

North West Metro

Regional Emergency Management Plan

North West Metro Emergency Management Planning Committee



Acknowledgement of Country

The North West Metro Regional Emergency Management Planning Committee acknowledges the Wurundjeri people of the Kulin Nation as the Traditional Custodians of the land. The committee also acknowledges and pays respect to the Elders past and present, and is committed to working with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities to achieve a shared vision of safer and more resilient communities.

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1. Introduction

1.1 Purpose

The *Emergency Management Act 2013* (the Act) requires each Regional Emergency Management Planning Committee (REMPC) to develop and maintain a comprehensive emergency management plan for the region that seeks to reduce:

- the likelihood of emergencies
- the effect of emergencies on communities and
- the consequences of emergencies for communities.

This plan outlines the arrangements that reduce the likelihood of emergencies; and mitigate their known effects and consequences to communities in the North West Metropolitan area of Victoria at the regional tier of emergency management. The plan provides a single source of truth with respect to emergency management planning in the North West Metro Region (NWMR); and a reference for those who have regional emergency management responsibilities.

1.2 Objective

This plan documents the agreed emergency management arrangements for mitigation, response, and recovery; and defines the roles and responsibilities of stakeholders at the regional level. It supports efficiency and effectiveness on a platform of shared responsibility and interoperability to deliver community centred outcomes.

The plan seeks to build safer and resilient communities through dynamic engagement and connectedness with individuals, groups and broader society that makes up the NWMR. It ensures a coordinated and integrated approach with a focus on community involvement in planning in line with the 'all communities – all emergencies' approach to emergency management.

1.3 Scope

1.3.1 Context

This plan supports holistic and coordinated emergency management arrangements within the NWMR. It is consistent with, and contextualises, the State Emergency Management Plan (SEMP). The Regional Emergency Management Plan (REMP) is a subordinate plan to the SEMP.

This plan considers the Municipal Emergency Management Plans (MEMPs) within the region and region-specific issues and opportunities (including cross-border emergencies and consequences) that exist. It is not an aggregation of MEMPs within the region but instead addresses and capitalises on opportunities that exist to enhance emergency management planning outcomes and sustain or improve capability and capacity within the region.

To the extent possible, this plan does not conflict with or duplicate other in-force emergency management plans that exist.

Figure 1 outlines this plan's hierarchy. This plan should be read in conjunction with the SEMP and any other identified plans listed in [Attachment A](#).

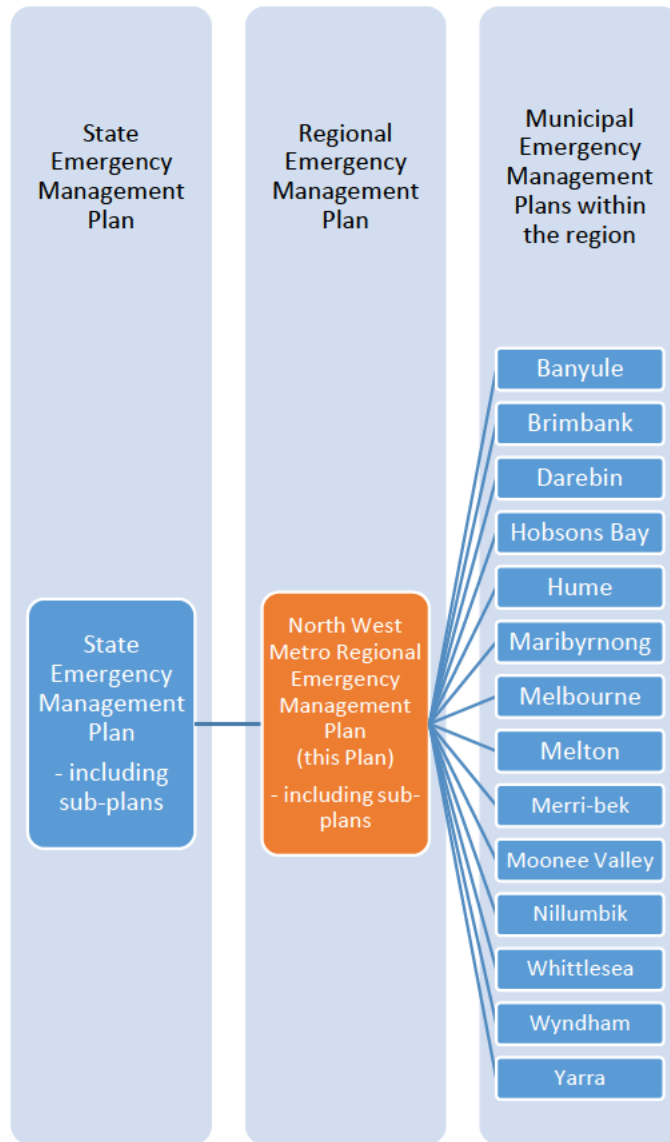


Figure 1: Plan hierarchy

1.4 Authority

In 2020, the Act was amended 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 REMPC to be established in each of the eight emergency management regions of Victoria. Each REMPC is a multi-agency collaboration group whose members bring organisational, industry or personal expertise to the task of emergency management planning for the region.

NWMR is declared as a region by the Governor in Council for the purposes of emergency management planning, pursuant to section 77A of the Act (see [Attachment A](#) for more detail).

The plan complies with the requirements of the Act including having regard to any relevant guidelines issued under section 77.

1.5 Administration

1.5.1 Regional Emergency Management Planning Committee

An overview of the REMPC, including details of its membership, meetings, and relationship to State and Municipal planning tiers, is detailed in the REMPC Terms of Reference, available on the Emergency Management Planning Page of EM-COP” and is “available on request to the REMPC”.

1.5.2 Plan approval

This REMP is approved by the Emergency Management Commissioner (EMC).

This plan comes into effect when it is published and remains in effect for a maximum period of three years, or earlier if superseded by an approved and published update.

1.5.3 Plan assurance

This plan has been prepared in accordance with the Act and Ministerial Guidelines for preparing emergency management plans. A Statement of Assurance (Attachment C) has been prepared and submitted to the EMC pursuant the Emergency Management 2013 (s60AG).

1.5.4 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 EMV website and remain in force for a maximum period of three months. The plan will be reviewed no later than 22 October 2026.

2. Regional Context and Risk Profile

2.1 Regional Overview

NWMR is the traditional home of the Boon Wurrung, Wurundjeri, and Wathaurong peoples of the Kulin nation, and one of eight Fairer Victoria¹ emergency management areas in Victoria.

