

Making Victoria FireReady

In EMERGENCY dial 000 (TTY 106)

Do not call Triple Zero for information or advice. Calling Triple Zero unnecessarily may put others who are in a genuine emergency situation at risk.

Victorian Bushfire Information Line (VBIL): 1800 240 667 Emergency Contact Information

Tuning into your emergency broadcaster and CFA website on days of high fire danger ratings is the most reliable way of staying informed. Mains power may be unavailable, or fail, during fire and emergencies – keep a battery powered radio available.

Emergency Broadcasters: Sky News TV, ABC 97.7 FM, ABC 774 AM, 3SR 95.3 FM, 96.9 Star FM, Radio Mansfield 99.7 FM

Road closures: 13 11 70 www.vicroads.vic.gov.au

Park closures – Parks Victoria hotline: 13 19 63

State Forest closures (DSE): 13 61 86

School closures (DEECD): 1800 809 834

24 Hour Wildlife Emergency: 13 000 WILDLIFE or 1300 094 535

24 Hour NURSE-ON-CALL: 1300 60 60 24

Bushfire Information:

CFA website: www.cfa.vic.gov.au
Follow CFA on Twitter: www.twitter.com/cfa_updates
Join the CFA Facebook page: www.facebook.com/cfavic
DSE Website (Planned burning): www.dse.vic.gov.au



Further Information

Dept of Human Services: www.dhs.vic.gov.au/emergency
Dept of Primary Industry: www.dpi.vic.gov.au
Weather: www.bom.gov.au
CFA District Office: (03) 5833 2400 (**non emergency calls only**)
Strathbogie Shire: (03) 5795 0000 www.strathbogie.vic.gov.au

Deaf, hearing impaired or speech impaired? **Contact the National Relay Service on 1800 555 677** if you use a **TTY, 1800 555 727** if you use Speak and Listen, and then ask for: **1800 240 667**

Strathbogie

Community Information Guide - Bushfire

Prepare - Act - Survive



Why Strathbogie is at risk of bushfire

Fire Authorities have assessed Strathbogie as having an EXTREME bushfire risk. Local residents and visitors should be prepared for fire and have a plan for when the Fire Danger Rating is SEVERE, EXTREME or CODE RED.

This community information guide includes a map containing key elements of Strathbogie's bushfire risk. At the time of publication, there is one designated Neighbourhood Safer Place – Place of Last Resort (see page 13) at Strathbogie.

Important community bushfire safety information is provided to help you make informed decisions about how to survive a bushfire, whether you're a local resident or a visitor to the area. Planning and preparation can save lives in a bushfire. Use this community information guide to help you and your family to prepare.



PREPARE. ACT. SURVIVE.

FireReady



Prepare

It's important if *you* live, work and travel in this area, to plan what *you* will do if a bushfire threatens.

Understand **your** bushfire risk

- Strathbogie has been assessed as having an EXTREME bushfire risk in accordance with the Victorian Fire Risk Register.
- Fire history tells us that fire can approach the town from all directions.
- The last major fire in the vicinity of Strathbogie occurred in 1990.
- It is impossible for emergency services to protect every individual home or property.
- Do not expect a fire truck.
- Remember, your usual travel routes may be limited or blocked due to fire in heavy roadside vegetation.
- Know the daily Fire Danger Rating in the district where you live or travel www.cfa.vic.gov.au

Reduce **your** bushfire risk

- Prepare your home and property against bushfire, burning embers and radiant heat. A well-prepared home has a greater chance of not being destroyed by bushfire.
- Encourage and assist your neighbours to reduce their bushfire risk as this may help make your property safer.
- **Develop and practise your Bushfire Survival Plan.**
- **You will also need to plan for your pets' safety.**
- You can attend or join:
 - A local Fire Ready Victoria meeting
 - A Bushfire Planning Workshop
 - A neighbourhood Community Fireguard Group
- **The Household Bushfire Self-Assessment Tool is available to help individuals assess the bushfire risk on their own property.**

