

LODDON SHIRE COUNCIL

**NEIGHBOURHOOD SAFER PLACES PLAN –
SEPTEMBER 2023**

PLACES OF LAST RESORT DURING A BUSHFIRE



LODDON
SHIRE

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This document is available in alternative formats (e.g. larger font) if requested.

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1 INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

In its Interim Report, the 2009 Victorian Bushfires Royal Commission recommended that neighbourhood safer places, or 'NSPs', be identified and established to provide persons in bushfire affected areas with a place of last resort during a bushfire.¹

In response to this recommendation, the Victorian Government has introduced the Emergency Services Legislation Amendment Act 2018 (Vic) ('ESLA Act') which amends the Country Fire Authority Act 1958 (Vic) ('CFA Act') and the Emergency Management Act 2013 (Vic) ('EM Act'). The effect of these amendments will be to require the Country Fire Authority ('CFA') to certify NSPs against the CFA's Fire Rating Criteria, and Victoria's Councils to identify, designate, establish and maintain suitable places as NSPs in their municipal districts.

NSPs are not community fire refuges or emergency relief centres. NSPs are places of last resort during the passage of a bushfire, and are intended to be used by persons whose primary bushfire plans have failed. NSPs are places of relative safety only. They do not guarantee the survival of those who assemble there. Furthermore, there may be serious risks to safety encountered in traveling, and seeking access, to NSPs during bushfire events. Depending on the direction of a particular fire, it may not be a safer place to assemble than other places within the municipal district.

NSPs will be assessed by the CFA as providing some protection from immediate risk of direct fire attack, but not necessarily from other risks, such as flying embers. Where a potential NSP which is used for an operational purpose at many times meets the CFA's criteria, then the CFA considers that those operational activities will be able to continue (to the extent practicable in the circumstances) while the place is being used as an NSP.

This Plan is a neighbourhood safer places plan for the purposes of the legislation, and contains guidelines which have been developed by the Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV) to assist the Council in identifying, designating, establishing, maintaining and decommissioning places as NSPs within its municipal district.

This Plan also identifies other matters that should be taken into account in identifying, designating, establishing and maintaining NSPs within the municipality.

This Plan contains a step-by-step methodology for the Council to follow in identifying, designating, establishing, maintaining and decommissioning NSPs. The Council must consider each of the factors set out in this Plan. It should also consider other factors which are specific to the Council's circumstances, including the resources available to the Council. Once this Plan has been adopted, Council must make it, and any documents incorporated into it, available at the Council's municipal offices for public inspection during normal office hours free of charge under section 50F(4)(b) of the CFA Act. It must also be published on Council's website under section 50F(4)(a) of the CFA Act.

¹ Recommendation 8.5, 2009 Victorian Bushfires Royal Commission Interim Report

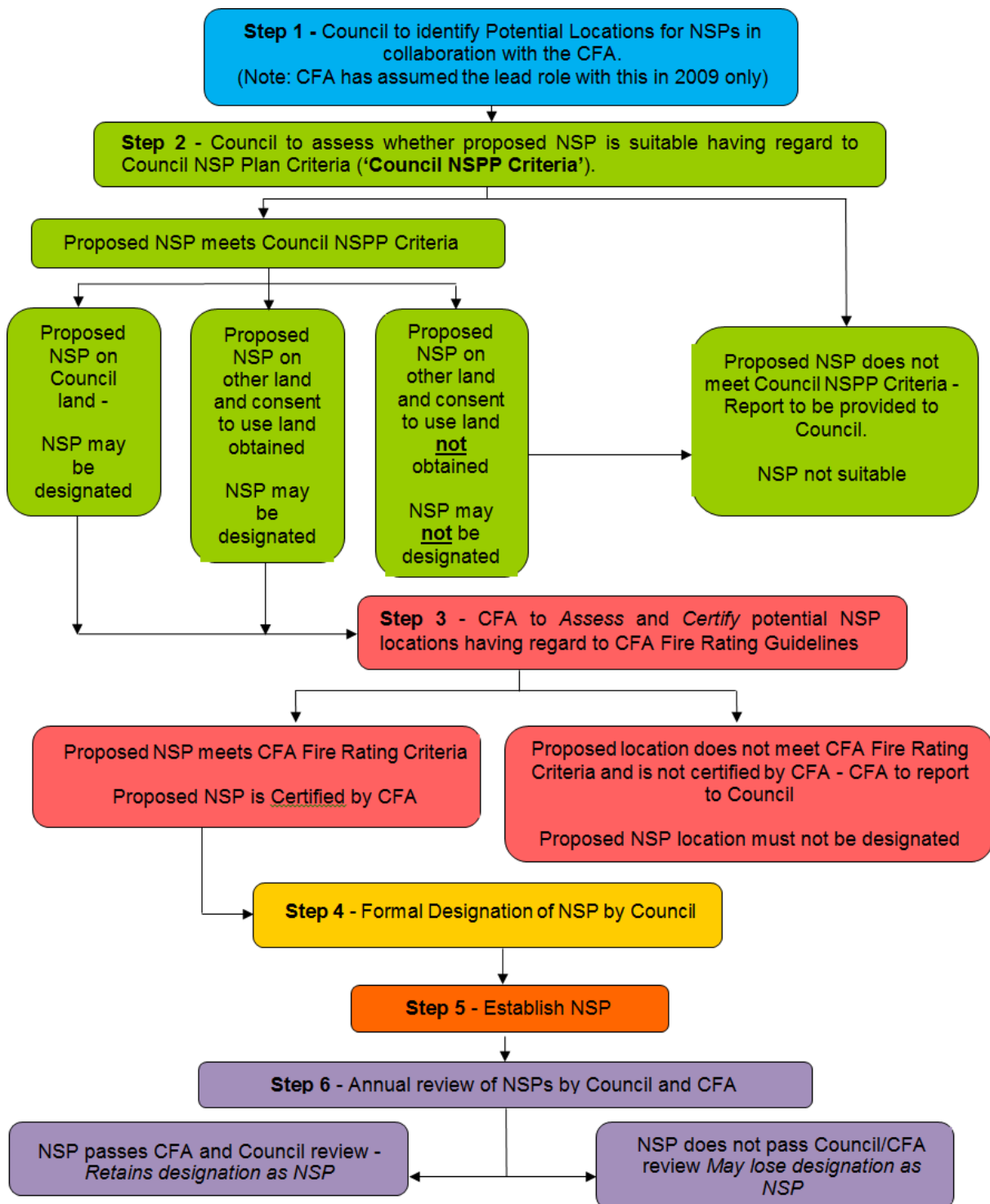
1.1 Structure of this plan

This Plan has been divided up into five distinct sections.

- Section 1:** contains a flow chart which summarises the process for councils to adopt in identifying, designating, establishing and maintaining NSPs within their municipal district.
- Section 2:** contains a more detailed summary of the steps summarised in the flow chart found in Section 1.
- Section 3:** contains a summary of the factors for Council to consider in assessing potential NSP locations, prior to designation.
- Section 4:** contains details of content of signage that Council is required to erect at designated NSP Locations.
- Section 5:** Register of Designated NSP locations including completed Council site assessments.

2 SECTION 1

FLOW CHART SHOWING PROCESS FOR IDENTIFYING, DESIGNATING, ESTABLISHING AND MAINTAINING NSPs



3 SECTION 2

DETAILED SUMMARY OF STEPS FOR ESTABLISHING NSPs

3.1 Overview of the steps associated with NSPs

3.1.1 Identification of potential NSP locations

- For the 2009-2010 fire season, the Country Fire Authority (**CFA**), assumed lead responsibility for identifying potential locations for NSPs. This was done in consultation with Councils. The initial focus was upon the identification of proposed NSPs within those municipalities with CFA Township Protection Plan (**TPP**) areas in place. However, identification efforts have now expanded beyond these localities.
- From 2010-onwards, Council was responsible for identifying potential places as NSPs within its municipal district.
- The Loddon Shire Council will undertake identification, management and the decommissioning of NSPs processes through the Municipal Emergency Management Planning Committee (MEMPC).

3.1.2 Identification timing

Loddon Shire Council will identify and assess any potential additional places as NSPs by 31 May in each year. This will allow sufficient time for designation of the potential NSP location by the Council, (**Council Designation**) and assessment and certification of the potential NSP by the CFA, (**CFA Certification**).

Subject to the outcome of the assessment and designation process, establishing the NSPs, including the erection of signage and other steps will be undertaken by Council, (**Establishment**).

The process of NSP identification is ongoing with Council's Municipal Fire Prevention Officer (MFPO, in consultation with CFA and Council's MEMO and MEMPC,) assessing at the end of each fire season the need for any additional NSPs within the municipality.

3.1.3 Criteria used in identifying NSP locations

As part of the initial identification of NSPs, the following criteria was used in assessing suitability:

- the environment surrounding the potential NSP
- what other uses are made of the potential NSP and whether or not those uses could be inconsistent with its designation as a NSP
- whether the land on which the potential NSP is located is Council owned or non-Council owned land
- an assessment of the fire risk of the neighbourhood to assess the need for a NSP (Risk Matrix Assessment)

3.2 Council assessment of NSPs

Council must assess the place in accordance with the factors outlined below to determine whether it is suitable to be designated as a NSP. Unless a potential NSP satisfies each of the criteria outlined below, it should not be designated by Council as a NSP.

The MFPO and MEMO are responsible for the inspection process utilising existing expertise within the MEMPC to assist with the audit and assessment of potential NSPs.

The factors to determine the suitability of the place as a NSP are as follows (Council NSP Criteria)

3.2.1 Consent and rights of access

There must be appropriate land access and tenure arrangements so that Council has the right to:

- use the place as a NSP
- access the site and surrounding areas for maintenance; and
- erect appropriate signage at the NSP, which includes approved additional NSP information as described in section 4.

3.2.2 Council land

If the potential NSP is on land owned or controlled by Council, appropriate rights of land access and tenure are unlikely to be an issue. However, Council will need to ensure that where Council land is leased or licensed to a third party; it must be possible to put in place appropriate arrangements on reasonably satisfactory and acceptable terms with the tenant or licensee permitting Council to use the land as a potential NSP. In taking these matters into account, Council should consider what alternative uses may be made, whether temporarily or semi-permanently, of land under Council control or management.

3.2.3 Crown land

If the potential NSP is on Crown land not owned or controlled by Council, then the consent of the Crown land manager is likely to be required. If the land has been leased or licensed to a third party, such as a caravan park operator, then the consent of the tenant or licensee to use the place as a potential NSP will also be required. In obtaining the consent of the relevant Crown land manager, it will be necessary to consider whether or not the Crown Grant or reservation authorises the place to be used as a potential NSP.

