



Mount Buller Alpine Resort Wildfire Management Plan

Version 5

November 2010

To be reviewed by 30 November 2011

Mount Buller Alpine Resort – Wildfire Management Plan

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Mount Buller – Wildfire Management Plan

This Plan should be read as a component of the Resorts' Emergency Management Plan

Background

The purpose of this plan is to ensure that the Mount Buller Alpine Resort is:

- 1 prepared for the threat of bushfire in a way that minimises the risk of impact of the fire upon the people in the resort, the man made assets of the resort and upon the environmental values and in particular the natural flora and fauna of the Resort;
- 2 that, should bushfire threaten the Resort, there is an effective response to the threat in accordance with the Emergency Management Plan; and
- 3 that, should bushfire impact upon the Resort or its people, there is a recovery program in place that mitigates the impact of the fires.

Committee Formation and Process

2006-07 Wildfire Management Planning Committee (WMPC) was made up of:

John Boal, CFA North-East Community Safety Manager
David Wells, Senior Fire Management Officer, DSE Mansfield
Adam Minchington, CFA Buller Captain
Laurie Blampied, BSL General Manager
Chris Deutscher, Buller Fire Tower
John Christopher, MMBL Operations Manager
Philip Nunn, CEO, RMB

Working from existing plans and guidelines concerning building clearances etc the committee aimed to build a plan around the core concepts of:

- Prevention (mitigation)
- Preparing
- Responding
- Recovering

Further requirements were for the plan to have a practical emphasis and be able to dovetail into the existing Resort Emergency Management Plan.

Asset audits were conducted by RMB and BSL following the meeting to plan and prioritise asset protection. A Fire Preparedness weekend was also planned to enable village stakeholders to prepare their properties once clearance guidelines received

approval from Alpine Planning Unit (APU at DSE) – now Department of Planning and Community Development (DPCD).

A draft proposal on defences and clearance guidelines was put together through collaboration between agencies.

In November 2009, this Plan was reviewed and amended by a small working group consisting of David Wells (DSE), Kathryn Gosby (DSE) Tony Petersen (Acting RMB CEO), Louise Perrin (RMB Environment Manager) and Paul Horton (CFA). This plan is reviewed, updated and approved annually by the DSE, RMB and CFA.

BUSHFIRE PREPAREDNESS ACTION PLAN

LOCATION/FEATURE/ISSUE	TREATMENT	RESPONSIBILITY	ACTION	COMPLETION DATE
<p>1 Pre-fire vegetation management treatments</p> <p>(a) Northern side of Delatite Lane continuing east to northern side of the Village Circuit Trail to where it departs from the property boundaries at the eastern end of the Village.</p> <p>Displayed in a solid orange line on map on page 16.</p>	<p>For a width of five (5) metres on lower side of track, cut ground cover vegetation (not including trees) to a maximum height of 100 mm in a mosaic pattern. Up to 50% of the total area may be treated in consultation with the RMB Environment Manager. Remove leaf litter, bark and fallen timber.</p> <p>Establish options for fuel reduction treatments within the Resort.</p>	<p>RMB</p> <p>RMB, DSE and CFA.</p>	<p>As required</p> <p>Refer to DSE Fire Operations Plan 2010/2011 – 2012/2013</p>	<p>21 November 2010</p>
<p>(b) From the eastern completion of the above treatment, for the length of the Village Circuit Trail to the eastern side of the Chamois Lift.</p>	<p>For a width of five (5) metres on the lower side of the trail, cut ground cover vegetation (not including trees) to a maximum height of 100 mm in a mosaic pattern. Up to 50% of the total</p>	<p>RMB</p>	<p>As required</p>	<p>21 November 2010</p>

