

VICSES

Evacuation Preparedness Assessment Project

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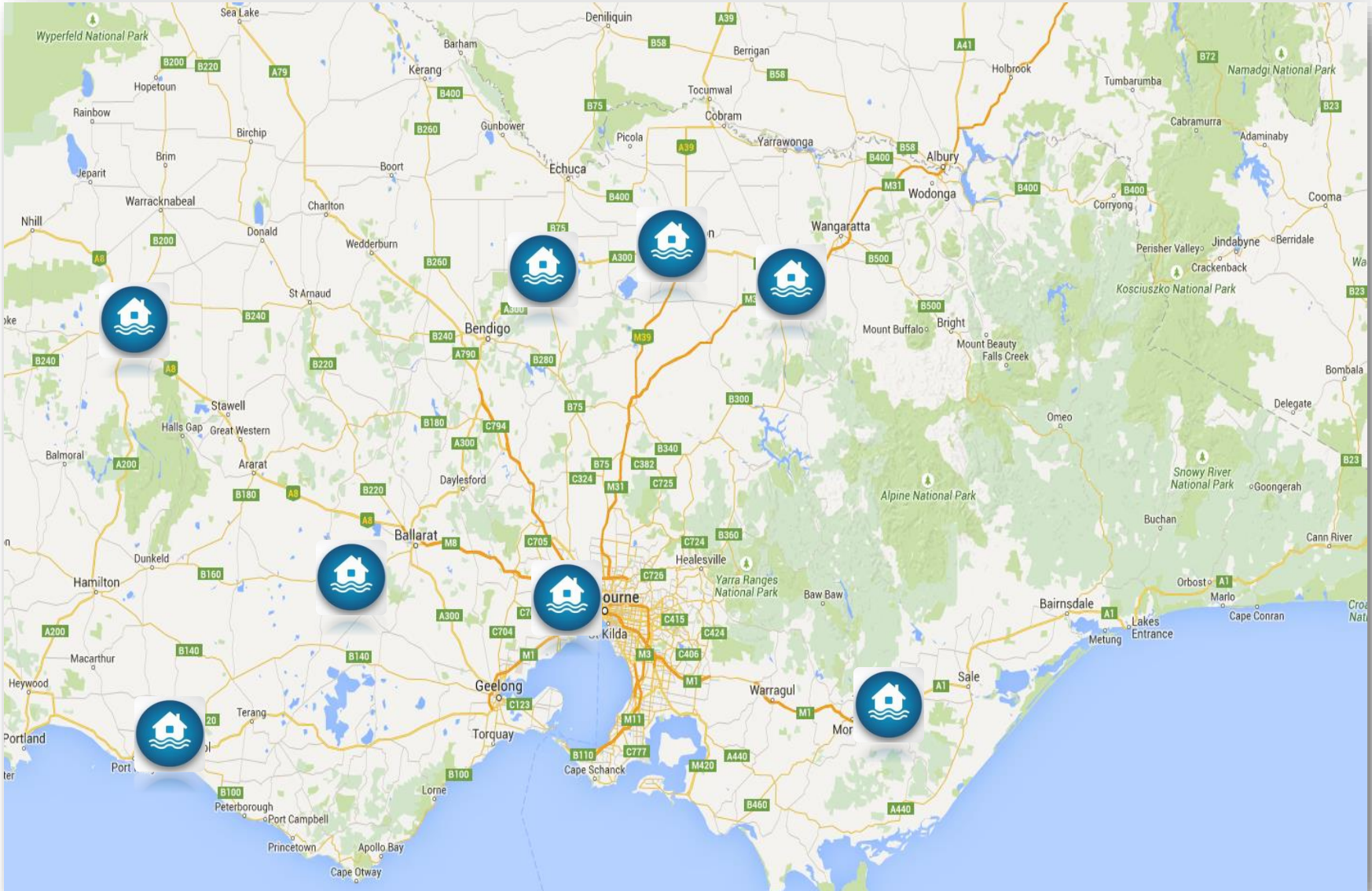


Before – During – After

- Eight targeted communities at risk
- Key evacuation considerations
- Agreed responsibilities & actions
- Develop localised evacuation arrangements
- Operationalising an evacuation



Priority Townships





The Evacuation Process

A process that steps through a range of considerations related to the five stages of evacuation:

- Decision
- Warning
- Withdrawal,
- Shelter, and
- Return

Places the community at the centre of decision making.



