

An aerial photograph of a community area. In the center, there is a school building with a red roof and several smaller buildings. To the right of the school, there are two tennis courts, one of which is blue. Further right, there is a large open field. In the foreground, there are several houses with blue and grey roofs. The background shows more fields and some trees. The entire image is overlaid with a semi-transparent blue rectangle containing the title text.

Undera

Community Emergency Management Plan

2025



The development of this plan was made available through the support of



Original developed with the assistance of The Six C's Group (March 2025)

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**Undera Emergency Resilience
Group members**

What is community based emergency management?

Community based emergency management is about working together to be safer and more resilient, without building greater dependencies on agencies, government and service providers . This includes being relatively independent and self-reliant, while drawing upon the connections and lifelines which support people and their community to function and survive .

It also provides opportunities for broader collaboration and collective action . This includes working together as part of the community to drive the design, implementation and review of integrated planning and engagement processes . Connections and relationships developed through these processes can be maintained and beneficial before, during and after emergencies .

Maturity in these processes can also assist to build overall community capacity and capability to better manage long term stressors and to cope with shocks, including future emergencies

This approach is designed to support community led approaches and activities wherever possible.

Adopting this approach taps into the collective local knowledge, expertise and resources to build on combined strengths. Working together through these processes can assist to develop mutual goals and solutions while strengthening relationships and lifelines to be drawn upon in good times and during critical times of need .



Overview

Introduction

The Undera Community Emergency Management Plan (CEMP) has been developed by the local community and the Undera Emergency Resilience Group acknowledges all who have participated and contributed toward the development of this document.

This plan is managed and distributed by the Undera Emergency Resilience Group . All feedback and opportunities for participation to implement and progress the plan is welcome.

While every effort has been made to ensure that information in this document is correct at the time of printing, changes after the time of publication may impact the accuracy of the information.

The Undera Emergency Resilience Group is not responsible for any loss suffered in connection with the use of this document.

Aim

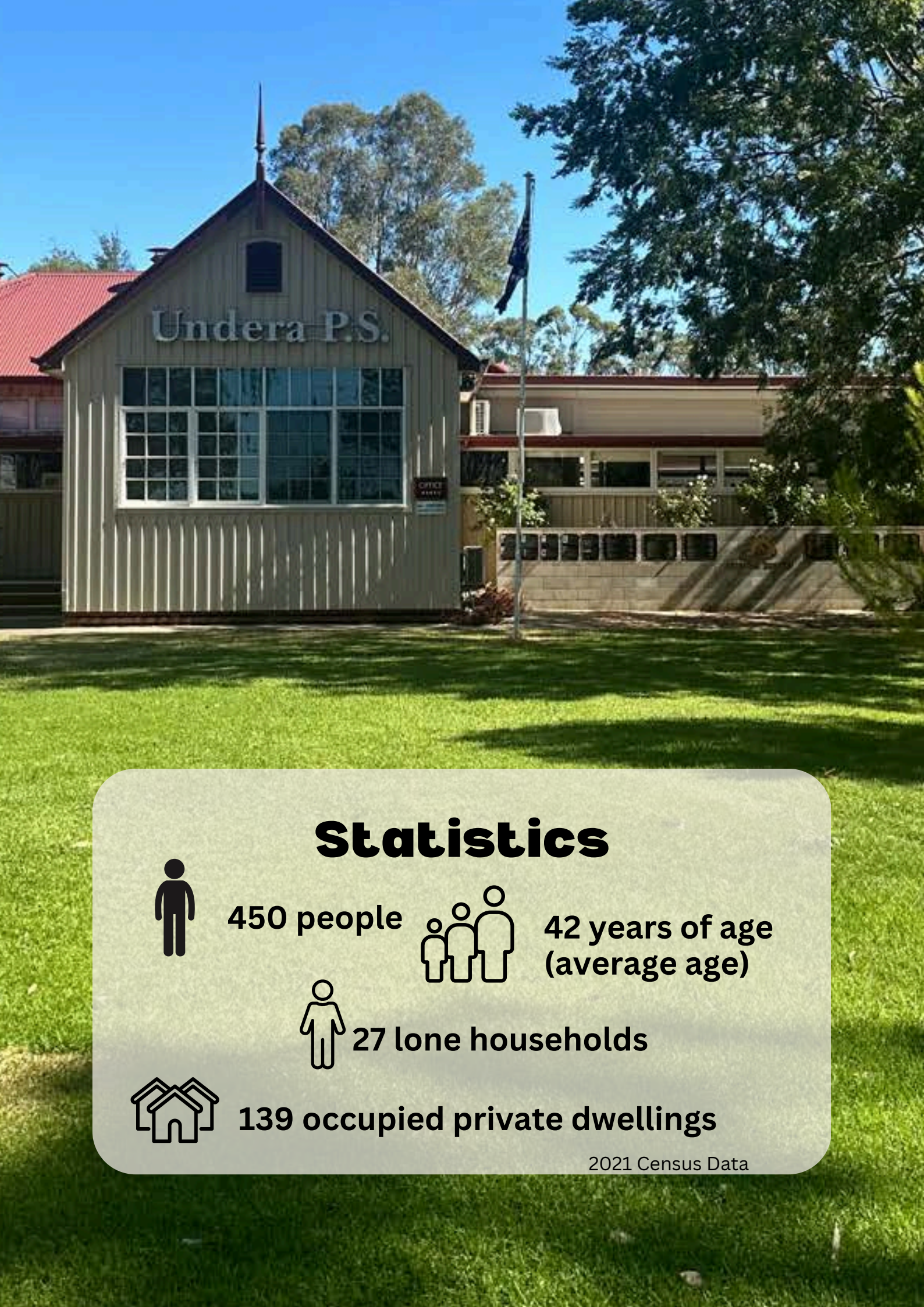
The goal of this plan is to build resilience and safeguard the Undera community with knowledge and resources needed to prepare, respond and recover from disasters.