LOCATION/FEATURE/ISSUE	TREATMENT	RESPONSIBILITY	ACTION	COMPLETION DATE
<p>Displayed in dotted orange lines on map on page 16.</p> <p>Displayed in solid line on map on page 16.</p>	<p>area may be treated in consultation with the RMB Environment Manager. Remove leaf litter, bark and fallen timber.</p> <p>Maintain the roadway widening that was carried out along the Village Circuit north and west from the Sewage treatment works, as part of the fire protection tactics in December 2006.</p>		As required	21 November 2010
<p>(c) From the western completion of the above treatment, on the southern side of the length of the Village Circuit Trail to The Avenue. Displayed in orange dashed line on map on page 16.</p>	<p>For a width of five (5) metres, on the lower side of the trail cut ground cover vegetation (not including trees) to a maximum height of 100 mm in a mosaic pattern. Remove the majority of fine fuels and fallen timber.</p> <p>In years of extreme fire danger, for a width of five (5) metres, on the upper side of the trail cut ground cover vegetation (not</p>	RMB	<p>Assess annually</p> <p>Assess annually</p>	<p>End of November, where applicable.</p> <p>End of November, where</p>

LOCATION/FEATURE/ISSUE	TREATMENT	RESPONSIBILITY	ACTION	COMPLETION DATE
	including trees) to a maximum height of 100 mm in a mosaic pattern.			applicable.
(d) All buildings in the Alpine Village. Refer to diagram on page 14.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Seek inspection by relevant RMB officer prior to undertaking any removal or pruning of native vegetation 2. Subject to relevant approvals: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trim foliage overhanging the roof • Up to 50% of ground cover within the lease boundary may be trimmed • Cut grassy ground cover vegetation to a minimum height of 100 mm 3. By 30 November, all flammable materials e.g. 	<p>Building owners/occupiers.</p> <p>RMB</p>	Notification to be sent by RMB to all site holders in mid October.	By 30 November annually

LOCATION/FEATURE/ISSUE	TREATMENT	RESPONSIBILITY	ACTION	COMPLETION DATE
	<p>fire wood, building materials, rubbish, leaf litter, bark, fallen timber, etc, to be removed from the allotment.</p> <p>4. Improve the integrity of all buildings where identified to limit ability of burning embers to enter the structure.</p>			
(e) White Bridge to Corn Hill on lower side of Buller Road and Corn Hill Road	Controlled fuel reduction burn where necessary.	DSE	Refer to DSE Fire Operations Plan 2010/2011 – 2012/2013	
(f) Mt Buller RMB key assets including: Boggy Creek Pump Stations 1 & 2, and Sewerage treatment works.	<p>Remove all trees within ten (10) metres of the asset.</p> <p>Cut ground cover to a maximum height of 200 mm within 20 metres.</p> <p>Remove all fallen timber and other fuels within 40 metres.</p>	RMB	As required	Completed

LOCATION/FEATURE/ISSUE	TREATMENT	RESPONSIBILITY	ACTION	COMPLETION DATE
	Install external sprinkler systems to Pump station buildings.			
(g) Telstra communication towers at Burnt Hut and Koflers Ski Lift	Cut ground cover to a maximum height of 100mm inside the enclosure. Burnt Hut only – trim foliage overhanging enclosure.	RMB/Telstra	As required RMB to remind Telstra to review and act as per treatment	31 October annually
(h) Telstra exchange adjacent to Mount Buller Chalet.	Maintain ground cover vegetation within 10 metres to a maximum height of 100 mm.	RMB	As required	Regularly mowed by RMB staff
(i) Ski Lifts and Ski Runs and Snow Making Infrastructure, Ski Area Control Centre Building	Manage vegetation in accordance with the annual permit application for summer grooming and the Buller Ski Lifts Fire Management Plan	Buller Ski Lifts Pty Ltd		Annually
(j) Gas supply storage facility at Dump Inn	Maintain fenced enclosure free of flammable materials. Remove any trees outside the enclosure that could fall across any of the Assets within the fenced area.	RMB	As required	Completed in 2008

LOCATION/FEATURE/ISSUE	TREATMENT	RESPONSIBILITY	ACTION	COMPLETION DATE
(k) Boggy Creek Water Catchment Valley	Sensitive area, aerial fire retardant may be administered in the case of wild fire.	DSE and RMB to assess at the appropriate time		
(j) Power Supply	Ensure vegetation clearance along and below power lines Be prepared to switch power sources to convert to underground	SP AUSNET RMB	Regular monitoring As required RMB to send courtesy letter seeking confirmation that SP AUSNET have acted as per treatment	31 October annually 21 November 2010
2 Community Education	Permanent Residents & Staff and Absentee Land/Lodge Owners: 1. Evaluate the establishment of a Community Fireguard group. 2. Conduct an annual 'Fire Ready Spring Clean' program, prior to the	CFA Community Safety Department CFA/RMB	Ongoing Prior to 30 November annually	 21 November 2010