3.2.4 Private land

Where it is proposed that a place on privately-owned land is to be used as a NSP, then the consent of the relevant landowner (and, where applicable, occupier) for the place to be designated and used as an NSP is required. If the landowner (or occupier) does not consent to the place being designated and used as a NSP on terms which are reasonably satisfactory and acceptable to the Council, it must not be so designated and used.

3.2.5 Deed of Consent

Where a potential NSP is located on non-Council land, with the result that consent and rights of access need to be negotiated with the owner and (where necessary) occupier, Council officers responsible for negotiating such consent and rights of access should provide a draft form of consent to the owner/occupier for their consideration. The form of consent will be required to be approved either by Council (through a formal resolution), or by the CEO acting under delegation.

Any amendments to the form of consent which may be requested by the landowner or occupier will need to be thoroughly considered before they are agreed to by Council. If it is not possible or appropriate for Council to agree on amendments that may be requested to the consent document, then the proposed NSP should not be designated by Council.

3.2.6 Access and Egress

Council must assess whether there is sufficient access to the potential NSP which will allow:

- anticipated potential numbers of people to move to and from the place
- the CFA and other emergency services to attend the place for asset and personnel protection activities and operations.

Council must assess potential access and egress routes, bearing in mind the fact that NSPs are **places of last resort**.

As people may be seeking access to a NSP in a rushed or panicked state, a number of people could be seeking access in a relatively short time and visibility could be affected by smoke, easily navigable routes to and from a NSP are crucial.

In considering whether access and egress routes are adequate, consideration should be given to issues such as:

- the condition of the road surface
- the proximity of the NSP to major roadways and population centres
- the type and amount of vegetation along any access routes, and whether that vegetation could be affected by fire and pose a risk of harm to those seeking access to the potential NSP, or otherwise block access to the NSP
- the capacity of access routes to accommodate potentially large numbers of vehicles, and to accommodate potential vehicle break-downs
- parking at the place
- any hazards that may exist for persons accessing the place by foot, including in the buffer zone
- any relevant matter contained in Council's Road Management Plan prepared pursuant to the Road Management Act 2004 (Vic); and
- the number of access points to any potential NSP.

If appropriate and satisfactory access and egress routes are not available, then the proposed NSP should not be designated by Council.

3.3 **Opening of a NSP**

3.3.1 Council must consider

- whether it will be possible or practicable to open the potential NSP or otherwise make it available for use on a 24 hour basis during the declared fire danger period
- the potential for damage to the place during times that it is open and available for use, but is not being used as a NSP
- the potential cost to Council associated with the above points
- the possibility that the potential NSP could be used for unintended purposes, such as a refuge and,
- If it is appropriate to open or make available NSPs only on Code Red days.

3.3.2 Defendable space

The CFA has advised that there is no guarantee that fire units will attend a NSP, and that individuals that use NSPs are doing so at their own risk. There should be **no expectations** that fire units or other emergency services personnel will attend a NSP during a bushfire.

Despite this, the potential NSP should be surrounded by sufficient open space to enable the CFA and other fire services to conduct asset protection and fire suppression activities around the place.

Any open space should be reasonably free of obstacles that could hinder fire suppression activities. These obstacles may include but are not limited to:

- fences
- buildings and sheds
- steep inclines in close proximity to the potential NSP
- vegetation, especially large trees
- other land forms such as rocks, boulders and knolls which could substantially hinder fire suppression activities.

If necessary, advice from CFA should be sought with regard to their defensible space and fire vehicle access requirements.

When assessing the defensible space factor, Council must consider whether or not approval to clear or disturb flora and/or fauna is required, under legislation such as the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (Cwlth)*, *Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988 (Vic)* or the *Planning and Environment Act 1987 (Vic)*. If such approval is required, then it must be obtained before the potential NSP location is designated.

If the proposed NSP does not have adequate space around it or if approval to clear or disturb flora and/or fauna is required but cannot be obtained before the NSP is required to be established, or cannot be obtained on reasonably satisfactory conditions, it should not be designated as a NSP by Council.

3.3.3 Defendability of buildings

If the potential NSP is a building, Council must consider whether or not it is likely to be subject to risk from ember attack.

As the CFA is not required to assess the risk of ember attack to a building in undertaking the CFA fire rating assessment when certifying NSPs, the Council should consider this issue. In considering this issue, Council may need to seek expert advice from appropriately qualified CFA personnel.

If there is an appreciable risk of the proposed NSP being compromised by ember attack, which cannot be satisfactorily defended, then the building is unlikely to be suitable as an NSP and should not be designated by Council.

3.3.4 Signage

Council must assess whether it will be possible to have signage at the entry to, and in the vicinity of, the potential NSP. Such signage must be in accordance with the EMV Neighbourhood Safer Places – Bushfire Place of Last Resort Signage Manual, October 2015.

Council must refer to the Manual when considering whether or not appropriate signage can be erected. Council may also wish to provide further signage and information at the location to inform and support potential users of the NSP.

If signage must be placed on private land, then the consent of the landowner will be required.

3.3.5 Maintenance and maintainability

- Council must assess whether ongoing maintenance of the proposed NSP, and the surrounding area, is both possible and practical, having regard to the resources reasonably available to the Council. This factor should be considered by the Council not only in relation to the suitability of a proposed NSP, but also as to the total number of proposed NSPs that can be reasonably maintained within the municipal district. This is needed to ensure that the place remains suitable for use as an NSP during each fire season.
- Specifically, the place must be capable of being maintained so as to ensure continuing compliance with the CFA Fire Rating Criteria and the Council NSPP Criteria. If it is Council policy that if it is not possible to maintain a potential NSP, then it must not be designated as such.
- When assessing the maintainability of the potential NSP, both the NSP and the Buffer Zone may require various maintenance activities to be undertaken on a periodic basis.
- There may be cases where maintenance activities can only be undertaken by, or with the consent of, an adjoining landowner. This may, in turn, require assurances from such landowners that the place, and areas surrounding it, will be maintained to a satisfactory level.
- If the proposed NSP is not capable of being satisfactorily maintained, then it should not be designated by Council.

3.3.6 Separation and demarcation of area

If the NSP is to be located in an open area, it must be possible to identify the area that is the NSP. This may best be achieved by signage and or some sort of boundary or perimeter marking. In the example of an oval this may be the boundary fence.

Although not always possible, areas that enable separation or enable enough room to move away from other forms of potential hazard such as vehicles, buildings and animals are preferred.

3.3.7 Alternative uses of potential NSP

Council must consider what other uses may be made of the potential NSP which could impact upon its ability to properly function as a NSP.

If the place is used for other uses which could compromise its ability to be used as a NSP, and these activities cannot be managed so that they do not impact on the operation of the NSP then a NSP should not be designated by Council.

3.3.8 Communication with the community

Council must be able to communicate the location of the potential NSP to the community. There should be good community awareness of the location of the place, together with the risks that relate to the use of the potential NSP, and the risks associated with travelling to the potential NSP in the event of a bushfire.

3.3.9 Public liability insurance

As a matter of prudent risk management, Council should have regard to:

- any additional factors which are relevant to Council's maintenance of insurance coverage for legal claims relating to the identification, designation, establishment, maintenance and decommissioning of a place as a NSP, as well as travel to a NSP
- any indemnity provided by the State of Victoria, and
- any statutory defences to claims.

3.4 **CFA Assessment and certification of potential Neighbourhood Safer Places of Last Resort locations – December 2010**

3.4.1 CFA Assessment criteria

Under section 50G(5) of the CFA Act, the CFA is responsible for assessing potential NSP locations against the CFA Fire Rating Guidelines. This will be done by appropriate qualified and experienced CFA personnel.

Council is not responsible for the assessment and certification of potential NSPs by the CFA but must request CFA undertake their assessment prior to requesting that Council Designate/Not Designate and establish/not establish a NSP.

If a potential NSP is NOT COMPLIANT under the Council or CFA assessment criteria that NSP MUST NOT be put forward for designation as a NSP by Council.

3.4.2 Introduction

Neighbourhood Safer Place means a place that may, as a last resort, provide shelter for people from the immediate life threatening effects of a bushfire.

They are an area or premises that may provide some sanctuary from direct flame contact and radiant heat. It is envisioned it would be an existing space or structure, such as an oval or a building that may protect a person against fire.

This assessment guideline articulates the process by which qualified/experienced CFA Officers assess the suitability of Neighbourhood Safer Places and is not intended for use by the general public.

3.4.3 Background

Reducing the impact of bushfires is a shared responsibility between government, emergency service organisations and the community. The community has an integral role to take the necessary steps to prepare their property and to implement their bushfire survival plan.

This document sets out criteria for CFA's assessment of Neighbourhood Safer Places. The criteria provide a framework to assist Councils to identify Neighbourhood Safer Places to provide a place of last resort for people to gather during the passage of a bushfirefront. The primary purpose of a Neighbourhood Safer Place is the protection of human life from a bushfire.

The 2009 Victorian Bushfires Royal Commission (VBRC) Final Report stated that the people who left their homes sheltered in a variety of locations for example, other houses or buildings; bunkers, reserves and ovals; pubs; in-ground swimming pools, cars and dams. Some people reported that these were pre-planned alternatives and in some cases, helped people survive. However, the VBRC also heard examples of people dying in very similar locations, which serve to highlight that these locations do not guarantee safety (VBRC Final Report Vol 2: pg 19).

The VBRC also stated that “many people did not have a well-thought-out plan and were left to make their own decisions without the benefit of assistance from the authorities [and] for these people, the lack of alternatives, the provision of shelters, refuges or evacuation, became critical as a fall back option (VBRC Final Report Summary: pg 5). They also considered “that a revised bushfire safety policy should provide information about places in which to shelter and support for individuals in identifying such places” (VBRC Final Report Vol 2: pg 21). Neighbourhood Safer Places continue to be a part of the shelter options for community members.

3.4.4 Concept

A Neighbourhood Safer Place is a space that:

- is a place of last resort for individuals to access and shelter in during the passage of fire through their neighbourhood - without the need to take a high risk journey beyond their neighbourhood;
- provides a level of protection from the immediate life threatening effects of a bushfire (direct flame contact and radiant heat); and
- is intended to provide relative safety;
- does not guarantee the survival of those who assemble there; and
- should only be accessed when personal bushfire survival plans cannot be implemented or have failed.

Neighbourhood Safer Places should be recorded in Township Protection Plans. However, not all townships will have Neighbourhood Safer Places identified in these Plans as they may not meet specific criteria identified in this document and within a council’s Municipal Neighbourhood Safer Places Plan. Some towns may not have the fire risk profile to indicate a need for a Neighbourhood Safer Place.

Neighbourhood Safer Places are not to be confused with Community Fire Refuges², Relief Centres, Recovery Centres, Assembly Areas, or Informal Places of Shelter, each of which have a different and specific purpose.

