

Harrietville Community Emergency Management Plan

September 2014



The Harrietville Community Forum will continue to support people to connect and strengthen relationships, so that the local and visiting community can be better prepared to manage future emergencies.

This is a small but significant part in building a safer and more resilient Harrietville.



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supporting the
local community to
become safer and
more resilient

Photo by Neale Hutcheon

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Introduction

This Harrietville Community Emergency Management Plan (CEMP) has been developed on behalf of the local community. As such, the Harrietville Community Forum Inc. (HCF) acknowledges all who have participated and contributed toward the development of this plan.

This document is to be managed and distributed by the HCF. All feedback and opportunities for greater community participation to implement and improve this plan will be gratefully received.

The priority for this plan is to support the Harrietville community to become safer and more resilient toward the impacts from natural hazards, including bushfire, flood and landslide.

It is expected that these efforts will also support people to be better prepared to manage and become more resilient toward other extreme events including storms and heatwaves. Discussion to develop this CEMP started in August 2013 and a draft was complete in December for the 2013/14 summer season. Further consultation and engagement with the community, agencies and the local Harrietville Fire Brigade has supported the development of this revised version.

This plan is considered a 'live' document that will be regularly updated and improved to remain relevant for the community and broader stakeholders. This approach provides opportunities for more people to become involved, while allowing the plan to evolve and reflect the values and needs of the community over time.

The collaborative work to date has been effective in strengthening relationships between the community and supporting organisations. Working together has assisted people to better understand and support the interests and values of locals and visitors, whilst working in partnership with organisations to improve the management of risks. The geographic area of interest includes the local township and surrounding areas of the National Park and adjacent forest. Harrietville shares these values and associated risks with organisations, other settlements and people who use the Great Alpine Road. The HCF welcomes opportunities to connect with these broader stakeholders to build a safer and more resilient future.

The success of this plan will rely on the support, participation and feedback provided by the local and broader community. It is recognised that building and strengthening relationships through these and other community based processes, is just as important as developing the plan itself.

A series of steps has supported initial stakeholders to work together and generate the information captured in this plan. This process has enabled these people to identify and discuss local priorities, including opportunities, hazards and risks. Local initiatives and actions are listed and tracked in section 5. Table of actions of this plan. Each step aims to promote discussion and guide the community to build on strengths to shape the future, whilst becoming safer and more resilient in the short, medium and long term.

The local priorities and actions are expected to evolve over time and opportunities to integrate with other local community based plans should be explored. Completed actions are also recorded to provide a summary of achievements and areas for improvement.

This plan is considered a small but significant contribution toward building local community resilience. The HCF welcomes any comments, contributions and feedback about the information contained in this plan.



1. Aim and objectives

Aim

The aim of this plan is to support people to build relationships and develop solutions, to become safer and more resilient toward the impacts of extreme weather events and emergencies. This will be achieved by working together to manage the priority risks and consequences caused by natural hazards, including local bushfires, floods and landslides.

Each of the following objectives are to contribute toward achieving this aim:

Objective 1.

Support the local and visiting community of Harrietville to be safer and better prepared to manage the impacts from natural hazards and emergencies, before, during and after each event.

Objective 2.

Identify what is important to the local community, and

In partnership with relevant land/owners and managers, ensure that locally significant social, economic and environmental values and support systems are recognised and well managed, before, during and after emergencies.

Objective 3.

Support the local community to actively participate and improve relationships through the further development and implementation of this plan.

Objective 4.

Ensure that the investment in managing community priorities and risks contributes toward strengthening relationships, increasing community safety levels and building long term resilience.



Photo by Brian Eddy

2. Community based goals and solutions

The following goals have been developed to reflect the views and contributions provided by local community volunteers, including members of the Harrietville Fire Brigade, Harrietville Community Building Initiative (CBI with its role now absorbed into the HCF) and the HCF.