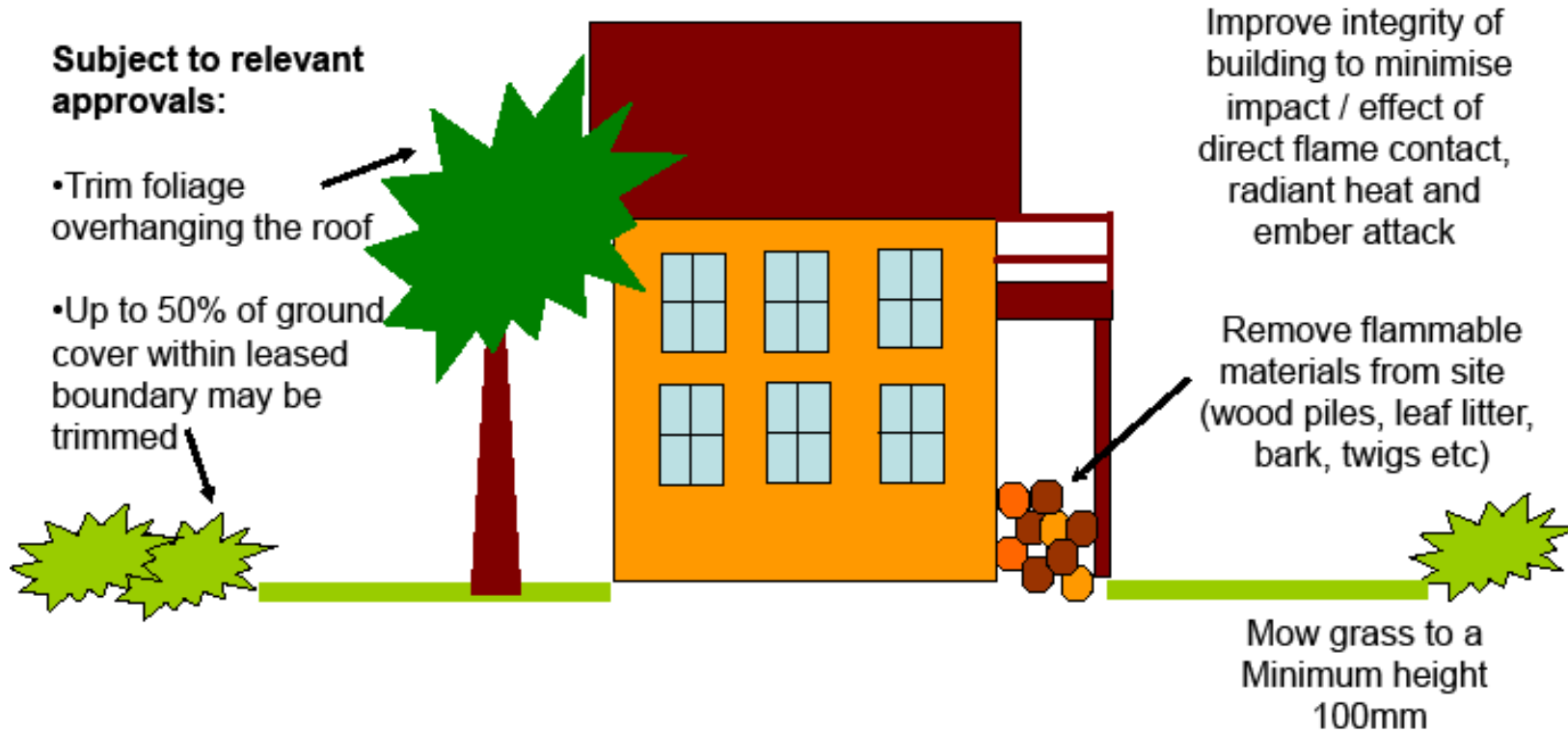
LOCATION/FEATURE/ISSUE	TREATMENT	RESPONSIBILITY	ACTION	COMPLETION DATE
	declared Fire Danger Period. 3. Conduct a bi-annual Residential Fire safety program, prior to the ski season	CFA/RMB		
3 Areas of Last Resort	The Mt Buller Chalet has been confirmed as a Neighbourhood Safe Place for the Mt Buller village.	RMB/CFA/BSL	Confirm Mt Buller Chalet is the appropriate Neighbourhood Safe Place annually	30 November annually
4 Wildfire Emergency Response/Township Protection Plans	Develop emergency and/or township protection plan for Mt Buller Resort, incorporating wildfire management and emergency management plans where required. Use 2006 WER whilst Township Protection Plan being developed.	CFA Operations Manager Region 23. Township Protection Plan in progress.		
5 Minimum water supply for	During the Fire Danger period, in	RMB	Ongoing	Achieved