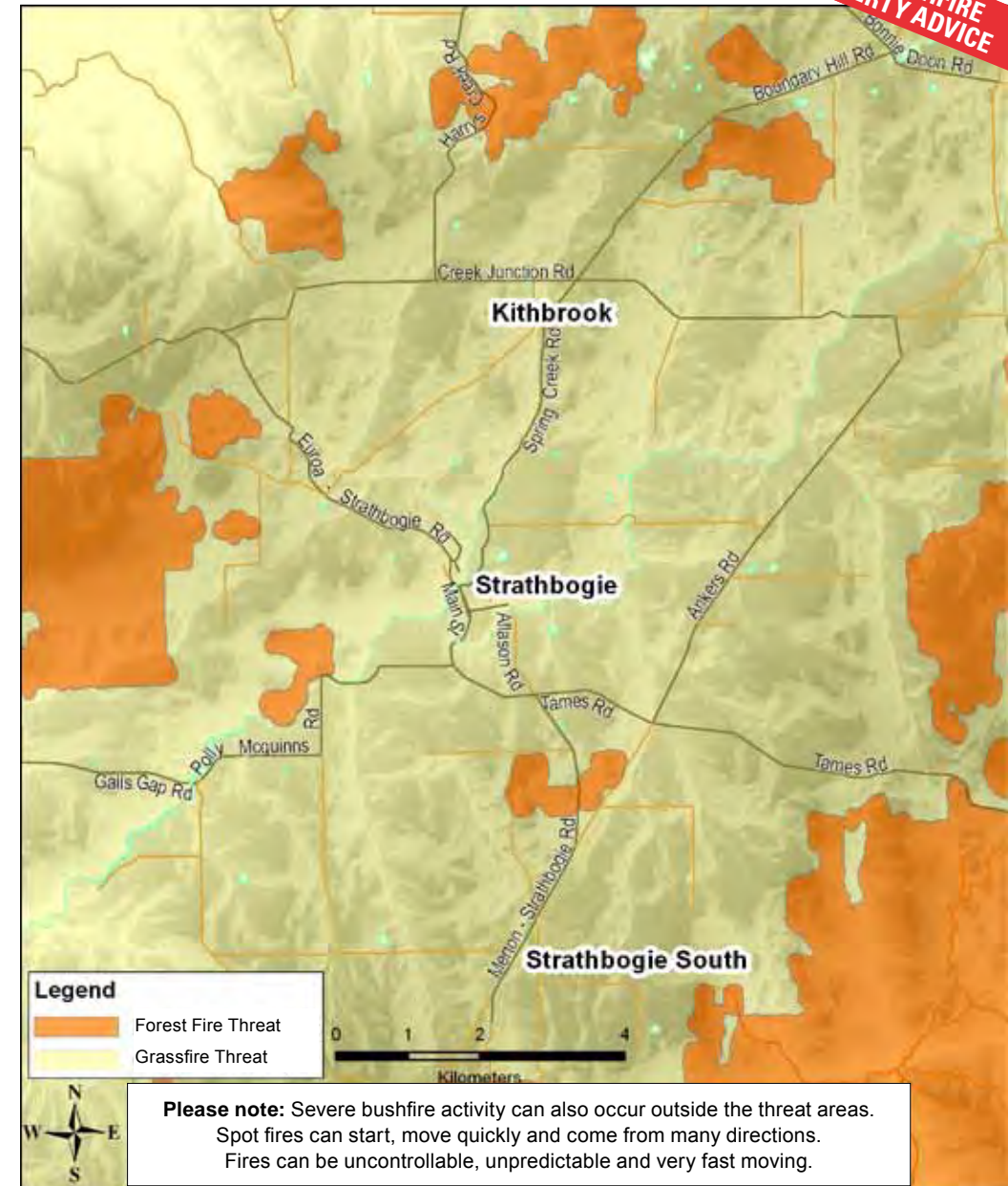


You can download the CFA FireReady kit, containing the full Leaving Early Bushfire Survival Plan from cfa.vic.gov.au, or call **1800 240 667 (TTY 1800 122 969)**

Strathbogie Bushfire Threat Map

To book a **FREE Home Bushfire Advice Service** and receive one-on-one advice from a fire safety expert, call the Victorian Bushfire Information Line on 1800 240 667.

FREE BUSHFIRE PROPERTY ADVICE





Prepare

FACT

It is your responsibility to prepare yourself, your family and your home for the threat of bushfire. You need to act decisively in accordance with your **Bushfire Survival Plan** when bushfires threaten. Your survival depends on your preparations and the decisions you make.



Leave early

Leaving early is always the safest option.