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About Undera

Undera is a rural village and locality in northern Victoria, in the Goulburn Valley irrigation area. It is 20 km north-west of Shepparton. The Undera district extends northwards to Undera North and a westerly bend of the Goulburn River. Undera has a school (8 pupils, 2024) and kindergarten, a memorial hall (1928), a large reserve with a motorcycle track, a general store, pub, public toilet facilities, a recreation reserve including football ground, netball and tennis courts and cricket nets and a CFA fire station.





Undera P.S.

OFFICE
POST

Statistics



450 people



42 years of age
(average age)



27 lone households



139 occupied private dwellings

2021 Census Data



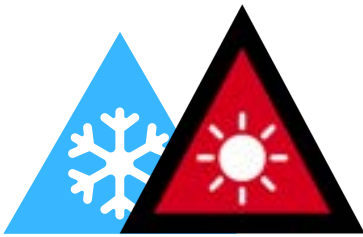
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Hazards



Flood

Undera, Victoria, has a history of flooding due to its proximity to the Goulburn River, with heavy rainfall and upstream water releases contributing to inundation. Major floods have impacted the area in 1916, 1939, 1956, 1974, 1993 and the devastating 2011 floods that impacted much of northern Victoria. More recently, the 2022 floods caused widespread damage, isolating communities, inundating properties, and disrupting agriculture.



Heat & Cold

Rising temperatures and more frequent heatwaves pose a growing risk to the people of Undera, especially older residents, young children, and those with health conditions. Extreme heat can cause heat stress, dehydration, and increased hospitalisations, while also impacting livelihoods reliant on farming. At the same time, cold weather events bring their own challenges, particularly for vulnerable residents who may struggle with heating costs or exposure to freezing conditions. Prolonged cold can lead to hypothermia, exacerbate respiratory illnesses, and increase the risk of isolation in rural areas.



Bushfire, Grass Fire, Broadacre Fire

Undera has historically had a low bushfire risk, but climate change and drier conditions are increasing the threat. Hotter temperatures and reduced rainfall are creating drier vegetation, raising the risk of grassfires and fast-moving fires. While major bushfires have been uncommon, fire preparedness and hazard reduction are becoming more important.