Also recognised is the support provided by the staff from the Alpine Shire Council, Department of Environment and Primary Industries (DEPI), Parks Victoria, State Emergency Service (SES), Country Fire Authority (CFA), Victoria Police and Emergency Management Commissioner (former Fire Services Commissioner) now through Emergency Management Victoria (EMV).

Short term goal

The short term goal is for the local and visiting community of Harrietville to be informed and become safer toward the impacts caused by natural events such as bushfire, flood landslide (and other events such as heat waves and associated energy loss).

Medium term goal

While becoming safer, work with the community including Harrietville's own organisations, Alpine Shire Council and agencies, to support people and the surrounding landscape to adapt and cope with more extreme weather events and emergencies.

Long term goal

Support the community of Harrietville to build on its strengths and develop a preferred future that is safe, connected and sustainable for people, business and the environment.

5 Steps



Developing solutions – 5 simple steps

This CEMP is designed to be integrated into a broader Harrietville resilience project titled 'Communities adapting to climate change – building resilience to overcome hazards'.

Integrating these two projects provides the community with opportunities to consider how the potential impacts of climate change and linked emergency management events may affect Harrietville in the future. This aims to support the further development

of this CEMP for the community to be safer and more resilient, whilst also preparing for longer term changes that may affect the social, economic and environmental values of Harrietville and the region.

This combined and collaborative approach aims to support the community to develop a safer, more resilient and sustainable future.

The locally developed '5 steps' have been used to support the HCF, local community and broader

stakeholders to work together. These steps represent a cycle where discussion can move back and forward over time as required.

This process has been independently evaluated and is consistent with the five step process that will feature in the community based emergency management framework for Victoria.

The five steps will continue to be used to support the integrated CEMP and integrated Communities adapting to climate change projects.

3. Local priorities

The following priorities have been developed for 2014/15 and will be reviewed each year in August. HCF will continue to connect and seek greater involvement with the community, agencies and Alpine Shire Council for assistance to:

- Support the Harrietville Fire Brigade and agencies to provide timely, tailored and relevant emergency information to the community. This includes through the local Harrietville communication system and volunteer support network (below)
- Support local volunteers to develop a network/group (e.g. community fireguard group or equivalent) to connect the local community and Harrietville Fire Brigade with a key point of contact for emergencies
- Continue to develop and connect locals and visitors to use the local Harrietville (text and email) communication system
- Develop an appropriate Harrietville 1st aid and community emergency kit
- Develop an engagement and communications plan to provide tailored local information for locals and visitors (at appropriate points in the town and to integrate the local Harrietville communication system and network above)
- Work with tourist operators and accommodation providers to develop appropriate plans and information for staff, clients and guests
- Support local residents and businesses to use 'Resilience Month' in October to work with the Harrietville Fire Brigade, Alpine Shire Council and participating organisations to prepare their own individual, household and business plans
- Work with Emergency Management Victoria to support this CEMP to become live on the electronic mapping system (EM COP)
- Invite the community to work with agencies and Alpine Shire Council and participate in relevant scenarios, supporting people to test their plans and be better prepared to make decisions before, during after emergencies
- Support the Harrietville Fire Brigade, DEPI and Parks Victoria to review, improve and implement the Fire Operations Plan; including appropriate fuel management/prescribed burning and other opportunities in priority areas
- Support the testing of operational plans and equipment where appropriate
For example
 - > Work with the Harrietville Fire Brigade and community members to test how people will be better prepared for days of high fire danger/extreme events
 - > Connect and receive local and tailored information, and
 - > Be able to operate the community hall/NSP, with sprinklers etc...
 - > Consider possible relocation/evacuation for extreme events
- Support and work with agencies and emergency management organisations to keep the Great Alpine Road open unless unsafe to do so
- Continue to attend the Alpine Shire Resilience Committee meetings, and
- Work through this process to present this plan to the Municipal Emergency Management Planning Committee for consideration



Photo by Brian Eddy

4. Supporting people ‘before, during and after’ emergencies

The role of HCF in emergency management is to support the connection between the local community and emergency management organisations at a local community level. Whilst this aims to assist before, during and after emergency events, this is not an operational role.

