DRAFT
Community Disaster Resilience Plan

A plan for a disaster resilient Mornington Peninsula

2025 – 2030

Mornington Peninsula Shire

Acknowledgement of Country

Mornington Peninsula Shire acknowledges the Bunurong people, who have been the custodians of this land for many thousands of years; and pays respect to their elders past and present. We acknowledge that the land on which we meet is the place of age-old ceremonies, celebrations, initiation, and renewal; and that the Bunurong peoples' living culture continues to have a unique role in the life of this region.



As we work to strengthen disaster resilience on the Mornington Peninsula, it is our intention to walk alongside local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, to listen, to learn, and to support community-led approaches.

We are committed to building real partnerships, where culture, Country, and community knowledge is respected and included in planning, decision-making, and recovery. We know this will lead to better outcomes for everyone.

Message from the Mayor, CEO

The Mornington Peninsula is a strong and connected community, but we know that disasters can have profound and lasting impacts on people's lives. As climate change increases the frequency and severity of these events, building community resilience is not only important - it is essential.

This Community Disaster Resilience Plan represents a new and proactive approach for local government, and we are proud to be leading the way. While state and federal agencies have key responsibilities, local government is often the first and most consistent point of contact during times of crisis. We play a unique role - preparing communities, supporting emergency response, helping coordinate recovery, and advocating for those most affected.

This Plan reflects our commitment to working in partnership with our community to reduce disaster risks and strengthen the social, environmental, built, and economic systems that keep us safe. It aims to empower individuals, neighbourhoods, and businesses to act - before, during, and after emergencies.

Council's role in disaster resilience is broad and vital. The CEO provides strategic direction and ensures that Council fulfils its emergency management responsibilities, with clear delegation across the organisation. The Mayor and councillors, while not operational responders, provide visible leadership, advocate for community needs, support communication efforts, and offer reassurance and connection during recovery.

We are committed to leading by example - coordinating preparedness efforts, strengthening partnerships, advocating for local needs, and ensuring timely, inclusive, and accessible information is available to all.

This Plan has been shaped by local knowledge and informed by community voices. We thank everyone who contributed, and we encourage all residents, businesses, and community groups to stay connected and engaged. Together, we can build a more resilient Mornington Peninsula.

Mayor

Mornington Peninsula Shire

Chief Executive Officer

Mornington Peninsula Shire

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Plan on a Page

Vision

A resilient and connected community pro-actively engaged, empowered, and supported to withstand and adapt to disasters.

Aim

The Community Disaster Resilience Plan aims to:

Empower individuals and communities to share responsibility for disaster preparedness and actively contribute to local resilience.

Objectives

To achieve this, we will work collaboratively to:

1. **Strengthen community disaster preparedness by building capacity through networks, partnerships, and advocacy.**
2. **Provide clear and inclusive information and training about emergency preparedness, response, and recovery.**
3. **Identify, implement, and promote programs and activities that minimise the impacts of disasters and increase resilience in our community.**

Each objective has a set of initiatives and actions that outlined towards the end of this document.

Examples of Preparedness Activities

Support and strengthen local disaster resilience networks



Provide clear disaster-related information in a range of accessible formats



Provide training and support for psychological first aid



Provide disaster preparedness advice to local businesses



Develop local emergency action plans in high-risk areas



Offer disaster preparedness training tailored to different audiences



Promote water safety to prevent drowning incidents



Partner with local radio to share emergency advice



Introduction

The Mornington Peninsula Shire (the Shire) has developed its first Community Disaster Resilience Plan (the Plan) as a whole-of-community approach to strengthening resilience and preparedness for disasters and emergencies. It outlines a shared commitment to support individuals, families, communities, and businesses to better prepare for, respond to, and recover from disasters.

Background

This Plan was developed in response to a growing need to better coordinate and communicate the Shire's efforts in disaster preparedness and resilience. While the Shire has long played a role in emergency management, recent events have highlighted the importance of clearly articulating its work in this space and strengthening collaboration across the community.

Informed by community feedback, local experience, and best practice from other municipalities, this Plan will guide the Shire in prioritising actions, engaging partners, and monitoring the effectiveness of resilience-building efforts. It also serves as a valuable communication tool - helping the community understand what is being done, how they can be involved, and how we can improve together over time.

Impacts of Disaster

Across Victoria, both the frequency and intensity of natural disasters have increased over the past 50 years, driven by a warming climate, changing rainfall patterns, and more extreme weather events. This trend is well documented in government reports, climate science analyses, and by emergency management agencies.

In recent years, the Mornington Peninsula has experienced damaging storm and wind events, significant floods, bushfires, coastal erosion, a pandemic, and landslides.

These events have disrupted lives and livelihoods, causing property damage, displacement, financial loss, and psychological stress. Local businesses have faced closures, loss of income, and ongoing recovery challenges. The Shire has repeatedly activated its Municipal Emergency Coordination Centre (MECC), coordinated community welfare responses, and led infrastructure recovery efforts.

These challenges reinforce the importance of communities being able to support each other during crises. By strengthening community-led preparedness and partnering with emergency and other community services and groups, we can facilitate faster, more effective local response and recovery. This Plan is a key step in supporting that shared responsibility for resilience.

A full incident record can be found in Appendix D of the Mornington Peninsula Shire's Municipal Emergency Management Plan (MEMP).

Community Resilience

Emergency Management Victoria uses a common definition of resilience, being:

'The capacity of individuals, communities, institutions, businesses and systems to survive, adapt and thrive no matter what kind of chronic stresses and acute shocks they experience.'

Strengthening community resilience includes looking at actions that can be taken to prevent or reduce the impact of a disaster, to plan and prepare for when an extreme event or hazard occurs and have systems in place to support emergency response and recovery.

This approach also acknowledges that climate change is increasing the frequency, extremity and type of natural disasters being experienced, warranting a higher level of priority to be put on preparedness, as historical measures may not be sufficient.

Community Resilience Characteristics

The Community Resilience Framework for Emergency Management, developed by Emergency Management Victoria uses a common definition of resilience, being:

'The capacity of individuals, communities, institutions, businesses and systems to survive, adapt and thrive no matter what kind of chronic stresses and acute shocks they experience.'

Building community resilience includes looking at actions that can be taken to prevent or reduce the impact of a disaster, to plan and prepare for when an extreme event or hazard occurs and have systems in place to support emergency response and recovery.

Community Resilience Characteristics

Emergency Management Victoria sets out seven characteristics of community resilience in its Community Resilience Framework for Emergency Management:

1. **Connected, inclusive and empowered**
2. **Sustainable built and natural environment**
3. **Reflective and aware**
4. **Democratic and engaged**
5. **Dynamic and diverse local economy**
6. **Safe and well**
7. **Culturally rich and vibrant**

Community Resilience Framework for Emergency Management | Emergency Management Victoria

Context

Changing Climate

The Insurance Council of Australia states that Australia faces some of the most significant climate-related risks in the world Climate Action - Insurance Council of Australia.

This plan acknowledges that climate change is increasing the frequency, severity, and unpredictability of extreme weather events such as heatwaves, bushfires, storms, and floods. These events are occurring more often and with greater intensity, putting added pressure on communities, infrastructure, and emergency services.

Climate risks are disproportionally felt by those who are least able to adapt, including many of the priority populations documented in this plan and identified in the following report: Impact of climate and health on our community - Mornington Peninsula Shire.

