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
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.
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

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

Charlton

Flood information for the Avoca River at Charlton
## Charlton Trigger Chart

### TIME TO IMPACT CHARLTON

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event Type</th>
<th>Assign Critical</th>
<th>Assign Critical Charts</th>
<th>Assign Critical 24 Hours</th>
<th>Assign Critical Webpage</th>
<th>Impact &amp; Actions (Out of Total 10)</th>
<th>Charlton 24%</th>
<th>Charlton 48%</th>
<th>Charlton 72%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6.09</td>
<td>Flood Peak 2013</td>
<td>8.70</td>
<td>8.60</td>
<td>8.05</td>
<td>8.05</td>
<td>8.05</td>
<td>8.05</td>
<td>8.05</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.84</td>
<td>Colden Highwy &amp; other roads closed</td>
<td>8.57</td>
<td>8.57</td>
<td>8.03</td>
<td>8.03</td>
<td>8.03</td>
<td>8.03</td>
<td>8.03</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.58</td>
<td>Most of Charlton inundated with river flooding</td>
<td>8.03</td>
<td>8.03</td>
<td>7.91</td>
<td>7.91</td>
<td>7.91</td>
<td>7.91</td>
<td>7.91</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.48</td>
<td>River Charlton Rd, Elders Rd, South St Rd &amp; West Rd - Charlton Rd &amp; Colden Highwy impassable</td>
<td>7.91</td>
<td>7.91</td>
<td>7.80</td>
<td>7.80</td>
<td>7.80</td>
<td>7.80</td>
<td>7.80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.00</td>
<td>Current major flood level</td>
<td>7.41</td>
<td>7.41</td>
<td>7.00</td>
<td>7.00</td>
<td>7.00</td>
<td>7.00</td>
<td>7.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.80</td>
<td>Colden Highwy, footpath closed, river with road flooding</td>
<td>7.00</td>
<td>7.00</td>
<td>6.80</td>
<td>6.80</td>
<td>6.80</td>
<td>6.80</td>
<td>6.80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.40</td>
<td>Colden Highwy, footpath closed, river with road flooding</td>
<td>7.00</td>
<td>7.00</td>
<td>6.80</td>
<td>6.80</td>
<td>6.80</td>
<td>6.80</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.00</td>
<td>Colden Highwy, footpath closed, river with road flooding</td>
<td>7.00</td>
<td>7.00</td>
<td>6.80</td>
<td>6.80</td>
<td>6.80</td>
<td>6.80</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.60</td>
<td>Colden Highwy, footpath closed, river with road flooding</td>
<td>7.00</td>
<td>7.00</td>
<td>6.80</td>
<td>6.80</td>
<td>6.80</td>
<td>6.80</td>
<td>6.80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.00</td>
<td>Colden Highwy, footpath closed, river with road flooding</td>
<td>7.00</td>
<td>7.00</td>
<td>6.80</td>
<td>6.80</td>
<td>6.80</td>
<td>6.80</td>
<td>6.80</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

### COMMUNITY RESPONSE CONSIDERATIONS

**A prepared community can reduce the risk to life and property and increase its capability to recover.**

#### What to do if you need to evacuate

- **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 your doors and windows when you evacuate
- **Remain 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.

- Stock electrical and valuable items on benches and tables
- BE PREPARED TO EVACUATE

#### What to do during major flooding

- **Act Quickly** – conditions can change rapidly and prepare 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 sewage**
- **Raise belongings by placing them on tables, beds and benches, or move them to higher ground**
- **Block toilets, household drains, sinks and plugholes to stop sewage backflow**

**Recommendation to Evacuate**

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

- Move rubble, bins, chairs and tables to the highest possible place
- FOLLOW YOUR EMERGENCY PLAN AND LOCATE YOUR EMERGENCY KIT

#### What to do during moderate flooding

- **Act Quickly** – conditions can change rapidly
- **If you are likely to become isolated, make sure that you have enough food, drinking water, medications and pet food**

**Recommendation to Evacuate**

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

- Listen to your radio for information and advice
- KEEP IN CONTACT WITH YOUR NEIGHBOURS

#### What to do 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**
- **Take into your emergency travel essentials, A W / Local Radio, community radio and designated community radio stations, or SKY NEWS Television**
- **Ensure your family members and neighbours are aware of the situation**

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**If it’s Flooded, Forget it.**
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.