To achieve this role HCF must have a recognised and strong working relationship with the Harrietville Fire Brigade, CFA, SES, DEPI, Parks Victoria, Victoria Police and Alpine Shire Council.

This community based plan and support role of the HCF aims to assist locals, visitors, business and organisations to have a voice and be safer and better prepared by providing a local connection for people to:

- Be aware and monitor local environmental conditions and forecasts
- Have local contacts for people to seek information, help and advice
- Be aware of local issues, including priority values and risks associated with heat stress, bushfire, flood and landslide
- Be prepared with their own plan - and have an alternative plan
- Be connected and contactable through the local Harrietville communication system (to be developed). This will require clear trigger points and primary message from the control agency such as CFA or SES
- Be ready to take simple steps and move out of harm's way
- Be aware of the limitations of being in the mountains and what to expect from when in emergency services in remote areas. i.e. community and individual plans cannot depend entirely on emergency services
- Become involved in developing and practicing local scenarios, to be better prepared for emergency situations involving bushfire, flood and landslide
- Know where to find information and advice at key points in the town, to make safer and more informed decisions as conditions and emergency situations change before, during and after the event.



Photo by Brian Eddy

Working together as part of the community

This support role of the HCF aims to increase connections, communication and information flow, while supporting the community to integrate with the plans, systems and support provided by the Harrietville Fire Brigade, emergency management organisations and Alpine Shire Council.

This provides people with the opportunity to be better connected and prepared with:

- Up to date & accurate local information
- Effective local warnings and alerts
- Advice to have their own safe and appropriate shelter options E.g. well prepared houses
- Safer and appropriate evacuation plans and escape routes
- Alternative local fall back positions e.g. cleared areas such as the tailings
- Last resort shelter options, including the hall as the Neighborhood Safer Place
- Empowered local emergency services including the Fire Brigade
- Ability to access first aid support and seek further medical assistance if required
- Back up stores of community essentials (e.g. food, water, blankets)
- External support through agencies, volunteers, groups etc...
- Links to local government and agency decision making processes and programs

It also provides Harrietville with a locally nominated and representative leadership group, recognised for having:

- Working relationships with local government, emergency management organisations, community volunteer groups and networks
- Effective local community engagement processes to provide a community voice in collaborative decision making processes
- Connections to support the local social, economic and environmental assets and values of Harrietville
- Stories of success and key learnings from mistakes
- Connections with local people who can help others including those with special needs
- Access to external, prepared and trained people and equipment e.g. SES volunteers and support trailer
- The ability to connect and support the assistance provided through relief and recovery processes

5. Table of Actions - 2014/15

ACTION	LEAD	SUPPORT	DUE BY	COMPLETE	COMMENTS
Update contacts list and distribute	HCF	Community members	30 Sep 2014	Underway	This list will support the development of the engagement and communications plan
Complete revised CEMP and launch with the community	HCF	Local community Fire Brigade Council Agencies EMV	1 Oct 2014	Underway	Combined launch with Resilience Month
Support the community to receive locally relevant information regarding emergencies in the area	HCF	Fire Brigade Agencies	31 Oct 2014	Underway	Provide the Harrietville Fire Brigade and other response agencies with a local community connection/focal point/system to distribute timely, tailored and relevant information about local emergencies in the area. This aims to enhance communication levels, for people to make more informed decisions. It does not replace the information provided by centralised systems including agency/official websites, phone apps etc...
Support the local community to develop their own plans and integrate with community based plans	HCF/Local CFA	Community Fire Brigade lead agencies	1 Nov 2014	Underway	Develop opportunities for individuals to develop plans and integrate with community level plans. See annual Resilience Month activities in October in priorities
Work with community members to increase connections, participate, create opportunities to improve and develop solutions	HCF/local community	Local community	ongoing	Underway	Consider a variety of options for the community to participate. Consider networks and specific vulnerabilities for support by the group/network (Fireguard group or other) Develop future actions for 2015/16 and beyond
Develop an Engagement and Communications plan	HCF	Local community Alpine Shire Council North east tourism	ongoing	Underway	Continue to develop the local Harrietville contact list, tailored information and local communication system. This should include a calendar to: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• support the delivery of relevant/seasonal/priority information the local system (as above)• engage and work with each of the organisations identified in this plan

