

PREPARE. ACT. SURVIVE.

Be Fire Ready

Dear Resident

The township of Warrandyte encompasses sections of both the City of Manningham and the Shire of Nillumbik and has been identified by the State Government as one of the 52 Victorian communities at high risk from bushfire.

Warrandyte residents, north and south of the Yarra River are united by a common concern to protect human life and retain much of what residents love about Warrandyte – its bushy, natural environment. We are all very concerned about the upcoming fire season.

As Chief Executives of these two municipalities, we believe it is important to speak directly to our communities about what preparations our Councils have already undertaken.

Over recent months both Councils have been working closely with the Country Fire Authority (CFA) and other authorities to identify and undertake fire prevention works to minimise the risk to the local community. Further details on this work can be found on both Councils' websites.

A Township Protection Plan is being prepared by the CFA in conjunction with both Councils. Key operational planning factors have been identified such as traffic management points and essential infrastructure to ensure authorities are in the best shape possible to respond to the threat of bushfire.

An important part of this work is to try and find a Neighbourhood Safer Place – a place of last resort.

Assessments of sites are still being undertaken in this area. But due to the important criteria necessary for such an area or facility to comply, at this point in time, there are NO neighbourhood safer places in Warrandyte/North Warrandyte and it is unlikely that there will be any for the 2009/10 bushfire season.

In Warrandyte/North Warrandyte it is vital to plan to leave early on high risk days and preferably the night before a Code Red day. You will all be aware that when leaving Warrandyte the road network can be heavily congested particularly at peak times and around the bridge. It is anticipated this would be even more congested during a time of extreme fire risk.

The message from the CFA is that on Code Red days when fire risk is at its most extreme, your personal bushfire plan should be to leave and leave early, you should not plan to defend your property.

Know where you are going and plan your journey allowing plenty of time for the problems traffic congestion can cause. While the police will have traffic management points in the Warrandyte area, should the area be under attack from bushfire, traffic congestion will still occur.

Your personal safety must be your top priority and the safest option is always to leave before bushfire threatens. Bushfires kill and the only way to ensure your safety is to be well away from the threat.

Included in this pack is a factsheet and a fridge magnet with clear messaging to help you understand the risks of living in this bushfire prone area. There is also an adhesive information label which can be put on the inside of the car windscreen with relevant phone numbers to assist on days when you may need to leave Warrandyte/North Warrandyte.

Our hope is that the township of Warrandyte, and indeed the whole of Victoria, remains fire free this summer. But the only way to ensure your safety and that of your family is to plan ahead and be fire ready.

Yours sincerely



Lydia Wilson
CHIEF EXECUTIVE
MANNINGHAM CITY COUNCIL



Bill Forrest
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
NILLUMBIK SHIRE COUNCIL

**NO SAFER PLACES
IN WARRANDYTE/
NORTH WARRANDYTE**

You must have your own bushfire survival plan.

Leave early in the morning or on the night before a Code Red day in Warrandyte.

Plan for congestion on the roads on Severe, Extreme and Code Red days – especially at the bridge and road junctions.

There are no Community Refuges or Relief Centres in Warrandyte.



**FOR FIRE
INFORMATION
AND UPDATES:**

Call the Victorian
Bushfire Information
Line on 1800 240 667

Listen to 774 ABC
Melbourne radio

Log on to
www.cfa.vic.gov.au

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in Warrandyte/
North Warrandyte