¹ A Fairer Victoria is the Victorian Government's long-term plan to address disadvantage, founded on place-based approaches to the development of evidence-based initiatives. Eight regional boundaries were formally adopted on 1 July 2005, based on regions of the (then) Department of Human Services: <https://minerva-access.unimelb.edu.au/handle/11343/34975>.



Figure 2. North and West Metropolitan Region Map including LGA boundaries²

2.1.1 Municipalities

The Local Government Areas (LGAs) located within NWMR are: Banyule; Brimbank; Darebin; Hobsons Bay; Hume; Maribyrnong; Melbourne; Melton; Merri-bek; Moonee Valley; ; Nillumbik; Whittlesea; Wyndham and Yarra City.

The five LGAs that occupy NWMR's outer suburbs – Hume, Melton, Nillumbik, Whittlesea, and Wyndham – categorise themselves as 'interface councils.' That is, "municipalities that form a ring around metropolitan Melbourne communities face exceptional liveability challenges as a result of increasingly rapid population growth, changing demographics and the impact of historic underfunding."³

While this environmental scan for NWMR considers all 14 LGAs as a whole in many of its analyses it should be noted that on occasion the profiles of the metropolitan LGAs will be quite different to those of the interface councils. Emergency management planning in this context therefore needs to be mindful of, and account for, the different circumstances encountered across LGAs within NWMR.

2.1.2 Population

The following figures and tables show the current population statistics as at 2022 and the projected changes by 2036. Over two million people live in NWMR, making up approximately one third (34 per cent) of the population of Victoria, but this proportion is likely to increase by 2036 (to 37.6 per cent). In real terms, NWMR is projected to increase by more than a million people (to more than 3 million) with the majority taking up residence in interface councils (around 606,000 people). However, the rate of growth varies according to LGA: for example, the City of Melton is forecast to more than double in size (from approximately 150,000 to over 300,000 people) by 2036 while the Cities of Wyndham and Melbourne are forecast to grow by 69.8 percent and 63.5 per cent respectively. Conversely, Nillumbik Shire is expected to grow by less than 8 percent.

The NWMR Indigenous population of 0.5 per cent is higher than the Melbourne Metropolitan percentage of 0.4. This constitutes approximately 7,287 people in the region, of whom 62.1 per cent are under the age of 30 and 4.8 per cent over the age of 60.

² Victorian Multicultural Commission (2020): <https://www.multiculturalcommission.vic.gov.au/vmc-regional-advisory-councils>

³ Interface Councils of Victoria (2019): <https://www.interfacecouncils.com.au/about>

Current population statistics ⁴	Total Population (2022)	Area	Population Density (persons/km ²) (2022)
Banyule	127,268	63	2036
Brimbank	193,146	123	1565
Darebin	150,325	54	2813
Hobsons Bay	91,736	64	1429
Hume	252,723	504	502
Maribyrnong	87,393	31	2800
Melbourne	159,813	37	4281
Melton	192,865	528	366
Moonee Valley	122,961	43	2859
Merri-bek	174,502	51	3425
Nillumbik	63,030	432	146
Whittlesea	236,764	490	483
Wyndham	308,623	542	569
Yarra	92,118	20	4717
North West Metro Region	2,214,341	2982	743

Table 1. North West Metro Region Population by LGA (2019)⁵

Total Population 2,214,341

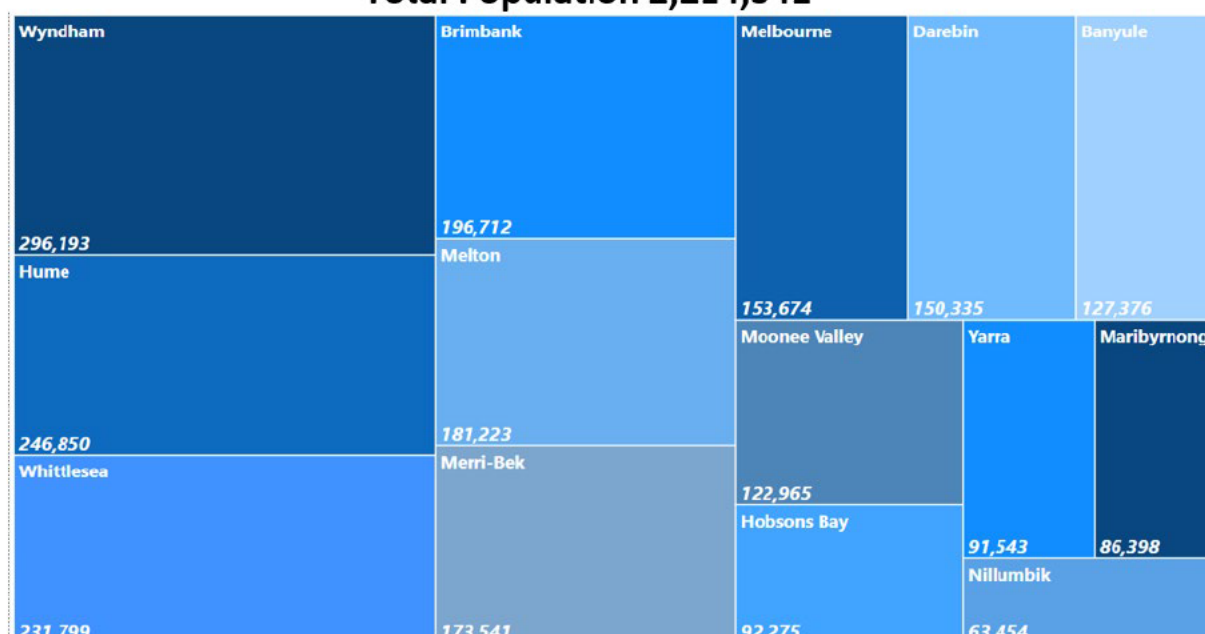


Figure 3. North West Metro Region Population by LGA

⁴ DJPR (2020): <https://www.rdv.vic.gov.au/information-portal/table-and-chart>

⁵ ABS (2020): <https://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/DetailsPage/3218.02018-19?OpenDocument>

According to Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas (SEIFA), which measure the relative level of socio-economic advantage or disadvantage based on a range of Census characteristics (where higher scores indicate lower levels of disadvantage), NWMR overall (with a score of 1,009) is similar to Victoria overall (which has a score of 1,010). The metro and interface LGAs were also similar overall (1,009 and 1,008 respectively). When considered individually, Brimbank was the most disadvantaged (921) (and is ranked third most disadvantaged LGA in the State) and Nillumbik was the least disadvantaged (1,099) (and is ranked the least disadvantaged LGA in Victoria).

