

# Greater Dandenong Municipal Fire Management Plan 2021 - 2024



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## 1 PART ONE – INTRODUCTION

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

### 1.1 Acknowledgement of Country

The Greater Dandenong Municipal Fire Management Planning Committee (MFMP), as the preparers of this plan, respectfully acknowledges Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples as the Traditional Custodians of the land. We recognise and respect their continuing connections to climate, culture and Country.

### 1.2 Authority

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

The MFMP is a sub-committee of the MEMPC and is authorised to prepare and update this Fire Management Plan subject to the endorsement of any changes by the MEMPC.

Once endorsed and adopted by the Greater Dandenong MEMPC, this Fire Management Plan will become a Sub-Plan to the Municipal Emergency Management Plan and supersede any prior versions of the Municipal Fire Management Plan.

### 1.3 Plan Assurance and Approval

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

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

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Plan comes into effect when it is published on the *Greater Dandenong City Council Website* and remains in effect until superseded by an approved and published update.

### 1.4 Plan Review

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

Urgent update of this Plan is permitted if there is significant risk that life or property will be endangered if the plan is not updated (EM Act 2013 s60AM). Urgent updates come into effect when published on the *Greater Dandenong City Council Website* and remain in force for a maximum period of three months.

This Plan will be reviewed not later than 7 May 2024.

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

## **1.5 Plan Aim and Objectives**

### **Aim:**

The aim of this Fire Management Plan is to benefit the people of the Greater Dandenong community through planning and implementing measures to minimise the occurrence of unplanned fires and hazardous materials incidents and mitigate their effect on Greater Dandenong's communities.

### **Objectives:**

- Identify, analyse and treat fire risk (refer to Part 3)
- Plan and manage fire risk in a coordinated manner across prevention, preparedness, response and recovery (PPRR) (refer to Part 4)
- Engage with the community (refer to Part 4)
- Align with the Southern Metro Region Strategic Fire Management Plan (refer to Part 3)
- Monitor, review and evaluation of this plan (refer to this Part 1)

This plan approaches fire management at five levels:

- i. Minimise the occurrence of unplanned fires.
- ii. Where the occurrence of some fires cannot be prevented measures will be put in place to mitigate the intensity of such fires. Reducing intensity means they will not become large, difficult to control fires.
- iii. Where the intensity of some fires cannot be mitigated against, the loss of life and property needs to be minimised.
- iv. On rare occasions, fires will claim lives and destroy or damage large volumes of property. Reducing the long-term damage to the social fabric of the community is the goal in these circumstances.
- v. It should be recognised that even with all reasonable prevention and mitigation measures being adopted there is still the possibility of events that are beyond the capabilities of the relevant authorities to control or to prevent significant adverse effects and long-term damage to the community.

## **2 PART TWO –MUNICIPAL DISTRICT CHARACTERISTICS**

### **2.1 Summary**

Greater Dandenong is located approximately 35km south east of the Melbourne CBD and is the regional capital of southeast Melbourne. In addition to playing an important strategic role in Melbourne, it is also the most culturally diverse Local Government area in Victoria and nationally.

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

In 2021 the population of the municipality was estimated as 175,000. By 2031 the number of residents in Greater Dandenong is expected to rise by 16 per cent to 203,000.

The demographic information contained in this *Part Two Municipal District Characteristics* is a brief overview of the characteristics of the municipality as it relates to fire management. It has been obtained from [greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/about-us/statistics-and-data](http://greaterdandenong.vic.gov.au/about-us/statistics-and-data) (retrieval date 22/01/21). For a full overview of the characteristics of the municipality as it related to emergency management generally refer to the Municipal Emergency Management Plan available on the [Greater Dandenong City Council Website](http://GreaterDandenongCityCouncilWebsite).

## **2.2 Cultural diversity**

The City of Greater Dandenong is the most culturally diverse locality in Australia, with residents from 157 different birthplaces and more than half (64 per cent) of the population was born overseas. Top ten countries of birth recorded by the 2016 Census were (in order) Vietnam, India, Cambodia, Sri Lanka, Afghanistan, China, New Zealand, Pakistan, Philippines and Greece.

In 2016, over 70% of residents spoke languages other than English in their homes – the largest proportion in Victoria and more than twice the metropolitan level of 31%. The top ten spoken languages recorded by the 2016 Census were (in order) Vietnamese, Khmer, Punjabi, Mandarin, Cantonese, Greek, Sinhalese, Hazaraghi, Tamil and Dari.

## **2.3 Children and young people**

13,347 children are aged 0 to 4, representing 7.5 per cent of Greater Dandenong's population, compared with 6.3 per cent across Victoria.

19,812 are aged 5-14 representing 11.2 per cent of the population, compared with 12 per cent across Victoria. 22,142 people are aged 15 to 24, equivalent to 12.5 per cent of Greater Dandenong's population, compared with 13.4 per cent for Greater Melbourne.

## **2.4 Mature-aged people**

52,402 people, or nearly one-third of Greater Dandenong's population, are aged over 50, comparable to the portion of the population over 50 across Victoria. Just under 18,000 residents are aged 70 years or more representing 10 per cent of the Greater Dandenong population, which was again comparable to the portion of the population over 70 across Victoria.

## **2.5 Vulnerable demographics**

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

A range of community groups and individuals are considered to be vulnerable. Some of these groups include:

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

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

## 2.6 Business

Greater Dandenong is home to approximately 16,000 businesses with an estimated 98,000 jobs in the municipality and over 22,000 of these in the manufacturing sector. The healthcare/social assistance, construction and retail trade sectors all employ just under 10,000 workers each.

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

## 2.7 Environment

Greater Dandenong has three distinct geographic regions:

- i. residential and commercial heart
- ii. industrial hub (Dandenong South)
- iii. green wedge (Dandenong South, Bangholme, Lyndhurst).