Leaving early is more important when:

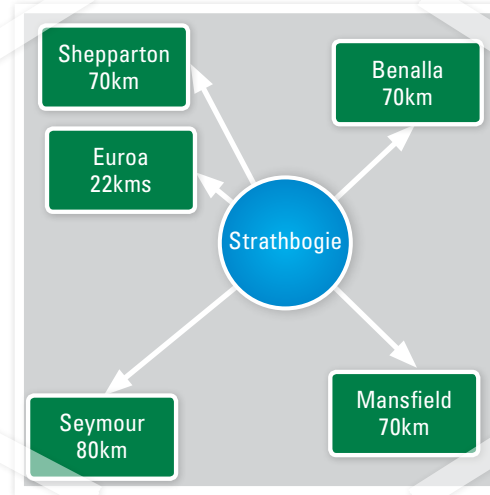
- The Fire Danger Rating is **CODE RED**. Homes aren't designed to withstand a bushfire during these conditions. Any fire that starts and takes hold will be so intense that you won't be safe to stay and defend your home – no matter how well prepared it is.
- There are children, elderly or disabled people in your home. People who are vulnerable due to age, health or any other reason, should always leave early.
- You have not prepared yourself or your property to give you and your home the best level of protection from a fire.
- Your house is not defensible. Some homes are not safe to defend because of their location or construction.

If you plan to leave, then you should leave well before a fire reaches your area and well before you are under threat. Follow the actions recommended for the Fire Danger Rating of the day (see pages 6 and 7). **Visit CFA website www.cfa.vic.gov.au**

Where will you go?

- Is it a safe choice? You may choose somewhere that suits your personal needs and circumstances, e.g. a family member's house in an urban area with a backyard for your pet, or shopping centre complex, or central business district of a large regional centre.
- If you don't have any other options, you may wish to consider the following townships: Seymour, Shepparton, Euroa, Benalla, or Mansfield.
- Always tell someone that you are leaving and where you are planning to go.

If you - or someone you care for - will need help to prepare and leave early when there is high fire risk, obtain a Red Cross **Bushfire: Preparing to leave early guide** at www.cfa.vic.gov.au or request a copy by phoning the **Victorian Bushfire Information Line on 1800 240 667**



PREPARE. ACT. SURVIVE.

PREPARE. You must make important decisions before the fire season starts.

ACT. The higher the Fire Danger Rating, the more dangerous the conditions.

SURVIVE. Fires may threaten without warning, so you need to know what you will do to survive.

- Where the fire danger is Extreme or Code Red, leaving early is the safest option.
- Leaving early can be the night before or early in the day.



How you can stay in touch

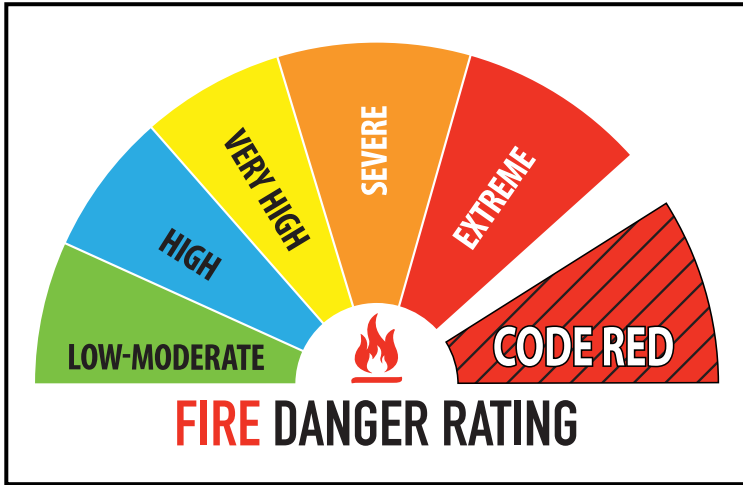
- Bookmark the CFA incidents webpage (www.cfa.vic.gov.au/fires).
- Follow CFA on Twitter (www.twitter.com/cfa_updates).
- Join the CFA Facebook page (www.facebook.com/cfavic).
- Access the CFA mobile website at www.cfa.vic.gov.au/mobile or if you have a smartphone, download the CFA FireReady application for iPhone, Blackberry, Android and Windows.
- Beware, cordless home phones will NOT work if the mains power supply is cut.
- Wireless communications, internet and landlines may vary between service providers.
- Mobile phone coverage in and around Strathbogie is generally good, but may not be accessible during times of emergency and may vary between service providers.
- There is no community-alerting siren operating in this township.
- Sirens sounding nearby are a trigger for you to seek information, as they may indicate fire activity in your area. When you hear a siren, further information may be available via ABC local radio, commercial and designated community radio stations, and SKY News TV (see page 16).
- Regularly observe what is happening outside and check all information sources.