2.1.3 Diversity

The NWMR has the highest levels of cultural diversity in the state, with more than a third (38.7 per cent) of the population born overseas. However, this varied according to LGA: for example, a greater proportion of the population of City of Brimbank was born overseas (51.6 per cent) compared with Nillumbik Shire (16.3 per cent).

In NWMR the most common countries of birth (other than Australia) were: India (in the top three for all but two LGAs); United Kingdom (8 of the 14 LGAs); and Italy (6 of the 14 LGAs).

More than 40 per cent of the population of NWMR speaks a language other than English at home. In some LGAs, the number of people who speak another language outnumber those who speak only English: for example, in Brimbank, approximately 62 per cent of the population speak a language other than English at home. Similarly, other languages prevail over English in the City of Melbourne (54.3 per cent). In contrast, Nillumbik has the greatest proportion of English only speakers (90.4 per cent). In NWMR the most common languages spoken (other than English) were: Greek (top 3 for 7 of the 14 LGAs); Italian (7 of the 14 LGAs); and Mandarin (7 of the 14 LGAs).

Some peri urban areas have an older age profile driven by aging in place of people establishing housing in previous decades.⁶ These profiles may be overshadowed by more recent subdivision expansion characterised by younger age cohorts. The incidence of people who identify as requiring assistance with self-care has also been identified as high in the north western fringe of Melbourne.⁷

NWMR is also home to approximately one quarter (24.8 per cent) of Victoria's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.⁸ As a proportion of NWMR, however, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders represent less than 1.0 per cent of the total NWMR population (0.7 per cent), ranging between 0.4 per cent of the population in Melbourne, Moonee Valley, and Nillumbik to 1.0 per cent of the population in Melton.

2.1.4 Vulnerable Persons Registers

Six councils in the NWMR have a total of 93 people on vulnerable persons registers.⁹

LGA	Registered People	Percentage
Banyule	2	1.45%
Hume	48	35%
Melton	26	19%
Nillumbik	2	1.45%
Whittlesea	34	24%

⁶ Demographics for Bushfire Risk Analysis Regional Victoria and Peri Urban Melbourne, DECCA 2018

⁷ Demographics for Bushfire Risk Analysis Regional Victoria and Peri Urban Melbourne, DECCA 2018

⁸ https://northwestpalliative.com.au/services_quickguide/nw-metro-regional-map/

⁹ Snapshot of registers as at 17 July 2023. These numbers are an increase of 44 people over the last two years.

LGA	Registered People	Percentage
Wyndham	25	18%
Total	137	100%

2.1.5 Geography and Topography

The NWMR covers nearly 3000 square kilometres and contains a substantial percentage of the State's critical infrastructure, including airports, the Port of Melbourne, underground rail networks, transport tunnels, hospitals, and essential service provision points. A range of NWMR geographical features including high concentration of infrastructure in the inner suburbs, rural-urban interfaces and diverse industrial areas create a wide range of fire risks, including structure, chemical and bushfire.

The natural environment is diverse, encompassing both grassy plains to the south, north and west, and hilly, bushy terrain to the north-east. The region is bounded by an urban-rural interface with significant expanses of woodlands and grasslands.¹⁰ In metropolitan areas, NWMR is home to plentiful parks, gardens, and open spaces. Like the rest of Victoria, peri-urban areas of NWMR are prone to bushfires, particularly whenever grassland vegetation and forest litter become very dry.

2.1.6 Land Use

When considered as a whole, land in NWMR is predominantly used for residential (40.7 per cent), primary production (17.1 per cent) and parkland (15.5 per cent) purposes. However, land use across NWMR varies considerably by LGA, and significant differences are evident according to whether an area is classified as a metropolitan or interface LGA. In 2016 for example:

- Commercial land use was concentrated in the municipalities of Melbourne (37.3 per cent) and Yarra City (13.7 per cent).
- Only 2.4 per cent of land in NWMR was dedicated to educational purposes.
- The City of Melbourne had the most land dedicated to hospitals and/or medical purposes (1.5 per cent), while in Interface LGAs this was negligible (0.0 per cent).
- Industrial land use was concentrated in Hobsons Bay (31.1 per cent), Brimbank (22.1 per cent) and Maribyrnong (17.9 per cent). The strongest industry sectors within NWMR include transport, postal, warehousing, construction, and retail, particularly in the western parts of the region.¹¹
- More than half (50.5 per cent) of Nillumbik's land use was categorised as 'other'. Part of this is likely due to the Nillumbik Green Wedge,¹² of which 80 per cent is privately owned and 43 per cent is identified as having environmental value.¹³
- Parkland features in all LGAs but is more apparent in Hobsons Bay (23.7 per cent), Melbourne (22.9 per cent) and Yarra (21.9 per cent).
- Almost half of the land in interface LGAs was used for primary production (48.0 per cent). For three LGAs, primary production utilised more than half of their land - Melton (69.3

¹⁰ EMV (2015): Regional Emergency Risk and Resilience Profile – Northern and Western Metropolitan Region

¹¹ Infrastructure Victoria (2019): <https://www.infrastructurevictoria.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/SGS-Economic-social-and-environmental-profile-Western-Metro-Region-April-2019.pdf>

¹² Green wedge land is defined as, "non-urban areas of metropolitan Melbourne that lie outside the urban growth boundary."

State Government of Victoria (2020): <https://www.planning.vic.gov.au/policy-and-strategy/green-wedges#:~:text=What%20are%20green%20wedges%3F,green%20wedge%20area%20is%20unique.>

¹³ Nillumbik Shire (2020): <https://participate.nillumbik.vic.gov.au/gwmp/background>

per cent), Hume (53.7 per cent) and Wyndham (52.3 per cent). No land was dedicated to primary production in metropolitan LGAs (0.0 per cent).

- More than half of NWMR's metropolitan LGA land was devoted to residential use (54.6 per cent), far more than interface LGAs (15.7 per cent).

2.1.7 Cultural values and assets

The NWMR also has a variety of places of aboriginal cultural heritage significance. Some information about areas of cultural heritage sensitivity can be obtained from the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Register and Information System (ACHRIS)¹⁴. It is important to recognise that areas of Aboriginal cultural significance can be found outside of areas identified in ACHRIS. Aboriginal cultural values and heritage may also be recognised in various ways in municipal and agency emergency management plans.