Storm / Extreme Winds

Undera, is prone to severe storms, particularly during the warmer months, bringing strong winds, heavy rainfall, and lightning strikes. These storms have been known to cause flash flooding, property damage, and power outages, impacting both residents and local agriculture. Hailstorms and high winds have also contributed to fallen trees and damaged infrastructure.



Energy disruption (power, telecommunications)

Undera faces a significant risk of energy disruption, with power and telecommunications outages frequently occurring during extreme weather events such as storms, floods, and heatwaves. Strong winds and heavy rainfall can bring down powerlines, while prolonged heat can strain the electricity grid, leading to blackouts. Telecommunications infrastructure is also vulnerable, impacting residents' ability to access emergency services and stay informed during crises. Given Undera's rural location, extended outages can isolate the community, disrupt essential services, and affect farm operations, highlighting the need for reliable backup solutions and community preparedness.



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Objectives



Administrative

Objective 1.

Proposal to seek the establishment of the group as the Undera Emergency Resilience Group and submit a formal request to the Undera Recreation Reserve Committee to recognise it as a sub-committee.

Objective 2.

Produce a large map outlining potential riverine flood areas marking river gauge locations and heights to be observed.

Objective 3.

Develop a new residents kit that includes hazard information.





Community connections

Objective 4.

Develop a community hub model to suit community requirements (triggers to open, roles and role descriptions, coloured vests etc)

Objective 5.

Create a short guidance document around the use of the existing WhatsApp group.





Building Capacity & Capability

Objective 6.

Increase skills within the community.

Training to include:

- First Aid/CPR training
- Grant writing workshop
- Sandbagging training
- Flood education
- How to use the Vic Emergency App
- Fire preparedness session
- Storm education

Objective 7.

Increase preparedness to all hazards, by purchasing a shipping container to hold the following:

- Sandbags
- Shovels
- Gloves
- Plastic pallets
- Laminated maps
- First Aid kit/Snake kit
- Blankets
- Torches
- Plastic tubs
- Banner/flag (to indicate when the hub is open)

Objective 8.

Develop a pictograph of how to safely fill sandbags (include a QR code link to VICSES short videos on how to sandbag)

Objective 9.

Purchase a lock box to store the keys to the Recreation Reserve for ease of opening for use as a Community Hub.

Objective 10.

Enhance the facilities at the Undera Recreation Reserve to enable the centre to be used as a Community Hub:

- Install a satellite internet connection
- Purchase and install a generator
- Build / renovate bathroom facilities (toilets and showers – numbers required)
- Purchase and install new water tanks (number & size required)
- Upgrade internal and external security within the Undera Recreation Reserve facility (lockable areas that separate the football club equipment and community hub areas)

Objective 11.

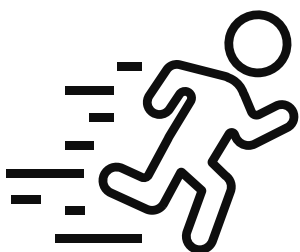
Develop a flood emergency plan for the Undera community

- Including an agreement with Council on the trigger point to deliver sand (quantity required) to Undera Recreation Reserve (Trigger point to be set to allow Council time).
- Include the Council Municipal Emergency Management Officer (MEMO) duty phone number in the plan.
- Include riverine flood gauge heights and identified impacts
- Outline community actions.



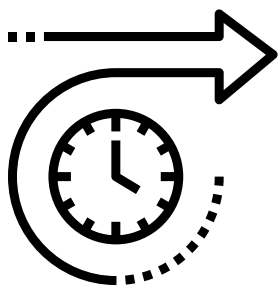
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Local Priorities



Short term goals

The immediate focus is on formally establishing the Undera Emergency Resilience Group, ensuring its recognition as a sub-committee of the Undera Recreation Reserve Committee. Additionally, key community education and training initiatives will be rolled out, including First Aid/CPR training, sandbagging training, grant writing, flood education, fire preparedness, storm education, and guidance on using the Vic Emergency App.