As the risks escalate, it becomes more important than ever for individuals and communities to be proactive in preparing for disasters. Strengthening local preparedness, building resilience, and ensuring inclusive and accessible planning can help reduce the impacts of climate-related emergencies and support faster, more effective recovery.

While this Plan focuses on improving community resilience to impacts and events on the peninsula over the next five years, it also recognises that the projections, mapping and evidence are changing rapidly, which will likely impact future iterations of this plan.

Case Study

The Adaptation Game – Community Engagement on Climate Resilience

Introduced to the Mornington Peninsula in October 2024, The Adaptation Game is an interactive board game designed to spark conversations about local climate risks and community resilience. Played at multiple locations across the Shire since its introduction, the game encourages participants to consider practical strategies for adapting to climate-related hazards in their own communities. Its engaging format has made it a popular activity at events and workshops. A schools' version is now in development, with Toorak College partnering on its adaptation for younger audiences.

To find out more visit Play The Adaptation Game - Mornington Peninsula Shire.

State Legislative Context

The Emergency Management Act 2013 allows the Municipal Emergency Management Planning Committee (MEMPC) to consider community-based emergency plans when developing the Municipal Emergency Management Plan (MEMP). The Community Disaster Resilience Plan (CDRP) will link to the MEMP as a complementary plan.

The Victorian Public Health and Wellbeing Plan 2023-27 recognises that climate change is a leading threat to health and wellbeing. Tackling climate change and its impact on health is included as 1 of 10 key focus areas. The objectives of the CDRP will be embedded in our Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan 2025 - 2029.

Further to this, the *Local Government Act 2020* requires councils to "promote the economic, social and environmental sustainability of the municipal district, including mitigation and planning for climate change risks." This includes planning for an increased frequency and severity of climate-related natural disasters such as storms, floods, and fires.

State and Federal Legislation and Guidance

- Southern Metro Environmental Scan – Emergency Management Victoria, 2025
- Community Resilience Framework for Emergency Management - Emergency Management Victoria, 2017
- Victorian Preparedness Framework - Emergency Management Victoria, 2022
- Victorian State Emergency Management Plan (SEMP) - Emergency Management Victoria, 2024
- *Victorian Climate Change Act* – Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA), 2017
- Strategic Action Plan (SAP) - Emergency Management Victoria, 2023-26
- National Strategy for Disaster Resilience - Council of Australian Governments, 2011
- National Disaster Risk Reduction Framework, National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA), 2023

Shire Strategic Context

Peninsula 2024: Our Shared Vision		
Council Plan 2025 – 2029 **Objective 2.1.6:** Promote and support initiatives that strengthen community resilience and adaptation to emergencies and climate impacts.		
Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan 2025 – 2029 **Objective 6.1:** Increase resilience and preparedness of community to proactively adapt to the health and wellbeing impacts of climate change. **Objective 6.2:** Effectively prepare and respond to local emergency events and extreme climate conditions.		
Municipal Emergency Management Plan	Community Engagement Policy and Strategy	Community Facilities Infrastructure Strategy
We All Belong Strategy	Universal Design Policy	Our Coasts our Future Strategy
Gender Equality Strategy	Economic Development and Tourism Strategy	Foreshore Camping Strategy
Reconciliation Action Plan	Flood and Stormwater Strategy	Events Policy and Strategy
Biodiversity Conservation Plan	Arts and Culture Plan	Triple A Housing Plan
Environmentally Sustainable Design (ESD) Policy for Council Buildings and Civil Works	Integrated Water Management Plan	Urban Forest Strategy

Our Approach to Disaster Resilience

The Shire's Role

The Mornington Peninsula Shire plays a vital role in community disaster preparedness by:

- **Collaborating** with communities, emergency services, businesses, and other partners.
- **Coordinating** municipal relief and recovery activities and local support as required.
- **Connecting** people, organisations, and resources to build cohesive and prepared communities.
- **Educating** through workshops, campaigns, and resources to increase skills, awareness, and local capacity.
- **Facilitating** inclusive and meaningful community engagement and collaboration.
- **Hosting** events, forums, and programs that foster learning and connection.
- **Informing** communities before, during and after emergencies through clear and inclusive communication.
- **Supporting** community-led action and local leadership.

Principles

1. Community-led
Local communities best understand their own risks and strengths. We will support and build upon existing community capacity and resilience, promoting self-determination and shared responsibility. Community-led approaches are prioritised over top-down solutions.

2. Relationship-based
Resilience grows through strong, respectful relationships. We value trust and long-term collaboration between communities, governments, and services, supporting approaches that work with communities, not for them.

3. Equity and Respect
The plan recognises that disasters affect people differently. Equitable preparedness and recovery require a targeted approach, and all actions must respect and respond to diverse experiences and strengths.

4. Learning and Sharing
A culture of continuous learning, reflection, and knowledge-sharing underpins the plan. We value different perspectives, and adapt to change through dialogue, evaluation, and feedback.

5. Strength in Diversity
Diversity is a key strength. Inclusive planning leads to more innovative, effective, and resilient outcomes, with everyone having a role before, during, and after emergencies.

Processes

The development and implementation of the plan are shaped by:

Community-Centred Collaboration: Communities are engaged as leaders and decision-makers throughout the process. Their autonomy is respected, and their contributions are central.

Partnership and Shared Responsibility: The process builds on collaborative relationships where the Shire's role is to support, connect, and enable rather than control.

Solution-Oriented Capacity Building: The process draws on local knowledge and resources to support practical, community-driven initiatives that enhance disaster resilience.

Trauma-Informed Practice: Engagement is designed to be safe, respectful, and responsive to the lived experiences of individuals and communities, particularly those affected by the trauma of past emergencies and disasters.

Scope

In Scope

This plan focuses on strengthening local capacity to prepare for, respond to, and recover from a range of disasters – identified in the following section on hazards. These include bushfires, heatwaves, storms, floods, service disruptions, landslides, drowning incidents, pandemics, and other local risks.

The primary aim is to empower individuals and communities to share responsibility for disaster preparedness and contribute actively to local resilience.

The plan supports practical, community-level actions that help people to:

- Know where and how to access accurate information during emergencies
- Prepare to be self-sufficient for at least 72 hours
- Build and maintain strong social connections with neighbours, family, and friends to provide mutual support.

The actions and strategies included in this plan are focused on fostering awareness, preparedness, connectedness, and shared responsibility across the community.

Out of Scope

This plan does not directly address long-term or systemic challenges such as climate change mitigation, managed retreat, homelessness, food insecurity or population mental health.

It also does not address infrastructure and planning matters that are covered by other parts of the Shire.

While personal or everyday crises can affect people's capacity to prepare for or recover from disasters, addressing these broader social determinants is not the primary focus of this plan.

However, it is acknowledged that these systemic issues are intrinsically linked to the emergencies we experience, and that many of the actions in this plan may contribute indirectly to strengthening overall resilience, including in the face of personal hardship.

It is also recognised that people are affected disproportionately by disasters due to existing systemic inequalities, which can increase vulnerability and limit access to resources before, during, and after emergencies.

Risks and Hazards

The Mornington Peninsula Shire's Municipal Emergency Management Plan (MEMP) employs an all-hazards risk assessment approach, aligning with international standards like ISO 31000:2018. This process identifies risks, assesses vulnerabilities, and informs mitigation strategies to enhance community resilience. The likelihood and impact of these hazards are influenced by factors such as climate change, land use, and community vulnerability.