The Victorian Government Aboriginal Affairs Report 2019 (the report) contains the vision statement from the Victorian Aboriginal Affairs Framework 2018-2023 "that all Aboriginal Victorian people, families and communities are safe, resilient, thriving and living culturally rich lives".¹⁵

In relation to the health and wellbeing domain the report contains the following goals: Aboriginal Victorians enjoy health and longevity; Aboriginal Victorians access the services they need; health and community services are culturally safe and responsive; and Aboriginal Victorians enjoy social and emotional wellbeing. In relation to the justice and safety domain the report notes the goal that Aboriginal Victorians feel safe and connected.

Supporting the achievement of these goals in emergencies it is important to recognise that there are a number of Aboriginal controlled organisations in the North and West Region and that many Aboriginal people prefer to use these services. It is important therefore to consider appropriate engagement with Aboriginal controlled organisations in emergency management activities. It should be noted that all services should be accessible to and provide cultural safety for Aboriginal people.

Local Aboriginal Networks or Gathering Places, which provide connections and services for Aboriginal people, are located in Maribyrnong, Wyndham, Hobsons Bay, Hume, and Whittlesea.¹⁶

¹⁴ ACHRIS online mapping tool is available from <https://www.aboriginalvictoria.vic.gov.au/cultural-heritage-sensitivity>

¹⁵ Victorian Government Aboriginal Affairs Report 2019, Victorian State Government

¹⁶ Aboriginal Victoria (2020): <https://www.aboriginalvictoria.vic.gov.au/melbourne-local-aboriginal-networks-and-gathering-places>

2.2 Regional Operability



Figure 4. Victorian Emergency Management Regions

NWMR shares boundaries with all but one of the other seven regions, covers 2,981 square kilometres and includes 228 suburbs or townships across 14 LGAs. The profiles of these LGAs are diverse, covering both Melbourne’s inner-city suburbs, including the central business district, and environs on the urban fringe. Some unique arrangements exist to ensure tactical interoperability in these areas and across the region (refer Attachment D).

2.3 Significant historic emergencies in the region

Year	Emergency description
1939	Heatwave
1971	Widespread Flooding
1974	Widespread Flooding
1983	Ash Wednesday Bushfires
1990	Heatwave
1991	Widespread Flooding
2003	Melbourne Hailstorm
2003	Avian Flu Outbreaks
2009	Heatwave
2009	H1N1 Pandemic
2009	Black Saturday Bushfires
2010	Widespread Flash Flooding
2013	Donnybrook Road Bushfire
2014	Heatwave

Year	Emergency description
2014	Mickleham/Kilmore Bushfires (Feb)
2014	CBD Apartment Building Fire (Nov)
2015	North Melbourne Apartment Building Fire (Mar)
2015	Hume Waste/Recycling Fire (Nov)
2015	CBD Apartment Building Fire (Dec)
2016	Hume Waste/Recycling Fire (Jan)
2016	Thunderstorm Asthma (Nov)
2017	CBD Vehicle Borne Incident (Jan)
2017	Hume Waste/Recycling Fire (Jul)
2017	CBD Vehicle Borne Incident (Dec)
2017	Metro Floods (Dec)
2018	Hume Waste/Recycling Fire (Apr)
2018	CBD Terrorist Act (Nov)
2019	CBD Apartment Building Fire (Feb)
2019	Heatwave
2019	Plenty Gorge bushfire (Dec)
2020	COVID-19 Pandemic
2022	North West Metro Region Floods

3. This plan

The North West Metro REMPC has prepared this plan as required by the Act and having regard to the Ministerial guidelines for preparing emergency management plans. In developing this plan, the REMPC has committed to:

- maintaining an awareness of existing emergency plans and arrangements within the Region.
- a robust risk evaluation process, including:
 - undertaking regular risk and hazard assessments
 - maintaining a regional risk register
 - supporting accountable agencies to identify and prioritise possible treatments for emergency risks and consequences within the region
 - developing plans to manage or mitigate identified and prioritised residual risks
- identifying capability and capacity limitations and within the region and supporting capability uplift, including participation in multi-agency exercising and training

The arrangements in this plan apply on a continuing basis and do not require specific activation.

3.1 Sub-plans and complementary plans

3.1.1 Sub-plans

The REMPC will determine if a sub-plan is required to detail more specific or complex arrangements that either enhance or contextualise this plan. All sub-plans are multi-agency

plans and may be hazard specific where the consequences are likely to be significant, for example a regional flood response sub-plan.

All sub-plans are subject to the same preparation, consultation, approval, and publication requirements as this plan, as outlined in Part 6A of the Act.

Agencies with roles or responsibilities in the sub-plan must act in accordance with the plan (EM Act 2013 s60AK).

In determining which risks require sub-plans to support this plan, the REMPC has had consideration of the following reports and supporting materials:

- Regional Emergency Risk Project 2014/15 State Level Report
- Victoria's Critical Infrastructure All Sectors Resilience Report 2020
- Critical Infrastructure Resilience Strategy, EMV July 2015, a list of sub-plans is included at [Attachment A](#).

3.1.2 Complementary plans

Complementary plans are prepared by industry/sectors or agencies for emergencies that do not fall within Part 6A of the EM Act 2013. They are often prepared under other legislation, governance, or statutory requirements for a specific purpose.

Complementary plans do not form part of this plan and are not subject to approval, consultation, and other requirements under the EM Act 2013.

3.2 Planning Process

The planning process seeks to understand the context, assess strategies, develop, monitor, and review plans to manage identified risks or hazards.

The State Emergency Management Priorities outlined in the SEMP underpin and guide all decisions at every phase of emergency management. These priorities are:

- Protection and preservation of life is paramount. This includes:
 - Safety of emergency response personnel and
 - Safety of community members including vulnerable community members and visitors/ tourists
- Issuing of community information and community warnings detailing incident information that is timely, relevant, and tailored to assist community members make informed decisions about their safety
- Protection of critical infrastructure and community assets that support community resilience
- Protection of residential property as a place of primary residence
- Protection of assets supporting individual livelihoods and economic production that supports individual and community financial sustainability
- Protection of environmental and conservation assets that considers the cultural, biodiversity, and social values of the environment.