## 2.8 Risk environments

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

The priority risk environments include:

- residential areas
- public accommodation (rooming houses), public assembly and health care facilities
- commercial and industrial areas
- transport and infrastructure
- agriculture, farming and natural environment
- other areas or locations, which would include situations such as hoarding.

Greater Dandenong contains sites that have been classed as 'major hazard facilities'. In accordance with the Occupational Health and Safety Regulations for Victoria major hazard facilities are facilities that store, handle or process large quantities of chemicals and dangerous goods. Emergency services organisations have developed individual plans for these sites based on risk. These sites include:

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

Greater Dandenong contains numerous waste and resource recovery facilities in the industrial and Green Wedge areas. The activities of these facilities are diverse, ranging from consolidation of residual waste, processing of organic waste and incineration through to conversion of chemical wastes. In accordance with the EPA's Management and storage of combustibile recyclable and waste materials guidelines, these sites must understand the fire hazards associated with their activities, take steps to reduce the fire risk and prepare an emergency management plan in response to a fire emergency. See also EPA's factsheet 1759: Fire prevention: combustibile recyclable and waste materials.

Greater Dandenong is also home to a number of critical infrastructure that may be susceptible to the impacts of fire. Further details about critical infrastructure within the municipality is contained in the MEMP.

## 2.9 Climate change

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

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

The predicted changes will place an increased demand and pressures on fire management resources and planning will need to consider the compounding impacts of extreme events. MFMPC member organisations will also need to consider the extent of their vulnerability to the effects of climate change impacting their ability to deliver fire management services to the Greater Dandenong community.

An increase in fire weather may increase:

- fire-related respiratory illness,
- the risk of human injury, trauma and death to humans
- the risk of fire-related damage to property and other assets and infrastructure
- the exposure of insurance companies to loss
- inter-agency cooperation necessary to mobilise sufficient response and recovery teams.

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

The Green Wedge in the City of Greater Dandenong covers a total of 3,741.3 hectares, or 29 per cent of the municipality. Green Wedge Areas highlight the importance of balancing the need for fire management, including fuel reduction, with protecting the natural environment. Fuel reduction for fire prevention and mitigation should be considered one of many measures that can be adopted for increased fire management including increasing building resilience to the impacts of fire, planning controls and greater community awareness and preparedness.

## 2.10 Fire History

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

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

There has been a history of occasional relatively small grass and scrub fires in the Green Wedge areas and areas of remnant bushland.

### 3 PART THREE – PLANNING ARRANGEMENTS

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

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

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

- Southern Metro Region Strategic Fire Management Plan
- Metropolitan Bushfire Management Strategy 2020
- the Municipal Emergency Management Plan
- the Greater Dandenong Council Plan 2017-21
- the Community Wellbeing Plan 2017-21
- the Greater Dandenong Community Plan – Imagine 2030

#### **Municipal Fire Management Planning Committee (MFMPC):**

The MFMPC is a sub-committee of the MEMPC attended by Greater Dandenong City Council, CFA, FRV, Victoria Police, Victoria State Emergency Service, EPA and Worksafe. It is chaired by the Municipal Fire Prevention Officer of Council. The multi-agency participation in the MFMPC demonstrates a collaborative approach to fire management in the Greater Dandenong area.

The MFMPC meets quarterly to review this Fire Management Plan and update as required, discuss mitigation works, local response and recovery activities, and act as a platform to escalate any fire management issues at the local level.

The MFMPC will be guided by the Southern Metro Region Strategic Fire Management Planning Committee (SM RSFMPC) with regards to issues for the MFMPC to focus on and required updates to this plan. The chair of the MFMPC will represent the committee on the SM RSFMPC.

#### **Community Emergency Risk Assessment:**

Community Emergency Risk Assessment (CERA) is an all hazards risk assessment tool which aims to identify, mitigate and reduce risk within the community following the Australian Standard for risk management, ISO 31000.

The CERA was last updated for the Greater Dandenong municipality in October 2020. Both bushfire (small, isolated) and structure fire received medium residual risk ratings.



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

#### **Victorian Fire Risk Register (VFRR):**

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

Participants in the VFRR process also record the current treatments which are carried out to mitigate the risk to the asset. Treatments may include fire prevention, community education and hazard reduction.

Assets assessed as being below a certain level of risk were not captured on the VFRR for Greater Dandenong. This may be where bushfires or grassfires are possible but due to a combination of distance from fuel, slope, access and egress, and the potential impact to community the level of acceptability of risk is high.

For a copy of the current VFRR data for Greater Dandenong contact the MFMPC via [emergency.management@cqd.vic.gov.au](mailto:emergency.management@cqd.vic.gov.au) or visit [www.vfrr.vic.gov.au](http://www.vfrr.vic.gov.au).

#### **Bushfire At Risk Register (BARR):**

The Bushfire At Risk Register (BARR) is managed by the Department of Education and Training and identifies those schools, kindergartens and child care facilities in high bushfire risk locations. All facilities listed on the BARR are required to pre-emptively close on declared Code Red Days for their fire weather district.