Table of Actions - 2014/15 (continued)

ACTION	LEAD	SUPPORT	DUE BY	COMPLETE	COMMENTS
Consider better management of local flash floods	HCF/SES	Local CFA Parks Vic Council Vicroads NECMA	ongoing	Underway	Work with SES and stakeholders to better manage floods before, during and after each event Consider options to better manage fallen trees so that log jams are prevented from damaging bridges during floods
Consider new initiatives with Australia Post services for local communities to be better prepared for emergencies	HCF	Emergency Management Victoria (EMV) Australia Post Alpine Shire Council	1 Dec 2014	To start	Invite Australia post to discuss new services and opportunity to work with the HCF, local post office/community members, business and Council and other organisations, to be better prepared for emergencies. This may include opportunities for Harrietville and other local communities to have greater support through the Alpine Shire Council resilience committee and Municipal Emergency Management Planning (MEMP) arrangements
Work with Tourist Operators and Accommodation Providers to develop appropriate plans and communication aids for their clients and guests.	HCF	Local businesses Council	30 June 2015	To start	Support the development of a common approach and message for staff, clients and guests, so that each business and the community has a complete understanding of their responsibilities, before during and after an emergency
Consider options for the Harrietville Community Hall and other community spaces	HCF	Local community Alpine Shire Council	30 Jun 2015	To start	This includes the development of an information point within the town (such as an interpretive centre), providing information for tourists to assist them to be better prepared when going out into the environment and to support them to make safer and more informed decisions if faced with an emergency event
Review Harrietville Hall as a neighbourhood safer place NSP and consider options to support management of bushfire, flood and other emergencies	HCF	Local community Alpine Shire Council Agencies	30 June 2015	Not started	Harrietville Hall is an NSP for bushfire. This may/not be appropriate for flood and other emergencies
Develop and test local Harrietville Operational and PACE plans for 2014/15 summer/other seasons	HCF Fire Brigade	Community lead agencies	1 Dec 2014	Not started	Practice and revise plans to support people to be safe and protect and enhance locally significant values as required

Table of Actions - 2014/15 (continued)

ACTION	LEAD	SUPPORT	DUE BY	COMPLETE	COMMENTS
Explore further opportunities to integrate local community information and plans into broader community and organisational plans	HCF	Local business Tourism industry Council/ Lead agencies	1 Jul 2015	Underway	e.g. DEPI Fire operations plans and burn programs. Mt Hotham Resort Other local/connected towns Alpine Shire Municipal Emergency Management Plan
Consider electronic all hazards information and warning sign	HCF/Local CFA	CFA SES DEPI Victoria Police Vicroads Alpine Shire	30 June 2015	Not started	To be further explored Other community based pilots underway
Consider community web based information library to support local implementation of Victorian community centred emergency management planning framework	HCF	EMV Other local pilot towns	30 June 2015	Being discussed	Other community based pilots underway To be further explored including development of Victorian Information Network for Emergencies (VINE) and Emergency Management Common Operating Picture (EM COP)
Consider community web based maps to support local community and implementation of Victorian community centred emergency management planning framework	HCF	EMV Other local community pilot towns	30 June 2015	Being discussed	Other community based pilots underway To be further explored including development of VINE
Complete 'Communities adapting to climate change - building resilience to overcome hazards'	Alpine Shire Council HCF	Local community DEPI Parks Vic EMV	30 June 2016	Underway	Link CEMP with broader resilience project as per agreement between the Alpine Shire Council, DEPI and the community under the Victorian Adaptation and Sustainability Partnership (VASP) program Develop a simple and effective checklist and review process, to monitor and demonstrate how Harrietville is becoming safer, more resilient and sustainable over time