Medium term goals

To strengthen all-hazards preparedness, a shipping container will be purchased and stocked with essential emergency supplies such as sandbags, shovels, gloves, blankets, maps, first aid kits, and torches. To enhance the Undera Recreation Reserve as a community hub, key upgrades will be pursued, including satellite internet, a generator, improved bathroom facilities, new water tanks, and enhanced security measures to support emergency response and community recovery efforts.



Long term goal

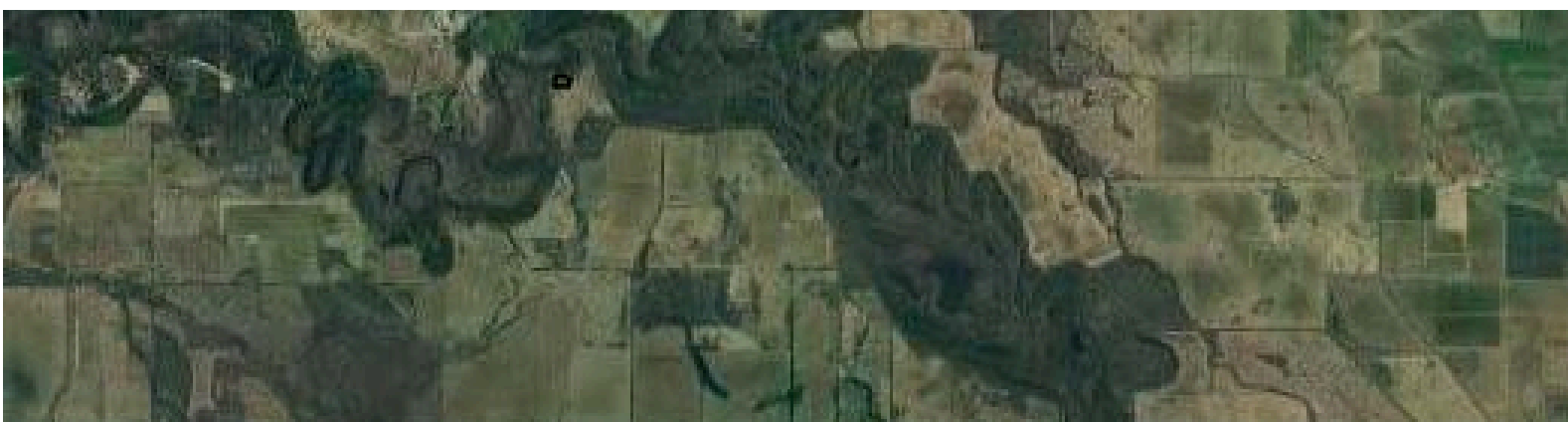
The focus will shift to developing a flood emergency plan for Undera, including a formal agreement with Council on flood response triggers and resource allocation. A Community Hub model will be created to define roles, activation triggers, and operational guidelines.



Key Issues & vulnerabilities

Key issues & vulnerabilities

- The Undera Recreation Reserve is a predetermined staging ground for CFA which means that during prolonged emergencies CFA may move a lot of resources (trucks, vehicles etc) to the Recreation Reserve before being deployed to the emergency. This use does not affect the hub being opened by the community.
- The Undera Recreation Reserve is also a pre-determined Emergency Relief Centre which can be opened under the direction of an Incident Controller during an emergency. An Emergency Relief Centre is managed by Council and provides a safe location where community can gather when they have been told to leave a certain area during an emergency. An Emergency Relief Centre would only be open for the duration of the emergency and when closed the Community Hub could open providing continuous support for the community.
- Undera does not have a local VicSES Unit, the closest unit is the Tatura VicSES Unit.
- Reduced irrigation is making Undera drier, leading to land degradation, dust storms, and lower crop yields. With increased bushfire risks and challenges in pasture growth and livestock management, farmers are adapting through new grazing patterns and alternative water sources.
- The Undera community has faced compounding crises, from COVID-19 to floods, storms and now drought. The pandemic isolated residents and strained local services, while flooding caused property damage and disrupted farming. Now, reduced irrigation and drier conditions are impacting agriculture, increasing bushfire risks, and increasing pressure on mental health and financial stress.





