

Emergency Management Planning Reform

Changes to municipal functional positions

On 1 December 2020, the *Emergency Management Legislation Amendment Act 2018* (the EMLA Act) introduces changes to functional roles previously established under the *Emergency Management Act 1986*, *Emergency Management Manual Victoria* (EMMV), *Country Fire Authority Act 1958* and *Fire Rescue Victoria Act 1958*.

The Municipal Emergency Response Officer (MERO) is superseded by the Municipal Emergency Management Officer (MEMO)

The role of the MERO ceases to have legislative backing come 1 December 2020 when section 21 of the *Emergency Management Act 1986* is repealed. Instead, the role of the MERO is replaced by the Municipal Emergency Management Officer (MEMO). Its responsibilities are to:

- liaise with agencies in relation to emergency management activities for the municipal district; and
- assist in the coordination of emergency management activities for the municipal council.

The MEMO role is outlined in the [State Emergency Management Plan](#) (page 64). On 1 December 2020, the EMLA Act inserts the relevant s59G into the *Emergency Management Act 2013*.

The Municipal Recovery Manager (MRM) is formalised

An MRM has been required under Part 6 of the *Emergency Management Manual Victoria* (EMMV) with responsibility for coordinating recovery activities at the municipal level. The role of the MRM is now formalised in legislation. The EMLA Act defines the responsibilities of the MRM as:

- coordinating, in consultation with agencies, the resources of the municipal council and the community for the purposes of recovery; and
- liaising with any municipal emergency management officer appointed for the municipal district in relation to the use of the municipal council's resources for the purposes of recovery; and
- assisting any municipal emergency management officer appointed for the municipal district with planning and preparing for recovery.

The MRM role is outlined in the [State Emergency Management Plan](#) (page 67). On 1 December 2020, the EMLA Act inserts the relevant s59H into the *Emergency Management Act 2013*.

The Municipal Fire Prevention Officer's (MFPO) planning function is discontinued

The *Country Fire Authority Act 1958* and the *Fire Rescue Victoria Act 1958* require each municipal council to appoint an MFPO and any number of assistant fire prevention officers. The MFPO provides its municipal council with expertise in relation to fire prevention and provides a connection to local fire services.

The role of the MFPO will continue after 1 December 2020 but will no longer include a legislated planning function. Instead, fire planning will fall under the new integrated planning arrangements.