Completed actions and achievements - 2013/14

ACTION	LEAD	SUPPORT	DUE BY	COMPLETE	COMMENTS
Discuss expectations with Fire Services Commissioner (FSC) representative	HCF	Community reps FSC	15 Aug 2013	Complete	Meeting held on 13 August 2013 Harrietville Community Emergency Management Plan (CEMP) to be developed with FSC support
Consider local information, priorities, options and opportunities to be included in CEMP	HCF	FSC representative	30 Sep 2013	Complete	Meetings held on 3 and 13 Sept 2013. A range of information and plans considered. Cann River plan considered as an option to use as a template
Engage local Harrietville Fire Brigade	FSC representative	HCF	30 Sep 2013	Complete	Priority action. Meeting between FSC and Fire Brigade Captain 3 Sep 2013 Local fire brigade to be included via incorporating local knowledge and response information into the process via appropriate documents and maps.
Consider draft CEMP framework and stakeholders to support the development of the CEMP	HCF	FSC representative	30 Sept 2013	Complete	Meetings held on 24 and 25 Sept 2013 to progress development of plan and information for 2013/14 summer season 5 step process considered as part of broader FSC community based project
Engage Alpine Shire and Govt/Agency stakeholders	FSC representative	CFA	30 Sept 2013	Complete	Priority action. Meeting held with representatives from Council and representatives SES, CFA, DEPI, Parks Victoria, Victoria Police and FSC on 4 Sep 2013. Organisations agreed to support local Harrietville leaders and community through scenario based activities Alpine Shire
Complete draft Harrietville CEMP	HCF	FSC representative	31 Oct 2013	Complete	New relationships and information suggests that an alternative plan may be required. Should still consider a landscape approach

Completed actions and achievements - 2013/14 (continued)

ACTION	LEAD	SUPPORT	DUE BY	COMPLETE	COMMENTS
Collaboratively develop scenario for bushfire, flood and landslides	FSC representative	HCF	Early Nov 2013	Complete	Build the scenario workshop 8 Nov 2013 attended by representatives from HCF, Fire Brigade, Alpine Shire Council, SES, CFA, DEPI, Parks Victoria (apology Victoria Police, attending job en route)
Complete revised Harrietville CEMP	HCF	FSC representative	6 Dec 2013	Complete	Priority action. To be finalised asap. See 20 Dec 2013. Include new information from scenario
Develop and distribute local information and processes for/during 2012/13 summer season	HCF	FSC Fire Brigade CFA/ agencies	6 Dec 2013	Underway	Tailored information for locals, accommodation providers and visitors. Plus plans for community hall. Install Fire Danger Rating (FDR) sign. Support/incorporate Harrietville Fire Brigade/CFA local response plan
Scenario based activity for bushfire, flood and landslide	FSC representative	HCF Local community Fire brigade Alpine Shire SES CFA DEPI Parks Victoria Victoria Police	1st week in Dec 2013	Partially complete	Bushfire scenario complete. Flood and landslide scenarios to be rescheduled for 2014 as a priority
Complete Harrietville CEMP Version 1 and distribute information	HCF		24 Dec 2013	Partially complete	CEMP was completed for review and comment by 20 Dec 2013. Further stakeholder engagement and revision is underway to complete 2014 version
Update and distribute Harrietville Community Information Guide	HCF	CFA	24 Dec 2013	Complete	HCF and CFA confirmed revised version in early January and document was distributed throughout the community

Completed actions and achievements - 2013/14 (continued)