In addition to the sub-plans and complementary plans that are in existence to manage known risks, the REMPC has identified and prioritised some risks for which further planning is recommended ([Attachment E](#)). These risks have been assessed through a consequence lens to establish regional coordination and response arrangements that will support an effective, coordinated, and integrated response. It is noted that mitigation for these risks may fall to an individual or agency and that the REMPC does not have authority to direct any person. The REMPCs function is to provide information and guidance to the relevant risk owner, where necessary.

The REMPC is committed to undertaking a comprehensive process to determine if plans can collectively achieve a specified response.

This process will not directly develop agency or departmental plans; however, it may support the development of multi-agency plans such as a regional recovery plan.

3.3 Planning Objectives

Objectives of the plan is to:

- Ensure mitigation, response and recovery are effectively integrated.
- Promote an integrated and coordinated approach to emergency management in the NWMR to reduce consequences on the community.
- Promote a community focused and placed based approach
- Assist in building more resilient communities and create opportunities for community-based roles
- Connect our regional emergency management sector and build networks, capabilities, and capacity
- Support emergency and recovery worker wellbeing

3.4 Three-year planning horizon

The criteria used to measure the success of this plan are:

- Identify and review complimentary plans
- Review and refresh sub-plans annually
- Assurance of all MEMPs within 3-year cycle.
- Monitor, evaluate and review the plan based on learnings from incidents
- Encourage and support integrated training and exercising
- Identify, assess, and mitigate new and emerging risks.

4. Emergency Management Phases

4.1 Mitigation

This plan recognises that mitigation activities occur across a broad range of business, industry, and agencies, as part of normal working arrangements. Mitigation strategies may include application of policy and regulations, development of infrastructure, and provision of training and education activities.

In an emergency management context, mitigation refers to actions taken to eliminate or reduce the incidence and severity of emergencies and minimise their effects. Both within and outside the emergency management sector, agencies directly or indirectly mitigate emergencies as part of their business-as-usual functions. For example, they mitigate emergencies by:

- formulating and implementing policy and regulation (such as land-use planning and building regulations)
- building, operating, and maintaining infrastructure
- training, education, and engagement.

The REMPC has undertaken an emergency risk assessment ([Attachment E](#)) for the region.

This process has included:

- Identification of existing or emerging risks and hazards relevant to the Region
- Identification of, and collaboration with, the risk owner to understand the existing plans, arrangements or strategies being carried out to manage or mitigate the risk
- Collaboration with Municipal Emergency Management Planning Committees (MEMPCs) in support of mitigation activities at municipal level

- Identification of opportunities for support or coordination of engagement and educational programs to facilitate greater reach and building of community resilience, with a focus on vulnerable persons/sectors within the region (single/multi-agency).
- Regular regional activities that support collective mitigation efforts
- Identification of regional treatment plans
- Identification of integrated activities for training and exercising across relevant agencies and groups with a role in emergency management both within and across regional boundaries.

4.2 Preparedness

In the emergency management context preparedness includes activities undertaken by individual agencies or stakeholders to prepare for identified hazards or risks such as storm season. Activities may include but are not limited to doctrine review, training or exercising, asset and equipment maintenance or personnel recruitment.

In undertaking preparedness activities, consideration is given to the five core capability elements and the 21 core capabilities detailed in the 2022 [Victorian Preparedness Framework](#). The framework shows agencies how to estimate their capability requirements, set capability targets and identify the critical tasks to achieve the targets.

NWMMR preparedness activities that will be undertaken to support capability and capacity for the term of this plan include:

- Coordinated pre-season briefings.
- Integrated training and exercising activities to support seamless transition from standby to response to recovery.
- Review previous season effectiveness of the coordination, control, consequence management and communications functions/outcomes/actions/improvements.
- Develop and exercise Regional Control and Coordination arrangements which test capability to respond to concurrent Class 1 and Class 2 emergencies occurring in the region.
- Maintenance of hazard specific Regional Readiness Matrices, which 'steps up' agency response on days of heightened risk.

4.3 Response

The response phase includes agency command, control and coordination arrangements that are in place and tested before an event (known as readiness), the conduct of the response operation, and the provision of immediate relief to support communities during and in the immediate aftermath of an emergency.

Where possible, response activities should be managed at a local level which is often the municipal level. Whilst this is the case, regional support may be requested in accordance the arrangements outlined in this plan.

This plan applies a regional lens to response arrangements that will be applied when a multi-agency effort is required to manage an emergency event. It is not intended to be a tactical level plan although it may support the development of such plans and outline the arrangements where the scale and nature of the emergency require escalation.

Regional response arrangements in the NWMMR include:

- Coordinated regional level response, relief for major emergency events through the application of agreed triggers and resource escalation
- Coordination of readiness and response in conjunction with other metropolitan regions to be efficient and effective
- Resourcing of readiness and response across agencies within the region prior to escalation
- Utilisation of community and business networks to enhance engagement

- Ensuring intelligence and insights gained from community are used to ensure community concerns are considered in the operational management of an emergency
- Monitoring and communication during state-controlled operations
- Oversight of control and coordination activities to ensure timely and effective activation, response, communication, relief, transfer of control, de-escalation, and transition to recovery
- Active assessment and management of region wide consequences during incidents
- How we capture opportunities for collaboration and coordination and minimise duplication of effort (e.g. relating to community engagement and exercising)
- Ensuring timely and wholistic after-action reviews and development of strategies to address identified areas for improvement
- Resource coordination, where there is a need for it to be done at a regional level
- Management and resourcing of key state level assets (such as the mobile command vehicles).

4.3.1 Incident Control Centres and Regional Control Centre/s

As per the [Victorian Emergency Operations Handbook](#), Class 1 and some types of Class 2 emergencies are managed from the State Control Centre (SCC), Regional Control Centres (RCCs) and either an Incident Control Centre (ICC), mobile command vehicle, site office or other location determined by the Emergency Management Commissioner. Class 2 and other emergencies, depending on the size, type and nature may be managed from an agency specific location.

The *Victorian Emergency Operations Handbook* details the locations and contact details for each RCC and ICC across the state, which are expanded further in [Attachment F](#) of this plan.

4.4 Recovery arrangements

The NWMR REMP outlines recovery arrangements that will be applied where an emergency has impacted multiple municipalities or communities or where the impacts of an emergency have wide ranging or long-term impacts or to provide a regional lens for what is outlined in the SEMP.

As outlined in the SEMP, there are four key recovery environments that require a coordinated approach as part of the recovery process: social, economic, natural, and built (as per the *Resilience Recovery Strategy*).