For more information on developing a plan for high risk days and assessing bushfire risk at your property, contact the **Victorian Bushfire Information Line: 1800 240 667**

Act

Note *your* district's Fire Danger Rating daily as *your* trigger to act.



Strathbogie is in the Northern Country Total Fire Ban District



Triggers

Actions

	What does it mean?	What should I do?
CODE RED	<p>These are the worst conditions for a bush or grass fire.</p> <p>Homes are not designed or constructed to withstand fires in these conditions.</p> <p>The safest place to be is away from high risk bushfire areas.</p>	<p>Leaving high risk bushfire areas the night before or early in the day is your safest option – do not wait and see.</p> <p>Avoid forested areas, thick bush and long, dry grass.</p> <p>Know your trigger.</p> <p>Make a decision about:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> –when you will leave –where you will go –how you will get there –when you will return –what you will do if you cannot leave
EXTREME	<p>Expect extremely hot, dry and windy conditions.</p> <p>If a fire starts and takes hold, it will be uncontrollable, unpredictable and fast moving. Spot fires will start, move quickly and will come from many directions.</p> <p>Homes that are situated and constructed or modified to withstand a bushfire, that are well prepared and actively defended, may provide safety.</p> <p>You must be physically and mentally prepared to defend in these conditions.</p>	<p>Consider staying with your property only if you are prepared to the highest level. This means your home needs to be situated and constructed or modified to withstand a bushfire, you are well prepared and you can actively defend your home if a fire starts.</p> <p>If you are not prepared to the highest level, leaving high risk bushfire areas early in the day is your safest option.</p> <p>Be aware of local conditions and get information by listening to ABC Local Radio, commercial and designated community radio stations or Sky News TV, going to www.cfa.vic.gov.au or call the Victorian Bushfire Information Line on 1800 240 667.</p>
SEVERE	<p>Expect hot, dry and possibly windy conditions.</p> <p>If a fire starts and takes hold, it may be uncontrollable.</p> <p>Well prepared homes that are actively defended can provide safety.</p> <p>You must be physically and mentally prepared to defend in these conditions.</p>	<p>Well prepared homes that are actively defended can provide safety – check your bushfire survival plan.</p> <p>If you are not prepared, leaving bushfire prone areas early in the day is your safest option.</p> <p>Be aware of local conditions and get information by listening to ABC Local Radio, commercial and designated community radio stations or Sky News TV, going to www.cfa.vic.gov.au or call the Victorian Bushfire Information Line on 1800 240 667.</p>
VERY HIGH	<p>If a fire starts, it can most likely be controlled in these conditions and homes can provide safety.</p>	<p>Check your bushfire survival plan.</p>
HIGH	<p>Be aware of how fires can start and minimise the risk.</p>	<p>Monitor conditions.</p>
LOW- MODERATE	<p>Controlled burning off may occur in these conditions if it is safe – check to see if permits apply.</p>	<p>Action may be needed.</p> <p>Leave if necessary.</p>



Act Planned Emergency Service Actions

What are Bushfire Warnings and Advice?

During a bushfire, warnings and advice are used to give you an indication of the level of threat from a fire. You'll find these on the CFA website at www.cfa.vic.gov.au and on radio and television.

There are three levels of bushfire warnings and advice plus a recommendation to evacuate.



ADVICE

- General information to keep you up-to-date with developments.

WATCH AND ACT

- A fire is approaching you.
- Conditions are changing and you need to start taking action now to protect your life and your family.

EMERGENCY WARNING

- You are in imminent danger and need to take action immediately.
- You will be impacted by fire.

For some fires, you may hear a warning message, such as a siren over your radio or television, or you may receive a text message or phone call.

Other fires may start so quickly that there will be no time for any warning at all.

Bushfire warnings and advice are not always given in the above order. As an example, the first alert you receive may be Watch and Act.