Key Hazards

Hazards rarely occur in isolation. A single event—such as a storm—may trigger flooding, landslides, and power outages. A bushfire can disrupt transport, water, and telecommunications, whilst compounding health and wellbeing challenges. These interconnected impacts emphasise the need for integrated, community-based disaster preparedness strategies that strengthen local capacity to respond, adapt, and recover.



Figure 1 A map showing bushfire overlays, flood prone areas, and coastal inundation overlays is available on the Shire website under Mornington Peninsula Planning

Some of the key hazards on the Mornington Peninsula include:

1. Bushfires

The Mornington Peninsula is highly bushfire-prone, with areas like Arthurs Seat, Mount Martha, Crib Point, Mt Eliza, the hinterland (Red Hill, Main Ridge, Shoreham, Flinders, Merricks North) and back beach National Parks being particularly vulnerable. Factors such as dense vegetation, steep terrain, and prevailing north-westerly winds contribute to the risk. The Australasian Fire and Emergency Services Authorities Council (AFAC) has identified the Mornington Peninsula as facing a heightened bushfire risk, especially during dry and warm seasons.

2. Flooding
Flooding poses a significant risk across the Shire, particularly in low-lying areas and along waterways. Urbanisation and climate change have increased the frequency and severity of flood events. The Mornington Peninsula Shire's Flood and Stormwater Strategy highlights the threats to human health, property, and the environment from flooding.

3. Storms and Coastal Hazards
The Peninsula's extensive coastline makes it susceptible to coastal erosion, storm surges, and inundation. Climate change-induced sea level rise is expected to exacerbate these hazards. The 'Our Coast Our Future' Strategy aims to understand and manage coastal risks through mitigation and adaptation strategies.

4. Landslides
Landslides have caused significant damage in areas such as McCrae, Dromana, and Flinders - with recent events prompting property evacuations and long-term recovery efforts. Landslides can cause road closures, infrastructure damage, access limitations for emergency services, and increased costs of mitigation, adaptation and insurance.

5. Heatwaves
Heatwaves are becoming more frequent and intense, posing serious health risks, particularly to older people, children, and those with existing health conditions. Prolonged heat can lead to dehydration, heat exhaustion, and exacerbate chronic illnesses. These events also increase demand on health services and can disrupt power supplies.

6. Drowning and Water Safety
The region's extensive coastline and popular beaches pose a risk of drowning, particularly at unpatrolled ocean beaches. Incidents have highlighted the need for increased public awareness, improved signage, and access to rescue equipment. Seasonal influxes of visitors also place added pressure on emergency response resources during peak periods.

7. Service Disruption (Power, Water, Telecommunications)
Hazards such as storms, bushfires, and floods regularly disrupt essential services including electricity, water, and telecommunications. Prolonged outages can leave households without heating or cooling, limit access to emergency updates, and affect medical equipment, business operations, and daily routines. These impacts are especially challenging for isolated or vulnerable residents and can delay recovery efforts.

8. Pandemics
The COVID-19 pandemic demonstrated how public health emergencies can have wide-ranging impacts on community wellbeing, the economy, and service systems. Restrictions on movement, social isolation, and increased pressure on health services were especially difficult for vulnerable and isolated residents. The pandemic also reinforced the importance of trusted local communication and mutual aid networks in supporting community resilience.

Hazard × Vulnerability = Risk

Hazard × Vulnerability = Risk is a commonly used framework to understand disaster risk.

- **Hazard** refers to a potentially dangerous event, such as a bushfire, flood, heatwave, or pandemic.
- **Vulnerability** describes how exposed or susceptible people, infrastructure, or environments are to harm from that hazard. This can be influenced by factors like poverty, disability, age, language barriers, or lack of access to information or resources.
- **Risk** is the potential for loss or harm resulting from the combination of the hazard and the vulnerability.

This equation shows that the level of risk doesn't just depend on the severity of the hazard - it also depends on how vulnerable people or systems are. For example, the same flood might have little impact in a well-prepared community but cause significant harm in a community with limited resources or support. Reducing risk can be achieved by either lowering the likelihood or impact of hazards (e.g. through emergency preparedness and early warnings) or by reducing vulnerability (e.g. by improving access to information and social supports).

Case Study
Mornington Peninsula Resilience, Relief and Recovery (RRR) Network

A local network consisting of Shire staff, emergency services, community services and community groups was established in 2023, aimed at building stronger local connections and greater awareness of disaster preparedness and response initiatives.

The RRR Network meets on a quarterly basis to discuss recent events and hear from guest speakers on topics such as insurance, financial assistance, material aid and other disaster-related issues. The 80+ members also receive emails about relevant events and issues relating to disaster preparedness and recovery.

Members have participated in training, including psychological first aid and gender in disaster / lessons in disaster, and community group members have been involved in helping residents affected by recent storms.

Future actions identified for the RRR Network in the Community Disaster Resilience Plan include creating a resource list that can be used in times of emergency and involving members in scenario planning.

Anyone interested in joining the RRR Network can email em@mornpen.vic.gov.au

Community Consultation

Mornington Peninsula Shire engaged Capire Consulting Group (Capire) to support the design, development, and analysis of community engagement to inform the development of the Plan. The engagement activities occurred over eight weeks, commencing on 7 April 2025 and ending on 30 May 2025.

Participation

A total of 539 participants provided feedback via an online (78) or physical scorecard (461) throughout the engagement period. A total of 86 participants also provided ideas and suggestions to support community connection and emergency readiness through an online survey, or via activities at pop-up engagement events.

Age

The largest group of participants were aged over 60 years (46%), followed by those between 30-59 (42%) and those under 30 (11%).

Priority Populations

While most participants (390) did not identify with a priority population, the following groups were captured in the responses:

- Low income (11%)
- Have a disability (10%)
- Speak a language other than English at home (6%)
- LGBTQIA+ (6%)
- single parent (5%)
- housing insecure (3%)
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander (2%).

Most participants were residents of the Mornington Peninsula Shire (89%) or workers (16%). 62% of participants were women, 37% men and 0.8% were gender diverse.

Engagement methods

Promotion	Engagement tools
• Shape Mornington Peninsula webpage • Social media promotion (paid and organic) • Email promotion • In-person advertising at key locations • Newspaper and radio advertising • Cinema advertising	• A physical "Community Resilience Scorecard" – left at 26 locations across the peninsula and used at pop-ups • An online scorecard and survey • A conversation toolkit • Six pop-up events across the Shire • Six community conversations/workshops held with existing community organisations and advisory groups

Community Resilience Scorecard

Participants were asked to reflect on their level of preparedness and resilience for future disasters and emergencies using a "Scorecard" that asked about *individual*, *household*, and *community* resilience.

People were also invited to provide de-identified demographic information about themselves, including age, gender, postcode, and whether they identify as speaking a language other than English; Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander; LGBTQIA+; housing insecure; low income; single parent; have a disability.

Results from the scorecard have created a baseline for understanding the community's level of disaster resilience, which can be measured again in future years.



The following is a summary of results from each category, highlighting the most significant results and findings.