3.4.5 Limitations

Neighbourhood Safer Places have a number of limitations, being:

- limited capacity
- no guarantee of safety
- they do not cater for animals
- emergency services will not necessarily be present
- they do not provide meals or amenities
- they may not cater for particular special needs (e.g. infants, elderly, ill or disabled)
- they may not provide shelter from the elements, particularly flying embers
- there are risks to people during access, shelter during passage of the fire front and egress from Neighbourhood Safer Places

² Fire refuges have been described in the Community Fire Refuges Policy (June 2015).

3.4.6 CFA Neighbourhood safer places assessment criteria

Neighbourhood Safer Places should provide protection to people from lethal levels of radiant heat through an appropriate separation distance between fire hazards, particularly vegetation, and the site of the Neighbourhood Safer Place. Isolated flammable elements may occur within the separation space so long as such elements do not add to a fire's rate of spread nor significantly contribute to the radiant heat impacting on the Neighbourhood Safer Place.

Fire industry collaboration established criteria to determine the suitability of any site as a Neighbourhood Safer Place. The critical criteria decided upon was radiant heat load with maximum allowable radiant heat loads agreed upon for sites that are open spaces and those that are buildings. It was further agreed that each Neighbourhood Safer Place needs to be assessed on its merits, with radiant heat load calculated using the NSW Rural Fire Service Site Bush Fire Attack Assessment Methodology (Douglas and Tan, 2005) as the assessment tool in these guidelines.

3.4.7 Radiant heat and setback measurements

To provide initial direction to CFA staff and others in assessing the suitability of potential Neighbourhood Safer Places, the following guidance is provided:

Neighbourhood Safer Places must meet the following criteria for radiant heat load:

1. If a Neighbourhood Safer Place is an open space the maximum potential radiant heat impacting on the site must be no more than 2kw/m².
2. If a Neighbourhood Safer Place is a building, the maximum potential radiant heat impacting on the building must be no more than 10kw/m².

By way of example, Neighbourhood Safer Places adjoining extreme fuel hazards, this equates to a separation distance from the fire hazard of:

- greater than **310** metres from the outer edge of the NSP for an open space; and
- greater than **140** metres from the outer edge of a building to the fire hazard.

It is acknowledged that for NSPs abutting less than extreme fuel hazards this separation distance may be reduced so long as the criteria for maximum radiant heat impact are met.

3.4.8 Additional management for Neighbourhood Safer Places in Grassland Areas

Grasslands have a distinct place in the Neighbourhood Safer Places framework, due to:

- the potential for rapid growth in conditions of adequate warmth and moisture; and
- the requirement under section 50J of the CFA Act for councils to review their NSPs by 31 August each year.

Councils may identify a suitable Neighbourhood Safer Place site in a grassland area that can only meet the assessment criteria with active management of the site over the fire danger period, with treatments including slashing, mowing or grazing.

In these circumstances CFA may certify the site as meeting the assessment criteria provided that appropriate, specified and prescribed treatments are in place throughout the fire danger period. This must include prescriptions for management of the grassland secured by agreed terms entered into by the landholder. The landholder may be the council, a public authority, an agency or a private person.

Council has the role of facilitation and, if required, enforcement of the treatment(s) during the fire danger period. Fire Prevention Notices would not ordinarily be an appropriate method for achievement of management prescriptions in NSPs. Their use would only be an option of last resort that councils may use where a private landholder has reneged on their agreed conditions **and** the grassland condition constitutes or may constitute a danger to life or property from the threat of fire.

3.4.9 Notification to CFA of potential NSPs

Following identification of a place which may be suitable as a NSP, the potential NSP is assessed by the CFA as soon as practicable. This is likely to occur shortly after identification.

3.4.10 Informing Council of CFA assessment

Once the assessment of a potential NSP is completed by the CFA, the CFA will certify the potential NSP if the place meets the CFA Fire Rating Criteria. The CFA will provide a copy of the CFA certification in relation to a potential NSP to Council upon completion of certification, and a summary of the criteria and assumptions upon which the assessment is based.

Council should ensure that the boundaries of both the potential NSP as certified by the CFA, and any Buffer Zone surrounding it, are clearly defined in the CFA assessment.

For reasons of community safety, it is a requirement of the CFA Act, and it is also Council policy, that only those places assessed and certified by the CFA may be considered for designation as NSPs by the Council. The Council must not designate a place as an NSP unless it has CFA certification.

3.5 Council designation of NSP

Council must formally determine whether or not to designate a place as a NSP. Council should not designate a place as an NSP unless it is satisfied that the place is suitable, having regard to the Council NSPP Criteria.

A NSP may only be designated by a resolution of the Council.

Following preparation of an assessment of a potential NSP by the MEMPC, Council should determine whether or not to designate a potential NSP location by no later than 31 July. This will enable any necessary establishment works to be undertaken.

Once the Council has designated a place as an NSP, the MFPO must provide an updated list of all designated NSPs within the municipality to the CFA under section 50K of the CFA Act. This updated list must be provided by no later than 30 September in each year.

3.5.1 Establishment and maintenance of NSPs following designation

Following designation, Council will establish all designated NSPs within the municipal district.

3.5.2 Establishing a NSP after its designation

To establish a NSP after its designation, Council must

- erect appropriate signage at and near the NSP
- undertake any necessary preparatory works, including the construction or establishment of any required infrastructure and the clearance of vegetation, so as to enable the area to be used as a NSP
- publish the location of the NSP on the Council website
- update Council's Municipal Emergency Management Plan to include the location of the NSP.

The MFPO must provide an up-to-date list of NSPs to the CFA no later than 30 September each year under section 50K of the CFA Act.

Council is responsible for maintaining all designated NSPs within its municipal district. This includes vegetation management, maintenance of access and egress points and signage required for the functioning of the site as a NSP.

3.6 Annual inspections and decommissioning of NSPs

3.6.1 Responsible for the annual review of NSPs

Council must undertake an annual review of all designated NSPs within the municipality. Council must also request the CFA to undertake an assessment against the CFA Fire Rating Criteria of each NSP within the municipality on an annual basis.

These reviews are intended to ensure that each NSP remains suitable for use as a NSP during the up-coming fire season.

3.6.2 Considerations when undertaking inspections

NSPs should be assessed annually against the Council NSPP Criteria. The CFA will assess NSPs against the CFA Fire Rating Criteria.

If a NSP no longer meets:

- the CFA Fire Rating Criteria
 - then it must be decommissioned; or
- Council's NSPP Criteria
 - Council must determine if it has the capacity to address the identified non compliances. If it does not, then the NSP must be decommissioned.

3.6.3 Inspection timelines

NSPs must be inspected prior to 31 August each year under section 50J of the CFA Act.

3.6.4 Decommissioning of NSPs

By Council Resolution only.

- Council must decommission a NSP if the CFA assessment determines the site is no longer suitable.
- Council may decommission a NSP even if it has CFA certification, if Council is satisfied on reasonable grounds that it is not appropriate for the site to continue to be designated a NSP.
- Council will decommission a NSP that is not on Council land if the occupier or the person in control of the land has withdrawn consent to the designation of the site as a NSP.

4 SECTION 3

SUMMARY OF FACTORS FOR COUNCIL TO CONSIDER IN ASSESSING POTENTIAL NSP LOCATIONS PRIOR TO DESIGNATION



LODDON
SHIRE

NEIGHBOURHOOD SAFER PLACES PLAN

CRITERIA – AUDITING/ASSESSMENT TOOL

LOCATION:

DATE:

NEIGHBOURHOOD SAFER PLACES ASSESSEMENT CRITERIA AUDITING AND ASSESSMENT TOOL

DETAILS

Day:		Date:		Time:	
Assessor name:				Sign:	
Agency:					

LOCATION

Place name and specific location:		Map Reference:	
Distance from nearest town centre (km):			
Controlling (owner) authority:			

Owner Details

Contact: Name/Position			
Organisation:			
Postal Address:			
Phone:			
Email:			

Tenant Details

Contact: Name/Position			
Organisation:			
Postal Address:			Post code:
Phone:	W:	H:	
Email:			

Tenant 2 Details			
Contact: Name/Position			
Organisation:			
Postal Address:			Post code:
Phone:	W:	H:	
Email:			
Location Description:		(Open area or building)	
Population of Township/ Locality:			
Estimated NSP Site Capacity:			
Reference Material Sited:			
NSP INSPECTION DETAILS			
OFFICERS NAME:	SIGNATURE:-		
DATE OF INSPECTION:	RECOMMENDATION: <i>insert cross into square indicating result</i>	DESIGNATE	<input type="checkbox"/>
		NOT DESIGNATE	<input type="checkbox"/>
OFFICERS NAME:	SIGNATURE:-		
DATE OF INSPECTION:	RECOMMENDATION: <i>insert cross into square indicating result</i>	DESIGNATE	<input type="checkbox"/>
		NOT DESIGNATE	<input type="checkbox"/>

Factors to Consider in Assessing Potential NSPs

Council NSPP Criteria	Issues to consider	Council comments	Satisfied? Yes/No
Consents and rights of access	If the potential NSP is located on Council-owned land, can Council use the land as an NSP if required? Consider whether or not Council allows the land to be used for potentially inconsistent purposes, such as for farmers' markets, fetes, circuses etc.		
	If the potential NSP is on private land, or public land under the control of a Crown Land Manager (other than Council), can Council enter into arrangements which allow it to use the land as a potential NSP on reasonably satisfactory terms? Also consider whether Council has the right to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • access the site and surrounding areas for maintenance • erect appropriate signage at the NSP. 		
Access and egress	Do access routes to the potential NSP allow for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the anticipated potential number of people to move to and from the place • the CFA and other emergency services to attend the place for asset and personnel protection activities? 		
	Are access routes easily navigable, bearing in mind they could be affected by smoke? Consider the condition of the road surface, proximity to population centres and major roads, capacity of access routes to accommodate large numbers of vehicles, the availability of car parking at the place and any other relevant matters.		
Maintenance of NSP in accordance with CFA assessment	Can Council maintain the potential NSP in accordance with the criteria taken into account by the CFA in arriving at its fire rating assessment? <i>If the CFA have not provided sufficient information in relation to the criteria it has taken into account in arriving at its fire rating assessment, it may be necessary for Council to seek further information from the CFA.</i>		