If you receive a bushfire alert, you must take it seriously. Failure to take action may result in death or injury to you or your family members.

Evacuation

You may be advised to evacuate by police or emergency services. In fast-moving situations, you may not always receive a warning or recommendation to evacuate. Stay informed, aware of local conditions and the Fire Danger Rating, so that you can plan ahead and make the right decision in a bushfire. Leaving early is always the safest option. Refer to 'Community Evacuation Information', available at

www.police.vic.gov.au

Should a recommendation to evacuate be made, the following advice would apply:

- A fire is rapidly advancing.
- If advised, travel to the evacuation destination as advised by emergency services.
- Strictly follow all instructions and advice.

Fire Agencies

- Saving life is the highest priority
- Issue advice and warnings
- Control and manage fire fighting activities
- Where safe to do so protect:
 - Identified community assets
 - Property
 - The environment

Victoria Police

- Keep people safe and property secure
- Control traffic in bushfire areas
- Manage evacuations
- Register people who have evacuated
- Work with other agencies to keep the community informed

Strathbogie

- Town water supply and power cannot always be guaranteed
- Power and communications are most likely to be cut
- Regularly take note of what is happening outside in all directions
- Look and smell for signs of fire

Strathbogie Shire

- Activate Municipal Emergency Management Plans
- Support and work with Emergency Services and responding agencies
- Assist with the provision of local information to the Community and Media

VicRoads

- Manage road closures on advice from Police and Fire Agencies
- Undertake safety inspections of roads prior to opening
- Provide advice to communities about road closures

Strathbogie Shire Continued

- Activate and support Emergency Relief Centres when required
- Assist and support the Community to recover from the emergency

Note: On Code Red days, council services may not be available as usual

Bushfire Survival Options

WHAT TO DO

Leave Early

- When the Fire Danger Rating is Code Red, leaving early is always the safest option
- Leave early destinations could include homes of families & friends who live outside the risk area, a nearby town or built up area

Always the safest option

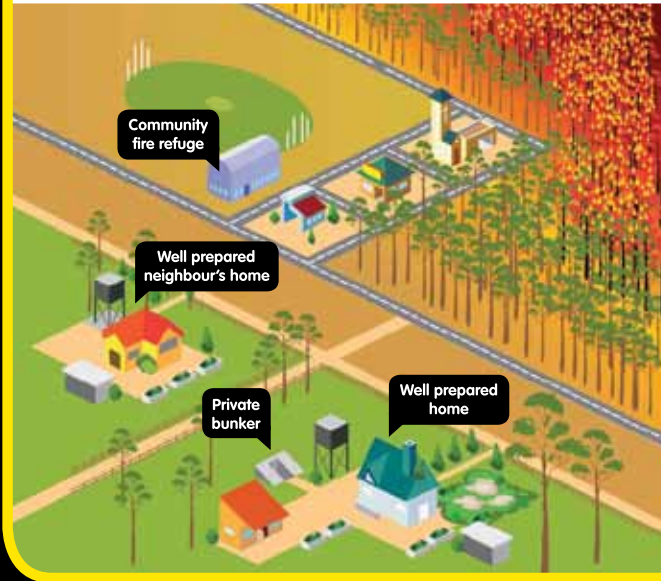


Well Prepared

If leaving the high-risk area is no longer an option, there may be options close to where you are that could protect you. These include:

- A well prepared home (yours or your neighbours') that you can actively defend on Severe & Extreme Fire Danger Rating days only
- Private Bushfire Shelter (bunker) that meets current regulations
- Designated community fire refuge