LOCATION/FEATURE/ISSUE	TREATMENT	RESPONSIBILITY	ACTION	COMPLETION DATE
fire fighting	<p>addition to projected domestic requirements, maintain a minimum of 2.5ML of water for fire fighting purposes in the primary water storage facility.</p> <p>Maintain the Sun Valley water storage at capacity 50ML during the Fire Danger period.</p>			2010/2011
6 Structural Wildfire Protection	Facilitate the application of A.S. 3959 (sprinklers, and appropriate doors, signage, hoses etc) for Mt Buller premises.	CFA RMB DPCD	Ongoing	Ongoing
7 Road Closures	Determine safety of Mount Buller Road and make declaration as to whether road is to be closed and to which class of traffic, communication and management of road closures. Seek clarification from the agencies as to the responsibility for determining and the methodology for declaring the status of the	VicRoads DSE Victoria Police (RMB liaise with Snr Sgt Lyn Holland)	Make declaration and communicate as and when necessary.	

LOCATION/FEATURE/ISSUE	TREATMENT	RESPONSIBILITY	ACTION	COMPLETION DATE
	roads.			
8 Community and Public Communication	If fire incident exists, keep community and public informed through: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public community meetings • Website newsletters 	CFA (National Standard) DSE RMB	Regular community meetings during fire incident period. Daily website updates during fire incident periods.	

Allowable Vegetation Clearances

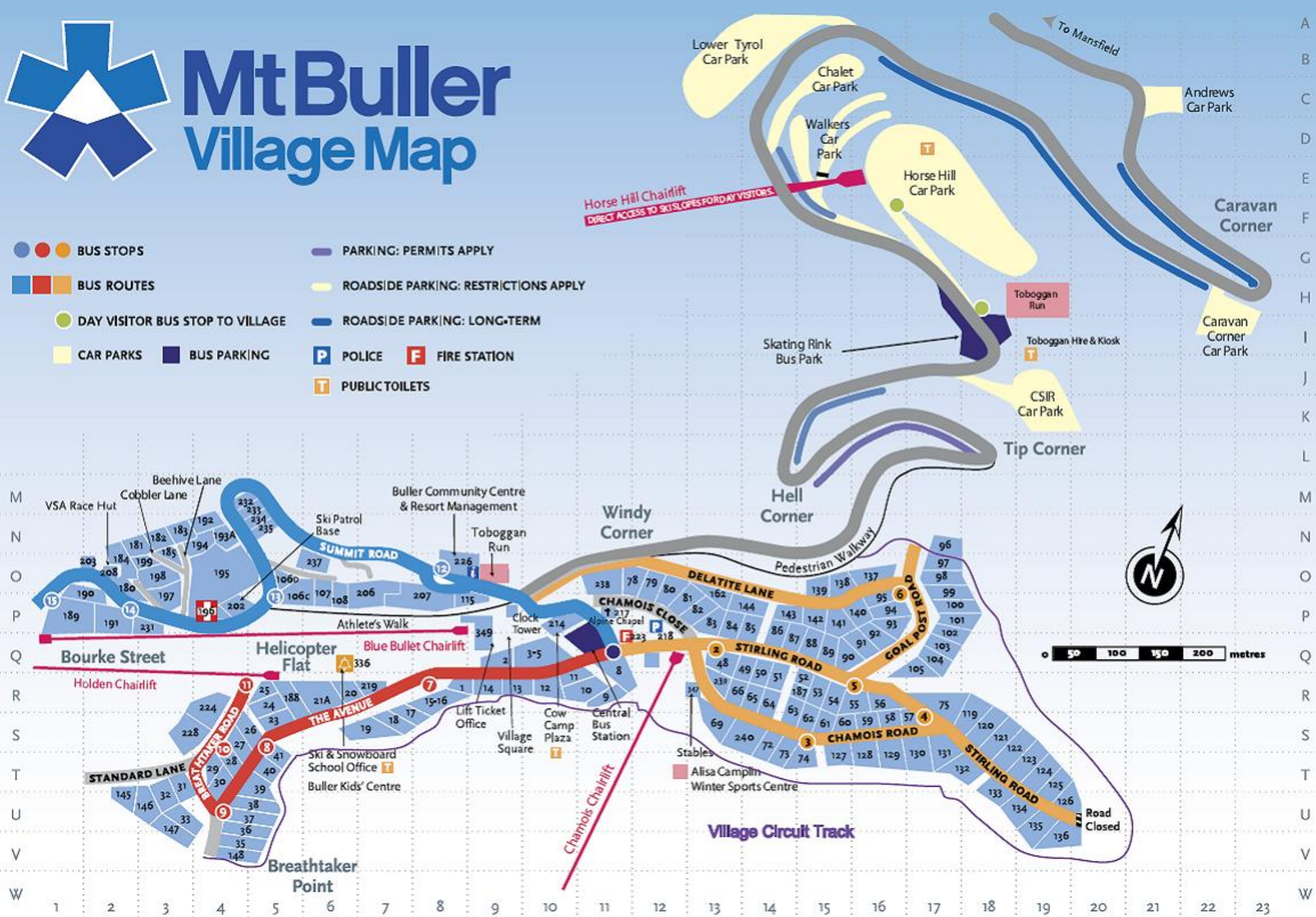
For information regarding the removal of native vegetation, lessees are to contact the ARMB for advice on appropriate procedures