Council NSPP Criteria	Issues to consider	Council comments	Satisfied? Yes/No
Opening of the NSP	<p>Will it be possible and practicable to make the potential NSP available for use on a 24 hour basis during the declared fire danger period? This is a particular issue where the potential NSP is a building.</p> <p>Consider the potential for damage to the NSP which could result during times that it is open and available for use, but is not being used as an NSP.</p>		
	<p>What costs could be incurred by Council in making the potential NSP available on a 24 hour basis during the declared fire danger period? Are these costs reasonable, and capable of being borne by Council?</p>		
	<p>Could the potential NSP be used for an unintended purpose which could impact upon its use as an NSP (such as an emergency relief centre)?</p>		
Defendable space and fire suppression activities	<p>Is the potential NSP surrounded by sufficient open space to enable the CFA to conduct asset protection and fire suppression operations? Is that open space reasonably free of obstacles (such as fences, buildings, steep gradients, vegetation and other land formations)?</p> <p><i>Council should seek CFA advice concerning the defendability of the potential NSP and the Buffer Zone, including in relation to fire vehicle access requirements.</i></p>		
	<p>Will approval be required under legislation such as the <i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i> (Cwlth), <i>Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988</i> (Vic) and the <i>Planning and Environment Act 1987</i> (Vic)? Can such approval be obtained before the NSP is established?</p>		
Defendability of Buildings	<p>If the potential NSP is a building, has Council has sought expert advice from the CFA to determine whether the NSP is likely to be subject to risk from ember attack? If it is subject to such a risk, can that risk be safely managed?</p>		

Council NSPP Criteria	Issues to consider	Council comments	Satisfied? Yes/No
Signage	Can appropriate signage be erected at the entry to the potential NSP, and in its vicinity?		
	If signage needs to be placed on private land, can Council obtained the consent of the relevant landowner to the erection of the signage?		
Maintenance and maintainability	<p>Is the potential NSP capable of being maintained to ensure continuing compliance with the CFA Fire Rating Criteria and the Council NSPP Criteria?</p> <p>Where relevant, consider whether adjoining land owners and occupiers will provide Council with an assurance that both the potential NSP and the Buffer Zone can be maintained to a satisfactory level.</p>		
Disabled access	Are there are means of access for disabled and mobility-impaired persons to the potential NSP, including vehicle access to drop off people with disabilities?		
Alternative uses of potential NSP	<p>Can Council manage alternative uses which may be made of the potential NSP so as to ensure that those uses will not compromise the function of the place as a potential NSP?</p> <p><i>The CFA has advised that where a potential NSP which is used for an operational purpose at many times meets the CFA Fire Rating Criteria, then the CFA considers that those operational activities will be able to continue (to the extent practicable in the circumstances) while the place is being used as an NSP.</i></p>		
Community Communication	Will it be possible to ensure that there will be good community awareness of the location of the potential NSP, and the risks associated with using the potential NSP?		

5 SECTION 4

NSP SIGNAGE - Image



NSP SIGNAGE – Standard Text

WARNING

This designated Neighbourhood Safer Place is a Place of Last Resort during the passage of a bushfire. Whilst it may offer some protection from bushfire, the safety or survival of those who assemble here is not guaranteed.

Before deciding to head towards, or enter this NSP in the event of bushfire, be aware that:

- Many houses may offer better protection than this NSP
- Travelling to this NSP when there is bushfire can be extremely dangerous. There is no guarantee that you will be safe doing so
- This NSP may not prevent death or injury from fire, embers or radiant heat when you get here
- You should only use this NSP when your primary bushfire plan has failed or cannot be implemented
- This NSP only has limited capacity
- There is no guarantee that CFA or other emergency services will be present at this NSP during a bushfire
- No facilities are provided for people with special needs, including those requiring medical attention
- This NSP may be uncomfortable and no amenities such as food and drinks will be provided
- There is no provision for animals

VicEmergency Hotline – 1800 226 226

6 SECTION 5

REGISTER OF DESIGNATED NSP LOCATIONS INCLUDING COMPLETED COUNCIL SITE ASSESSMENTS

NSP LOCATION REGISTER		DATE DESIGNATED
BOORT	BOORT PARK RECREATION RESERVE (OVAL ONLY)	27/02/2012
PYRAMID HILL	MITCHELL PARK RECREATION RESERVE (OVAL ONLY)	27/02/2012
SERPENTINE	RECREATION RESERVE (OVAL ONLY)	27/02/2012
BRIDGEWATER	MEMORIAL HALL (GROUNDS ONLY)	27/08/2012
INGLEWOOD	J. SLOAN PARK (PLAYGROUND AREA)	27/12/2015
WEDDERBURN	DONALDSON PARK (CENTRAL OVAL AREA ONLY)	27/08/2012

6.1 Boort Park Recreation Reserve (Oval Only) – Council Assessment



LODDON
SHIRE

NEIGHBOURHOOD SAFER PLACES PLAN

CRITERIA – AUDITING/ASSESSMENT TOOL

LOCATION: Boort Park Recreation Reserve (Oval Only)

DATE: 24/08/2023

NEIGHBOURHOOD SAFER PLACES ASSESSEMENT CRITERIA AUDITING AND ASSESSMENT TOOL

DETAILS

Day:	Thursday	Date:	24 August 2023	Time:	1.20PM
Assessor name:	Lisa Clue (MFPO)			Sign:	Lisa Clue (MFPO)
Agency:	Loddon Shire Council				

LOCATION

Place name and specific location:	Boort Park Recreation Reserve (Oval Only) Malone St, Boort	Map Reference:	
Distance from nearest town centre (km):	Within township		
Controlling (owner) authority:	Loddon Shire Council		

Owner Details

Contact: Name/Position			
Organisation:	Loddon Shire Council		
Postal Address:	P.O. Box 21, Wedderburn	Post code: 3518	
Phone:	W: 5494 1200	H:	
Email:			

Tenant Details

Contact: Name/Position	President		
Organisation:	Boort Park Community Asset Committee		
Postal Address:		Post code:	
Phone:	W:	H:	
Email:			

Tenant 2 Details			
Contact: Name/Position			
Organisation:			
Postal Address:			Post code:
Phone:	W:	H:	
Email:			
Location Description:	Boort Park Recreation Reserve (oval only)	(Open area or building)	Open area (Oval)
Population of Township/ Locality:	1,220 people		
Estimated NSP Site Capacity:	1,000 people		
Reference Material Sited:	N/A		
NSP INSPECTION DETAILS			
OFFICERS NAME: Lisa Clue (MFPO)		SIGNATURE:-	
DATE OF INSPECTION: 24/08/2023		RECOMMENDATION: insert cross into square indicating result	DESIGNATE <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NOT DESIGNATE <input type="checkbox"/>
OFFICERS NAME:		SIGNATURE:-	
DATE OF INSPECTION:		RECOMMENDATION: insert cross into square indicating result	DESIGNATE <input type="checkbox"/> NOT DESIGNATE <input type="checkbox"/>

Factors to Consider in Assessing Potential NSPs

Council NSPP Criteria	Issues to consider	Council comments	Satisfied? Yes/No
Consents and rights of access	If the potential NSP is located on Council-owned land, can Council use the land as an NSP if required? Consider whether or not Council allows the land to be used for potentially inconsistent purposes, such as for farmers' markets, fetes, circuses etc.	Area is owned by Council and maintained by the Boort Park Community Asset Committee and available for use as a NSP if required.	YES
	<p>If the potential NSP is on private land, or public land under the control of a Crown Land Manager (other than Council), can Council enter into arrangements which allow it to use the land as a potential NSP on reasonably satisfactory terms? Also consider whether Council has the right to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • access the site and surrounding areas for maintenance • erect appropriate signage at the NSP. 	Boort Park Community Asset Committee has granted consent for the area to be used and agreed to maintain the NSP area as per CFA maintenance requirements. Council has agreed to install and maintain all NSP signage in an acceptable condition at all times.	YES
Access and egress	<p>Do access routes to the potential NSP allow for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the anticipated potential number of people to move to and from the place • the CFA and other emergency services to attend the place for asset and personnel protection activities? 	There are no restrictions to Access and Egress The area is accessible via wide access road. Pedestrian and vehicle safe access/egress. The CFA and other emergency services will be able to attend for asset and personal protection activities as required.	YES

Council NSPP Criteria	Issues to consider	Council comments	Satisfied? Yes/No
	Are access routes easily navigable, bearing in mind they could be affected by smoke? Consider the condition of the road surface, proximity to population centres and major roads, capacity of access routes to accommodate large numbers of vehicles, the availability of car parking at the place and any other relevant matters.	There are wide open roads for safe pedestrian and vehicle access/egress. Large open area available for parking of vehicles as required.	YES
Maintenance of NSP in accordance with CFA assessment	Can Council maintain the potential NSP in accordance with the criteria taken into account by the CFA in arriving at its fire rating assessment? <i>If the CFA have not provided sufficient information in relation to the criteria it has taken into account in arriving at its fire rating assessment, it may be necessary for Council to seek further information from the CFA.</i>	Boort Park Community Asset Committee has agreed to maintain the NSP area as per the CFA maintenance requirements.	YES
Opening of the NSP	Will it be possible and practicable to make the potential NSP available for use on a 24 hour basis during the declared fire danger period? This is a particular issue where the potential NSP is a building. Consider the potential for damage to the NSP which could result during times that it is open and available for use, but is not being used as an NSP.	24/7 Access available.	YES
	What costs could be incurred by Council in making the potential NSP available on a 24 hour basis during the declared fire danger period? Are these costs reasonable, and capable of being borne by Council?	Nil	YES
	Could the potential NSP be used for an unintended purpose which could impact upon its use as an NSP (such as an emergency relief centre)?	In an emergency situation all other activities will cease and the area will be available as a NSP.	YES

Council NSPP Criteria	Issues to consider	Council comments	Satisfied? Yes/No
Defendable space and fire suppression activities	<p>Is the potential NSP surrounded by sufficient open space to enable the CFA to conduct asset protection and fire suppression operations? Is that open space reasonably free of obstacles (such as fences, buildings, steep gradients, vegetation and other land formations)?</p> <p><i>Council should seek CFA advice concerning the defend ability of the potential NSP and the Buffer Zone, including in relation to fire vehicle access requirements.</i></p>	<p>The CFA and other emergency services will be able to attend for asset and personal protection activities as required.</p>	<p>YES</p>
	<p>Will approval be required under legislation such as the <i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (Cwlth)</i>, <i>Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988 (Vic)</i> and the <i>Planning and Environment Act 1987 (Vic)</i>? Can such approval be obtained before the NSP is established?</p>	<p>NA</p>	<p>YES</p>
Defendability of buildings	<p>If the potential NSP is a building, has Council has sought expert advice from the CFA to determine whether the NSP is likely to be subject to risk from ember attack? If it is subject to such a risk, can that risk be safely managed?</p>	<p>No buildings contained within the designated NSP area.</p>	<p>YES</p>
Signage	<p>Can appropriate signage be erected at the entry to the potential NSP, and in its vicinity?</p>	<p>Council has agreed to erect and maintain all required signage to an acceptable standard at all times. There are signs at all entrances. (All standard text signs will be replaced prior to FDP.)</p>	<p>YES</p>
	<p>If signage needs to be placed on private land, can Council obtained the consent of the relevant landowner to the erection of the signage?</p>	<p>The Boort Park Community Asset Committee has agreed that Council will erect and maintain all required signage to an acceptable standard at all times.</p>	<p>YES</p>

