

Local Government perspective

Kirsten Jenkins

Manager Health, Local Laws and Emergency Management
(currently Covid19 Recovery Manager)



**Ah, you'll be wanting our red-tape
department, third door on the left!**

Local Government's role in disaster risk reduction

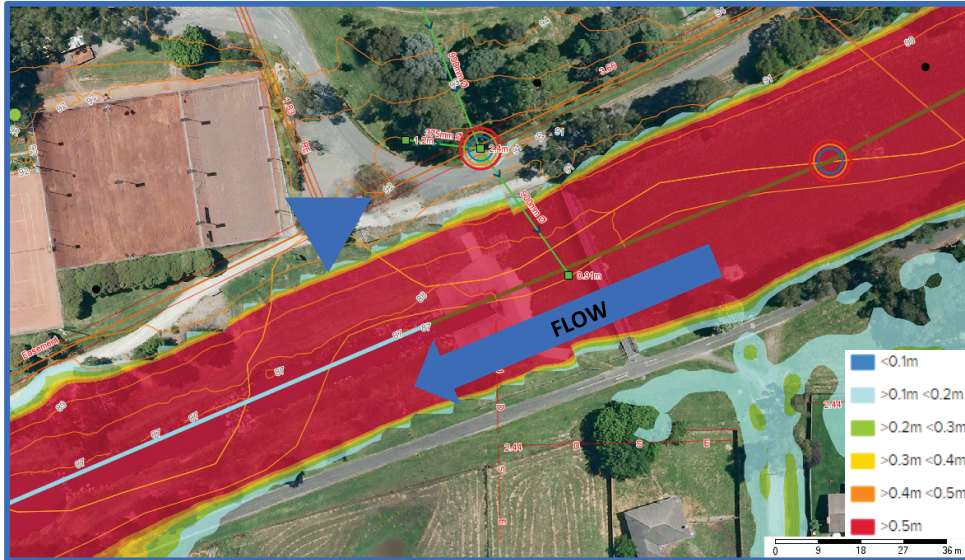
- › Community at the centre
- › Local knowledge
- › Land use planning
- › Community engagement
- › Partnership
- › Integrated planning – community services
- › All levels of government working together



Flooding in Maroondah

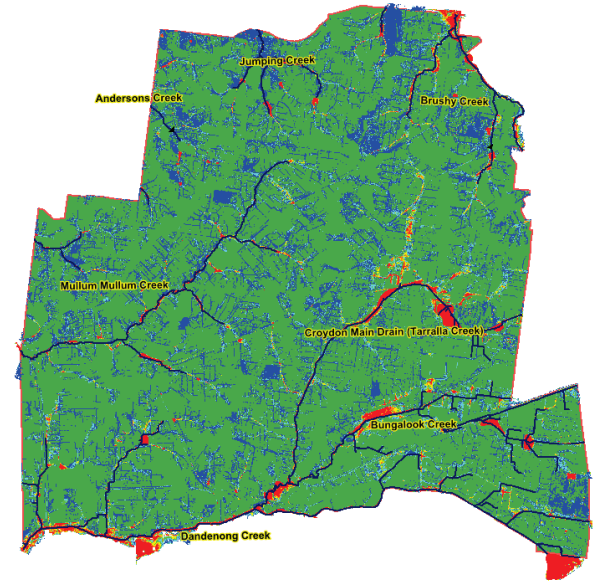
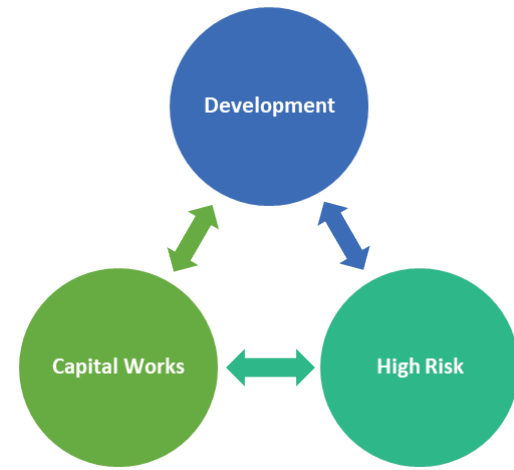
Dandenong Creek near H.E. Parker Reserve, Heathmont

