

Community Emergency Management Plan

Nindi–Ngujarn Ngarigo Monero Aboriginal Corporation (NNNMAC)

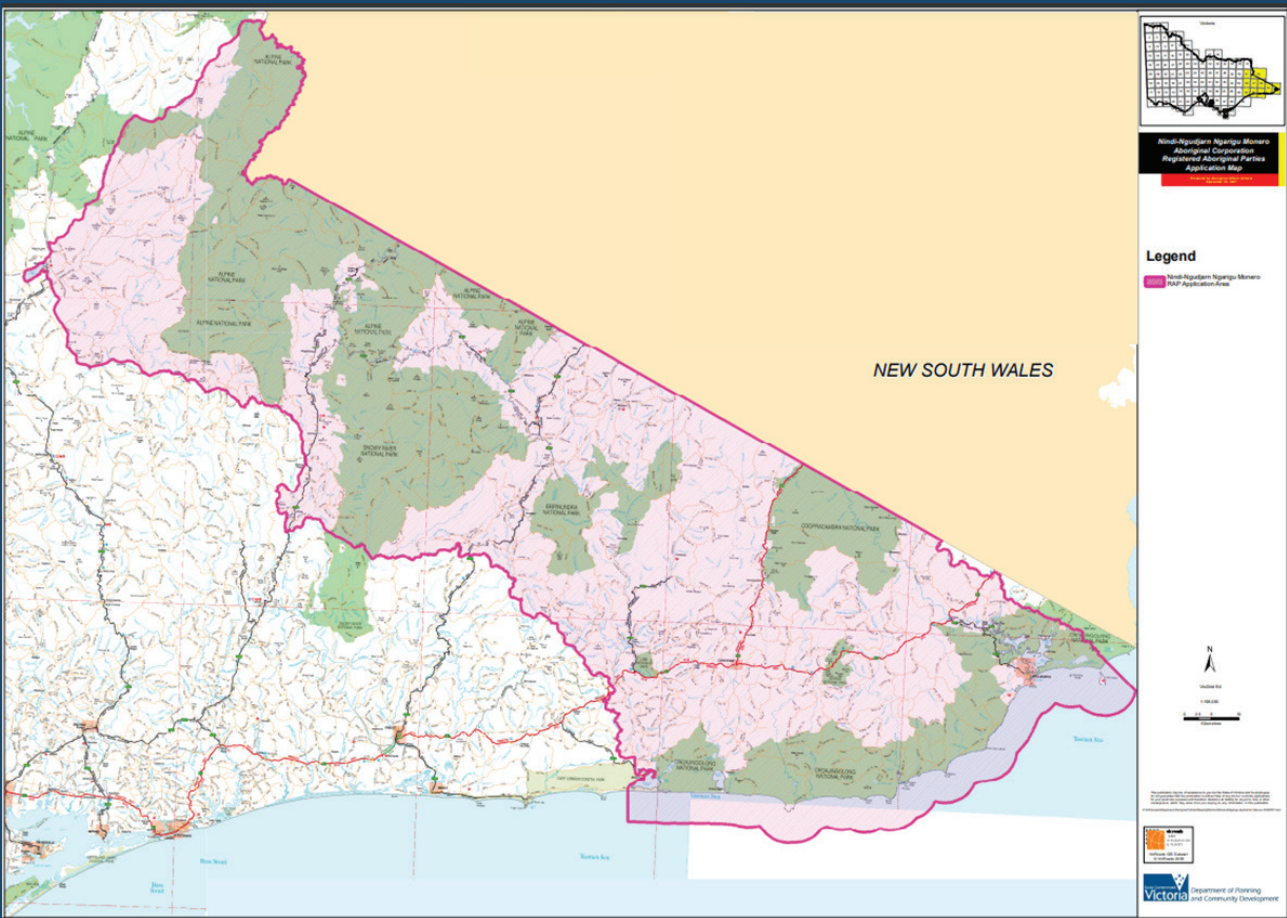
Nindi–Ngujarn Ngarigo Monero Aboriginal Corporation (NNNM) have interests as a First Nation Community in large areas of East Gippsland, including areas of the Alpine NP, Snowy River NP, Errinundra NP, Cooracambra NP and Croajingolong NP (see RAP Application map below).