Council NSPP Criteria	Issues to consider	Council comments	Satisfied? Yes/No
Maintenance and maintainability	<p>Is the potential NSP capable of being maintained to ensure continuing compliance with the CFA Fire Rating Criteria and the Council NSPP Criteria?</p> <p>Where relevant, consider whether adjoining land owners and occupiers will provide Council with an assurance that both the potential NSP and the Buffer Zone can be maintained to a satisfactory level.</p>	Boort Park Community Asset Committee has agreed to maintain the NSP area as per the CFA maintenance requirements.	YES
Disabled access	<p>Are there are means of access for disabled and mobility-impaired persons to the potential NSP, including vehicle access to drop off people with disabilities?</p>	No restrictions to disabled access/egress.	YES
Alternative uses of potential NSP	<p>Can Council manage alternative uses which may be made of the potential NSP so as to ensure that those uses will not compromise the function of the place as a potential NSP?</p> <p><i>The CFA has advised that where a potential NSP which is used for an operational purpose at many times meets the CFA Fire Rating Criteria, then the CFA considers that those operational activities will be able to continue (to the extent practicable in the circumstances) while the place is being used as an NSP.</i></p>	<p>In an emergency situation all other activities (Football/cricket/Trotting etc.) will cease and the area will be available as a NSP.</p>	YES
Community Communication	<p>Will it be possible to ensure that there will be good community awareness of the location of the potential NSP, and the risks associated with using the potential NSP?</p>	<p>Council and the CFA will conduct a community awareness campaign and regularly make reference to the NSP on social media and in local papers.</p>	YES



Boort Recreation Reserve (Oval Only) – Council Assessment



CRM #1000010890 - Boort Football Club and Harness Racing (Oval area only), Malone Street, Boort, as per CFA Reassessment August 2019





LODDON
SHIRE

NEIGHBOURHOOD SAFER PLACES PLAN

CRITERIA – AUDITING/ASSESSMENT TOOL

LOCATION: Mitchell Park Recreation Reserve (Oval Only) Pyramid Hill

DATE: 19/08/2023

NEIGHBOURHOOD SAFER PLACES ASSESSEMENT CRITERIA AUDITING AND ASSESSMENT TOOL

DETAILS

Day:	Saturday	Date:	19/08/2023	Time:	1.00 PM
Assessor name:	Lisa Clue (MFPO)			Sign:	Lisa Clue (MFPO)
Agency:	Loddon Shire Council				

LOCATION

Place name and specific location:	Mitchell Park Recreation Reserve (Oval Only) Pyramid-Gladfield Rd, Pyramid Hill	Map Reference:	
Distance from nearest town centre (km):	Within township of Pyramid Hill		
Controlling (owner) authority:	Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA)		

Owner Details

Contact: Name/Position	Property Officer		
Organisation:	Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA)		
Postal Address:	PO Box 3100, Bendigo Delivery Centre, Bendigo VIC	Post code: 3554	
Phone:	W: 5430 4671	H:	
Email:			

Tenant Details

Contact: Name/Position	President		
Organisation:	Mitchell Park Recreation Reserve Committee of Management		
Postal Address:		Post code:	
Phone:	W:	H:	
Email:			

Tenant 2 Details			
Contact: Name/Position			
Organisation:			
Postal Address:			Post code:
Phone:	W:	H:	
Email:			
Location Description:	Mitchell Park Recreation Reserve (Oval Only)	(Open Area or Building)	Open Area (Oval)
Population of Township/ Locality:	Approx. 600		
Estimated NSP Site Capacity:	Approx. 750		
Reference Material Sited:	NA		
NSP INSPECTION DETAILS			
OFFICERS NAME: Lisa Clue (MFPO)		SIGNATURE:	
DATE OF INSPECTION: 19/08/2023		RECOMMENDATION: insert cross into square indicating result	DESIGNATE <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NOT DESIGNATE <input type="checkbox"/>
OFFICERS NAME:		SIGNATURE:-	
DATE OF INSPECTION:		RECOMMENDATION: insert cross into square indicating result	DESIGNATE <input type="checkbox"/> NOT DESIGNATE <input type="checkbox"/>

Factors to Consider in Assessing Potential NSPs

Council NSPP Criteria	Issues to consider	Council comments	Satisfied? Yes/No
Consents and rights of access	If the potential NSP is located on Council-owned land, can Council use the land as an NSP if required? Consider whether or not Council allows the land to be used for potentially inconsistent purposes, such as for farmers' markets, fetes, circuses etc.	Area is owned by DEECA, maintained by the Mitchell Park Recreation Reserve Committee of Management and available for use as a NSP if required.	YES
	If the potential NSP is on private land, or public land under the control of a Crown Land Manager (other than Council), can Council enter into arrangements which allow it to use the land as a potential NSP on reasonably satisfactory terms? Also consider whether Council has the right to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • access the site and surrounding areas for maintenance • erect appropriate signage at the NSP. 	Mitchell Park Recreation Reserve Committee of Management has been granted consent for the area to be used and they have agreed to maintain the area as per CFA maintenance requirements. Council undertakes maintenance of all signage relating to the NSP.	YES
Access and egress	Do access routes to the potential NSP allow for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the anticipated potential number of people to move to and from the place • the CFA and other emergency services to attend the place for asset and personnel protection activities? 	No restrictions to access and egress. Area is accessible via wide access road with side point if required.	YES
	Are access routes easily navigable, bearing in mind they could be affected by smoke? Consider the condition of the road surface, proximity to population centres and major roads, capacity of access routes to accommodate large numbers of vehicles, the availability of car parking at the place and any other relevant matters.	As above	YES

Council NSPP Criteria	Issues to consider	Council comments	Satisfied? Yes/No
Maintenance of NSP in accordance with CFA assessment	<p>Can Council maintain the potential NSP in accordance with the criteria taken into account by the CFA in arriving at its fire rating assessment?</p> <p><i>If the CFA have not provided sufficient information in relation to the criteria it has taken into account in arriving at its fire rating assessment, it may be necessary for Council to seek further information from the CFA.</i></p>	Mitchell Park Recreation Reserve Committee of Management has agreed to maintain the NSP area as per the CFA maintenance requirements.	YES
Opening of the NSP	<p>Will it be possible and practicable to make the potential NSP available for use on a 24 hour basis during the declared fire danger period? This is a particular issue where the potential NSP is a building.</p> <p>Consider the potential for damage to the NSP which could result during times that it is open and available for use, but is not being used as an NSP.</p>	24/7 access available.	YES
	<p>What costs could be incurred by Council in making the potential NSP available on a 24 hour basis during the declared fire danger period? Are these costs reasonable, and capable of being borne by Council?</p>	Nil.	YES
	<p>Could the potential NSP be used for an unintended purpose which could impact upon its use as an NSP (such as an emergency relief centre)?</p>	In an emergency all other activities will cease and the area will be available for a NSP.	YES
Defendable space and fire suppression activities	<p>Is the potential NSP surrounded by sufficient open space to enable the CFA to conduct asset protection and fire suppression operations? Is that open space reasonably free of obstacles (such as fences, buildings, steep gradients, vegetation and other land formations)?</p> <p><i>Council should seek CFA advice concerning the defend ability of the potential NSP and the Buffer Zone, including in relation to fire vehicle access requirements.</i></p>	CFA and other emergency services will be able to attend for asset and personal protection activities as required.	YES

Council NSPP Criteria	Issues to consider	Council comments	Satisfied? Yes/No
	Will approval be required under legislation such as the <i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i> (Cwlth), <i>Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988</i> (Vic) and the <i>Planning and Environment Act 1987</i> (Vic)? Can such approval be obtained before the NSP is established?	N/A.	YES
Defendability of buildings	If the potential NSP is a building, has Council sought expert advice from the CFA to determine whether the NSP is likely to be subject to risk from ember attack? If it is subject to such a risk, can that risk be safely managed?	No buildings are contained within the NSP area as it is the oval only.	YES
Signage	Can appropriate signage be erected at the entry to the potential NSP, and in its vicinity?	Signs located at two main entrances to the area for vehicle access and one designated pedestrian entrance. (All standard text signs will be replaced prior to FDP.)	YES
	If signage needs to be placed on private land, can Council obtain the consent of the relevant landowner to the erection of the signage?	The Mitchell Park Recreation Reserve Committee of Management has agreed.	YES
Maintenance and maintainability	Is the potential NSP capable of being maintained to ensure continuing compliance with the CFA Fire Rating Criteria and the Council NSPP Criteria? Where relevant, consider whether adjoining land owners and occupiers will provide Council with an assurance that both the potential NSP and the Buffer Zone can be maintained to a satisfactory level.	The Mitchell Park Recreation Reserve Committee of Management has agreed to maintain the NSP area in line with the CFA maintenance requirements.	YES
Disabled access	Are there means of access for disabled and mobility-impaired persons to the potential NSP, including vehicle access to drop off people with disabilities?	Nil restrictions.	YES

Council NSPP Criteria	Issues to consider	Council comments	Satisfied? Yes/No
<p>Alternative uses of potential NSP</p>	<p>Can Council manage alternative uses which may be made of the potential NSP so as to ensure that those uses will not compromise the function of the place as a potential NSP?</p> <p><i>The CFA has advised that where a potential NSP which is used for an operational purpose at many times meets the CFA Fire Rating Criteria, then the CFA considers that those operational activities will be able to continue (to the extent practicable in the circumstances) while the place is being used as an NSP.</i></p>	<p>In emergency situations all other activities will cease (ie Football/Cricket).</p>	<p>YES</p>
<p>Community Communication</p>	<p>Will it be possible to ensure that there will be good community awareness of the location of the potential NSP, and the risks associated with using the potential NSP?</p>	<p>Council and the CFA will conduct a community awareness campaign and regularly make reference to the NSP on social media and in local papers.</p>	<p>YES</p>



Mitchell Park Rec Reserve (Oval Only) Pyramid Hill – Council Assessment



CRM #1000010888 - Mitchell Park (Oval Only), Gladfield Road, Pyramid Hill – As per CFA Reassessment August 2019



6.3 Serpentine Recreation Reserve (Oval Only) – Council Assessment



NEIGHBOURHOOD SAFER PLACES PLAN

CRITERIA – AUDITING/ASSESSMENT TOOL

LOCATION: Janiember Park (formerly known as Serpentine Recreation Reserve)
(Oval Only)

DATE: 19/08/2023

NEIGHBOURHOOD SAFER PLACES ASSESSEMENT CRITERIA AUDITING AND ASSESSMENT TOOL

DETAILS

Day:	Saturday	Date:	19 August 2023	Time:	2.00PM
Assessor name:	Lisa Clue (MFPO)			Sign:	Lisa Clue (MFPO)
Agency:	Loddon Shire Council				

