	April				May				June				July				August				September			
	1st Wk	2nd Wk	3rd Wk	4th Wk	1st Wk	2nd Wk	3rd Wk	4th Wk	1st Wk	2nd Wk	3rd Wk	4th Wk	1st Wk	2nd Wk	3rd Wk	4th Wk	1st Wk	2nd Wk	3rd Wk	4th Wk	1st Wk	2nd Wk	3rd Wk	4th Wk
Ensure that water for firefighting purposes and access requirements for any new development and/or subdivision meet the provisions as required in the 'Planning Guidelines for Subdivisions' (Country Fire Authority 1991) and the Building Code of Australia.																								
Consider fire safety issues in conjunction with consultation with the CFA when considering Outline Development Plans for major expansions to urban areas.																								
When inspecting buildings, ensure that the Fire Protection Equipment including appropriate signage is in place and functioning as required by the relevant legislation.																								
When inspecting buildings, ensure that exits are unobstructed and functioning as required by the relevant legislation.																								
Issue permits to burn in accordance with the agreed policy																								
Liaise with management, plant operators and local authorities to encourage familiarity with emergency response plans and practises.																								
Ensure uniformity between Municipal Fire Prevention Plan and the DSE Northeast Region Fire Prevention Plan																								
Undertake/coordinate maintenance to fire plugs and markers.																								
Fire Brigades to notify MFPO prior to pre fire season MFPC Meeting. MFPO to make application for Fire Access grants. Appropriate roadworks undertaken.		*																						

New Programs

Description	2004				2005				2006				2007				2008				2009			
	Apr	Jul	Oct	Dec	Apr	Jul	Oct	Dec	Apr	Jul	Oct	Dec	Apr	Jul	Oct	Dec	Apr	Jul	Oct	Dec	Apr	Jul	Oct	Dec
Home Carers to check for smoke detector operation when in dwellings.		*																						
Home Carers to be provided with training in smoke detector operation testing.		*																						
Home Help and Home Carers should be provided with Fire Safety Awareness training to reinforce the residential fire safety needs and requirements with those they provide services to. (Private Provider to provide training)	*																							
Enforcement of Town Planning provisions. Undertake 2 inspections per year.							*																	
Risk management, including the inspection of a minimum of 12 commercial properties per year on a random basis as necessary. (Check for the storage of Dangerous Goods whilst undertaking the inspection). Provide information to owners/occupiers as required. Follow up with inspections and application of enforcement under the BCA as necessary.										*				*				*					*	
Environmental Health Officers to recognise fire risks (including caravan parks). Health Surveyors to be provided with a Fire Safety Checklist to be used when undertaking their inspections.					*																			
Identify and maintain a database of at risk Health Care premises. Update annually	*				*				*				*				*				*			
Risk management, including the inspection of a minimum of 5 property per year on a random basis and encourage compliance with the BCA where necessary.	*				*				*				*				*				*			

Description	2004				2005				2006				2007				2008				2009			
	Apr	Jul	Oct	Dec	Apr	Jul	Oct	Dec	Apr	Jul	Oct	Dec	Apr	Jul	Oct	Dec	Apr	Jul	Oct	Dec	Apr	Jul	Oct	Dec
Fire Prevention Planning. Develop a database of all at risk Public Accommodation and Tourist Facilities. Analyse database for risk and rank in priority order.			*																					
Risk management, including the inspection of a minimum of 5 Public Accommodation and Tourist Facility per year on a random basis and application of enforcement under the BCA where necessary.			*			*				*				*				*					*	
Environmental Health Officers to recognise fire risks in Caravan Parks in accordance with Emergency Management Plans. Particular attention to be made in relation to requirement under the Residential Tenancies and Movable Dwelling Act & Regulations and the 'Recreational Accommodation Safety Guidelines'-Published by the CFA in February 1997..			*																					
Fire Prevention Planning. Develop a database of all at risk Public Assembly premises. Analyse database for risk and rank in priority order and determine inspection needs.				*			*				*				*				*					*
Risk management, including the inspection of Public Assembly properties where necessary.	*																							
Ensure that Planning Permits for events on private property include the requirement to provide approved Emergency Management Plans.				*																				
The provision of fire prevention information from Event Operators for distribution to participants, and all relevant authorities.				*																				

APPENDIX N

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APPENDIX O

MUNICIPAL FIRE PREVENTION STRATEGY REVIEW COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Ben Giovanetti.	DSE – Fire Officer
Colin Opray	Katandra West Fire Brigade – MFPC Member
Tom Dumaresq	MFPC – Northwest Mooroopna Brigade
Darren Viney	Service Delivery Planning Coordinator CFA
Robert Frame	Municipal Building Surveyor
Greg McKenzie	Municipal Fire Prevention Officer
Andrew Arnold	BASO-CFA Shepparton
John Dunn	Facilitator