Mt Buller Village Map

- ● ● BUS STOPS
- ■ ■ BUS ROUTES
- DAY VISITOR BUS STOP TO VILLAGE
- CAR PARKS
- BUS PARKING
- PARKING: PERMITS APPLY
- ROADSIDE PARKING: RESTRICTIONS APPLY
- ROADSIDE PARKING: LONG-TERM
- P POLICE
- F FIRE STATION
- T PUBLIC TOILETS



0 50 100 150 200 metres

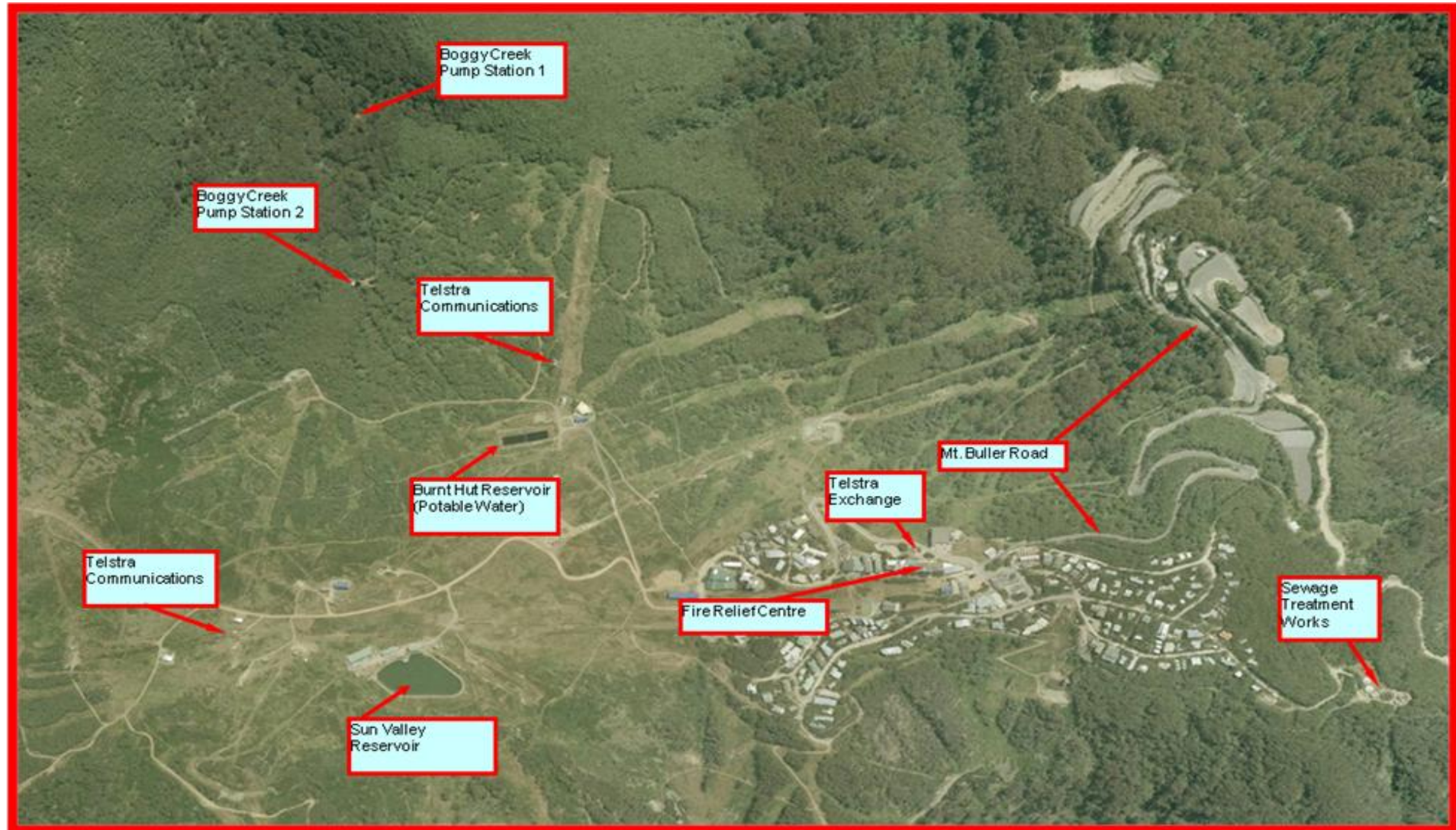
Mount Buller – Wildfire Management Plan

Map of Fire Breaks



Mount Buller – Wildfire Management Plan

Map of Key Infrastructure



Mount Buller - Wildfire Management Plan

Recovery Management Principles

Recovery within Mount Buller and Mount Stirling Alpine Resorts is based on a working partnership between the Resorts and local, regional and state level agencies and organisations – with maximum involvement and participation of local communities and individuals.

The RMB will ensure that strong networks are in place to ensure efficient activation of recovery processes and that there is a clear understanding by agencies and individuals of roles and responsibilities. When activated/implemented, recovery will operate and will be maintained through current, clear and agreed arrangements and will continue to include processes of consultation and cooperation.

Resort Recovery Process

The Chief Executive Officer of the Mount Buller and Mount Stirling Alpine Resort Management Board (RMB) is the Mountains Recovery Manager whilst the RMB's Property and Development Manager is the Deputy Mountains Recovery Manager.