LOCATION

Place name and specific location:	Serpentine Recreation Reserve (oval only) Chapel St, Serpentine	Map Reference:	
Distance from nearest town centre (km):	Within Serpentine township		
Controlling (owner) authority:	Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA)		

Owner Details

Contact: Name/Position	Property Officer		
Organisation:	DEECA		
Postal Address:	PO Box 3100, Bendigo Delivery Centre, Bendigo VIC	Post code: 3554	
Phone:	W: 5430 4671	H:	
Email:			

Tenant Details

Contact: Name/Position	President		
Organisation:	Serpentine Recreation Reserve Committee of Management		
Postal Address:		Post code:	
Phone:	W:	H:	
Email:			

Tenant 2 Details			
Contact: Name/Position	NA		
Organisation:			
Postal Address:		Post code:	
Phone:	W:	H:	
Email:			
Location Description:	Serpentine Recreation Reserve (oval only)	(Open area or building)	Open area (oval only)
Population of Township/ Locality:	Approx. 380 people		
Estimated NSP Site Capacity:	Approx. 750 people		
Reference Material Sited:	N/A		
NSP INSPECTION DETAILS			
OFFICERS NAME: Lisa Clue (MFPO)		SIGNATURE:-	
DATE OF INSPECTION: 19/08/2023		RECOMMENDATION: insert cross into square indicating result	DESIGNATE <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NOT DESIGNATE <input type="checkbox"/>
OFFICERS NAME:		SIGNATURE:-	
DATE OF INSPECTION:		RECOMMENDATION: insert cross into square indicating result	DESIGNATE <input type="checkbox"/> NOT DESIGNATE <input type="checkbox"/>

Factors to Consider in Assessing Potential NSPs

Council NSPP Criteria	Issues to consider	Council comments	Satisfied? Yes/No
Consents and rights of access	If the potential NSP is located on Council-owned land, can Council use the land as an NSP if required? Consider whether or not Council allows the land to be used for potentially inconsistent purposes, such as for farmers' markets, fetes, circuses etc.	Area is owned by DEECA, maintained by the Serpentine Recreation Reserve Committee of Management and available for use as a NSP if required.	YES
	If the potential NSP is on private land, or public land under the control of a Crown Land Manager (other than Council), can Council enter into arrangements which allow it to use the land as a potential NSP on reasonably satisfactory terms? Also consider whether Council has the right to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • access the site and surrounding areas for maintenance • erect appropriate signage at the NSP. 	The Serpentine Recreation Reserve Committee of Management has been granted consent for the area to be used and has agreed to maintain the area as per CFA maintenance requirements. Council maintains all signage relating to the NSP	YES
Access and egress	Do access routes to the potential NSP allow for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the anticipated potential number of people to move to and from the place • the CFA and other emergency services to attend the place for asset and personnel protection activities? 	No restrictions to access and egress. Area is accessible via wide access road with side point if required.	YES
	Are access routes easily navigable, bearing in mind they could be affected by smoke? Consider the condition of the road surface, proximity to population centres and major roads, capacity of access routes to accommodate large numbers of vehicles, the availability of car parking at the place and any other relevant matters.	As above.	YES

Council NSPP Criteria	Issues to consider	Council comments	Satisfied? Yes/No
Maintenance of NSP in accordance with CFA assessment	<p>Can Council maintain the potential NSP in accordance with the criteria taken into account by the CFA in arriving at its fire rating assessment?</p> <p><i>If the CFA have not provided sufficient information in relation to the criteria it has taken into account in arriving at its fire rating assessment, it may be necessary for Council to seek further information from the CFA.</i></p>	Serpentine Recreation Reserve Committee of Management has agreed to maintain the NSP area as per the CFA maintenance requirements.	YES
Opening of the NSP	<p>Will it be possible and practicable to make the potential NSP available for use on a 24 hour basis during the declared fire danger period? This is a particular issue where the potential NSP is a building.</p> <p>Consider the potential for damage to the NSP which could result during times that it is open and available for use, but is not being used as an NSP.</p>	24/7 Access available.	YES
	<p>What costs could be incurred by Council in making the potential NSP available on a 24 hour basis during the declared fire danger period? Are these costs reasonable, and capable of being borne by Council?</p>	Nil	YES
	<p>Could the potential NSP be used for an unintended purpose which could impact upon its use as an NSP (such as an emergency relief centre)?</p>	In an emergency all other activities will cease and the area will be available as a NSP.	YES
Defendable space and fire suppression activities	<p>Is the potential NSP surrounded by sufficient open space to enable the CFA to conduct asset protection and fire suppression operations? Is that open space reasonably free of obstacles (such as fences, buildings, steep gradients, vegetation and other land formations)?</p> <p><i>Council should seek CFA advice concerning the defendability of the potential NSP and the Buffer Zone, including in relation to fire vehicle access requirements.</i></p>	CFA and other emergency services will be able to attend for asset and personal protection activities as required.	YES

Council NSPP Criteria	Issues to consider	Council comments	Satisfied? Yes/No
	Will approval be required under legislation such as the <i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i> (Cwlth), <i>Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988</i> (Vic) and the <i>Planning and Environment Act 1987</i> (Vic)? Can such approval be obtained before the NSP is established?	NA	YES
Defendability of Buildings	If the potential NSP is a building, has Council has sought expert advice from the CFA to determine whether the NSP is likely to be subject to risk from ember attack? If it is subject to such a risk, can that risk be safely managed?	No buildings are contained within the NSP area.	YES
Signage	Can appropriate signage be erected at the entry to the potential NSP, and in its vicinity?	Two signs located at two main entrances to area, plus one additional sign. (All standard text signs will be replaced prior to FDP.)	YES
	If signage needs to be placed on private land, can Council obtained the consent of the relevant landowner to the erection of the signage?	Serpentine Recreation Reserve Committee of Management has agreed that Council will erect and maintain all required signage to an acceptable standard at all times.	YES
Maintenance and maintainability	Is the potential NSP capable of being maintained to ensure continuing compliance with the CFA Fire Rating Criteria and the Council NSPP Criteria? Where relevant, consider whether adjoining land owners and occupiers will provide Council with an assurance that both the potential NSP and the Buffer Zone can be maintained to a satisfactory level.	Serpentine Recreation Reserve Committee of Management has agreed to maintain the NSP area as per the CFA maintenance requirements.	YES
Disabled access	Are there are means of access for disabled and mobility-impaired persons to the potential NSP, including vehicle access to drop off people with disabilities?	No restrictions.	YES

Council NSPP Criteria	Issues to consider	Council comments	Satisfied? Yes/No
<p>Alternative uses of potential NSP</p>	<p>Can Council manage alternative uses which may be made of the potential NSP so as to ensure that those uses will not compromise the function of the place as a potential NSP?</p> <p><i>The CFA has advised that where a potential NSP which is used for an operational purpose at many times meets the CFA Fire Rating Criteria, then the CFA considers that those operational activities will be able to continue (to the extent practicable in the circumstances) while the place is being used as an NSP.</i></p>	<p>In an emergency situation all other activities (Football/cricket etc.) will cease and the area will be available as a NSP.</p>	<p>YES</p>
<p>Community Communication</p>	<p>Will it be possible to ensure that there will be good community awareness of the location of the potential NSP, and the risks associated with using the potential NSP?</p>	<p>Council and the CFA will conduct a community awareness campaign and regularly make reference to the NSP on social media and in local papers.</p>	<p>YES</p>



Serpentine Recreation Reserve (Oval Only) – Council Assessment



CRM #1000010889 – Serpentine Recreation Reserve (Janiember Park) - (portion oval area only), Corner Chapel Street and Park View Drive, Serpentine – as per CFA Reassessment August 2019



6.4 Bridgewater Memorial Hall (Grounds Only) - Council Assessment



LODDON
SHIRE

NEIGHBOURHOOD SAFER PLACES PLAN

CRITERIA – AUDITING/ASSESSMENT TOOL

LOCATION: Bridgewater Memorial Hall (Grounds Only)

DATE: 21/08/2023

NEIGHBOURHOOD SAFER PLACES ASSESSEMENT CRITERIA AUDITING AND ASSESSMENT TOOL

DETAILS

Day:	Monday	Date:	21 August 2023	Time:	5.34PM
Assessor name:	Lisa Clue (MFPO)			Sign:	Lisa Clue (MFPO)
Agency:	Loddon Shire Council				

LOCATION

Place name and specific location:	Bridgewater Memorial Hall – Grounds only Erskine Street, Bridgewater	Map Reference:	
Distance from nearest town centre (km):	Within township of Bridgewater		
Controlling (owner) authority:	Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA)		

Owner Details

Contact: Name/Position	Property Officer		
Organisation:	Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA)		
Postal Address:	PO Box 3100, Bendigo Delivery Centre, Bendigo VIC	Post code: 3554	
Phone:	W: 5430 4671	H:	
Email:			

Tenant Details

Contact: Name/Position	President		
Organisation:	Bridgewater on Loddon Development Inc		
Postal Address:		Post code:	
Phone:	W:	H:	
Email:			

Tenant 2 Details			
Contact: Name/Position	NA		
Organisation:			
Postal Address:		Post code:	
Phone:	W:	H:	
Email:			
Location Description:	Bridgewater Memorial Hall (Grounds Only)	(Open Area or Building)	Open Area
Population of Township/ Locality:	Approx. 390 People		
Estimated NSP Site Capacity:	Approx. 250 People		
Reference Material Sited:	NA		
NSP INSPECTION DETAILS			
OFFICERS NAME: Lisa Clue (MFPO)		SIGNATURE:-	
DATE OF INSPECTION: 21/08/2023		RECOMMENDATION: insert cross into square indicating result	DESIGNATE <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NOT DESIGNATE <input type="checkbox"/>
OFFICERS NAME:		SIGNATURE:-	
DATE OF INSPECTION:		RECOMMENDATION: insert cross into square indicating result	DESIGNATE <input type="checkbox"/> NOT DESIGNATE <input type="checkbox"/>