Individual	• Most participants reported a strong awareness of the types of emergencies that may affect them (76%) and the types of critical documents or essential items they would need to take with them in an emergency (64%) • Just over half of participants agreed that they knew where to find information during an emergency (61%). This is much lower for those who were: ▪ housing insecure (36%) ▪ young people under 18 (45%) or 19-29 (47%) ▪ a single parent (50%) • Less than half of participants had identified evacuation routes or safe locations for different emergencies (49%) and this is even lower for those aged under 30 (38%).
Community	• Only 41% of participants agreed that they had had a conversation about what to do in an emergency with their household or support network. • 34% of participants had a household emergency plan, including how to manage pets or livestock. This was much lower for single parents (16%). • Only 20% of participants had an emergency kit with essential supplies to last 72 hours. • 68% of participants agreed that they knew how to turn off their homes utilities if needed. This was highest for those over 70 (78%) but much lower for people under 18 (45%) and those who identified as LGBTQIA+ (57%).
Household	• Most participants felt supported by their friends, family and community (74%). This was much lower for those who were: ▪ LGBTQIA+ (28%) ▪ aged under 18 (36%) ▪ single parents (38%) ▪ housing insecure (46%) • Similarly, most felt that they could call on a neighbour for help (77%). Positively, 100% of those under 18 agreed with this statement, however agreement was still much lower for: ▪ housing insecure (38%) ▪ low-income earners (60%) ▪ single parents (62%). • Those who were over 70 or under 18 were most likely to be part of a local club/group (77% and 62% respectively) or knew how to get involved (83% and 91% respectively). This was much lower for those who were LGBTQIA+, housing insecure, or aged between 19-39. • Most participants reported that they would be likely to check in on a neighbour before, during or after an extreme weather event (71%). This was lower for those who were housing insecure (54%), LGBTQIA+ (55%) or aged 19-29 (56%).

Summary of Community Recommendations

Community members shared ideas on how to strengthen local connection and emergency preparedness, highlighting the importance of tailored, accessible, and inclusive approaches.

Overall, communities called for place-based planning, diverse communication methods, proactive climate action, inclusive strategies, and stronger local collaboration to improve emergency readiness and resilience.

Place-Specific Emergency Response

Participants strongly advocated for localised emergency planning and scenario exercises. Suggestions included suburb-specific emergency plans, bushfire evacuation routes, community meet points with power and support, and designated safe zones. There was concern that some areas, such as Hastings and Western Port, are often overlooked in planning.

Information Type and Delivery Preferences

Residents emphasised the need for clear, plain-language emergency information accessible across multiple platforms—especially during power or mobile outages. Preferred formats included printed materials (e.g. fridge magnets, maps), online updates (web, social media, text alerts), and in-person engagement (workshops, school programs, pop-ups at markets).

The Shire's Role in Prevention

There was frustration about the revocation of the Climate Emergency declaration and Climate Emergency Plan, with calls for renewed commitment and transparency in climate-related actions. Participants recommended the adoption of a reviewed Climate Emergency Plan.

There were also suggestions that the Shire should provide clearer emergency roles and communicate better on Shire prevention activities like drain clearing and fire mitigation.

Support for Priority Populations

Participants stressed the need for inclusive emergency planning that supports vulnerable groups, including seniors, people with disability, children, and those on the Vulnerable Persons Register. Suggestions included tailored education, known procedures, and follow-up support.

Local Business Involvement

Participants suggested using local businesses as hubs for information and resource distribution, recognising the impact of emergencies on small business operations. Ideas included free emergency packs and business-focused workshops.

Recommendations and findings from the community feedback have been used to inform the action plan below. A full report with all findings is available upon request.

Mornington Peninsula Community Profile

The Mornington Peninsula Shire Estimated Resident Population for 2024 was 171,450, with a population density of 237 people per square km. 51.7% of the total population were male and 48.3% were female.

Visitor Population

The Mornington Peninsula attracts up to 7.9 million visitors each year, of which around 73% are day-trippers and 27% stay overnight. With more than 3,500 short stay accommodation properties and approximately 24,000 holiday homes, the population is more than double over the summer months and long weekends, with many people not familiar with local conditions or hazards.

Priority Populations and Disaster

Priority populations are sometimes described as 'vulnerable' due to physical, social, or environmental factors that may increase a person's exposure to the impacts of hazards such as fires, floods, and storms. Depending on circumstances, some people in our community may require tailored support, information, medication, or amenities before, during, and after emergencies and disasters.

Priority populations include:

- Children and young people
- Older people
- People with disability
- People from multicultural communities
- People who identify as Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Intersex, Queer, Asexual and gender diverse (LGBTIQA+)
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples
- People experiencing or at risk of homelessness
- Single parents
- People on low incomes
- Carers

Intersectionality and disaster

Intersectionality refers to the ways in which different aspects of a person's identity can expose them to overlapping forms of discrimination and marginalisation (Victorian Government, 2021). In the context of disasters, intersectionality helps us understand how factors like gender, disability, culture, language, and socioeconomic status can combine to intensify a person's vulnerability and affect their ability to prepare for, respond to, and recover from emergencies.

Gender and disaster

Disasters can affect men, women, and gender diverse people in different ways, often reinforcing harmful gender norms and inequalities. Women and gender diverse people may face increased risks of family and sexual violence, both during and after emergencies, as well as barriers to accessing support, resources, and information. Men may feel pressure to conform to outdated traditional roles as protectors or "heroes," which can contribute to mental health challenges and discourage help-seeking. Rigid gender stereotypes can limit the roles people play in preparedness, response, and recovery, making it essential that emergency planning recognises and addresses these diverse experiences and needs.

Home - Gender and Disaster Australia

Children and young people

Children (0-10 years) are adaptable, curious, and capable of learning how to respond in emergencies. If they understand what to do, they are more likely to stay safe and cope better. However, they rely heavily on caregivers for protection and support, and may be especially vulnerable in unfamiliar or public settings such as relief centres. Their developmental, emotional, and social needs require age-appropriate information, consistent care, and safe environments to reduce the impacts of disasters.

Young people (10-24 years) are creative, resourceful, and often eager to help during times of crisis. With the right support and information, they can provide meaningful assistance to their families, peers, and communities. However, their needs and experiences are often overlooked in emergency planning. To support their wellbeing and resilience, it is important to provide them with targeted information, opportunities for participation, and meaningful roles in preparedness, response, and recovery efforts.

Resources for parents and caregivers | Australian Red Cross

Youth Affairs Council Victoria | Young People and Disasters Resource Hub

In 2021, there were 17,201 children aged 0-9 years and 27,567 young people aged 10-24 years on the Mornington Peninsula making up 10.3% and 16.3% of the population respectively.

The neighbourhoods with the highest number of children and young people are Mornington (2,397 aged 0-9 years / 3,942 aged 10-24), Mount Eliza (2,257 aged 0-9 years / 3, 3,798 aged 10-24), Mount Martha (2,225 aged 0-9 years / 3,862 aged 10-24) and Rosebud and surrounds (2,225 aged 0-9 years / 3,216 ages 10-24).

Older people

Older people are vital contributors to our community. Many lead volunteer efforts, support social cohesion, and bring valuable lived experience, including from past disasters. However, they may also face greater risks due to chronic illness, limited mobility, reduced access to technology, low income, or lack of support. On the Mornington Peninsula, where more older women live alone and older men may be less engaged in community life, tailored approaches are needed. Inclusive emergency planning should recognise the wisdom and strengths of older people, and provide relevant, accessible communication, as well as age-friendly and intergenerational initiatives.

Age-Friendly Communities | Resources Publications Websites

Cooling off: exploring the use of community cooling centres by older people during heatwaves in Victoria

In 2021, there were 68,876 people aged over 55 years on the Mornington Peninsula Shire, making up 40.4% of the population.

The neighbourhoods with the highest number of older people aged over 55 years are Mornington (53%) and Flinders (53%); followed by Point Nepean (48.5%), Rosebud-Macrae (46.7%) and Dromana (45.4%).