The Mountains Recovery Manager (MRM) is responsible for the local coordination of the Resorts recovery process. This entails liaising with all local recovery agencies and organisations, the Mountains Emergency Resource Officer (MERO Hadyn Purcell supported by his deputy Heath Chidgey and Buller Ski Lifts Mountain Manager Matt Janney) and Response Agencies to ensure the recovery processes are integrated and timely.

Recovery Activation/Escalation

In the event of an emergency, the MERO is to advise and brief the MRM as soon as possible.

The MRM is to assess the impact of the incident and determine any requirement for recovery support in accordance with local resources.

The MRM may then advise the Department of Human Services (DHS) Regional Emergency Management Coordinator (REMC) and continue to provide regular updates. If the emergency is deemed to be beyond the recovery capacity of RMB or involves more than one LGA, the MRM is to advise the DHS REMC immediately. On receipt of such advice DHS may assume responsibility for overall coordination of recovery activities.

The MRM will then activate required components of the Recovery Plan including the establishment of appropriate Recovery Centres and determine which Committees need to be convened. If a MECC is established the MRM or delegate is to assume a liaison role.

The MRM should request a DHS officer be in attendance for the MECC and that DHS assistance be provided.

Community Recovery Committee

Depending on the requirement of the community and the impact of the event, one or more Community Recovery Committees may be established.