Factors to Consider in Assessing Potential NSPs

Council NSPP Criteria	Issues to consider	Council comments	Satisfied? Yes/No
Consents and rights of access	If the potential NSP is located on Council-owned land, can Council use the land as an NSP if required? Consider whether or not Council allows the land to be used for potentially inconsistent purposes, such as for farmers' markets, fetes, circuses etc.	Area is owned by DEECA, maintained by Bridgewater on Loddon Development Inc and available for use as a NSP if required.	YES
	If the potential NSP is on private land, or public land under the control of a Crown Land Manager (other than Council), can Council enter into arrangements which allow it to use the land as a potential NSP on reasonably satisfactory terms? Also consider whether Council has the right to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • access the site and surrounding areas for maintenance • erect appropriate signage at the NSP. 	Bridgewater on Loddon Development Inc has granted consent for the area to be used and agreed to maintain the area as per CFA maintenance requirements. Council maintains all signage relating to the NSP.	YES
Access and egress	Do access routes to the potential NSP allow for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the anticipated potential number of people to move to and from the place • the CFA and other emergency services to attend the place for asset and personnel protection activities? 	No restrictions to access and egress. CFA and other emergency services will be able to attend for asset and personal protection activities as required.	YES
	Are access routes easily navigable, bearing in mind they could be affected by smoke? Consider the condition of the road surface, proximity to population centres and major roads, capacity of access routes to accommodate large numbers of vehicles, the availability of car parking at the place and any other relevant matters.	There are no fences on two road frontages of the property with footpaths on Erskine and Eldon St side so there is safe pedestrian access/egress. Ample vehicle parking around area.	YES

Council NSPP Criteria	Issues to consider	Council comments	Satisfied? Yes/No
Maintenance of NSP in accordance with CFA assessment	<p>Can Council maintain the potential NSP in accordance with the criteria taken into account by the CFA in arriving at its fire rating assessment?</p> <p><i>If the CFA have not provided sufficient information in relation to the criteria it has taken into account in arriving at its fire rating assessment, it may be necessary for Council to seek further information from the CFA.</i></p>	Bridgewater on Loddon Development Inc has agreed to maintain the NSP area as per the CFA maintenance requirements.	YES
Opening of the NSP	<p>Will it be possible and practicable to make the potential NSP available for use on a 24 hour basis during the declared fire danger period? This is a particular issue where the potential NSP is a building.</p> <p>Consider the potential for damage to the NSP which could result during times that it is open and available for use, but is not being used as an NSP.</p>	24/7 Access available.	YES
	<p>What costs could be incurred by Council in making the potential NSP available on a 24 hour basis during the declared fire danger period? Are these costs reasonable, and capable of being borne by Council?</p>	Nil.	YES
	<p>Could the potential NSP be used for an unintended purpose which could impact upon its use as an NSP (such as an emergency relief centre)?</p>	In an emergency situation all other activities will cease and the area will be available as a NSP.	YES
Defendable space and fire suppression activities	<p>Is the potential NSP surrounded by sufficient open space to enable the CFA to conduct asset protection and fire suppression operations? Is that open space reasonably free of obstacles (such as fences, buildings, steep gradients, vegetation and other land formations)?</p> <p><i>Council should seek CFA advice concerning the dependability of the potential NSP and the Buffer Zone, including in relation to fire vehicle access requirements.</i></p>	The CFA and other emergency services will be able to attend for asset and personal protection activities as required.	YES

Council NSPP Criteria	Issues to consider	Council comments	Satisfied? Yes/No
	Will approval be required under legislation such as the <i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i> (Cwlth), <i>Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988</i> (Vic) and the <i>Planning and Environment Act 1987</i> (Vic)? Can such approval be obtained before the NSP is established?	N/A.	YES
Defendability of Buildings	If the potential NSP is a building, has Council sought expert advice from the CFA to determine whether the NSP is likely to be subject to risk from ember attack? If it is subject to such a risk, can that risk be safely managed?	No buildings are contained within the NSP area as it is the grounds only. Building is in the middle of the grounds.	YES
Signage	Can appropriate signage be erected at the entry to the potential NSP, and in its vicinity?	Signage is located on Eskine and Eldon Streets. (All standard text signs will be replaced prior to FDP.)	YES
	If signage needs to be placed on private land, can Council obtain the consent of the relevant landowner to the erection of the signage?	Bridgewater on Loddon Development Inc has agreed.	YES
Maintenance and maintainability	Is the potential NSP capable of being maintained to ensure continuing compliance with the CFA Fire Rating Criteria and the Council NSPP Criteria? Where relevant, consider whether adjoining land owners and occupiers will provide Council with an assurance that both the potential NSP and the Buffer Zone can be maintained to a satisfactory level.	Bridgewater on Loddon Development Inc has agreed to maintain the NSP area as per the CFA maintenance requirements.	YES
Disabled access	Are there any means of access for disabled and mobility-impaired persons to the potential NSP, including vehicle access to drop off people with disabilities?	No restrictions to disabled access/egress.	YES

Council NSPP Criteria	Issues to consider	Council comments	Satisfied? Yes/No
<p>Alternative uses of potential NSP</p>	<p>Can Council manage alternative uses which may be made of the potential NSP so as to ensure that those uses will not compromise the function of the place as a potential NSP?</p> <p><i>The CFA has advised that where a potential NSP which is used for an operational purpose at many times meets the CFA Fire Rating Criteria, then the CFA considers that those operational activities will be able to continue (to the extent practicable in the circumstances) while the place is being used as an NSP.</i></p>	<p>In an emergency situation all other activities will cease and the area will be available as a NSP.</p>	<p>YES</p>
<p>Community Communication</p>	<p>Will it be possible to ensure that there will be good community awareness of the location of the potential NSP, and the risks associated with using the potential NSP?</p>	<p>Council and the CFA will conduct a community awareness campaign and regularly make reference to the NSP on social media and in local papers.</p>	<p>YES</p>



Bridgewater Memorial Hall (Grounds Only) – Council Assessment



CRM #1000014876 - Bridgewater Memorial Hall (Grounds Only) Corner Erskine Street and Eldon Street Bridgewater, as per CFA Reassessment August 2019





NEIGHBOURHOOD SAFER PLACES PLAN

CRITERIA – AUDITING/ASSESSMENT TOOL

LOCATION: J.Sloan Park Playground - Inglewood

DATE: 23/08/2023

NEIGHBOURHOOD SAFER PLACES ASSESSEMENT CRITERIA AUDITING AND ASSESSMENT TOOL

DETAILS

Day:	Wednesday	Date:	23/08/2023	Time:	8.10AM
Assessor name:	Lisa Clue (MFPO)			Sign:	Lisa Clue (MFPO)
Agency:	Loddon Shire Council				

LOCATION

Place name and specific location:	J Sloan Park Playground – between swimming pool and tennis courts	Map Reference:	
Distance from nearest town centre (km):	Within township of Inglewood		
Controlling (owner) authority:	Loddon Shire Council		

Owner Details

Contact: Name/Position			
Organisation:	Loddon Shire Council		
Postal Address:	PO Box 21 Wedderburn		Post code: 3518
Phone:	W: 5494 1200	H:	
Email:			

Tenant Details

Contact: Name/Position			
Organisation:			
Postal Address:			Post code:
Phone:	W:	H:	
Email:			

Tenant 2 Details			
Contact: Name/Position	NA		
Organisation:			
Postal Address:			Post code:
Phone:	W:	H:	
Email:			
Location Description:	J. Sloan Park Playground, Inglewood	(Open area or building)	Open Area Playground
Population of Township/ Locality:	Approx. 1000 People		
Estimated NSP Site Capacity:	Approx. 400 People		
Reference Material Sited:	N/A		
NSP INSPECTION DETAILS			
OFFICERS NAME: Lisa Clue (MFPO)		SIGNATURE:-	
DATE OF INSPECTION: 23/08/2023		RECOMMENDATION: insert cross into square indicating result	DESIGNATE <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NOT DESIGNATE <input type="checkbox"/>
OFFICERS NAME:		SIGNATURE:-	
DATE OF INSPECTION:		RECOMMENDATION: insert cross into square indicating result	DESIGNATE <input type="checkbox"/> NOT DESIGNATE <input type="checkbox"/>

Factors to Consider in Assessing Potential NSPs

Council NSPP Criteria	Issues to consider	Council comments	Satisfied? Yes/No
Consents and rights of access	If the potential NSP is located on Council-owned land, can Council use the land as an NSP if required? Consider whether or not Council allowsthe land to be used for potentially inconsistent purposes, such as for farmers' markets, fetes, circuses etc.	Area is owned by Council and available for use as a NSP if required.	YES
	If the potential NSP is on private land, or public land under the control of a Crown Land Manager (other than Council), can Council enter into arrangements which allow it to use the land as a potential NSP on reasonably satisfactory terms? Also consider whether Council has the right to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • access the site and surrounding areas for maintenance • erect appropriate signage at the NSP. 	Council officers have confirmed the area will be maintained as per CFA maintenance requirements. Council maintains all signage relating to the NSP.	YES
Access and egress	Do access routes to the potential NSP allow for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the anticipated potential number of people to move to and from the place • the CFA and other emergency services to attend the place for asset and personnel protection activities? 	No restrictions to access and egress. CFA and other emergency services will be able to attend for asset and personal protection activities as required.	YES
	Are access routes easily navigable, bearing in mind they could be affected by smoke? Consider the condition of the road surface, proximity to population centres and major roads, capacity of access routes to accommodate large numbers of vehicles, the availability of car parking at the place and any other relevant matters.	There is a wide entrance on an open road providing access/egress route to NSP. Sufficient vehicle parking and pedestrian access.	YES

Council NSPP Criteria	Issues to consider	Council comments	Satisfied? Yes/No
Maintenance of NSP in accordance with CFA assessment	<p>Can Council maintain the potential NSP in accordance with the criteria taken into account by the CFA in arriving at its fire rating assessment?</p> <p><i>If the CFA have not provided sufficient information in relation to the criteria it has taken into account in arriving at its fire rating assessment, it may be necessary for Council to seek further information from the CFA.</i></p>	Council officers have confirmed the area will be maintained as per CFA maintenance requirements.	YES
Opening of the NSP	<p>Will it be possible and practicable to make the potential NSP available for use on a 24 hour basis during the declared fire danger period? This is a particular issue where the potential NSP is a building.</p> <p>Consider the potential for damage to the NSP which could result during times that it is open and available for use, but is not being used as an NSP.</p>	24/7 Access available.	YES
	<p>What costs could be incurred by Council in making the potential NSP available on a 24 hour basis during the declared fire danger period? Are these costs reasonable, and capable of being borne by Council?</p>	Nil.	YES
	<p>Could the potential NSP be used for an unintended purpose which could impact upon its use as an NSP (such as an emergency relief centre)?</p>	In an emergency situation all other activities will cease and the area will be available as a NSP.	YES
Defendable space and fire suppression activities	<p>Is the potential NSP surrounded by sufficient open space to enable the CFA to conduct asset protection and fire suppression operations? Is that open space reasonably free of obstacles (such as fences, buildings, steep gradients, vegetation and other land formations)?</p> <p><i>Council should seek CFA advice concerning the defendability of the potential NSP and the Buffer Zone, including in relation to fire vehicle access requirements.</i></p>	The CFA and other emergency services will be able to attend for asset and personal protection activities as required.	YES