Case Study

Seniors Festival – Community Resilience and Emergency Preparedness Sessions

In October 2024, the Mornington Peninsula Shire's Community Resilience Emergency Management team partnered with local emergency services to deliver targeted sessions for older adults during the Seniors Festival. These sessions focused on building resilience and practical emergency preparedness skills. Highlights included Red Cross RediPlan workshops, CPR and defibrillator demonstrations from Ambulance Victoria, CFA-led Fire Ready and Tech Ready sessions, mental health talks from HALT, and a community screening of How to Thrive. The interactive format was well received, with seniors gaining confidence in using mobile technology for emergency alerts and medical information.

In October 2025, the program will return with updated content and a new Water Safety Initiative offering 30 free swimming lessons for seniors in partnership with Belgravia Leisure. The ongoing focus remains on empowering older adults to prepare for emergencies, stay connected, and access support. These sessions continue to strengthen individual resilience and community preparedness across the Peninsula.

People with disability

People with disability are resourceful and innovative, but often face greater risks in disasters due to barriers related to communication, mobility, support needs, and discrimination. These risks can be intensified by limited access to emergency information, reliance on public transport, challenges evacuating, and heightened exposure to sexual and gender-based violence—particularly for women with disability. Inclusive emergency planning must be inclusive, accessible, safe, and informed by people's lived experience to reduce harm and improve outcomes.

Disability Inclusive Emergency Management (DIEM) Toolkit | Collaborating 4 Inclusion

Due to an older demographic on the Mornington Peninsula, it is estimated that people with disability made up 23% (39,239) of the population in 2021.

The neighbourhoods with the highest number of reported persons in need of assistance are Capel Sound (14%), Hastings (8.9%), and Rosebud (8.4%).

People from multicultural communities

People from different multicultural backgrounds bring diverse skills, experiences, and perspectives that can enrich local communities and strengthen disaster resilience. At the same time, individuals may face barriers such as past trauma, unfamiliarity with local systems or conditions, racism and discrimination or language and cultural differences. Effective preparedness engagement should be inclusive, culturally responsive, and based on trust.

Emergency Management - Ethnic Communities Council of Victoria

In 2021, 17.7% of people on the Mornington Peninsula were born overseas and 5.4% of people used a language other than English at home. The 2021 Census shows that the ten largest ancestries on the Mornington Peninsula are English (45.2%), Australian (37.4%), Irish (12.5%), Scottish (12.2%) Italian (4.7%), German (4%), Dutch (2.5%), Greek (1.6%), Australian Aboriginal (1%) and Chinese (0.9%).

The language groups with the largest number of people with low or no English proficiency were Greek, Italian, and Mandarin.

Mount Eliza has the highest proportion of people born overseas (22.3%) and Dromana /Safety Beach (8.6%) has the highest proportion of people who speak a language other than English.

Case Study

Whitecliffs Foreshore Camping & CALD Water Safety Program

In response to data showing higher drowning risks among culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) communities visiting the Mornington Peninsula, the Shire partnered with community groups and service providers to deliver a tailored water safety education program in April 2025.

The program was held over two weekends at the Whitecliffs Foreshore camp grounds and included accommodation, ranger-led environmental talks, and two structured water safety sessions. On Day 1, participants learned theory and practical skills in a controlled environment at Yawa Aquatic Centre. Day 2 focused on beach safety and the differences between controlled and open water environments.

Early evaluation indicates a noticeable increase in participants' knowledge, skills, and confidence around water safety. Participants reported a greater understanding of how to access water safety information and a deeper appreciation of marine and foreshore conservation. Many also expressed a stronger connection to local coastal environments.

This program aligns with global evidence-based drowning prevention strategies, including the value of formal swimming education and community-led public awareness initiatives. Key lessons include the importance of culturally tailored engagement, combining education with environmental awareness, and sustaining communication over time to reinforce safe behaviours.

One participant reflected on a recent tragic incident involving three Chinese nationals at San Remo, saying:
"Your team has taught us to be aware of our surroundings, especially the rocks at the beach. That tragedy could have been prevented with more water safety awareness."

The success of this program highlights the importance of local, culturally relevant approaches to safety education—particularly in high-risk environments.

For more information visit Mornington Peninsula Water Safety on the Shire website

Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Intersex, Queer, Asexual (LGBTIQA+) and gender diverse

People who identify as Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Intersex, Queer, Asexual (LGBTIQA+) and gender diverse, while not a homogeneous group, are often very resilient, and deeply value the importance of community. However, many LGBTQIA+ people experience more discrimination, social isolation, sexual violence, and poor mental health than the broader population. These challenges can worsen during disasters due to things like lack of recognition/support of diverse family structures, misgendering, limited access to gender-affirming medication, and unsafe social environments. Relief centres must be welcoming and safe, with facilities such as all-gender toilets and showers, and staffed by volunteers trained in diversity and inclusion. Adequate planning and training are essential to reduce risks and support the health and safety of LGBTQIA+ individuals in emergencies.

Gender and Sexual Minorities in Disaster Risk Reduction: A Reference Guide

In 2017, it was estimated that 6,877* (5.4%) of the Mornington Peninsula adult population are openly LGBTIQ+ and live across all areas of the peninsula (*accurate data is limited and numbers may be higher).

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples

Many Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities hold strong cultural and social resilience, including kinship ties, cultural knowledge, and connection to Country. However, the lasting impacts of colonisation mean not all individuals have access to these connections and can face additional risks in disasters—such as re-traumatisation, lack of culturally safe support, and limited access to resources. Distrust of government services may also be a barrier, meaning preparedness efforts must be led by trusted community leaders and Elders, using communication that is visual, local, and culturally appropriate.

National Indigenous Disaster Resilience - School of Social Sciences

According to the 2021 Census, there were 1,720 Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander people living on the Mornington Peninsula, representing about 1% of the total population of the Shire.

Hastings, Rosebud, Capel Sound, Tootgarook and Crib Point had higher percentages of up to 2-3%.

People experiencing or at risk of homelessness

People experiencing or at risk of homelessness often navigate a range of complex challenges on a daily basis. In the context of disasters, they face increased risk due to limited access to safe shelter, transport, communication, and support services. On the Mornington Peninsula, where housing stress and homelessness are significant challenges, it is critical that emergency preparedness and response efforts consider the needs of these individuals and families to ensure their safety, dignity, and inclusion.

Housing and Homelessness - Mornington Peninsula Shire

In 2024-25, 948 community members sought assistance for homelessness, an increase of 16% from the previous year. This is on top of a 37% increase in people experiencing homelessness from 2016 to 2021 (census data).

As of 30 June 2025, over 100 people were actively homeless; most of whom were sleeping rough and often on the foreshore.

Case Study

Heat Relief Packs for Rough Sleepers

In response to growing concerns about the impact of extreme heat on people sleeping rough across the Mornington Peninsula, the Shire worked with the three Community Information and Support Centres located in Hastings, Mornington, and Rosebud to develop a practical and compassionate solution.

Together, we identified an urgent need to support rough sleepers—many of whom take shelter in tents, cars, or bushland along the coast—during periods of hot weather. This collaboration led to the creation of 'heat relief packs': small, insulated bags containing summer essentials including a reusable water bottle, sunscreen, insect repellent, a hat, a handheld fan, and a visual fact sheet called Hot Tips for Keeping Cool.

A total of 300 packs were assembled and provided to the three support centres, who distributed them directly to individuals in their communities. While simple, this initiative offered meaningful support to vulnerable people at risk of heat-related illness.