The nationally recognised disaster recovery principles that are fundamental for successful recovery involve:

- understanding the context
- focusing on the consequences of the emergency
- recognising complexity
- being community focused
- using community-led approaches
- ensuring coordination of all activities
- employing effective communication
- acknowledging and building capacity.

Effective recovery requires collaboration between individuals, communities, all levels of government, non-government organisations and businesses.

Municipal councils are responsible for recovery coordination at the local level. The Department of Families, Fairness and Housing (DFFH) coordinates recovery at a regional level and Emergency Management Victoria at the state level (refer to EMV).

The NWMR Emergency Management Collaboration memorandum of understanding (MoU) sets out recovery arrangements at a local level.

Most emergencies are small and recovery arrangements can typically be managed locally by the municipal council with regional support if or when required. Where an emergency is likely to exceed the capacity of a municipal council to coordinate emergency recovery, or the emergency has affected more than one municipal area, regional coordination for recovery will be activated. Different capacity in different municipal areas will trigger the need for regional support at different demand or complexity of recovery events.

Recovery arrangements aim to support communities to successfully deal with the impacts of an emergency on the social, built, economic and natural environments (as per the Resilience Recovery Strategy).

Agencies with regional recovery responsibilities are:

Recovery Environment	Emergency description
Social environment	Department of Families, Fairness and Housing (DFFH)
Built environment	Department of Jobs, Skills Industry and Regions (DJSIR) or nominated agency
Economic environment	Department of Jobs, Skills Industry and Regions (DJSIR)
Natural environmental	Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action(DEECA)

Each lead agency is responsible for the following functions for their environment:

- coordinating strategic information sharing to facilitate recovery activities listed under that environment
- monitoring and reporting recovery issues, risks, progress, and capacity by working with responsible agencies and managing issues as required

As recovery may continue for a significant time, planning needs to include short, medium, and long-term needs and goals.

5. Evaluation and continuous improvement

The NWMR supports the State’s commitment to a culture of continuous improvement that is outlined in the 2015 [EM-LEARN Framework](#).

The NWMR does this by:

- Sharing lessons, both positive actions to sustain and areas for improvement
- Encouraging learning from both assurance activities and contemporary good practice
- Focusing on systems of work, rather than the performance of individuals
- Recognising that identifying and implementing sustainable solutions takes time, resources, and opportunity

For the NWMR, lessons management takes the form of the following arrangements:

- Conducting After Action Reviews, both formal and informal, with community and operational personnel before, during and after emergencies
- Sharing learnings openly across the REMPC in order to lead to change and improvement
- Continuously review the effectiveness of the coordination, control, consequence management and communications functions before, during and after incidents
- Actively participating in independent assurance activities undertaken by IGEM and other parties, review findings and recommendations, and implement change as required

- Utilising before action reports to embed identified regional lessons as part of readiness and operational response
- Embedding outcomes from seasonal debriefing in exercise and training programs to foster a culture of lessons being learnt within the region

6. Roles and responsibilities

An agency that has a role or responsibility under this plan must act in accordance with the plan. The SEMP outlines agreed agency roles and responsibilities, noting that existing duties, functions, power, responsibility, or obligation conferred on an agency by law, licence, agreement, or arrangement prevail to the extent of its inconsistency with this plan (EM Act 2013 s60AK).

The roles and responsibilities outlined in this plan are specific to the region and are in addition to, or variations on, what is outlined in the SEMP (refer to Attachment G).

7. Restricted operational information

Section 60AI(2) of the EM Act 2013 allows the REMPC and EMV to exclude information from this published that is related to critical infrastructure, personal information or information that is of a commercially sensitive nature.

A short summary of the restricted information is included here, including who the contact point is should the user of this plan seek access to this information.

Summary of the restricted information	Reason for restriction	Agency/ies that hold this information in full	Contact point/s
<p>Activation of the ICCS and/or the Incident Police Operation Centre (IPOC).</p> <p>Triggers for standing up the REMT or RCT in response to a public safety incident.</p>	<p>Either of the three options listed under legislation:</p> <p>Related to critical infrastructure</p>	<p>Regional Emergency Management Inspector, VicPol</p>	<p>As per regional contact list held and maintained by EMV.</p>
<p>Vulnerable Persons Register</p>	<p>Related to personal info</p>	<p>VicPol, relevant LGA or DFFH</p>	<p>As per regional contact list held and maintained by EMV.</p>
<p>List of facilities where Child Protection Clients or Clients in supported residential accommodation reside.</p>	<p>Related to personal information</p>	<p>DFFH</p>	<p>As per regional contact list held and maintained by EMV.</p>

Document information

Document details

Criteria	Details
Document title:	North West Metro Regional Emergency Management Plan
Document owner:	North West Metro Regional Emergency Management Planning Committee

Version control

Version	Date	Summary of amendments	Author
0.1	29 June 2020	Initial draft provided to key stakeholders for feedback	[REDACTED] EMV
0.2	14 July 2020	Feedback incorporated and further enhancements. Provided to REMP Development Working Groups to guide development of REMPs.	[REDACTED] EMV
0.3	06 August 2020	First Draft from IREMPC Working Group	IREMPC Working Group
0.4	22 September 2020	Final draft for circulation to REMPC for comment	IREMPC Working Group
1.0	24 July 2023	Initial draft provided to REMPC for feedback	[REDACTED]
1.1	15 September	Final Draft considered and assured	[REDACTED]

Document assurance

This document requires the following assurance:

Assurer	Title	Date
Sean Woods	Chair – on behalf of the North West Metro REMPC	15-Sep-2023

Document approval

This document requires the following approval:

Approver	Title	Date
Rick Nugent	Emergency Management Commissioner	19 December 2023

Review date

Review Date	Description
22 October 2026	This document will be reviewed every 3 years or more frequently as required.

