

Towong Municipal Emergency Management Planning Committee



Meeting details			
Date and time	Thursday Sept 4 2025 10:00am		Meeting #3
	MINUTES		
Location	Tallangatta TICC		
Chair (Delegate)	Mark Florence	Secretariat	Sven Erikson

Members (voting members)	
Agriculture Victoria	
Ambulance Victoria	Rob Decker teams
Australian Red Cross	Lynne Jones teams
Emergency Recovery Victoria	Rebecca Postlethwaite
Country Fire Authority	
Community Rep	Sean Farrar
Community Rep	Sharyn Nankervis
Community Rep	
Community Rep	Warren Lukins
Department of Families, Fairness and Housing	Colleen Nash teams
Department of Health	
Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action	Dave Jenson
Towong Shire Council	Mark Florence (Chair)
Victoria State Emergency Services (SES)	Scott Richter
Victoria Police	
Apologies	Trevor Ebbels, Eilidh Grigg, Linda Shields, Diana Hobbs, Chris Parr, Christy Jackson/ Garry Simpson, Kylie Macreadie, Kate Rowe
Observer	Jenny McCoy

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1	10.00	Welcome - Acknowledgement of country - Chair's introduction - Apologies	Mark Florence																																									
2	10.02	Minutes of Previous Meeting Minutes of the previous meeting were circulated before the meeting. Motion: That the previous June 05, 2025, minutes are approved Mover: Warren Lukins Seconder: Sean Farrar	Mark Florence	Towong MEMPC Minutes - Draft 05-06-25.docx																																								
3	10.05	Review of action items <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Action Number</th><th>Action Description</th><th>Action Required</th><th>Member Responsible</th><th>Action Status</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>138</td><td>Heat and Pandemic Risk and CERA</td><td>Move to the Bom definition of Heat in CERA</td><td>Scott Richter-SES</td><td>In Progress</td></tr> <tr> <td>139</td><td>Heat and Pandemic Risk and CERA</td><td>Change to descriptions around night temp and day temp and mention climate change increasing frequency, more local data</td><td>Scott Richter-SES</td><td>In Progress</td></tr> <tr> <td>140</td><td>Heat and Pandemic Risk and CERA</td><td>Christy Jackson to provide risk description comments to Sven Erikson and Scott Richter</td><td>Christy Jackson - DoH</td><td>Completed</td></tr> <tr> <td>140</td><td>Heat and Pandemic Risk and CERA</td><td>Form a Heat working group to include AV,SES,Com Rep Diana Hobbs, DFFH and DoH</td><td>Sven Erikson-Secretariat</td><td>In Progress</td></tr> <tr> <td>141</td><td>Drought</td><td>Ag Vic to Provide contact details for the Rural Assitance Commisioner</td><td>Kylie Macreadie - AgVic</td><td>Completed</td></tr> <tr> <td>142</td><td>Municipal Fire Planning Committee</td><td>Towong MFMP to be submitted for assurance with the Hume REMPC,. Sven Erikson to follow up how the process works</td><td>Sven Erikson-Secretariat</td><td>In Progress</td></tr> <tr> <td>143</td><td>Municipal Animal Welfare Planning</td><td>The Secretariat will investigate what other MEMPCs are doing regarding animal welfare and report back to the MEMPC in September.</td><td>Sven Erikson-Secretariat</td><td>In Progress</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	Action Number	Action Description	Action Required	Member Responsible	Action Status	138	Heat and Pandemic Risk and CERA	Move to the Bom definition of Heat in CERA	Scott Richter-SES	In Progress	139	Heat and Pandemic Risk and CERA	Change to descriptions around night temp and day temp and mention climate change increasing frequency, more local data	Scott Richter-SES	In Progress	140	Heat and Pandemic Risk and CERA	Christy Jackson to provide risk description comments to Sven Erikson and Scott Richter	Christy Jackson - DoH	Completed	140	Heat and Pandemic Risk and CERA	Form a Heat working group to include AV,SES,Com Rep Diana Hobbs, DFFH and DoH	Sven Erikson-Secretariat	In Progress	141	Drought	Ag Vic to Provide contact details for the Rural Assitance Commisioner	Kylie Macreadie - AgVic	Completed	142	Municipal Fire Planning Committee	Towong MFMP to be submitted for assurance with the Hume REMPC,. Sven Erikson to follow up how the process works	Sven Erikson-Secretariat	In Progress	143	Municipal Animal Welfare Planning	The Secretariat will investigate what other MEMPCs are doing regarding animal welfare and report back to the MEMPC in September.	Sven Erikson-Secretariat	In Progress	Sven Erikson	MEMPC - Towong - Action Register 2025.XLSX
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4	10.10	Correspondence - Agency Report – DFFH - o Recognition of councils’ work on the Vulnerable Persons Register. - o Upcoming Social Services Sector Emergency Management Engagement Forum – 1 October (online). - o Emergency Accommodation Common Planning Tool to be updated. - o LGV issued a new guide to psychosocial support. - Agency Report – SES - o New Chief Officer Operations appointed - Alistair Drayton - o High risk weather season – shifted forward - o Weather indicator of a wetter than average spring - o Minor flooding may occur - Agency Report – ERV - o Provided quarterly update on recovery initiatives in the Hume region. - o ERVs preparing for the high-risk weather season. - Agency Report – DoH - Agency Report – ARC - Run Upper Murray Event Plan - Transmoto Enduro	Sven Erikson	DFFH South East Unit MEMPC Agency Report August 2025.pdf SES Hume Region Agency MEMPC Report April-June 2025.pdf ERV MEMPC Report - Hume - Q3 .pdf Q3 2025 DH EM Agency Report- Towong- September 2025.pdf RUM Event Plan 2025.pdf Red Cross MEMPC Report - Sept 2025 (2) (002).docx