ACTION	LEAD	SUPPORT	DUE BY	COMPLETE	COMMENTS
Obtain/Install Harrietville Fire Danger Rating (FDR) Sign	CFA	Fire Brigade	24 Dec 2013	Complete	Provided by CFA. To be operated & maintained by Harrietville Fire Brigade to provide daily updates over fire danger period
Local Harrietville communication network via email and sms (text)	HCF	Fire Brigade	24 Dec 2013	Underway	Local communication system is required to overcome poor radio, television, internet and mobile phone coverage. This local community system is to be trialled and reviewed over summer period
Ensure that Great Alpine Road remains open	HCF	Vicroads Victoria Police	24 Dec 2013	Underway	Great Alpine Road is considered extremely important for day to day community and tourist activities plus 'before, during and after' emergencies. Ensure Great Alpine Road is open unless unsafe for travel
Commence initial discussion regarding Council resilience project.	Alpine Shire Council	HCF, FSC Victoria University	28 Feb 2014	Complete	Council is currently completing a 2 year project plan to commence the 'Communities adapting to climate change - building resilience to overcome hazards' project. Engagement with the Harrietville community is a key part of this project and processes are to consider/compliment/integrate with the nature based tourism project below.
Support Victoria University to complete economic value of nature based tourism project	Victoria University	HCF FSC Alpine Shire	28 Feb 2014	Complete	A project to 'Assess the economic value and vulnerability of nature based tourism in the Ovens and Alpine area of north east Victoria.'
Progress local input and provide feedback on community based framework	FSC	HCF and other stakeholders	30 April 2014	Complete	Initial 5 step approach is being considered as part of a broader community based framework. This is a priority to complete in a local community context for Harrietville to become safer and more resilient Additional information regarding characteristics of a safer and more resilient community added to local Harrietville and broader framework projects

Completed actions and achievements - 2013/14 (continued)

ACTION	LEAD	SUPPORT	DUE BY	COMPLETE	COMMENTS
Scenario based activity for flood and landslide	SES	HCF Local community Fire brigade Alpine Shire	November 2014	Change	To be confirmed with SES Initial preparation and resources available from previous scenario activity Seek support from CFA, DEPI, Parks Victoria, Victoria Police, FSC as required
Develop priority and locally specific Harrietville PACE plans.	HCF	Fire Brigade Agencies	30 Nov 2014	Not started	PACE (Primary, Alternative, Contingency & Emergency) plans to support & improve current information & activities; i.e. to increase people safety and manage risks toward assets/values (e.g. road, hall etc...), systems (e.g. communication & other) for bushfire, flood, landslide & combined events
Develop a detailed engagement and communications plan	HCF	Agencies	31 Oct 2014	Underway	Encourage broader participation and prepare appropriate info for further release. Key stakeholder/contacts list has been developed.
Local Harrietville resilience/landscape plan	Alpine Shire Council	HCF Resilience Committee Local community	1 Dec 2015	Underway	Council has received confirmation to start project in partnership with local community



Photo by Pieter Arriens

6. Supporting information

Tailored information for locals and visitors

The following information and documents are being developed to support the local Harrietville community, including businesses and tourists to be better prepared before, during and after emergencies.

Each is available through the HCF as required.

This information may be used as part of a broader HCF Engagement and Communications Plan, allowing for timely distribution along with HCF newsletters etc...

A more detailed communications plan to promote a safer and more resilient Harrietville for the future is identified in the table of actions and some further funds will be required to activate some of this plan.

It is envisaged that the following information will be managed and supported by a community based website/portal in the future.

Information for local residents and visitors

- Letter (and template) for local residents
- Updated Harrietville Community Information Guide
- Local maps and aerial photos

Information for local businesses owners

- Updated local Harrietville information for accommodation providers

Operational documents

- Updated community plan that supports the CFA/Harrietville Local Response Plan
- An 'opt in' Local Harrietville email and sms (text) phone tree network
- Local HCF and agency contact details
- HCF operational guide to open/manage the Harrietville Community Hall (NSP) in an emergency (to be developed)

Further documents including bushfire, flood and landslide information will be made available when developed.