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

For further information on the BARR visit [www.education.vic.gov.au](http://www.education.vic.gov.au)

## **4 PART FOUR –MITIGATION ARRANGEMENTS**

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

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

Fire mitigation activities include:

<b>What/ Description</b>	<b>Who</b>
Development of this Municipal Fire Management Plan.	MFMPC
Development of the Municipal Emergency Management Plan which provides the framework of managing all emergencies at the local level.	MEMPC
Minimise the occurrence of uncontrolled burn offs. Regulate burning off during the Fire Danger Period utilising inspection processes and Schedule 12, 13 & 14 permits as required.	CFA, FRV
Enforce the Local Law relating to burning off on private land outside the Fire Danger Period.	GDCC
Inspect buildings for compliance with <a href="#">Essential Safety Measures</a> .	GDCC, CFA, FRV

Planning requirements for buildings in bushfire prone areas.	GDCC, CFA
Arson prevention and detection programs.	VicPol
Community awareness arson prevention – Media campaign.	VicPol
Undertake risk assessments to inform fire management planning such as CERA and VFRR.	All
Development of fire management plans and/ or inclusion of fire management considerations in bushland management plans.	Relevant Land Manager
Implementation of fuel management works including mechanical treatments (mowing, slashing, mulching and using herbicides) and planned burning including road reserves.	Relevant Land Manager
Inspect privately owned land and issue Fire Prevention Notices as required in the lead up to and during Fire Danger Period.	GDCC, CFA, FRV
Inspect Emergency Management Plans at caravan parks within the municipality.	GDCC, CFA, FRV
Implementation of the Electrical Line Clearance Management Plan	GDCC
Develop and/or promote community engagement initiatives and campaigns locally.	GDCC, CFA, FRV
Develop response pre-plans for high risk sites within the municipality.	CFA, FRV
Training & exercising for fire emergencies.	All
Declaration of the Fire Danger Period and days of Total Fire Ban.	CFA
Patrols of high bushfire risk areas on days of elevated Fire Danger Rating.	FFMV
Enhanced readiness on days of elevated Fire Danger Rating including staffing Incident Control Centres, pre-staging resources and active monitoring of fire activity within the municipality.	GDCC, CFA, FRV, FFMV, VicPol
Develop coordinated arrangements for dealing with high house fire risk settings including vacant properties/ squatter locations and hoarding properties	MFMP

### Community Engagement

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

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

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

The *‘Are you prepared for an emergency?’* Project is an example of a community engagement project tailored for the local community’s needs. Greater Dandenong’s Regional Assessment Team use the *‘Are you prepared for an emergency?’* book to engage and educate community members about fire safety and provide further support to clients requiring assistance developing a home emergency plan.

### Hazard Trees

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

- procedures and criteria for the identification of trees that are likely to fall onto, or come into contact with, an electric line (hazard trees)

- procedures for the notification of responsible persons of trees that are hazard trees in relation to electric lines for which they are responsible.

Under the ES Act, the person responsible for maintaining vegetation and clearance space around power lines is referred to as the 'responsible person'. The procedures outlined in *Appendix B.1*

**Hazard trees – identification and notification procedures** seek to address the requirement detailed above. Each responsible person should have their own internal procedure regarding the steps that will be taken when they receive notification of a potentially hazardous tree.

Greater Dandenong City Council undertakes an inspection and maintenance program for all trees under its management which are or may become hazard trees. Street trees are pruned on a 2-year cycle however trees in identified high risk areas are pruned annually.

## 5 PART FIVE: RESPONSE ARRANGEMENTS (including Relief)

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

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

In late 2009, the Country Fire Authority (CFA) Act was amended for Neighbourhood Safer Place – Place of Last Resort provisions, in places designated as CFA areas by that Act. This change arose out of a Royal Commission interim report into the Black Saturday Bushfires of February 2009. The City of Greater Dandenong (GDCC) is partly within the CFA area of Victoria.

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

Although GDCC partially falls within a CFA area, the risk of a significant bushfire for this municipality is considered to be quite low. An assessment was undertaken of GDCC's fire risk rating by the Municipal Fire Management Planning Committee. It shows that structure (building) fires represent the greatest risk in this municipality, while bushfire risk is quite low. With this information in hand, officers have reviewed the Neighbourhood Safer Places – Place of Last Resort requirements and determined that such facilities do not need to be designated within GDCC.

The principal reasons for this are:

- In the main, Greater Dandenong is an urban municipality, with relatively low risk of bushfire threat. Integrated Fire Management Planning data for GDCC shows that structure fire represents the greatest risk in this municipality, with the causes of such fires generally being found within the structure.
- Those areas of Greater Dandenong that may be at risk of bushfire are serviced by significant major road networks which allow rapid evacuation of resident populations. Evacuation to nearby urban areas is therefore seen as the safest and most practical option for people in these areas.

- All areas of Greater Dandenong are serviced by high quality roads providing excellent egress, with most areas having more than one road egress option via a combination of major and minor roads.
- The CFA, with responsibility for identifying, assessing and certifying Neighbourhood Safer Places – Place of Last Resort against its Fire Rating Criteria has not identified any Neighbourhood Safer Places – Place of Last Resort within Greater Dandenong.

The Greater Dandenong City Council resolved, on Monday 13 September 2010 (at its ordinary meeting), not to designate any Neighbourhood Safer Places – Place of Last Resort within the municipality.

The MFMPC last reviewed this decision at its 12 February 2021 meeting and determined that Neighbourhood Safer Places – Place of Last Resort were still not required for the Greater Dandenong community.

### **Community Fire Refuges**

Community Fire Refuges are purpose-built or modified buildings that provide protection from radiant heat and embers. They are designed to be a last resort option where nearby residents or visitors can seek shelter if they are trapped by a significant fire.

An assessment of the need for a Community Fire Refuge for Greater Dandenong was undertaken during the development of the first iteration of the Municipal Fire Management Plan. There were three elements to this process:

- identifying a risk of death/injury to people from bushfire;
- establishing what other bushfire safety strategies have or might be adopted; and
- determining whether a fire refuge can be implemented safely or decommissioned.

The assessment verified that no Community Fire Refuge is required for Greater Dandenong.

## **6 PART SIX –RECOVERY ARRANGEMENTS**

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

Key recovery considerations following a fire emergency include:

- Social:
  - Provision of information and engagement
  - Temporary accommodation
  - Provision of material aid
  - Financial assistance
  - Psychological support
  - Companion animal welfare
  - Health and medical support
  - Additional support for vulnerable cohorts
  - Donations and volunteer coordination
  - Community development
- Built:
  - Clean up activities

- Restabilising essentials services/ utilities
- Re-building damaged and destroyed assets
- Streamlining planning and building approvals
- Economic:
  - Local employment opportunities
  - Small business and industry support
  - Economic development
  - Agriculture impacts
  - Livestock welfare
- Natural:
  - Air and water quality impacts
  - Land rehabilitation
  - Fauna welfare
  - Waste management

## 7 PART SEVEN – ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The roles and responsibilities of all organisations involved in the municipal level emergency management arrangements for Greater Dandenong are outlined in the MEMP.