The membership of the Community Recovery Committee (CRC) includes:

- representation from RMB (CEO as Chair and MRM and/or Deputy MRMs as deputy Chair) ;
- relevant government agencies i.e. the Department for Victorian Communities, Regional Health, DHS
- Personal support providers,
- community members; and
- non-government agencies.

Other organisations may be included depending on the skills and expertise required by the CRC.

Depending on the emergency, a Community Development Officer (CDO) may be funded by DHS to provide specific long-term support. The CDO is to report to the RMB and to provide reports in accordance with the DHS reporting program.

The CRC is responsible to:

- Monitor the progress of the recovery process in the community.
- Identify community needs and resource requirements and make recommendations to recovery agencies, RMB and the recovery managers.
- Liaise, consult and negotiate on behalf of the community with recovery agencies, government departments and the RMB.
- Liaise with DHS as the recovery coordination agency through the designated regional director or delegate.
- Undertake specific recovery activities as required.

Administration

The Mountains Recovery Manager will ensure the recovery section of the Mountains Emergency Management Plan (MEMP) is regularly reviewed and updated. VICSES will audit the MEMP every three years in conjunction with DHS for the recovery component.

The MRM should ensure at least one deputy mountain recovery manager is trained and available to provide management support to recovery centers, MECCs or to represent the Resorts at recovery meetings.

MRM will maintain a communications strategy, which will allow for the quick and timely dissemination of information to the community during emergency events. Particular emphasis should be placed on using the current RMB networks as well as the ABC radio to ensure quick and maximum dissemination of information.

The MRM and Deputy MRM must receive appropriate training prior to undertaking their respective roles (minimum of VICSES IEM course, DHS Introduction to Recovery course and

the DHS Relief/Recovery Centre Management course and Recovery Centre Management course).

An annual recovery exercise should be conducted to confirm the capacity of local recovery providers. The MRM is to ensure that a recovery component is included in all local emergency management exercises.

The MRM is to ensure that the recovery contact list is maintained and accurate.

The MRM, or deputy, is to attend Regional Recovery Committee meetings twice yearly.

The MRM should organise local recovery agencies to meet annually to confirm or update this plan.

Recovery Functions

There are four key functional areas that require the application of coordination arrangements as part of the recovery process. These functional areas focus on the various needs of a community within the:

- social, health and community environment;
- economic environment;
- natural environment; and
- built environment.

Whilst each of these functional areas overlaps considerably, each also has a specialist skill requirement to address issues arising after an emergency. Each functional area will need internal coordination as well as coordination with the other functional areas.

Based on the four functional areas, the RMB has identified key functions that require resolution in the event of an incident. As part of the RMB coordination role, agencies have been identified and have agreed to provide the services specified in the table on the following pages.

Social, Health and Community Environment

Function	Agency	Role	Activation	Capacity/Capability
Provision of financial aid <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grants • Income support • Subsidies 	DHS	Provision of Emergency Grants (including Major Grants)	Contact REMC in event of Community forced out of residence	Significant.
	Rural Finance	Provide access to loans	Funding arrangements subject to decision from State government	Depends on Government decision on extent of subsidy or other support.
	DSE	Administer State Government provided grants and funds.	State Government direction	Significant capacity
	Centrelink	Administer welfare payments and other Fed government provided funds	Routine task.	Significant capacity.
	Donations, Relief Funds	Provide emergency relief, donations	Coordinated by philanthropic organisations	Variable, not to be relied upon.
Provision of Personal Support <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Financial (pers) • Rural (financial) • Commercial • Psych/First Aid • Trauma/Grief • Generalist (longer term) • Family/Youth 	DHS	Administer financial support.	Request through MRM	Significant.
	GVCHC	Provision of personal counselling services, Youth and family counselling	Request through MRM	Significant
	Red Cross	Catering support	Call to Region 23 Emergency Services Liaison Officer	Variable.
	Vic Council of Churches	Generalist support.		