Nominated representatives and key contacts

Harrietville Community Forum

John Atkins (HCF)	Convenor - Harrietville Community Forum
Bill Jones	HCF
Brian Eddy	HCF
Terry Woolley	HCF
Emma Hinchcliffe	HCF
Jenny Whittaker	HCF
Robyn Downey	HCF
Phil Horner	Newsletter editor for HCF
Eli Hoy	HCF

Harrietville Fire Brigade

Gary Weston	Captain
Sue Nicholas	Communications Officer

Agencies and organisations

Mark Owens	Country Fire Authority (CFA)
Jarrod Hayse Industries (DEPI)	Department of Environment and Primary
Ross Grant	Parks Victoria
Sue Sheldrick	Victorian State Emergency Service (VICSES)
Jan Mock	Alpine Shire Council
Cameron Alexander	Alpine Shire Council
Darryl Farmer	Alpine Shire Council
Doug Incoll	Victoria Police
Paul Hargreaves	Victoria Police
Steve Cameron	Emergency Management Victoria (EMV)



Photo by Pieter Arriens

Harrietville community profile

How many people live in Harrietville?

Population	402
Dwellings	274

How many people can visit and stay in Harrietville?

Visitors 2 000 (bed capacity). Includes residences (by absentee landowners) and visitor accommodation.

Harrietville is a popular destination for connecting to outdoor adventure activities including bushwalking, fishing, mountain biking, trail bike riding, snow skiing/boarding and camping. Thousands of people travel through Harrietville via Great Alpine Road via bicycle, car, motorbike, bus etc...

Summer

Popular accommodation and camping destination for cycling, walking, four wheel driving, motor bikes and just relaxing.

Winter

Popular village for off mountain skiing/boarding accommodation with an increasing number of people bush walking in winter.

Events

Three annual music festivals, three local markets and a variety of cycling and specialist car events. Harrietville also captures the overflow of people attending events in Bright.

What services are provided to support the locals and visitors?

Information, post office and petrol available at the local General Store

Harrietville Fire Brigade/station

Local doctor. No. - Call 000 for emergencies. Nearest doctor - Bright

Council provide health and aged care (HAC) services to local residents as required

Local primary school - High school students travel out of town (car/bus)

Local cricket oval

Community hall

Local businesses including hotels, cafés, accommodation and caravan park

All supplies are delivered by road

Community Connections

The community is connected through a range of formal and informal community activities hosted by volunteer groups, sporting groups, HCF etc..., others are also linked informally via local businesses including the general store and two hotels.

Other characteristics

Limited public transport system

Private buses operate to carry passengers to nearby Mt Hotham and other destinations

Medical

No medical facilities.

Defibrillators (2 x Automated External Defibrillators - AED) are located in local Hotel/Motel hotel and Harrietville Fire Station

What is important to the Harrietville community? Locally nominated community assets, values and support systems

ASSET/VALUE	SOCIAL VALUE	ECONOMIC VALUE	ENVIRONMENTAL VALUE	LOCAL VALUE	REGIONAL VALUE	STATE VALUE	NATIONAL VALUE
Harrietville catchment	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Great Alpine Road	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
Essential services and infrastructure	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Water		✓	✓	✓	✓		
Power		✓		✓	✓		
Communications repeater tower		✓		✓	✓		
General store		✓		✓			
School	✓	✓		✓			
Museum	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Community hall	✓	✓		✓			
2 hotels	✓	✓		✓			
Cafes	✓	✓		✓			
Ski field		✓		✓	✓		
Local houses		✓		✓			
Hotham resort		✓		✓			

What is important to the Harrietville community? (continued)

ASSET/VALUE	SOCIAL VALUE	ECONOMIC VALUE	ENVIRONMENTAL VALUE	LOCAL VALUE	REGIONAL VALUE	STATE VALUE	NATIONAL VALUE
Landscape	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
Unique views	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
National park	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
State park/forest	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Trout farm	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
Walking tracks	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Local business	✓	✓		✓			
Long term ecological sustainability	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Historical sites	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Overall water quality	✓	✓		✓	✓		
Simmonds creek	✓	✓	✓	✓			
Local Water supply	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Downstream water supply	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
4wd recreation	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Walking	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

What are the priority natural hazards and risks?