The following is a summary of the role of key organisations involved in municipal level fire management. Each organisation will:

- meet its existing legislative responsibilities and those outlined in the State Emergency Management Plan;
- work to a common understanding of fire risks within communities; assets and other values most at risk;
- develop strategies needed to avoid and mitigate those risks at a local level.

### Country Fire Authority

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

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

### Environmental Protection Agency

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

### Fire Rescue Victoria

Fire Rescue Victoria is a modern fire and rescue service that meets the need for the twenty-first century. The new organisation was established on 1 July 2020 as part of Victoria's Fire Service Reforms. They serve and protect communities across Melbourne and Victoria's major regional centres.

The municipality is serviced by Stations 87 (Dandenong), 88 (Hallam), 89 (Springvale) and 90 (Patterson River).

#### **Forest Fire Management Victoria**

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

#### **Greater Dandenong City Council**

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

In the lead up to and during the Fire Danger Period (FDP), the MFPO and Assistant MFPOs inspect privately owned properties within the municipality to assess the potential risk of a bushfire. If the condition of the property is deemed to contribute significantly to the risk of a bushfire, Council may issue a Fire Prevention Notice and take enforcement action in the event of non-compliance. Council also implements its annual fire prevention roadside and reserve slashing program. Council is responsible for clearance of vegetation under power lines where the vegetation is on Council land.

Council also assists in fire mitigation through implementing planning and building controls such as Bushfire Prone Areas, Bushfire Attack Level requirements, the Bushfire Management Overlay and Essential Safety Measures in buildings. Council is committed to working alongside agencies in an integrated way to target urban and industrial fire risks within the municipality such as high-risk waste sites and combustible cladding.

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

#### **Melbourne Water**

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

#### **Parks Victoria**

Parks Victoria is responsible for preserving the natural and heritage values of the parks, bays and waterways in Victoria. Parks Victoria works with DELWP to undertake fire prevention, response and recovery works in Parks Victoria managed land.

#### **VicRoads**

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

#### **Victoria Police**

Victoria Police is responsible for ensuring a safe and secure community. Victoria Police contributes to fire prevention through its arson prevention program 'Operation Firesetter'. It is also

empowered under the CFA Act to enforce provisions relating to burning off during the Fire Danger Period and on days of Total Fire Ban. During a fire emergency, it will manage roadblocks and co-ordinate evacuations.

#### **Victoria State Emergency Service**

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

#### **WorkSafe Victoria**

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

## 8 PART EIGHT – APPENDICES

### A ADMINISTRATION

#### Appendix A.1 Amendment History

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

Previous versions of the MEMP are stored in the Greater Dandenong City Council's document management system. Contact [emergency.management@cgd.vic.gov.au](mailto:emergency.management@cgd.vic.gov.au) for requests of previous copies.

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

Version ID	Summary of changes	Date
Feb-21(DRAFT)	Changes to the content and structure of the MFMP as a result of the Emergency Management Planning Reform as discussed with the MFMPPC at the 12 February 2021 meeting.	24 February 2021.
Mar-21(DRAFT)	Updates to the following sections based on MFMPPC feedback and discussion at the out of session meeting on 29 March 2021: objectives (Section 1.5), risk environments (2.8), fire history (2.10), related documents (3), fire mitigation activities table (4), community engagement (4), additional agency role descriptions (7), hazard tree procedure (Appendix B.1), and map (Appendix C)	29 March 2021
Apr-21(DRAFT)	Content changes throughout Part 2; information regarding the BARR added to Part 3; EPA and WorkSafe agency descriptions amended in Part 7; added BPA Map	22 April 2021
Jul-21	Finalised document; added cover photo; amended Fire History (Section 2.10); amended FRV Maps	23 July 2021

#### Appendix A.2 Acronyms

CERA	Community Emergency Risk Assessment
CFA	Country Fire Authority
DELWP	Department of Environment Land Water and Planning
EM Act	Emergency Management Act 2013
EMLA Act	Emergency Management Legislation Amendment Act 2018
EPA	Environment Protection Authority
ES Act	Electrical Safety Act 1998
FDP	Fire Danger Period
FFMV	Forest Fire Management Vic
FRV	Fire Rescue Victoria



GDCC	Greater Dandenong City Council
MEMP	Municipal Emergency Management Plan
MEMPC	Municipal Emergency Management Planning Committee
MFMP	Municipal Fire Management Plan
MFMPCC	Municipal Fire Management Planning Committee
MFPO	Municipal Fire Prevention Officer
NSP	Neighbourhood Safer Place
PPRR	Prevention, Preparedness, Response & Recovery
VFRR	Victorian Fire Risk Register
VicPol	Victoria Police

## **B SPECIAL PLANS AND ARRANGEMENTS**

### **Appendix B.1 Hazard trees – identification and notification procedures**

#### **B1.1. What is a hazard tree?**

According to the ES Act, a hazard tree is a tree which ‘is likely to fall onto, or come into contact with, an electric line.’

The Electricity Safety (Electric Line Clearance) Regulations 2010 (the Regulations) further provide that a responsible person may cut or remove such a tree ‘provided that the tree has been assessed by a suitably qualified arborist; and that assessment confirms the likelihood of contact with an electric line having regard to foreseeable local conditions.’

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

#### **B1.2. Who is responsible for a hazard tree?**

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

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

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

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

#### **B1.3. Responsible Persons within Greater Dandenong**

United Energy has responsibility for line clearance in Greater Dandenong.