“We are the Ngargio Monero people, our people have always been connected to the coastline as well as the mountains. Our continual connection to places, sites and stories is caring for ancestral lands, our cultural practices are held in our collective knowledge and has been shared down the generations. Ngarigo Monero continue to maintain our cultural obligations and responsibilities to our Elders and Ancestors and country”.

“Our special places are connected to our knowledge and stories and in caring for country. Our rivers were our pathways for our Old People to connect to special places. Our oral stories shared down the generations are rich in their knowledge.”

Our Country straddles the Australian Capital Territory (ACT), New South Wales (NSW) and Victoria (VIC) and holds a variety of different ecological areas and nationally unique natural and geological features. It is home to a variety of flora and fauna to which we are spiritually and culturally connected. From Mountain Ranges, Snow Plains, thick cool temperate rain-forest to Rivers and Coastal Regions.

This **NNNM Community Emergency Management Plan** (CEMP) supports our emergency management arrangements. This CEMP sets out how we respond as a community in an emergency. Our community actions below focus on the key activities taken by our community and the support we require from Agencies. The NNNM Aboriginal Corporation are committed to sharing knowledge and continuing to work closely with partner agencies to improve the management of our cultural landscapes in East Gippsland.



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Before Any Emergency Starts (Pre-season)



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Information

- Our people live in a range of locations across East Gippsland.
- We currently do not have Satellite Internet Service in case the phone network is compromised. We would like this to be provided for an emergency.
- Key Contacts into NNNM:
 - ◊ Aunty Doris Paton (0407 862 908)
- ABC Radio 828AM 100.7 FM
- ABC App
- Facebook – CFA and DEECA
- Emergency information: <https://www.emergency.vic.gov.au>



Phone numbers

- | | |
|---|--------------|
| • Police / Fire / Ambulance | 000 |
| (Call 112 for emergency where no phone reception) | |
| • VicRoads | 13 1170 |
| • Vic Emergency Hotline | 1800 226 226 |
| • State Emergency Service | 13 2500 |
| • Hearing Impaired, call text phone TTY | 1800 122 969 |
| • DEECA | 13 6186 |
| • Parks Victoria | 13 1963 |
| • East Gippsland Shire Council | 03 5153 9500 |

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Before Emergency Occurs



Community Action

- Support community members and families to know their situation and develop a personal/family survival plan (including triggers for staying or leaving).
- Provide input into the DEECA Joint Fuel Management Plan (JFMP) as it relates to management of NNNM country.
- Engage with relevant Emergency Management agency staff and other stakeholders to ensure adequate preparation and planning.

Expectation of agency(s)

- DEECA and East Gippsland Shire Council ('Council') actively engages NNNM on all-hazards to ensure adequate preparation and planning.
- All emergency prevention planning and preparedness planning to occur in collaboration with NNNM to facilitate the protection of cultural values.
- Provide a level of 'base-funding' for NNNM to carry our Emergency Management functions that support ongoing engagement and input into emergency management planning, including: Joint Fuel Management Planning and Municipal Fire and Emergency Management Planning.

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During: Emergency Response



Community Action

- NNNM will support emergencies and provide advice and knowledge to Victorian Government agencies.
- As there is no Registered Aboriginal Party (RAP) over NNNM Country, we acknowledge the statutory responsibilities for Aboriginal heritage as outlined under the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006* rest with the Victorian Government. NNNM however wish to be actively involved as partners in providing Aboriginal heritage advice and knowledge before, during and after emergencies.
- NNNM will provide advice and knowledge, in collaboration with the Incident Management Team, as to appropriate course of action to minimise risk to cultural heritage from emergency and/or emergency management operations.
- NNNM also acknowledges the role of Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisations (ACCHO's) as primary health care services initiated and operated by the local Aboriginal community to deliver holistic, comprehensive, and culturally appropriate health care to the community which controls it.
- NNNM will continue to work collaboratively with ACCHO's across our area.