Project Key Desired Outcomes

Evacuation Assessment Project:

- Pilot communities have a greater understanding of the risk of flood in a particular area, and are empowered to make evacuation decisions based on comprehensive flood risk information.
- VICSES will ensure that they provide a comprehensive, sustainable approach to flood evacuation planning.
- All VICSES regions will have clearer understanding of evacuation arrangements, flood risks and knowledge of how to implement flood evacuation for their areas of responsibility.



Charlton Case Study



Local Flood Guide



FloodSafe

Charlton

Flood information for the Avoca River at Charlton



Charlton Case Study

- Started with a regional (North West Vic) flood exercise
 - Including evacuation modelling
 - Impacting Rochester and Charlton.
 - All relevant agencies attended plus key community representatives.
 - View to update the Municipal Flood Emergency Plan (MFEP)
- Key take away from the exercise based on the modelling was “the less people we need to evacuate the better off we’ll be.”
- Then organised separate community forums in Charlton and Rochester.



Charlton - This was the plan

- Community had experienced significant flooding in 2011.
- 1. Identify triggers for action
- 2. Identify the sources of flood intelligence and how they inform evacuation decision making
- 3. Identify the areas at risk of flooding where evacuation might be necessary. (i.e. inundation, isolation, indirect threat)
- 4. Identify any critical infrastructure that might present an indirect threat to the community
- 5. Modify response plans based on the predicted consequence
- 6. Identify evacuation training and exercising needs.



Charlton Case Study 2015

- Community Forum had good attendance but after an hour or so it wasn't quite going anywhere.
- The light-bulb moment – “What is this thing called?”
- Evacuation? – If you've got to tell us to evacuate at the last minute, we've failed.
 - Should be to 'self-relocate' based on the information available.

