

Community Emergency Management Plan

Lake Tyers Aboriginal Trust



Lake Tyers Aboriginal Trust is located about 20 kilometres northeast of Lakes Entrance. We refer to ourselves as The Trust. We are surrounded by the lake of Lake Tyers to the east, south and west. Bushland (Lake Tyers State Park) adjoins the lake to the east, north and west. South of the lake is Ninety Mile Beach. Our location is remote, and we are required to be self-sufficient and independent. Nowa Nowa is 15km drive to the north and Lakes Entrance is 30km drive to the north and then south. We have a resident population of 150 people.

This **Lake Tyers Aboriginal Trust Community Emergency Management Plan** sets out how we respond as a community in an emergency. Our community actions below are key activities taken by our community in the first 72 hours of an emergency, before state and other agencies can physically attend. Our community is supported by the Lake Tyers Aboriginal Trust (LTAT) and Lake Tyers Health and Children's Service (LTHCS).

LTAT, established in 1971 under the Aboriginal Lands Act 1970, is a self-governing body that holds freehold title to 4,000 acres of land at Lake Tyers. The Trust was created to return land ownership and autonomy to the residents of the former Lake Tyers Mission. The Trust operates as a legal entity on behalf of its shareholders—those who lived at Lake Tyers between January 1968 and September 1970—and is responsible for managing the land, community governance, and cultural preservation. It oversees land use, infrastructure, and community development, and plays a vital role in maintaining cultural identity and connection to Country. The Trust also works with government bodies on initiatives such as bushfire recovery and community resilience planning. The Trust embodies a powerful symbol of Aboriginal self-determination and resistance. Its formation followed decades of protest against forced relocations and assimilation policies. Today, it continues to advocate for the rights and wellbeing of its community, ensuring that Lake Tyers remains a place of cultural strength and belonging.

LTHCS provides a wide range of high quality holistic health services free of charge by a dedicated team of qualified and experienced professionals and health workers. LTHCS offers ongoing preventive health screening, treatments for chronic conditions and diseases and gives opportunities for the committed staff to educate clients with the knowledge and information they need to better manage their own health. Services include: alcohol and drug counselling, diabetes education, General Practitioner, hearing services, immunisation, maternal and child health, men's health, women's health, pathology and podiatry.

1 Before Any Emergency Starts (Pre-season)



i Information

- There is currently no Satellite Internet Service. We would like this to be provided in an emergency.
- **Key Contacts into Community:**
 - ◊ Emergency Control Organisation (ECO) Chief Warden – Mikila Sharkie (CEO LTHCS) – 0447 645 455
- **ABC Radio 828AM 100.7 FM**
- **ABC App**
- **Facebook – CFA and DEECA**
- **UHF Channel 40**
- **Local UHF repeater required for Duplex capability**
- **Emergency information:**
<https://www.emergency.vic.gov.au>

Phone numbers

- **LTAT** 03 5156 5554
- **LTHCS** 03 5155 8500
- **Police / Fire / Ambulance** 000
(dial 112 to use satellite if no phone reception)
- **VicRoads** 13 11 70
- **Vic Emergency Hotline** 1800 226 226
- **State Emergency Service** 13 2500
- **Hearing Impaired, call text phone TTY** 1800 122 969
- **East Gippsland Shire Council** 03 5153 9500

2 Emergency (eg. Fire) Season Commences



LTAT & LTHCS Action	Expectation of agency(s)
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- Ensure Emergency Control Organisation (ECO) is in place, and people know roles, including training as required.
- Support families to know their situation and develop a personal/family survival plan (including triggers for staying or leaving).
- Fuel management around houses and Trust buildings and critical infrastructure.
- Prepare Lake Tyers Relief Centre, including annual exercise/drill, checking water supplies, generators, communications equipment, etc.
- Ensure firefighting capability (test Slip-On, Trailers, pumps, PPE, available people, water).
- Undertake informal community briefings.
- Provide input into the DEECA JFMP and seek to have at least 2 burns minimum (weather dependant) undertaken annually on Trust land.
- Investigate back up local satellite communications for community meetings (eg. EMT, CFA, DEECA).
- Check and practice using UHF Radio duplex (try to organise a repeater in advance).
- Support required to have each house connected to bore water supply with a dedicated fire hose.
- Check water points in the bush.

Pre-season

- DEECA supports input into small scale planned burn nominations for JFMP (at least 2 per year).
- DEECA/CFA supports delivery of at least two planned burns on Trust land annually (insurances & assurances sought from DEECA & CFA).
- Clarify agency key contacts including conversations (face to face annual meetings) in the lead up to emergency season (i.e. communication & expectations).
- East Gippsland Water and CFA to review bore water supplies for emergency purposes to reinstate emergency water to each residence.

Season commences

- DEECA to meet with Trust community for ICC planning.
- CFA volunteers re-familiarise with Ultra Light Tanker and other equipment (eg. water access, pumping, hose handling, etc.).