References

Support material	Author	Location/link
Emergency Management Act 2013	Issued by the Victorian Government	http://classic.austlii.edu.au/au/legis/vic/consol_act/ema2013190/
Guidelines for Preparing State, Regional and Municipal Emergency Management Plans	Issued by the Minister for Police and Emergency	EMV Website https://www.emv.vic.gov.au/how-we-help/emergency-management-planning/planning-guidelines
Resilient Recovery Strategy	Emergency Management Victoria	EMV Website https://www.emv.vic.gov.au/how-we-help/resilient-recovery-strategy
Lessons management framework (EM-LEARN)	Emergency Management Victoria	https://www.emv.vic.gov.au/how-we-help/reviews-and-lessons-management/lessons-management-framework-em-learn
Victorian Emergency Operations Handbook	Emergency Management Victoria	EMV Website https://www.emv.vic.gov.au/publications/victorian-emergency-operations-handbook
Victorian Preparedness Framework	Emergency Management Victoria	EMV Website https://www.emv.vic.gov.au/21ictorian-preparedness-framework
Victorian Emergency Management Strategic Action Plan	Emergency Management Victoria	EMV Website Victorian Emergency Management Strategic Action Plan
Vulnerable Persons Policy (Register)	Issued by Department of Families, Fairness and Housing.	https://providers.dhhs.vic.gov.au/vulnerable-people-emergencies-policy

Acronyms

This section contains acronyms that are used throughout this plan.

Acronym	Description
CFA	Country Fire Authority
DEECA	Department of Energy, Environment, Climate Adaptation
DFFH	Department of Families, Fairness and Housing(VIC)
DJSIR	Department of Jobs, Skills, Industry & Regions (VIC)
EMC	Emergency Management Commissioner
EMV	Emergency Management Victoria
ICC	Incident Control Centre
LGA	Local Government Area
MEMP	Municipal Emergency Management Plan
MEMPC	Municipal Emergency Management Planning Committee
NWMR	North West Metro Region
RCC	Regional Control Centre
REMP	Regional Emergency Management Plan
REMP	Regional Emergency Management Planning Committee
SCC	State Control Centre
SEIFA	Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas
SEMP	State Emergency Management Plan
SES	State Emergency Service (VIC)

Definitions

This section contains definitions that are additional to the definitions included in the State Emergency Management Plan.

Terms	Description
-	-

Attachment A: Plan Hierarchy

This plan's sub plans

- Municipal Emergency Management Plans – refer Appendix A
- North West Metro Regional Strategic Fire Management Plan 2022
- North West Metro Relief and Recovery Plan 2023

This plan's complementary plans

- Nil

Attachment B: Emergency management regions

Declaration of eight emergency management regions

This plan recognises that the regions for emergency management do not align with the regions used in the business as usual activity of each REMPC member agency.

On recommendation of the Minister for Police and Emergency Services, the Governor in Council has declared emergency management regions under s77A of the *Emergency Management Act 2013*, as amended by the *Emergency Management Legislation Amendment Act 2018*.

The eight emergency management regions are:

- Barwon South West
- Gippsland
- Grampians
- Hume
- Loddon Mallee
- Eastern Metro
- North West Metro
- Southern Metro

The eight regions are based on the Victoria government regions with minor variations for the purposes of emergency management.

All emergency management regions are encouraged to collaborate with other regions as part of the new planning framework.

The Area of Operations concept in the SEMP provides flexibility across all emergency management regions.

North West Metro as an emergency management region



The municipalities within the NWMR are:

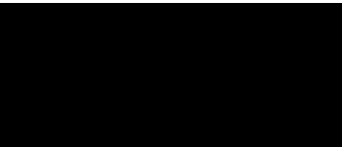
- Banyule City Council
- Brimbank City Council
- Darebin City Council
- Hobsons Bay City Council
- Hume City Council
- Maribyrnong City Council
- City of Melbourne
- City of Melton
- Merri-bek City Council
- Moonee Valley City Council
- Nillumbik Shire Council
- City of Whittlesea
- Wyndham City Council
- Yarra City Council

Attachment C: Emergency Management Plan Statement of Assurance for this Plan

Plan Preparer: North West Metro Regional Emergency Management Planning Committee

I certify that the attached Regional Emergency Management Plan complies with the requirements of the Emergency Management Act 2013, including having regard to any relevant guidelines issued under section 77 of that Act, to the extent outlined in the planning assurance checklist.

Signature of nominated representative of preparer:



Superintendent Sean Woods

Chair, North West Metro Emergency Management Planning Committee

Date: 15-Sep-2023

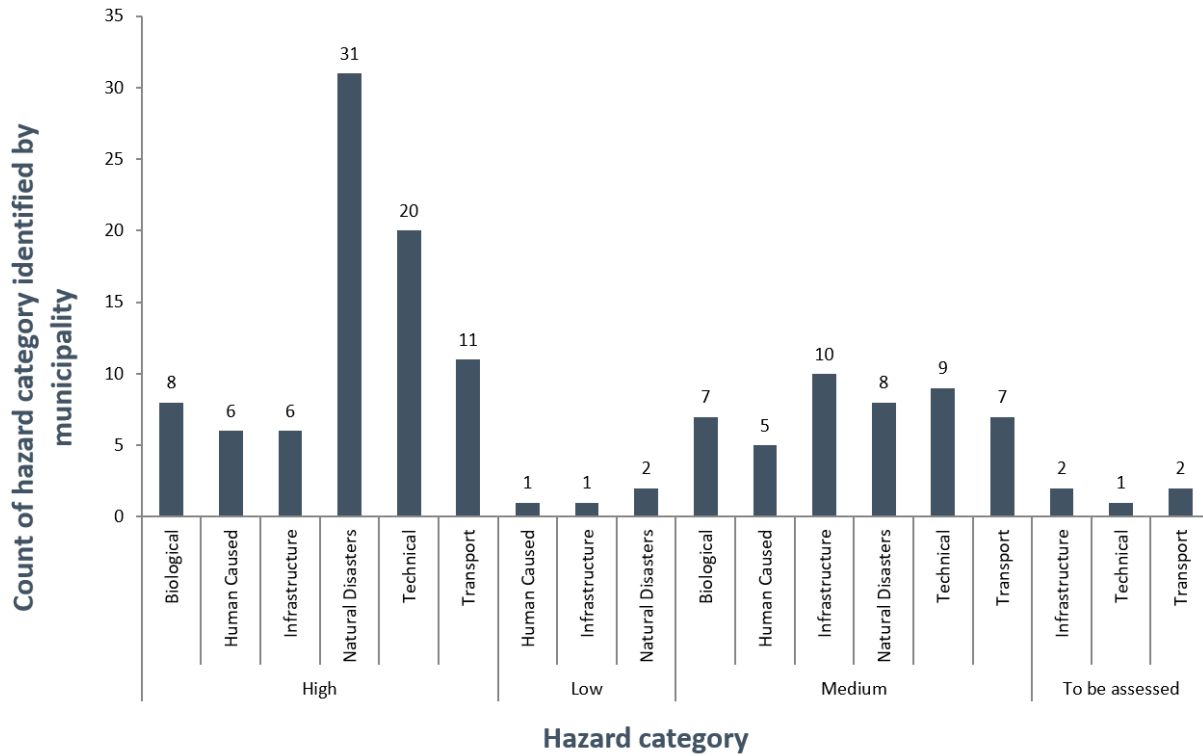
Attachment D: Cross-border considerations

Although there are no interstate border arrangements that impact NWMR, the REMPC and the plan will support any other regions in the activation of their cross-border arrangements.