Charlton Case Study

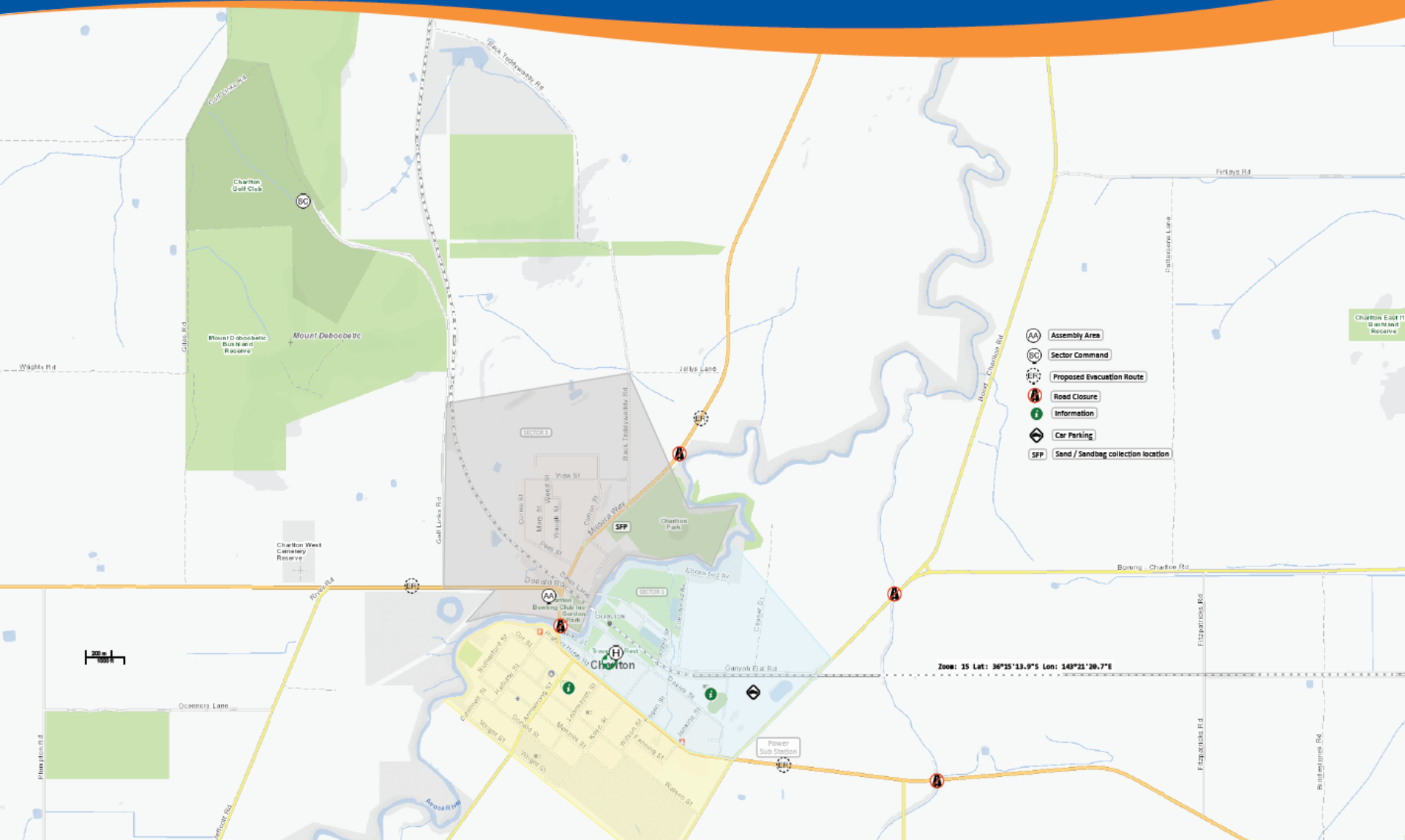
- Project shifted:
 - Information, education and self-relocation rather than 'evacuation'
 - How do we as agencies assist?
 - More about preparedness and planning considerations with community
- Some vulnerable streets and priority areas highlighted in terms of recommendation to evacuate
- But the outcomes were very much met through community led process



Charlton Case Study

- One of the Charlton outputs was a placemat.
- Contains information on:
 - Sand and sandbagging sites
 - Evacuation routes
 - Roads likely to be impassable
 - Meeting points