Your safety is not guaranteed

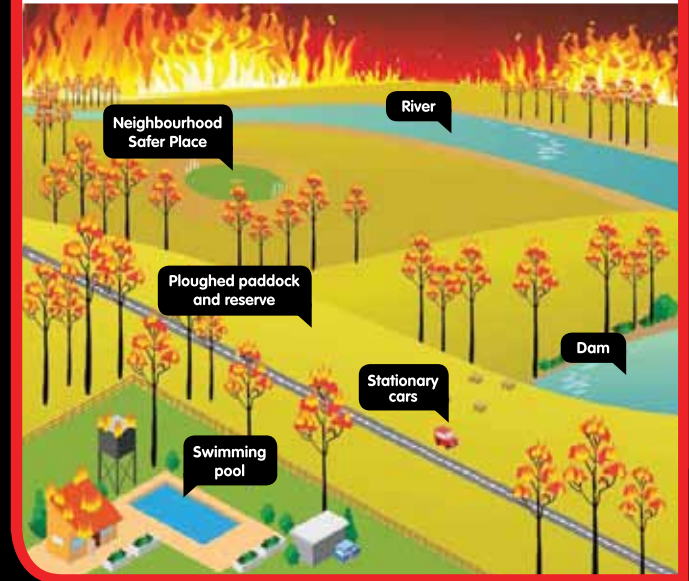


Last Resort

In situations where no other options are available to you, taking shelter in one of the below may protect from radiant heat:

- Neighbourhood Safer Place (place of last resort)
- Stationary car in a clear area
- Ploughed paddock or reserve
- Body of water (i.e. beach, swimming pool, dam, river, etc.)

High risk of trauma, injury or death



For more information on how to prepare your own Bushfire Survival Plan:

www.cfa.vic.gov.au or call the Victorian Bushfire Information Line 1800 240 667

PREPARE. ACT. SURVIVE.

FireReady 

Fire may threaten without warning, so you need to know what to do to survive.

Community Fire Refuges

- A Community Fire Refuge is a place that is a building open to the public that can provide short-term shelter from immediate life-threatening effects of a bushfire event.
- There is no Community Fire Refuge located in Strathbogie.

Activate **your** bushfire survival plan **early**

- Remember, bushfires can happen when least expected. Planning and preparation are essential.
- A last-minute decision may cost you and your family your lives.
- **You may not receive an official warning about a bushfire.**
- Do NOT expect a fire truck at your property.
- Your survival and safety depend on the decisions you make.
- Always tell someone what you are planning to do.
- Observe the weather, including the direction the wind is blowing.
- Watch what is happening around you and where a bushfire may be located.

Leaving late is **DANGEROUS**

- Travel on roads in this area during a fire is dangerous.
- You may be impacted by fire, and visibility may be poor due to smoke.
- The roads may be blocked due to falling trees, collisions or emergency vehicles.
- Usual travel routes may not be accessible.
- Don't assume you can turn back, as the road may have become blocked behind you.
- Lives are more likely to be lost when people make a last-minute decision to flee a bushfire.
- The risk of being overrun by bushfire is very real.
- People caught in the open are likely to face severe and often fatal levels of radiant heat.
- Leaving late is a DEADLY option.



Neighbourhood Safer Place – Place of Last Resort

- **SURVIVAL IS NOT GUARANTEED.**
- It should only be used if your Bushfire Survival Plan fails and you have nowhere else to go.
- Welfare facilities will not be available.
- It may not provide shelter from smoke and embers.
- The closest Neighbourhood Safer Place – Place of Last Resort (NSP) in the vicinity of Strathbogie is located at:

Strathbogie Golf Club Club House

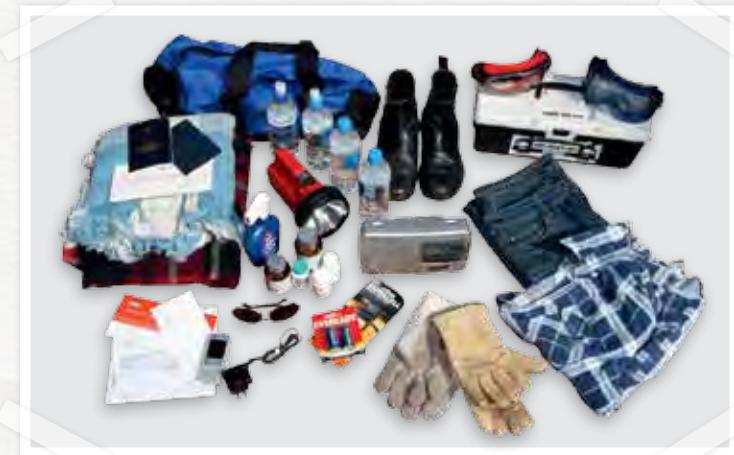
Armstrong Avenue Strathbogie 3666

See map on page 15 for Neighbourhood Safer Place – Place of Last Resort locations.