3 During: Emergency Occurs



LTAT & LTHCS Action	Expectation of agency(s)
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- LTAT & LTHCS will work collaboratively to support the LTAT community and engagement with emergency management Agencies.
- Refer individuals to Lake Tyers Aboriginal Trust Local Incident Management Plan for Information About What to do During a Fire.
- Keep well-stocked pantries, medications and fuel.
- Identify (visual/smell) where smoke is coming from and notify agencies accordingly.
- Notify all community members and situation.
- Open LTAT Relief Centre when opening triggers are met.
- Support community members to assemble promptly at the Relief Centre for further information.
- Support those who want to leave early to do so (to Relief Centre at West Bairnsdale Football Oval).
- Support those who want to stay to do so.
- Use VicEmergency App / website for updates.

- Advise LTAT CEO (ECO Chief Warden) and LTHCS CEO at first indication of fire in the landscape with potential to impact so that LTAT can be kept informed.
- No forced evacuation of community members – information to be provided and community members make own decision. If community members are to go on a bus it will only be to established Relief Centre at Bairnsdale West Football Oval.
- Include LTAT in Emergency Management Team (EMT) meetings as a matter of course.
- Support LTAT on-site Relief Centre with EMT Liaison Officer.
- **Establish culturally safe off-site Relief Centre at West Bairnsdale Football Oval to support LTAT community who decide to leave with dedicated assistance (ie. separate to mainstream Relief Centre).**

4 Communications

LTAT & LTHCS Action

- LTAT Relief Centre is the central point for all communications, with regular updates provided to community.
- Satellite/Wi-Fi/Mobile phone booster for charging phones to be provided at Relief Centre.
- Use mobile phones to stay in contact with key personnel.
- Use UHF Radio Handsets Ch 40.

Expectation of agency(s)

- EMT to provide regular, up-to-date and accurate reports on situation through EMT meetings and direct phone calls to LTAT contact as required.
- Satellite, internet and wi-fi calling enabled at LTAT Relief Centre.
- UHF Radio Handsets made available for community use.
- Maintain up-to-date contact lists of key LTAT personnel.

5 Power out

LTAT & LTHCS Action

- Power is necessary to sustain community and telecommunications infrastructure.
- Should power go out we have our back-up generator at the Relief Centre ready.

Expectation of agency(s)

- Relief Centre:
 - Ensure timely refuelling of generators to maintain Relief Centre operations.
 - Consider need for larger generators to power other facilities.
- Coordinate with utility providers for power restoration as soon as possible.
- Keep LTAT community informed about estimated restoration times.

6 Road closures

LTAT & LTHCS Action

- Avoid unnecessary travel out of LTAT in times of emergency.
- Community members to carry proof of address (eg. licence).
- Community members to advise of "pecuniary interest" at roadblock. (i.e. family at 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.
- Those enforcing road incident control protocols to be properly briefed about local hazards, conditions and to allow community members through.

7 Goods, food, water, fodder delivery

LTAT & LTHCS Action

- Have planned approach to receipt and storage of food, bottled water, donated goods, etc.
- Have structure and systems for equitable allocation to community members upon receipt of deliveries at Relief Centres.

Expectation of agency(s)

- Facilitate the delivery of essential goods and services (including feed for cattle and pets).
- Donated goods to be offered to community.
- Arrangements to be made with LTAT Emergency Control Organisation Chief Warden.
- Coordinate with local businesses to ensure continuity of supplies.
- Provide logistical support for large scale deliveries as needed.
- Ensure sustainable supply of potable water to LTAT.

8 Meals

LTAT & LTHCS Action

- Coordinate a list of community members and ECO Team Members who can support catering and meal preparation (rosters required).
- Ensure systems and processes for equitable allocation to community members.
- Prepare and distribute meals.
- Ensure provisions for those with special dietary requirements.

Expectation of agency(s)

- Assist in sourcing and distributing food supplies.
- Collaborate with community organisations to support meals.
- Mobile freezer vans and cool rooms if needed.

9 Pets / livestock

LTAT & LTHCS Action

- Relocate pets and livestock to safe areas.
- Ensure pets and livestock have sufficient food and water.
- Establish structure and systems for equitable delivery of support for pets and livestock.

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 LTAT.
- Coordinate with animal welfare organisations.

10 Evacuation

LTAT & LTHCS Action

- We respect individuals' decisions to evacuate or remain within LTAT.
- We will keep a register of those who plan to evacuate and those who plan to stay.
- We will update the register of people's movements where possible.
- We will encourage vulnerable community members whose plan is to leave to evacuate early.
- Seek funding for boat to enable evacuation by water if road access is cut or pending emergency.

Expectation of agency(s)

- Respect individual decisions of community members to stay or to leave early.
- Provide support for Trust community members deciding to leave for West Bairnsdale Relief Centre.
- Clear, correct and concise information and key contacts provided to community about evacuations, convoys and road opening times.
- All financial and other support to be directed to LTAT CEO and/or LTHCS CEO.

11 Relief & Recovery

LTAT & LTHCS Action

- Participate in clean-up, relief and recovery activities.
- Provide support to vulnerable community members.
- Build a plan that includes all needs of community and how to structure temporary support.
- The LTAT Relief Centre will provide relief for those in need on-site.
- Evacuation will be to Bairnsdale West Football Oval.

Expectation of agency(s)

- Establish and maintain a culturally safe environment at the West Bairnsdale Relief Centre.
- Provide support for families who lose their homes (immediate relief, rebuilding, relocating).
- Provide an EMT Liaison Officer at the LTAT Relief Centre.
- Provide emotional, mental health and counselling services at both Relief Centres as necessary.
- 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.