Flood Triggers for Charlton Township





Local Flood Guide













Charlton

Flood information for the Avoca River at Charlton



Charlton Trigger Chart

Know your risk

TIME TO IMPACT CHARLTON						A prepared community can reduce the risk to life and property and increase its capability to recover.	
EVENT TYPE	AVOCA CATCHMENT ABOVE CHARLTON 24 HOURS	YAWONG WEIR GAUGE ABOVE AVOCA RIVER 6 HOURS	IMPACT & ACTIONS TO CHARLTON TOWNSHIP	CHARLTON TOWN AHD GAUGE (SAMEL PATTERSON BRIDGE) ABOVE AVOCA RIVER 0 HOURS	CHARLTON DOWNSIDE GAUGE	COMMUNITY RESPONSE CONSIDERATIONS	WHAT TO DO WHEN A FLOOD IS LIKELY
 Emergency Warning You are in immediate danger and need to take action now. You will be impacted. Major Flood Event.	Recommendation of Evacuation in large parts of town Avoca catchment is saturated and further heavy rain is predicted	6.09	Flood Peak 2011	8.60	8.05	What to do if you need to evacuate Use the following guidelines during an evacuation: ▲ Act Now – take immediate precautions to protect your life and property ▲ Raise belongings by placing them on tables, beds and benches, or move them to higher ground ▲ Collect important documents, mementos, photos and pets and take them with you when you evacuate ▲ Take three days' supply of clothing and medications with you Turn off electricity and gas at the mains and lock you doors and windows when you evacuate ▲ Remaining in your home or business during flooding is dangerous and may put your life at risk	 RECOMMENDATION TO EVACUATE An evacuation is recommended or procedures are in place to evacuate.
		5.84	Calder Highway & other roads closed Peak of Jan 2011 flood in Charlton	8.57 (200 Year AR)			
		5.58	Most of Charlton inundated with over floor flooding	8.03 (20 Year AR)			
		5.48	River rd, Yeungroon Rd, Five Mile Rd, Seven Mile Rd, Nine Mile Rd, Boort Rd - Charlton Rd & Calder Highway impassable Railway line inundated in town Most of Charlton inundated	7.91	7.30	What to do during major flooding Use the following guidelines to stay safe during major flooding: ▲ Act Quickly – conditions can change rapidly be prepared to evacuate if advised by authorities ▲ If you are likely to become isolated, make sure that you have enough food, water, medication and pet food, and be aware that you may need to live without power, water and sewerage ▲ Raise belongings by placing them on tables, beds and benches, or move them to higher ground ▲ Block toilets, household drains, sinks and plugs to stop sewerage backflow	 Stack electrical and valuable items on benches and tables  BE PREPARED TO EVACUATE
		5.38	Calder Highway, Boort Rd & St Arnaud Rd closed 70% of town inundated including the police station CBD and residential area on east side of town begins to flood Water against Charlton - St Arnaud Rd & Boort Charlton Rd Flooding into town from the south adjacent to the Driver Education Centre Minor inundation of properties adjacent to the main drainage path through town and along Learmouth, Mendies, Donald and Wright Streets	7.80 (10 Year AR)			
		5.00	Current major flood level	7.41 (5 Year AR) 7.00	7.00		
 Warning Moderate Flood Event	ROM Moderate flood watch prediction for Avoca The river gauge reaches 136.119AHD at Yawong Weir and is rising	3.40	Sand bagging of some properties in High St Water over Calder Hwy Current moderate flood levels	5.00	5.00	What to do during moderate flooding Use the following guidelines to stay safe during moderate flooding: ▲ Act Quickly – conditions can change rapidly ▲ If you are likely to become isolated, make sure you have enough food, drinking water, medications and pet food	 Move rubbish bins, chemicals and poisons to the highest possible place  Follow your emergency plan and locate your emergency kit
 Advice An incident is occurring or has occurred in the area Current Minor Flood Level ROM Minor flood watch prediction for Avoca Persistent heavy rain (eg 30mm or more within 24 hrs) across the catchment above Charlton and in Avoca River Catchment		2.30	Boort Wycheproof Rd overtopped Current Minor Flood Level	3.50	3.50	What to do during minor flooding Use the following guidelines to stay safe during minor flooding: ▲ Stay Informed – monitor local conditions and be aware of the situation ▲ Farmers should prepare to move machinery and livestock to higher ground ▲ Tune into your emergency broadcasters: ABC Local Radio, commercial radio and designated community radio stations, or SKY NEWS Television ▲ Ensure your family members and neighbours are aware of the situation	 Listen to your radio for information and advice  Keep in contact with your neighbours

Additional message that may be used are:



ALL CLEAR
Emergency activity in the area has subsided and is no longer a danger to you.



COMMUNITY UPDATE
Specific information and updates for affected communities regarding a particular event or incident.



RECOMMENDATION TO EVACUATE
An evacuation is recommended or procedures are in place to evacuate.

If it's Flooded, Forget it.

Charlton Case Study

- Outcomes were good. Applied the principles but not beholden to the steps.
- Tested by flooding in Charlton late last year (2016).
 - Not to the extent of 2011
 - Didn't get past a 'prepare to evacuate' message
 - Evidence of community self-relocating – their triggers
 - 700+ at each community meeting in Charlton
- After Action Review in Charlton following 2016 floods
 - No doubt better off from the 2015 engagement
- Leave-early, self-relocation, relocation, evacuation, rescue – Sometimes not much difference from community perspective.

Questions