Attachment E: Regional Risk Assessment

Significant regional (managed) risks

The following hazard-based risks and identified mitigation and treatment strategies are considered managed risks as assessed by the REMPC.



Residual (un-managed or un-planned) risk consequences

It is noted that the above regional risk assessment reflects risks agencies are required to manage, however, agencies have plans for known (planned) risks as well as processes and procedures for unknown (unplanned) risks or events.

Severity of risk for each hazard may vary across municipalities. Municipal risks and their associated risk rating are identified through each individual municipality's risk assessment process. Risk is assessed utilising criteria as noted in the Community Emergency Risk Assessment [Placemat](#). Any additional planning requirements will be determined by this risk rating.

Attachment F: Regional and Incident Control Centres

Regional Control Centre

Location *	Street address *	Phone number * Fax number *	Email address *
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]

Incident Control Centres

Location *	Street address *	Phone number * Fax number *	Email address *
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]

Location *	Street address *	Phone number * Fax number *	Email address *
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]

Location *	Street address *	Phone number * Fax number *	Email address *
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]

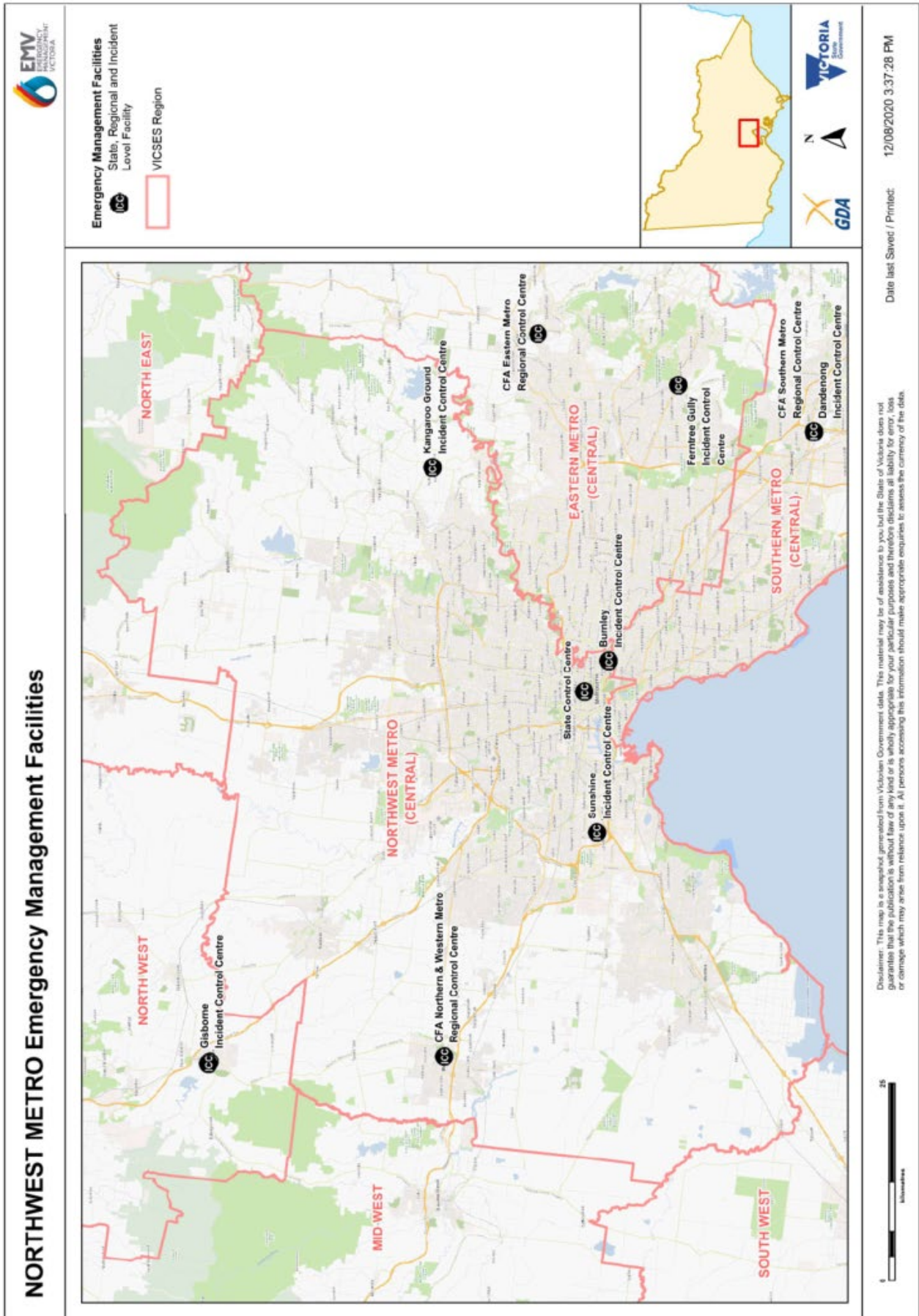


Figure 5. NWMR Regional and Incident Control Centres

Attachment G: Emergency Management Agency Roles and Responsibilities

All agency role and responsibilities are outlined in the SEMP.

Attachment H: Municipal Emergency Management Plan approval schedule

This table provides an overview of the dates that Municipal Emergency Management Plans (MEMPs) within the North West Metro region were last reviewed and when they are due for their next review.

All MEMPs will approved by the REMPC during this plan's own review horizon.

Municipality	Date of most recent approval	Date of next approval
Banyule	August 2020	December 2023
Brimbank	October 2020	August 2023
Darebin	December 2022	December 2025
Hobsons Bay	October 2020	October 2023
Hume	September 2023	September 2026
Maribyrnong	December 2019	December 2023
Melbourne	April 2021	April 2024
Melton	July 2020	December 2023
Moonee Valley	August 2020	December 2023
Merri-bek	March 2022	March 2025
Nillumbik	June 2023	June 2026
Whittlesea	November 2020	November 2023
Wyndham	October 2020	October 2023
Yarra City	August 2022	August 2025