#### **B1.4. Other relevant information**

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

#### **B1.5. Procedures and criteria for identifying hazard trees**

In the course of everyday duties, potentially hazardous trees may come to the attention of staff or volunteer members of the entities with representation on the MFMPC, staff of the distribution business or other persons, including members of the public.

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

The following criteria may be used to assist in identifying a hazard tree:

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

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

#### **B1.6. Procedures and criteria for notifying hazard trees**

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

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

and/or excessive lean and/or appears to be encroaching into line clearance space, etc.)

- An indication of whether or not urgent action is required.
- The PRPR must take all necessary steps to advise the person responsible for the tree that it may be hazardous.

#### **B1.7. Primary Responsible Person Representative (PRPR)**

For the purposes of this part of the Plan, the primary responsible person is Leo Hourigan, United Energy. Notification of a potentially hazardous tree can be given to the PRPR via the Municipal Hazard Tree Notification Form available online [unitedenergy.com.au/industry/mdocuments-library/](http://unitedenergy.com.au/industry/mdocuments-library/)

#### **B1.8. Procedures for Notification of Responsible Persons**

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

Step 1 Report provided to PRPR.

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

Step 3 Is the responsible person the primary responsible person?

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

No - proceed to Step 4.

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

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

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

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

#### **B1.9. Reporting Timelines**

The PRPR should provide reports to the relevant responsible person as soon as practicable.

In circumstances where:

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

Each responsible person (other than the primary responsible person) must provide the PRPR with contact details of the person (position title) to whom reports should be provided. It is the

responsibility of each responsible person to ensure that the PRPR is provided with up-to-date contact details.

#### **B1.10. Register**

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

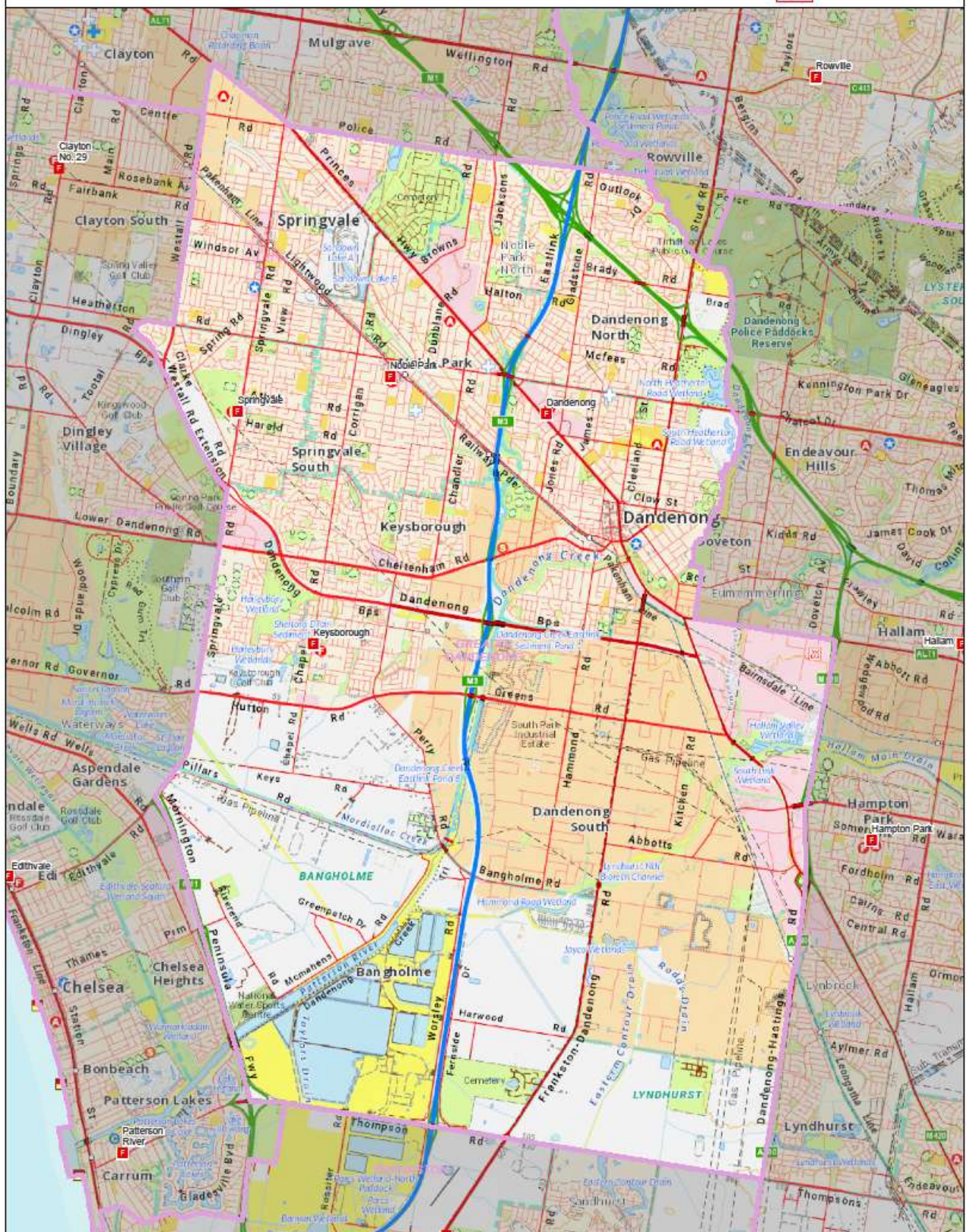
It is recommended that responsible persons also maintain a register of notifications received of hazardous trees for which they are the responsible person.