The project also demonstrated a model that could be easily replicated in other communities and extended for seasonal needs—such as creating winter packs—with the potential to be supported through community donations, service partnerships or

Single parents

Single parents demonstrate significant strength, resilience, and dedication as they juggle multiple responsibilities, often with limited support. In times of disaster, they may face heightened challenges such as reduced access to resources, difficulties evacuating or preparing with children, and limited financial or social safety nets. Recognising and prioritising the needs of single parents in emergency planning helps ensure they and their children are safe, supported, and included before, during, and after emergencies.

In 2021 there were 6,932 single parent families on the Mornington Peninsula (14.9% of all families). Approximately 82% or 5,684 of these were female-led and 18% or 1,248 were mal-led.

Areas with the highest percentage of single parent families were Hastings (17.4%), Rosebud (15.6%), Capel Sound (15.3%), Crib Point (14.8%) and Mornington (13.7%).

People on low incomes

People on low incomes (income under $500 per week), including many aged pensioners, manage on limited resources which can lead to increased vulnerability during disasters, affecting access to safe housing, transport, insurance, and recovery support. Prioritising the needs of low-income individuals in disaster preparedness - and the services that support them – helps to reduce further inequity of those most at risk.

In 2021 there were 21,083 (12.5%) people in low-income households on the Mornington Peninsula.

Rosebud had the highest percentage of low-income households (31.2%) compared to an average of 24% across the entire Mornington Peninsula.

Carers

Carers play a vital role in supporting others and are often highly resourceful individuals. During a disaster, carers may face added pressure to keep loved ones safe, while also managing their own needs. Challenges can include disrupted routines, limited access to resources, and difficulty evacuating or finding suitable accommodation.

Preparing for emergencies | Carer Gateway

In 2021, there were 17,982 people providing unpaid assistance to a person with a disability, long-term illness, or old age unpaid care on the Mornington Peninsula (16.1%), with 12,487 female carers (69.4%) and 5,495 male carers (30.6%).

There were higher rates of carers in Rosebud, Capel Sound, Hastings, Crib Point and Tootgarook.

Other Considerations

SEIFA Index

The highest levels of socio-economic disadvantage on the Mornington Peninsula, according to the 2021 SEIFA (Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas) Index of Relative Socio-economic Disadvantage, are concentrated in a few key towns and suburbs:

- Hastings — SEIFA decile 1 (most disadvantaged)
- Capel Sound — SEIFA decile 1 (most disadvantaged)
- Rosebud — SEIFA decile 2
- Tootgarook — SEIFA decile 2
- Crib Point — SEIFA decile 2

These areas are at the lowest end of the SEIFA scale for the Peninsula, indicating higher rates of low income, unemployment, lower educational attainment, and other markers of disadvantage. SEIFA by Local Government Area | Mornington Peninsula Shire | Community profile

Caravan Parks

There are at least eleven caravan parks across the Mornington Peninsula, most operating on a seasonal basis but some with permanent residents who may face increased risks during emergencies. Some parks are in low-lying, flood-prone areas, or may have less effective insulation or heating and cooling, making residents more vulnerable during heatwaves or storms. Residents may also have informal tenancy arrangements and limited access to support, making it harder to prepare for, respond to, or recover from emergencies.

Caravan and residential park residents – disaster advice - Consumer Affairs Victoria

Animal Welfare

The Mornington Peninsula has one of the highest rates of pet ownership in Victoria. The Shire has plans in place to accommodate pets at emergency relief centres if required during emergencies, but it's important that pet owners think ahead and include their animals in their emergency planning.

Planning for pets in emergencies | Pets and emergencies | Animal Welfare Victoria | Livestock and animals | Agriculture Victoria

Objectives and Actions

The three objectives of the Community Disaster Plan are:

1. **Strengthen community disaster preparedness by building capacity through networks, partnerships, and advocacy.**

2. **Provide clear and inclusive information and training about emergency preparedness, response, and recovery.**

3. **Identify, implement, and promote activities that minimise the impacts of disasters and increase resilience in our community.**

Each objective has a set of initiatives/networks and actions that are outlined below. There will be an internal action plan to track progress, and outcomes will be reported on annually through the Council Report and other related plans/strategies.



The three objective areas are designed to group strategies and actions into theoretical categories; however, they are all interconnected and often overlap in practice.

Objective 1

Strengthen community disaster preparedness by building capacity through networks, partnerships, and advocacy.

Intended outcomes

- Stronger relationships, partnerships, and local networks that help communities stay connected and better prepared to work together before, during, and after emergencies.
- More effective local responses.

Networks	Actions	Status/Links
Municipal Emergency Management Plan and Committee (MEMP and MEMPC)	Link the Community Disaster Resilience Plan to the MEMP as a Complementary Plan. The MEMPC will use the CDRP to inform the multi-agency MEMP when it is reviewed in 2028.	Current / Ongoing Municipal Emergency Management Plan - Mornington Peninsula Shire Emergency Management Act 2013 s60AFB(1)(b)
Resilience, Relief and Recovery Network (RRRN)	Convene a network of local services, groups and individuals to meet quarterly, build relationships and learn about local disaster preparedness and response strategies.	Current / Ongoing
Mornington Peninsula Water Safety Alliance	Co-facilitate quarterly meetings with local emergency agencies, LSV, Surfing Vic, Belgravia Leisure, Lifesaving Clubs & Surf Lifesaving Clubs, local community representatives from the back beach collective to reduce drownings and build water safe communities.	Current / Ongoing Mornington Peninsula Water Safety
Bass Coast and Mornington Peninsula Cross Council Drowning Prevention Working Group	Work in partnership with Bass Coast Shire, Casey, Cardinia, and Greater Dandenong Councils, Life Saving Victoria, Belgravia Leisure, and the Back Beach Collective, to address the high number of non-fatal and fatal drownings across the regions.	Current / Ongoing Mornington Peninsula Water Safety
Local Resilience Networks	Continue to support and develop the Hill & Ridge Emergency Network in partnership with CFA, SES and local community groups and members.	Current / Ongoing

	Continue to support and develop the Shoreham Resilience Network in partnership with CFA, SES and local community groups and members.	Current / Ongoing
	Support townships to develop Local Resilience Networks driven by community interest and disaster risk factors.	New / Emerging
Resource Networks	Find/develop/promote the most effective methods to ensure local services and supports can be easily accessed and drawn on by community during or after disasters.	New / Emerging
Psychological Support Network	Explore opportunities to re-establish a local network of psychologists and mental health experts to support communities to recover after disaster.	New / Emerging
Functional Zero Network	Provide disaster-related input to the Functional Zero network that connects services to support people who are rough sleeping.	Current/Ongoing Mornington Peninsula Shire - Melbourne Zero
First Nations Networks	Collaborate with the Shire's Reconciliation Action Plan working group, Bunurong Land Council, Willum Warrain, First Nations Advisory Committee and other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander groups and individuals to identify opportunities to support and strengthen First Nations approaches to disaster preparedness and resilience.	New / Emerging Reconciliation Action - Mornington Peninsula Shire
Advocacy for improved climate change adaptation and community preparedness	Continue to work with alliances to elevate advocacy to State and Federal government and other organisations for improved climate change adaptation and community preparedness.	Current/Ongoing Climate change advocacy - Mornington Peninsula Shire Policy Position — SECCCA



Case Study

Hill & Ridge Emergency Network – Strengthening Local Preparedness

The Hill & Ridge Emergency Network was initiated following a severe storm in November 2022 that left many residents in Red Hill, Main Ridge, and surrounding areas without power, water, internet, or access to essential supplies and services. The event exposed the vulnerability of these semi-rural communities to disruptions and highlighted the need for stronger local preparedness and connection.