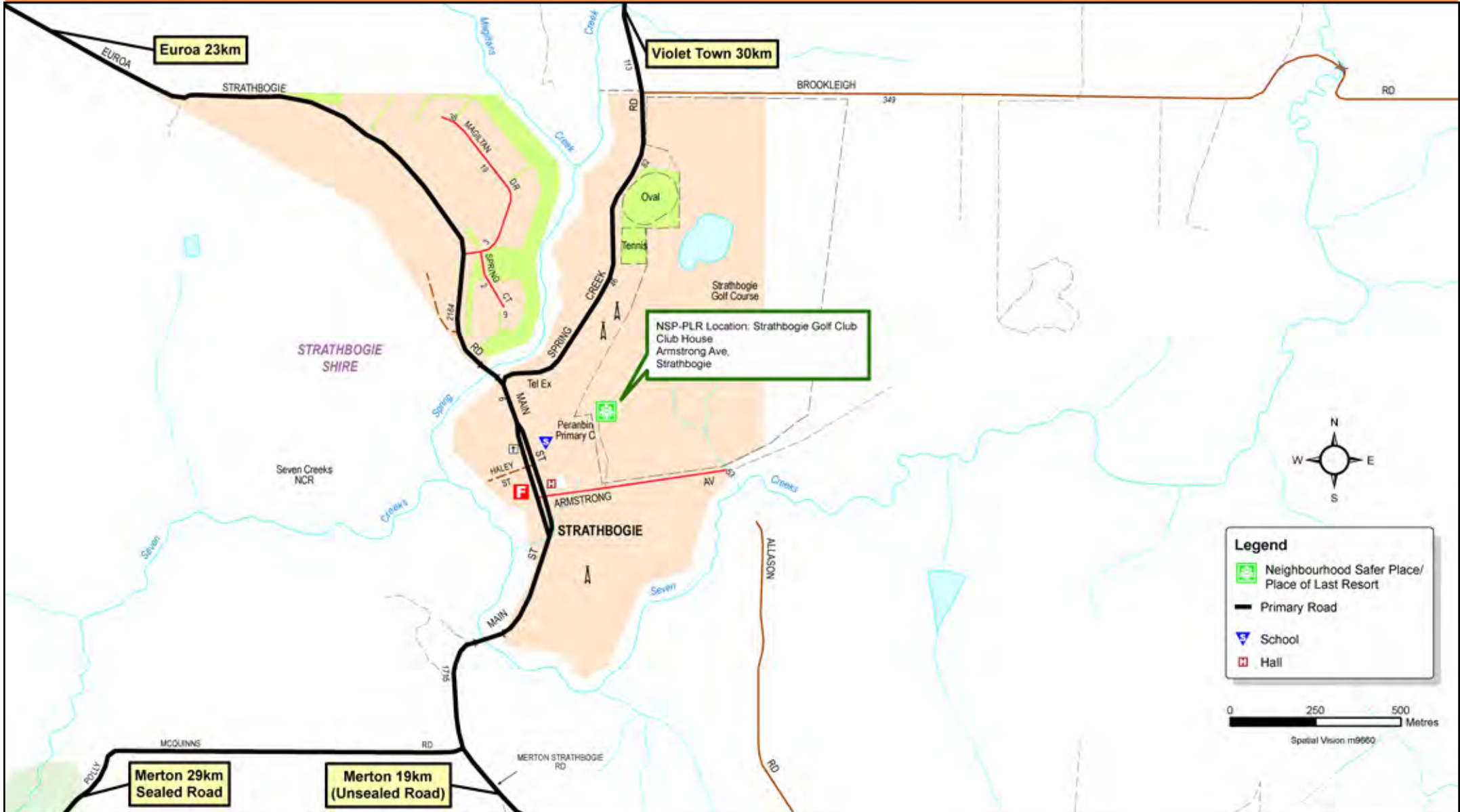
- ! High risk journeys to Neighbourhood Safer Places during a fire and outside of your immediate area are not recommended.

Relocation checklist

- | | | | |
|--|--------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|
| Protective clothing made from natural fibres | <input type="checkbox"/> | Important documents | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Woolen blankets | <input type="checkbox"/> | First aid kit | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Water and medications | <input type="checkbox"/> | Cash, ATM/credit cards | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Toiletries and sanitary supplies | <input type="checkbox"/> | Valuables and photos | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Mobile phone and charger | <input type="checkbox"/> | Battery powered radio | <input type="checkbox"/> |



Strathbogie Community Map



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