#### **B1.11. PRPR Consultation**

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



## GREATER DANDENONG CITY - LGA Map

**Legend**

- Main
- MFB Fire Station
- Satellite
- LGA Boundaries

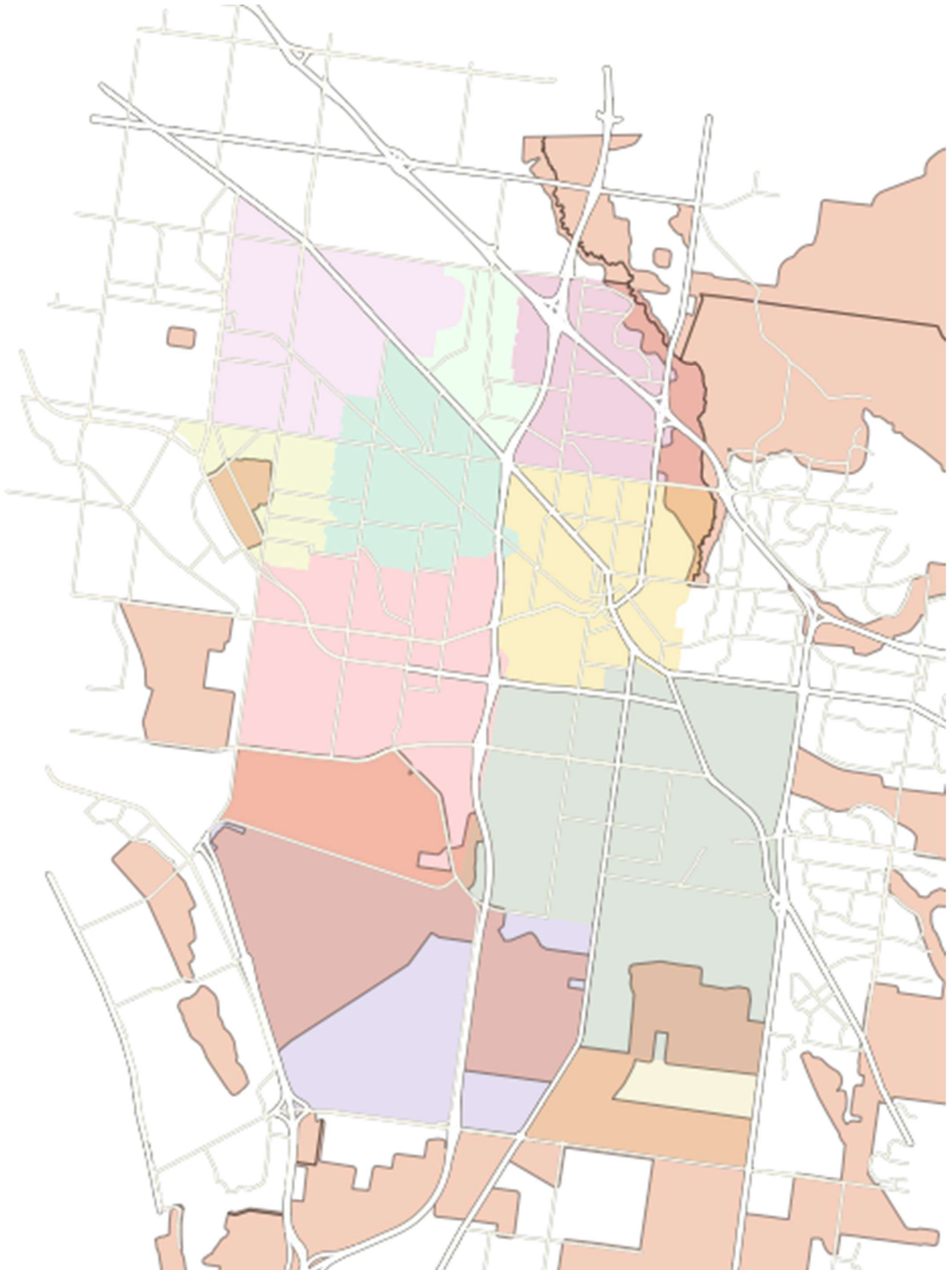
Disclaimer:  
This map is a snapshot generated from Victorian Government data as well as data from various other sources. This does not guarantee that the publication is without flaw of any kind or is wholly appropriate for your particular purposes and therefore disclaimer of liability for errors, loss or damage which may arise from reliance upon it. All persons accessing this information should make appropriate enquiries to ensure the currency of the data.