Feb 2011, 1 in 80 ARI



Level of influence

- › Influence development proposals
- › Mitigation/capital works
- › Community risk awareness, better maintenance schedules and capacity issues
- › Collaboration with emergency services
- › Using data to inform practice
- › Scenario based planning



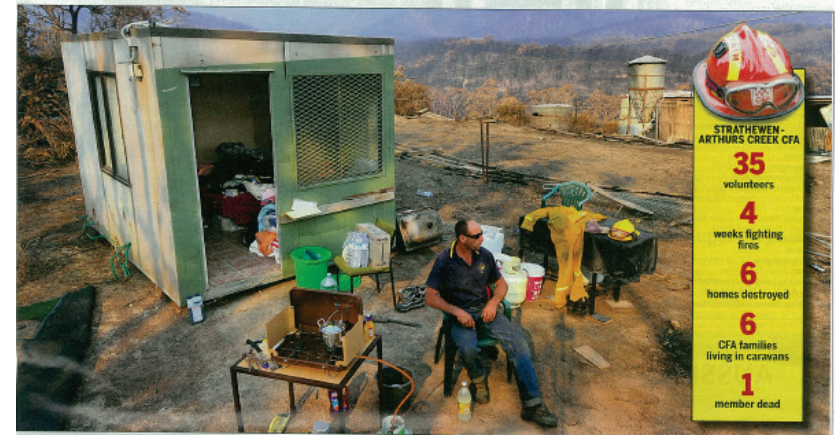
Who really knows what Councils do?

Consequence of policy decisions to meet immediate needs

Regulatory standards enacted by Local Government

Councils are the closest level of government to community

localfooty.com.au Local footy is back >> Sport
Construction boost >> Page 3



CFA volunteer Warren Rees among the ruins of his Strathewen home.

Picture: CFA/AG BORNHOFF

The trauma sets in

William Jackson
w.jackson@diamondvalleyleader.com.au

ANGRY Arthurs Creek and Strathewen firefighters have accused the CFA of letting them down in the wake of Black Saturday. Nearly two months after the disaster many of the traumatised volunteers - including six who lost their homes and are living in caravans - were just to receive a phone call from CFA headquarters. The majority has not received

counselling or psychological assistance. Some are considering quitting due to the lack of support. The CFA says help was available, but it was up to members to take up the offers. Arthurs Creek volunteer Gordon Norris said the whole brigade should have been assessed by a psychologist. "We're not asking for handouts, but you'd at least like a phone call from someone," Mr Norris said. "The older guys are just grinning and saying it, but I don't believe they should." He said volunteers like Warren Rees, who has been living alone near the ruins of his Strathewen home, were reluctant to seek help. "I was mentally prepared for this to

happen so I don't think it's affected me as much as some of the other guys," Mr Rees said. Region 14 general manager Gill Metz said she was surprised at the allegations. She said a welfare plan had been developed and psychobriefings, as well as legal support and a chaplain were sent to the staging areas. She said volunteers could not be "forced" to undergo psychological evaluation and it was up to brigade captains to refer members in trouble for more help. Volunteer captain David McGahy said many would reject assistance, but some who are seriously affected had "slipped through the cracks". "The amount of responsibility left to captains has been inordinate and in some cases unfair," Mr McGahy said. "There has to be time for 'old people to come in.'"

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Challenges





Working in local government, to what extent are you influenced by disaster risk reduction plans at state and national levels or can you really just do your own thing?

- › Local government are in conflicted positions, on one hand we are established to enact regulatory standards of State Governments and on the other deliver, facilitate and advocate for services that improve community health, wellbeing and social connections that are so important to building community resilience.
- › In some instances... we have to do our own thing, but I would call it community centred leadership. We become leaders and something that others look to for inspiration. Councils need to plan, lead and advocate for change based on community needs. Our community expects us to. This can be more complex when it is not a priority at state and federal levels.

Development in Maroondah

Flood Modelling & Planning

We have the **information**, we can now respond to flooding issues during the Planning stage.

There is **more involvement** during planning but fewer problems later during construction or when there is a flooding issue!

By creating a formal **Special Building Overlay (via Integrated Planning)** we will increase public awareness and create formal planning triggers for flooding.

Improved internal understanding and processes around flooding issues.