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Values

History

Teamwork

People

Community has
a can do
attitude.

A commitment
to improve

Community

Cooperation

All ages coming
together to
help.

“Flood brought
community
together.”

SHORT TERM OBJECTIVES

Action	Lead	Support	Due By	Complete	Comments
Proposal to seek the establishment of the group as the Undera Emergency Resilience Group and submit a formal request to the Undera Recreation Reserve Committee to recognise it as a sub-committee.					
First Aid/CPR Training					
Grant Writing workshop					
Large map outlining potential riverine flood areas with river gauge locations and heights to be observed					
Pictograph of how-to safety fill sandbags (maybe include a QR code link to VICSES short videos on how to sandbag)					
Purchase a lock box					

SHORT TERM OBJECTIVES

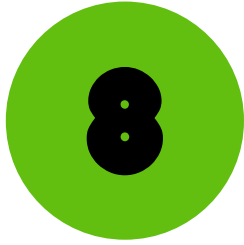
Action	Lead	Support	Due By	Complete	Comments
Sandbagging training					
Flood education					
How to use the Vic Emergency App					
Fire preparedness session					
Storm education					
Develop a new residents kit that includes hazard information.					

MEDIUM TERM OBJECTIVES

Action	Lead	Support	Due By	Complete	Comments
<p>Increase preparedness to all hazards, by purchasing a shipping container to hold the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sandbags• Shovels• Gloves• Plastic pallets• Laminated maps• First Aid kit/Snake kit• Blankets• Torches• Plastic tubs• Banner/flag (to indicate when the hub is open)					
<p>Develop a community hub model to suit community requirements (triggers to open, roles and role descriptions, coloured vests etc)</p>					
<p>Enhance the facilities at the Undera Recreation Reserve to enable the centre to be used as a Community Hub:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Install a satellite internet connection• Purchase and install a generator• Build / renovate bathroom facilities (toilets and showers – numbers required)• Purchase and install new water tanks (number & size required)• Upgrade internal and external security within the Undera Recreation Reserve facility (lockable areas that separate the football club equipment and community hub areas)					

LONG TERM OBJECTIVES

Action	Lead	Support	Due By	Complete	Comments
Develop a flood emergency plan for the Undera community <ul style="list-style-type: none">Including an agreement with Council on the trigger point to deliver sand (quantity required) to Undera Recreation Reserve (Trigger point to be set to allow Council time)Include the Council Municipal Emergency Management Officer (MEMO) duty phone number in the planInclude riverine flood gauge heights and identified impactsCommunity actions					



Emergency Contacts

Agency	Phone Number	Website
Triple 000	000	
VicEmergency	1800 226 226	emergency.vic.gov.au
VicSES	132 500	ses.vic.gov.au
CFA		cfa.vic.gov.au
VicTraffic		traffic.transport.vic.gov.au
Police but not the sirens	131 444	
Bureau of Meterology		bom.gov.au
Powercor Outages	13 24 12	
Poisons Information Line	13 11 26	
Nurse on Call	1300 60 60 24	
Better Health Channel		betterhealth.vic.gov.au
Greater Shepparton City Council	5832 9700	greatersepparton.com.au



Undera Emergency Resilience Group

The Undera Emergency Resilience Group was established in 2025 and consists of the following members:

Members	Members
Alistair Chessells	Donna Thomson
Sue Chessells	Chris Kanzoo
Nicole	Brenton Campbell
Bobby Boyer	Neville Ismaili
David Baxter	Andrew
Peter Mitchell	Felice Sgammato
Jarrold Mitchell	Irene Sgammato
Allan Brunt - 0411 612 708	Kaylene Reid

The Undera Emergency Resilience Group welcomes new members.