0 0.5 1 2 3 4 Kilometres



CFA A3 LGA Maps  
Date Prepared: 22/10/2018





# Fire Rescue Victoria Stations and Districts – Greater Melbourne Area

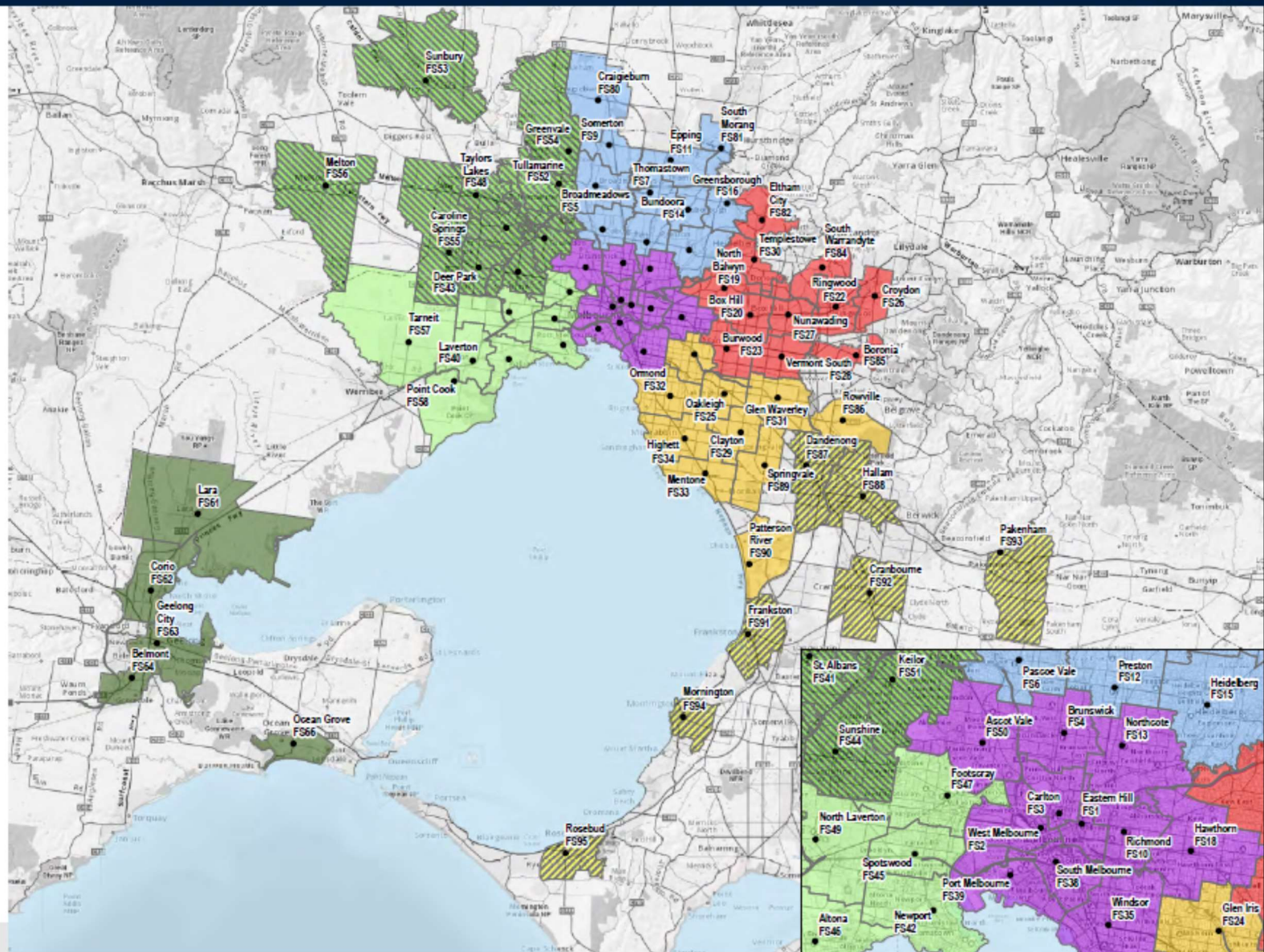


## Legend

- FRV Stations

## FRV Districts

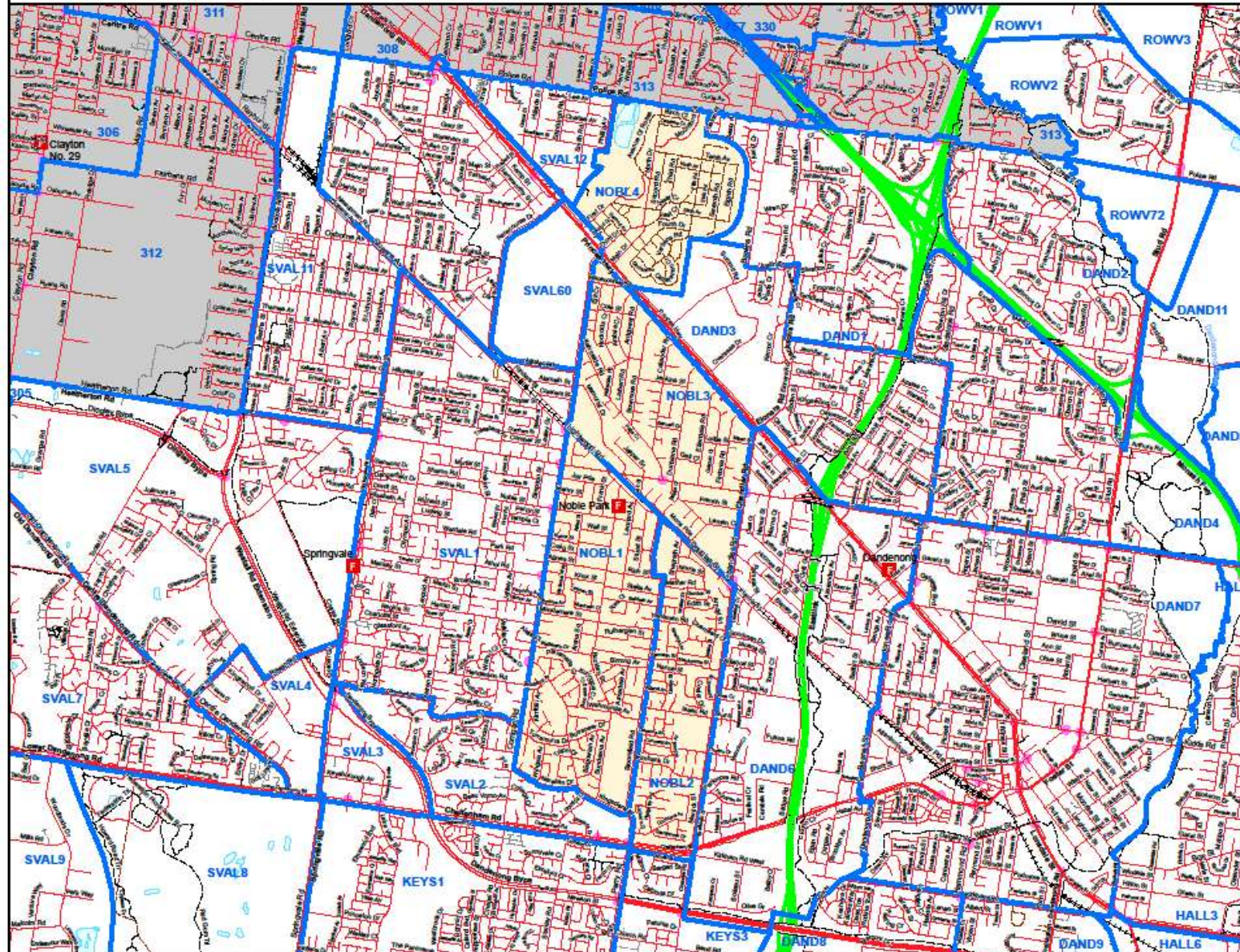
- Central
- Eastern
- Northern
- Southern D1
- Southern D2
- Western D1
- Western D2
- Western D3



