



**MEDIA RELEASE: WEDNESDAY, 13 DECEMBER, 2017**

**Council works with CFA to prepare for Fire Danger Period**

Council has been working with Country Fire Authority (CFA) over the past few months to ensure officers, staff and the community are prepared for the fire danger period in the Strathbogie Shire.

Council meets regularly with CFA, in a number of different ways, including the CFA Regional Manager briefings, via the Municipal Emergency Management Committee, and more recently as part of the Council Plan commitment met with the CFA Captains to better understand and strengthen our coordination of fire prevention measures.

Council has conducted several meetings with local CFA Captains over the last few months to address issues such as roadside vegetation, road access and improved cohesion and communication between Council and CFA.

As a result, an action plan has been developed by the group and a Bushfire Fuel Management Plan is currently being created.

Councillors and relevant staff also recently held a simulation session with CFA, where they were taken through a mock bushfire situation in the shire.

The simulation demonstrated how fire spreads based on weather conditions and explained effective firefighting activities.

It also gave Council further insight into the decisions they and operational staff need to make in areas of communication, access arrangements during and after an event, and the potential effect on essential services, such as electricity and water supply.

Council's Municipal Emergency Manager, Ken Ross said that despite the recent flood event, the bushfire threat this summer is very much a reality.

"Our community needs to be vigilant with their land. Unoccupied blocks and land interfacing urban areas need extra attention," Ken said.

Fire Prevention Notices have been extended for two weeks from the original requirement date due to the flood event.

This does not apply to Nagambie and Strathbogie as notices haven't yet been issued.

"Failure to comply with Fire Prevention Notices throughout the fire danger period will result in a \$1586.00 fine," Ken explained.

Council urges you to prepare early by ensuring your bushfire plan is up to date and fire risks are minimised.

For further information on preparing for a bushfire, you can visit CFA's website at <http://www.cfa.vic.gov.au/>.

To receive information about bushfire events in your region, download the VicEmergency app on your mobile or device, which is also available on the CFA website.

You can also contact your nearest CFA District Headquarters for bushfire information and advice:

**District 22 Headquarters**

Address: 195-205 Numurkah Road Shepparton, Victoria 3630

Postal: PO Box 932 Shepparton, Victoria 3630

Phone: (03) 5833 2400

Fax: (03) 5833 2482

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