Expectation of agency(s)

- Advise NNNM contacts at first indication of emergency with potential to impact Country.
- Work collaboratively with NNNM to determine appropriate course of action/s to minimise risk to cultural heritage from emergency and/or emergency management operations.
- Include NNNM in all Emergency Management Team (EMT) meetings as a matter of course, including on email distribution list.
- Include a NNNM Emergency Management Liaison Officer (EMLO) in the IMT as a matter of course for emergencies impacting Country, unless NNNM deem this unnecessary. For prolonged emergencies (eg. campaign bushfires) NNNM will require financial support to maintain input.

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During: Communications



Community Action

- NNNM contacts (above) are the central point for all communications that relate to Aboriginal heritage. We will communicate with our community. We will also support the EMT to establish a system and approach that best meets the needs of our community – we can identify key people in each location and the right person to represent NNNM on the EMT.
- Ensure relevant agencies have up-to-date contact details for NNNM.

Expectation of agency(s)

- IMT to contact NNNM at the first instance of an emergency that may impact on NNNM and on Country.
- NNNM to be involved throughout emergency as a partner in Emergency Management.
- EMT to provide regular, up-to-date and accurate reports on situation through EMT meetings and direct phone calls to NNNM contacts as required.
- Maintain up-to-date contact lists of key NNNM personnel.

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During: Road closures



Community Action

- Community members to carry proof of address (eg. licence).
- Community members to advise of "pecuniary interest" at roadblock if returning home.

Expectation of agency(s)

- EMT to provide timely, accurate and current information about access routes (websites, VicEmergency App).
- Timely response to community members requests to clear road blockages.

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During: Pets / livestock



Community Action

- Relocate pets and livestock to safe areas.
- Ensure pets and livestock have sufficient food and water.

Expectation of agency(s)

- Provide guidelines and support for animal safety during emergencies.
- Assist with the transportation and sheltering of pets and livestock.
- Prioritise permits to allow stock and fodder transport.
- Prioritise vet access to community members.
- Coordinate with animal welfare organisations.

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During: Evacuation



Community Action

- We respect individuals' decisions to evacuate from home, remain at home, or relocate to Relief Centre.
- We will encourage vulnerable community members whose plan is to leave to evacuate early.
- We will provide support (where safe to do so) to community members who need to evacuate.

Expectation of agency(s)

- Respect individual decisions of community members to stay or leave.
- Provide adequate support to community members, particularly vulnerable community members, in evacuation and transport to Relief Centres.
- Clear, correct and concise information and key contacts provided to community about evacuations, convoys and road opening times.

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After: Relief & Recovery



Community Action

- Participate as appropriate in clean-up, relief and recovery activities.
- Provide support to vulnerable community members.
- Work collaboratively with agencies to develop a Recovery Plan that includes all needs of community and identifies threats to Aboriginal heritage and management actions.

Expectation of agency(s)

- Establish separate areas at each Relief Centre (or separate Relief Centre) for Aboriginal people that are culturally sensitive, culturally safe and culturally appropriate. Each Relief Centre to have an Aboriginal Liaison Officer who can provide for our needs, including coordinating supply of goods and services.
- Provide support for families whose homes are impacted and/or lost (immediate relief, rebuilding, relocation).
- Provide emotional, mental health and counselling services at the Relief Centre, appropriate to Aboriginal people.
- Facilitate key agencies (including Department of Families, Fairness and Housing, Department of Health) to be on-site at the Relief Centres to support rapid access to community needs.
- Develop a Recovery Plan that identifies threats to Aboriginal heritage and necessary management action is taken, including further survey.
- Support community members to return to Country as soon as possible to see damage and support healing of Country.
- Conduct post-fire cultural heritage surveys as soon as possible to understand impacts to Country and risk mitigation measures.