Map produced: 21 July 2020



# NOBLE PARK Assignment Areas - CFAMap 107



- F CFA Fire Station
- Assignment Areas CFAMap 107
- Freeway
- Highway
- Arterial Sealed
- Local Unsealed
- Local Sealed
- Road Private Access
- Road 2WD
- Road Permanently Closed
- Walking or Bike Path
- Road Proposed
- + + + + Rail Operational
- Perennial waterbody
- Rivers and Major Streams

## NOBL

This map displays the current Brigade Assignment Areas.

Edits drawn on this map can no longer be accepted.

If changes are required, please refer to the A1 "Assignment Area Edits Map". This map can be requested by contacting Operational Communications and quoting the Assignment Area(s) of interest.

Contact Operational Communications if you have any further questions.

(03) 9262 8494

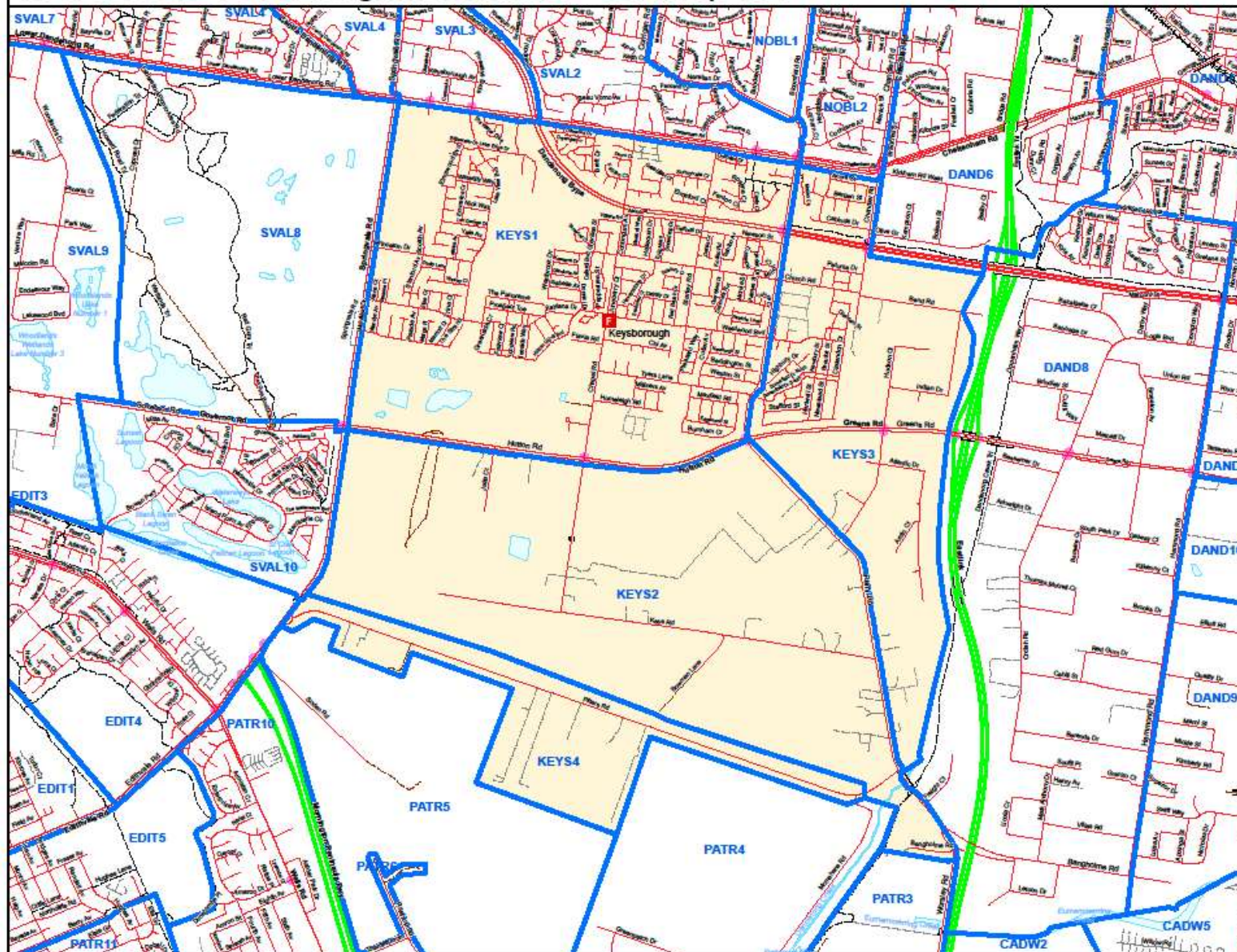
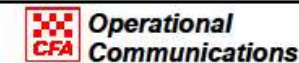
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Map Prepared by CFA - Spatial Intelligence  
Date Prepared: 11/11/2019



# KEYSBOROUGH Assignment Areas - CFAMap 107



- F CFA Fire Station
- Assignment Areas CFAMap 107
- Freeway
- Highway
- Arterial Sealed
- Local Unsealed
- Local Sealed
- Road Private Access
- Road 2WD
- Walking or Bike Path
- Road Proposed
- + + + + Rail Operational
- Perennial waterbody
- Rivers and Major Streams

## KEYS

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Date Prepared: 11/11/2019