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		○ – Event Management Plan scheduled for 20 September (event plan circulated). Dave Jenson noted the plan was only signed off on Sept 4 and the event is the following weekend ○ Transmoto Enduro Revised Track Plan		Transmoto 8-Hour Enduro Eskdale VIC Event Management Plan.pdf Transmoto 8-Hour Enduro Eskdale VIC Revised Track Plan.pdf
5	10.15	CERA Review - Risks ○ Power outage ▪ AusNet recently presented to the Hume Relief and Recovery Subcommittee. ▪ Focus on power outages and vulnerable communities. ▪ AusNet deploying mobile “Starlink” units to support affected areas. ▪ AusNet exploring regional engagement opportunities but remains difficult to secure attendance at MEMPCs. ▪ Ongoing concern around vegetation management near power lines. ▪ Difficulty in achieving coordinated agency engagement. ○ Telecommunications ▪ Mitta Valley consultations identified ongoing mobile coverage issues. ▪ Businesses reported transaction failures; one pub had to close due to lack of signal. ▪ Mitta Valley remains the highest-risk telecommunications area. ▪ Network congestion occurs during peak events (e.g., Essendon home games). ▪ Some rural areas have limited or no service due to topography. ○ Landslide – SES doing work in this space ▪ SES leading work on landslide management and response. ▪ Alpine MEMPC pushing for a dedicated sub-plan following 2022 landslides.	Scott Richter	

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		▪ Erosion Management Overlays being developed in council planning schemes. ▪ Presentation on landslide risk planned for 2026. ▪ Discussion included ownership and responsibility during incidents (e.g., road ownership). ACTION: Schedule December meeting for CERA to cover Power and Telcommunications – Invite Ausnet and Telstra. ACTION: Landslide Risk for CERA to be scheduled for the March 2026 Meeting.		
6	10.25	Dry Conditions and Drought – - Strong community uptake of grant support via Ag Vic - Towong leading in the number of grants approved. - Three-month forecast suggests a wetter-than-average spring – cautious optimism noted.	Ag Vic – Jeff Cave/Proxy	
7	10.30	Update: from sub-committees Fire Management Sub-Committee - Committee Update ○ VFRR ▪ Priority: Updating the Victorian Fire Risk Register (Schedule for September 17th). ▪ CFA Risk Team to reassess municipal risk factors and target high-risk properties. ▪ Incorporating local knowledge into assessments encouraged, even for small clusters of properties. ▪ Updates will also capture grassfire risk. ○ Chair rotates between Forest Fire Management Victoria (FFMVic) and CFA every two years. ○ AFAC Outlook - ▪ Outlook for spring shows reduced risk indicators (“Red area” removed from Towong area).	Trevor Ebbels	

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		Wet spring expected to produce moderate growth, not significant fire risk.		
8	10.40	MEMP, Sub Plan and Complementary plans – Review and Development - MEMP 2027 - Working group update – working group form and is in the research and benchmarking stage - Flood and Storm Plan – Update – Scott Richter - Towong Flood and Storm Sub-Plan due for review by June 2026. - Drafting to commence soon, with targeted community engagement. - Emphasis on usability and avoiding duplication across sub-plans. - overhauling sub-plans to include a core document with annexes for sensitive flood intelligence (non-public). - Annexes accessible to EM agencies via MEV/EMV portals.	Sven Erikson	
9	10.45	Capability assessments - EMV requesting committee self-assessment of planning capability. 30 assessment items scored 1–4 (from “Informal” to “Self-sustaining”). - Discussion covered: - Clear roles and responsibilities - Governance and systems - People and resources - Community engagement and information sharing - Key ratings summary (discussion-based): - Processes: 4 (consistent and reviewed) - Governance: 4 (strong structures and documentation) - Resources: 4 (adequate and accessible) - Systems: 3–4 (some inconsistency, e.g., SharePoint usage) - Community Engagement: 3 - Information Sharing: 2 (subcommittees not consistently communicating outcomes)	Sven Erikson	

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		ACTION: Secretariat to compile evidence of exercised plans. ACTION: Each agency to confirm recent exercises and participants. ACTION: Plan to schedule Towong desktop exercise in early 2026.		
10	11.40	Confirm any new action items - Summarised in the actions register	All	MEMPC - Towong - Action Register 2025.XLSX
11	11.45	General Business - Personnel: - Steve Contessa appointed District Chief Fire Officer (effective 6 October). - Infrastructure: - Towong Hall now generator-equipped with gas hot water – can operate standalone for up to 100 people. - Dave Jenson asked Council for the contact for the Corryong Aerodrome ACTION: Sven Erikson to provide Council contact to Dave Jenson for the Corryong Aerodrome - Agencies - Suggestion for MEMPC to send condolences/support Letter to local police force following the recent Porepunkah shooting incident and manhunt. ACTION: Chair to draft and send letter on behalf of the MEMPC to local Vic Pol Meeting closed at 11:50 AEST Next meeting confirmed for 10am, Dec 4, 2025 – MS Teams	Chair	