In response, and with the support of the CFA's Community Based Bushfire Management (CBBM) program and Mornington Peninsula Shire, the Hill & Ridge Emergency Network was formally established in 2023. The initiative builds on strong existing community networks, including the local fire brigade, the Hill and Ridge newsletter, and local schools. It aims to strengthen relationships, share information, and engage groups that are often harder to reach—such as absentee landowners, businesses, tourists, and vulnerable residents.

By connecting Red Hill and Main Ridge under a shared risk framework, the network is improving bushfire and storm preparedness while promoting inclusivity and collaboration, and fostering local leadership and self-reliance. The initiative is a practical example of how community-led action can increase resilience and reduce risk across a dispersed rural area.

CFA video

Objective 2

Provide clear and inclusive information and training about disaster preparedness, response, and recovery.

Intended outcomes

- Information and training that enables all community members to find, understand, and act on disaster preparedness, response, and recovery advice.
- Safer, more inclusive, and well-prepared communities with greater awareness of the diverse needs of others during emergencies.

Information	Actions	Status/Links
Shire Website	This page provides practical advice to help our community prepare, respond and recover from fire, flood, heatwave, storm and power outages.	Current / Ongoing Before, during and after emergencies - Mornington Peninsula Shire
Are you prepared for an emergency?	Visual information about disaster risks, hazards, preparedness, and recovery. Available online in multiple languages and video format as well as hard copy booklet, for sharing with general public.	Current / Ongoing Emergency Prepare – Are you prepared for an emergency?
Community Resilience and Emergency Management Comms Plan	Share seasonal and hazard-specific advice from relevant emergency agencies via social media, email, radio, website, and networks.	Current / Ongoing
Short Stay Emergency Preparedness Advice	Provide advice aimed at supporting short stay property owners and managers to prepare for emergencies and disasters on the Mornington Peninsula.	Current / Ongoing Short Stay Rental Accommodation - Mornington Peninsula Shire
Visitor Information	Provide preparedness information in the Tourism space at Baxter Service Centre (Peninsula Link) and Dromana Visitor Information Centre as well as online.	New / Emerging Visitor Information Centre - Mornington Peninsula Shire
Localised Emergency Radio Broadcasting	Support local radio station RPPFM to become an emergency broadcaster and share disaster preparedness advice with the wider community through interviews and announcements during regular programming. RPPFM has a reach of 350,000 people and broadcasts programming in multiple languages.	New / Emerging RPP FM – Your Peninsula Radio
Emergency Dashboard	Develop a webpage for all local emergency/ disaster-related information including Vic Emergency, weather warnings, road closures, power and water outages, interactive maps, etc.	New / Emerging East Gippsland Shire example Dashboard

Township Local Emergency Action Plans (LEAPs) and Maps	Develop individualised township plans/maps for residents and accommodation providers. Make hard copy, URL/QR code available Easy English and translated versions.	New / Emerging East Gippsland Shire example Dashboard
First 72 Hours	Create a Shire-branded checklist that support households and businesses to create an Emergency Plan for at least three days / 72 hours if access to services, roads, etc. is cut off.	New / Emerging Alpine Shire example – The First 72 Hours | Alpine Shire Council
Strengthen Business and Industry Resilience	Provide clear information, resources, and support to help local businesses prepare for, respond to, and recover from disasters. Delivered through the MP Business website, workshops, industry forums, and other established communication channels.	Current / Ongoing Protect your business
Insurance and Legal Advice	Share information about insurance and legal advice relating to disasters in a range of formats, in partnership with relevant organisations.	Current / Ongoing Disaster Legal Help Victoria | Disaster Legal Help Victoria
Needs and Offers	Help connect community members and services to sources of financial and material aid during and after disasters.	Current / Ongoing GIVIT | Donate Money, Goods, Time | 100% To The Cause*
Flood resilience Advice	Provide community with access to information such as flood maps, particularly in areas of high flood risk and how to prepare for flooding events	Storm and Flood - Mornington Peninsula Shire
Coastal Hazard Advice	Promote and share advice on coastal hazards, particularly short term, targeted advice about potential risks in susceptible areas	Current / Ongoing Port Phillip Bay Coastal Hazard Assessment (PPBCHA) - Mornington Peninsula Shire
Heatwave advice and support	Provide up to date, evidence-based information and advice on what to do during a heatwave – particularly for people most at risk such as older people, children, people with chronic health conditions, rough sleepers.	Current / Ongoing Preparing for Hot Days and Heat Waves on the Mornington Peninsula - Mornington Peninsula Shire
Training	**Actions**	**Status/Links**
Psychological First Aid	Offer annual training to community members, groups and services interested in learning more about how to support people during and after disasters. Delivered by Red Cross and VCC-EM (Victorian Council of Churches - Emergency Ministries)	Current / Ongoing Psychological First Aid - Australian Red Cross Training - VCCEM
Are You Prepared?	Deliver Are You Prepared sessions to community groups to provide an overview of local hazards, and tips on how to prepare your home and family to stay safe.	Current / Ongoing Emergency Prepare – Are you prepared for an emergency?
Gender and Disaster	Offer annual training to strengthen the capacity of community and emergency sectors to	Current / Ongoing

	challenge harmful gender stereotypes and inequalities and understand their relevance in a disaster context. Includes harmful gender stereotypes in disaster, family violence, men's self-harm and suicide, and LGBTIQA+ inclusion.	Training - Gender & Disaster Australia
Get Ready, Get Techy	Offer/deliver annual training to help people engage with the digital technology and learn about online tools that can help them prepare for, respond to, and recover from disasters.	New / Emerging
Community Scenario Events	Involve community members in scenario-based exercises to practice disaster response and recovery	New / Emerging Example - AIDR Emergency Handbook

Objective 3

Identify, implement, and promote programs and activities that minimise the impacts of disasters and increase resilience in our community.

Intended Outcomes

- Increased community-led participation in local emergency preparedness programs and activities.
- Greater awareness of disaster risks and available support services across diverse community groups.
- Improved collaboration between the Shire, emergency services, and community networks to deliver targeted resilience initiatives.

Initiatives	Action / Purpose	Status/ Example/ Link
Emergency Relief Hubs	Develop criteria and work with local communities to identify and promote locations across the peninsula that are suitable to be Emergency Relief Hubs in times of emergency.	New / Emerging Example – Steps to set up a community emergency group Yarra Ranges Council
Energy Resilience	Apply for funding to enable energy resilience systems such as solar, battery and generator back up at identified Emergency Relief Hubs	Current / Ongoing
Emergency Management Trailer	Maintain the Emergency Management Trailer to provide temporary power, internet and information in community locations.	Current / Ongoing
Ready Get Go Bags	Work with local communities, emergency services and charities to provide and promote "Go Bags" to community members that list essential items to take in an emergency.	New / Emerging Example - Preparing for an emergency resources - Cardinia Shire Council | Cardinia Shire Council