Function	Agency	Role	Activation	Capacity/Capability
Volunteer Coordination <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Registration • Supervision • Police Check • Management • Training 	ARMB	Maintain volunteer register. Provide central contact point for coordination of volunteers during an event		
Public Health <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disease • Illness • Mass Gathering events • Epidemic • Pandemic 	Mansfield Shire Council	EHO role	Request through MERO	Appointed EHO for Mt Buller
	DHS	Regional EHO provides information dissemination and coordination	Request through MERO	Significant.
	Health Facilities (identify)	Medical Centre (snow season only)	Request through MERO	Medium – support on a fee basis
	Ski Patrol	First aid trained personnel (snow season only)	Request through MERO	Support above that provided on ski field May be on a fee basis.
	Hotels/Motels (identify)	Numerous – dependent on participation	Request through MERO or RRO. On a fee basis other than immediate response.	7,700 beds on Mt Buller.
	Evacuation Centres (identify)	Buller Community Centre		
		Arlberg Hotel		
Material Aid <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Food, clothing • Bedding, Furniture • Necessities 	Red Cross	Provision of immediate material aid (bedding etc)	Through MRM	Variable
	DHS	Provision of a wide range of aid.	Through MRM	Significant
	Salvation Army	Provision of a wide range of material aid.	Through MRM	Variable

Economic Environment

Function	Agency	Role	Activation	Capacity/Capability
Insurance advice <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Overall advice (individuals should contact their own insurance agency) 	Insurance Council of Australia	Insurance assessments and advice	Request through MRM	Limited.
Commercial counseling <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Specialist commercial business counsellors 	RDV	Provide development advice	Through MRM	Variable.
	Financial Planners	Provide financial planning advice	Through MRM	Variable – likely to be on a fee basis.
Marketing support <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tourism Advertising 	RDV	Provision of economic development assistance	Through MRM	Variable.
	Dept of Transport and Regional Services	Provision of PR, marketing	Through MRM/Marketing officer	Limited.
	Tourism Council	Advise	Through MRM/Marketing officer	Limited.
Industry Support <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lobby Groups Industry advice 	ARCC	Provide advice to the minister	Through CEO	Advice on support required to Minister.

Natural Environment

Function	Agency	Role	Activation	Capacity/Capability
Water Supply <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Human • Stock • Catchment areas • Quality 	RMB	Provide drinking water, provide warnings etc.	Through MERO	Moderate.
	DHS	Public Health to provide warnings, advice and information	Through Drinking Water Regulatory Unit duty officer	Good
	ABC Radio	Disseminate emergency notices over radio	Through MERO	Good.
Sewage Treatment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quality • Safety • Warnings 	RMB	Treat sewage	Through MERO	Good
	DHS	Public Health to provide warnings, advice and information	Through MERO	Good
	EPA	Monitor adherence to licence conditions	Through MERO	Good
Air Quality <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quality • Safety • Warnings 	DHS	Public Health to provide warnings, advice and information	Through MERO, include ABC contact.	Good.
	ABC Radio	Disseminate emergency notices over radio	Through MERO	Good.
	EPA	Monitor quality	Through MERO	Good.

Built Environment

Function	Agency	Role	Activation	Capacity/Capability
Utilities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Power • Gas • Water • Phone 	T squared	Reticulate power	Through MERO	Provide advice, deploy work teams.
	Tru Energy	Provide power	Through MERO	Limited.
	Buller Gas	Provide LP Gas	Through MERO	Good.
	Telstra	Provide telecom services	Through MERO	Good.
	Optus	Provide telecom services	Through MERO	Good
	RMB	Provide drinking water and sewage treatment	Through MERO	Good.
Transport infrastructure including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bridges • Roads • Airports • Railway links • Transport hubs • Transport companies 	RMB	Reinstatement of roads or provision of alternate roads. Snow clearing.	Through MERO	Variable. Good snow clearing capacity.
	Mansfield Mt Buller Bus Lines	Provide bus services and four-wheel drive taxis subject to availability	Through MERO	Good. Four plus four wheel drive buses, approx 30 four wheel drive taxi available in summer, subject to notice.
Primary infrastructure including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Schools • Hospitals • Power stations • Water supply • Sewerage works 	Buller Community Centre building	Provide site for primary/secondary education in winter.	Through MERO	Approx 1000 people in Sports Hall. Six classrooms.
Assessment of damage	RMB	Building inspections,	Through MERO	Limited.

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Roads• Bridges• Buildings		damage estimates		
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