Council NSPP Criteria	Issues to consider	Council comments	Satisfied? Yes/No
	Will approval be required under legislation such as the <i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i> (Cwlth), <i>Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988</i> (Vic) and the <i>Planning and Environment Act 1987</i> (Vic)? Can such approval be obtained before the NSP is established?	N/A.	YES
Defendability of Buildings	If the potential NSP is a building, has Council has sought expert advice from the CFA to determine whether the NSP is likely to be subject to risk from ember attack? If it is subject to such a risk, can that risk be safely managed?	No buildings are contained within the NSP area as it is the grounds only. Building is in the middle of grounds.	YES
Signage	Can appropriate signage be erected at the entry to the potential NSP, and in its vicinity?	Area signposted on fence along Calder Hwy, and in front of designated NSP area. Nil signage regarding NSP on main entrance to sports ground. (All standard text signs will be replaced prior to FDP.)	YES
	If signage needs to be placed on private land, can Council obtained the consent of the relevant landowner to the erection of the signage?	Council maintains all signage	YES
Maintenance and maintainability	Is the potential NSP capable of being maintained to ensure continuing compliance with the CFA Fire Rating Criteria and the Council NSPP Criteria? Where relevant, consider whether adjoining land owners and occupiers will provide Council with an assurance that both the potential NSP and the Buffer Zone can be maintained to a satisfactory level.	Council officers have confirmed the area will be maintained as per CFA maintenance requirements.	YES
Disabled access	Are there are means of access for disabled and mobility-impaired persons to the potential NSP, including vehicle access to drop off people with disabilities?	No restrictions to disabled access/egress.	YES

Council NSPP Criteria	Issues to consider	Council comments	Satisfied? Yes/No
Alternative uses of potential NSP	<p>Can Council manage alternative uses which may be made of the potential NSP so as to ensure that those uses will not compromise the function of the place as a potential NSP?</p> <p><i>The CFA has advised that where a potential NSP which is used for an operational purpose at many times meets the CFA Fire Rating Criteria, then the CFA considers that those operational activities will be able to continue (to the extent practicable in the circumstances) while the place is being used as an NSP.</i></p>	<p>In an emergency situation all other activities will cease and the area will be available as a NSP.</p>	<p>YES</p>
Community Communication	<p>Will it be possible to ensure that there will be good community awareness of the location of the potential NSP, and the risks associated with using the potential NSP?</p>	<p>Council and the CFA will conduct a community awareness campaign and regularly make reference to the NSP on social media and in local papers.</p>	<p>YES</p>



J Sloan Playground Inglewood between pool and tennis courts – Council Assessment



CRM #1000014867 - Inglewood J. Sloan Playground, Inglewood – As per CFA Reassessment August 2019





LODDON
SHIRE

NEIGHBOURHOOD SAFER PLACES PLAN

CRITERIA – AUDITING/ASSESSMENT TOOL

LOCATION: Donaldson Park (Oval Area Only) - Wedderburn

DATE: 23/08/2023

NEIGHBOURHOOD SAFER PLACES ASSESSEMENT CRITERIA AUDITING AND ASSESSMENT TOOL

DETAILS

Day:	Wednesday	Date:	23 August 2023	Time:	4.50PM
Assessor name:	Lisa Clue (MFPO)			Sign:	Lisa Clue (MFPO)
Agency:	Loddon Shire Council				

LOCATION

Place name and specific location:	Donaldson Park (Oval Area Only) Wedderburn	Map Reference:	
Distance from nearest town centre (km):	Within township		
Controlling (owner) authority:	Loddon Shire Council		

Owner Details

Contact: Name/Position			
Organisation:	Loddon Shire Council		
Postal Address:	P.O. Box 21, Wedderburn	Post code: 3518	
Phone:	W: 5494 1200	H:	
Email:			

Tenant Details

Contact: Name/Position	President		
Organisation:	Donaldson Park Community Asset Committee		
Postal Address:		Post code:	
Phone:	W:	H:	
Email:			

Tenant 2 Details			
Contact: Name/Position	NA		
Organisation:			
Postal Address:		Post code:	
Phone:	W:	H:	
Email:			
Location Description:	Donaldson Park (Oval Only) – Wedderburn	(Open area or building)	Open Area (Oval Only)
Population of Township/ Locality:	Approx. 940 People		
Estimated NSP Site Capacity:	Approx. 1000 People		
Reference Material Sited:	N/A		
NSP INSPECTION DETAILS			
OFFICERS NAME: Lisa Clue (MFPO)		SIGNATURE:-	
DATE OF INSPECTION: 23/08/2023		RECOMMENDATION: insert cross into square indicating result	DESIGNATE <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NOT DESIGNATE <input type="checkbox"/>
OFFICERS NAME:		SIGNATURE:-	
DATE OF INSPECTION:		RECOMMENDATION: insert cross into square indicating result	DESIGNATE <input type="checkbox"/> NOT DESIGNATE <input type="checkbox"/>

Factors to Consider in Assessing Potential NSPs

Council NSPP Criteria	Issues to consider	Council comments	Satisfied? Yes/No
Consents and rights of access	If the potential NSP is located on Council-owned land, can Council use the land as an NSP if required? Consider whether or not Council allows the land to be used for potentially inconsistent purposes, such as for farmers' markets, fetes, circuses etc.	Area is owned by Council and is maintained by the Donaldson Park Reserve Community Asset Committee.	YES
	If the potential NSP is on private land, or public land under the control of a Crown Land Manager (other than Council), can Council enter into arrangements which allow it to use the land as a potential NSP on reasonably satisfactory terms? Also consider whether Council has the right to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • access the site and surrounding areas for maintenance • erect appropriate signage at the NSP. 	Donaldson Park Reserve Community Asset Committee has granted consent for area to be used and to maintain the NSP area as per the CFA maintenance requirements. Council has agreed to erect and maintain relevant signage in relation to the NSP.	YES
Access and egress	Do access routes to the potential NSP allow for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the anticipated potential number of people to move to and from the place • the CFA and other emergency services to attend the place for asset and personnel protection activities? 	No restrictions to access and egress. Area is accessible via wide access road with side point if required. Five vehicle access points all with NSP signage in place.	YES
	Are access routes easily navigable, bearing in mind they could be affected by smoke? Consider the condition of the road surface, proximity to population centres and major roads, capacity of access routes to accommodate large numbers of vehicles, the availability of car parking at the place and any other relevant matters.	Multiple open gates off the roads as access egress route for Hospital St, Chapel St, and Godfrey St. There is also access/egress for pedestrians. Large areas available for parking of vehicles.	YES

Council NSPP Criteria	Issues to consider	Council comments	Satisfied? Yes/No
Maintenance of NSP in accordance with CFA assessment	<p>Can Council maintain the potential NSP in accordance with the criteria taken into account by the CFA in arriving at its fire rating assessment?</p> <p><i>If the CFA have not provided sufficient information in relation to the criteria it has taken into account in arriving at its fire rating assessment, it may be necessary for Council to seek further information from the CFA.</i></p>	Donaldson Park Community Asset Committee has agreed to maintain area as per the CFA maintenance requirements.	YES
Opening of the NSP	<p>Will it be possible and practicable to make the potential NSP available for use on a 24 hour basis during the declared fire danger period? This is a particular issue where the potential NSP is a building.</p> <p>Consider the potential for damage to the NSP which could result during times that it is open and available for use, but is not being used as an NSP.</p>	24/7 Access available.	YES
	<p>What costs could be incurred by Council in making the potential NSP available on a 24 hour basis during the declared fire danger period? Are these costs reasonable, and capable of being borne by Council?</p>	Nil.	YES
	<p>Could the potential NSP be used for an unintended purpose which could impact upon its use as an NSP (such as an emergency relief centre)?</p>	In an emergency all other activities will cease and the area will be available as a NSP.	YES
Defendable space and fire suppression activities	<p>Is the potential NSP surrounded by sufficient open space to enable the CFA to conduct asset protection and fire suppression operations? Is that open space reasonably free of obstacles (such as fences, buildings, steep gradients, vegetation and other land formations)?</p> <p><i>Council should seek CFA advice concerning the defendability of the potential NSP and the Buffer Zone, including in relation to fire vehicle access requirements.</i></p>	The CFA and other emergency services also will be able to attend for asset and personal protection activities as required.	YES

Council NSPP Criteria	Issues to consider	Council comments	Satisfied? Yes/No
	Will approval be required under legislation such as the <i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i> (Cwlth), <i>Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988</i> (Vic) and the <i>Planning and Environment Act 1987</i> (Vic)? Can such approval be obtained before the NSP is established?	N/A.	YES
Defendability of Buildings	If the potential NSP is a building, has Council has sought expert advice from the CFA to determine whether the NSP is likely to be subject to risk from ember attack? If it is subject to such a risk, can that risk be safely managed?	No buildings included within the NSP area.	YES
Signage	Can appropriate signage be erected at the entry to the potential NSP, and in its vicinity?	Five signs at each main vehicle entrance to the area. (All standard text signs will be replaced prior to FDP.)	YES
	If signage needs to be placed on private land, can Council obtain the consent of the relevant landowner to the erection of the signage?	Donaldson Park Community Asset Committee has agreed that the Loddon Shire Council will erect all required signage and maintain to an acceptable standard at all times.	YES
Maintenance and maintainability	Is the potential NSP capable of being maintained to ensure continuing compliance with the CFA Fire Rating Criteria and the Council NSPP Criteria? Where relevant, consider whether adjoining land owners and occupiers will provide Council with an assurance that both the potential NSP and the Buffer Zone can be maintained to a satisfactory level.	Donaldson Park Community Asset Committee has agreed to maintain the NSP area as per the CFA maintenance requirements.	YES
Disabled access	Are there are means of access for disabled and mobility-impaired persons to the potential NSP, including vehicle access to drop off people with disabilities?	No restrictions to disabled access/egress.	YES

Council NSPP Criteria	Issues to consider	Council comments	Satisfied? Yes/No
Alternative uses of potential NSP	<p>Can Council manage alternative uses which may be made of the potential NSP so as to ensure that those uses will not compromise the function of the place as a potential NSP?</p> <p><i>The CFA has advised that where a potential NSP which is used for an operational purpose at many times meets the CFA Fire Rating Criteria, then the CFA considers that those operational activities will be able to continue (to the extent practicable in the circumstances) while the place is being used as an NSP.</i></p>	<p>In an emergency situation all other activities (football, trotting nMeetings, hockey etc.) will cease and the area will be available as a NSP.</p>	YES
Community Communication	<p>Will it be possible to ensure that there will be good community awareness of the location of the potential NSP, and the risks associated with using the potential NSP?</p>	<p>Council and the CFA will conduct a community awareness campaign and regularly make reference to the NSP on social media and in local papers.</p>	YES



Donaldson Park Wedderburn – Council Assessment



CRM #1000009350 - Donaldson Park (Oval only), Chapel Street, Wedderburn – As per CFA Reassessment August 2019



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