The Adaptation Game	Continue to promote and facilitate playing of The Adaptation Game in community and school settings across the peninsula	Current / Ongoing Play The Adaptation Game - Mornington Peninsula Shire
Pillowcase workshops (Children 8-10 years)	Working with Red Cross and local primary schools to deliver preparedness training to grade 3 and 4 children.	Current / Ongoing Pillowcase Workshops | Australian Red Cross
Schoolies Week (Young people 17-19 years)	Work with youth services, and other partners to provide emergency information and water safety advice to young people during schoolies week activities.	Current / Ongoing Peninsula Schoolies – The official Rye Schoolies celebration on the Rye foreshore
Person-Centred Emergency Preparedness (P-CEP) (People with disability, older people)	Support and promote use of the P-CEP tool – a guide for people with disability to tailor emergency preparedness to individual support needs.	New / Emerging Person-Centred Emergency Preparedness | Collaborating 4 Inclusion
Disability Inclusive Emergency Management	Support and promote use of the Disability Inclusive Emergency Management Toolkit across local emergency response and recovery agencies and local businesses.	New / Emerging Disability Inclusive Emergency Management (DIEM) Toolkit | Collaborating 4 Inclusion
Mornington Peninsula Seniors Festival (Over 55s)	Hold emergency preparedness sessions for seniors to empower older adults with the knowledge and practical skills needed to stay safe and resilient during disasters.	Current / Ongoing Mornington Peninsula Seniors Festival - Mornington Peninsula Shire
Water Safety Programs (People from Multicultural Communities)	Offer ongoing opportunities for multicultural communities to and other priority populations to participate in water safety activities, as part of the Cross Council Regional Water Safety Plan and partnership initiative.	Current / Ongoing Water Safety - Mornington Peninsula Shire

An internal action plan with timing, budget and outcomes has been developed and will be reported on annually through the Council Report and other related plans/strategies.

Appendices

Appendix A - Glossary

Accessible/access - Able to be easily used or understood by everyone, including people with cognitive, sensory, or physical disabilities.

Disaster – a sudden event that causes a lot of harm or damage, such as a flood, fire, or earthquake, and affects many people or the environment.

Emergency - a serious and unexpected situation that needs immediate action to keep people safe or prevent harm.

Equity/equitable - fairness that ensures everyone gets what they need to have the same opportunities, even if that means giving extra help to some people.

Resilience/resilient - the ability to recover quickly or adapt well after facing difficulties or challenges.

Appendix B - External stakeholders and partners

AirBnb Network

Ambulance Victoria (AV)

Australian Red Cross (ARC)

Bunurong Land Council

Community Support Information Services

Country Fire Authority (CFA)

Department of Families, Fairness and Housing (DFFH)

Department of Health (DH)

Emergency Management Victoria (EMV)

Emergency Recovery Victoria (ERV)

Fire Rescue Victoria (FRV)

Forest Fire Management Victoria (FFMVic)

Hill and Ridge Emergency Network

Lifesaving and Surf Lifesaving Clubs (LSV)

Local Chambers of Commerce and business groups

Members of the Mornington Peninsula Resilience, Relief and Recovery Network (RRRN)

Shoreham Resilience Network

South East Water

State Emergency Services (VicSES)

Victoria Police (VicPOL)

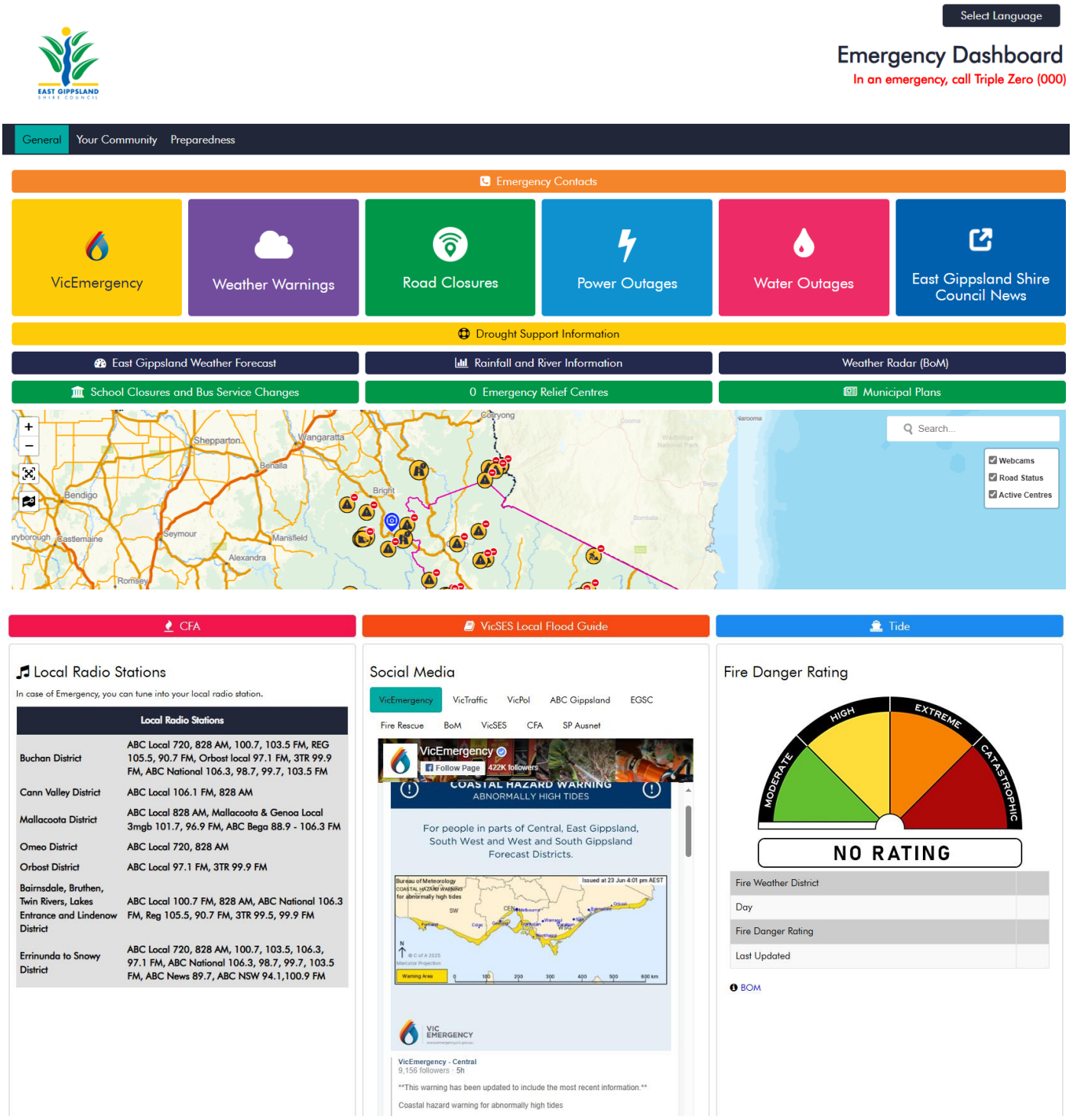
Victoria State Government

Willum Warrain

Appendix C - Example of an Emergency Dashboard

East Gippsland Shire Dashboard

(Also used by Campaspe Shire Council and most areas of Queensland and New South Wales)



Appendix D - Example of a local plan

Local Incident Management Plan (LIMP) - East Gippsland Shire Dashboard
(Also known as a LEAP / Local Emergency Action Plan)



Appendix D - First 72 Hours Campaign

[The First 72 Hours | Alpine Shire Council](#) - Developed by Alpine Shire Council, Moira Shire Council, in conjunction with Country Fire Authority (CFA), Victoria State Emergency Service (VICSES), and Albury Wodonga Ethnic Communities Council (AWECC) and in consultation with the Hume Region Municipal Emergency Management Enhancement Group.