The priority natural hazards for Harrietville are currently identified as

- Bushfire
- Local flood, and
- Landslides

Key issues and vulnerabilities

Major issues

- **No local Medical facility or community 1st aid;**
- **Local Harrietville Fire Brigade provides the only local emergency response for fire, flood, accidents etc....**
- **No community Fireguard**
Local fireguard groups, connections and activities no longer exist in the town
- **Potential closure of the Great Alpine Road before, during and after emergencies**
- **Local radio tower maybe subject to cancellation due to fire** – there may be intermittent in car reception from alternative sources.

- **Limited Mobile phone coverage**
Telstra available, no vodaphone – locals know this, but tourists are ill equipped

Free to air/digital TV reception comes via a tower along with one ABC radio station that could vulnerable to fire.

(e.g. many have Foxtel or a remote satellite system that can be affected by poor weather and snow on dish)

- **Internet connections restricted**
Telstra has advised that it will not provide new connections and NBN is not available
- **High fire Danger Days and Code Red Days**
Leave or don't leave?
Local weather patterns are not reflective of the broader region
Potential safety risks v repeat business risks
- **Community Hall/NSP**
The Harrietville Community Hall is also the Neighborhood Safer Place/Place of last resort

Confusion over management of the hall that may become place of last resort

Consider informal shelter options/evacuation point e.g. tailings area

The use of the Hall and its definition within emergency plans is still to be resolved and is a critical deficiency. It is possible that hundreds/over 1000 people may be isolated by a sudden emergency or unexpected and quick moving fire near Harrietville.

Other issues

Minimal links and local information in the Municipal Emergency Management Plan

- Social, economic and environmental values are not always included in decision making processes
- Almost all existing Agency plans omit or minimise community in the sense of social and economic factors the impact of long term environmental damage on communities such as Harrietville. This does not adequately recognise the risks and consequences of planning and operational procedures on long term resilience and sustainability.
- Consider other priority hazards of bushfire, flood and landslide e.g. storm
- Potential negative perceptions by the broader tourist community, that Harrietville was devastated by the 'Harrietville Fire' that was predominantly in the bush.



Photo by Brian Eddy

Other discussion points/potential actions to be considered in support of achieving the short, medium and long term goals.

Short term goals to be 'safer' (1-2 years)

- Support locals and visitors to understand priority hazards and risks; and contribute toward developing solutions by participating in local activities. Assess if visitors feel safer as the town becomes safer
- Work with the local community and organisations to complete each item in a 'safer and more resilient Harrietville checklist (to be developed)
- Support agencies and organisations to improve their maintenance/ programs to ensure that Harrietville is well prepared and connected 'before, during and after' emergencies
- Seek formal feedback from local community and broader stakeholders to continually improve
- Annually review the plan by HCF/Alpine Shire Council/Harrietville Fire Brigade and other organisations

Medium term goals to adapt (1-5 years)

- Work with Alpine Shire Council to upgrade the Community Hall/NSP

Engage with local business to:

- Support the development and ongoing maintenance of emergency and business continuity plans.
- Consider a benchmarking/program for businesses to ensure that obligations are met and used as a positive drawcard for the town. This may become a community level 'team effort' and provide Harrietville and the region with a major business advantage.
- Consider a broader project with other communities, Alpine Shire Council, North East Tourism and other stakeholders, to develop and connect a series of safer and more resilient communities and towns along the Great Alpine Road tourist route

Long term goals to develop a safer, more resilient and preferred future (1-10+ years)

- Work with the Alpine Shire Council to integrate the implementation of this Harrietville CEMP into the broader Harrietville Sustainability project under VASP.



building local community resilience

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Harrietville Community Emergency Management Plan

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