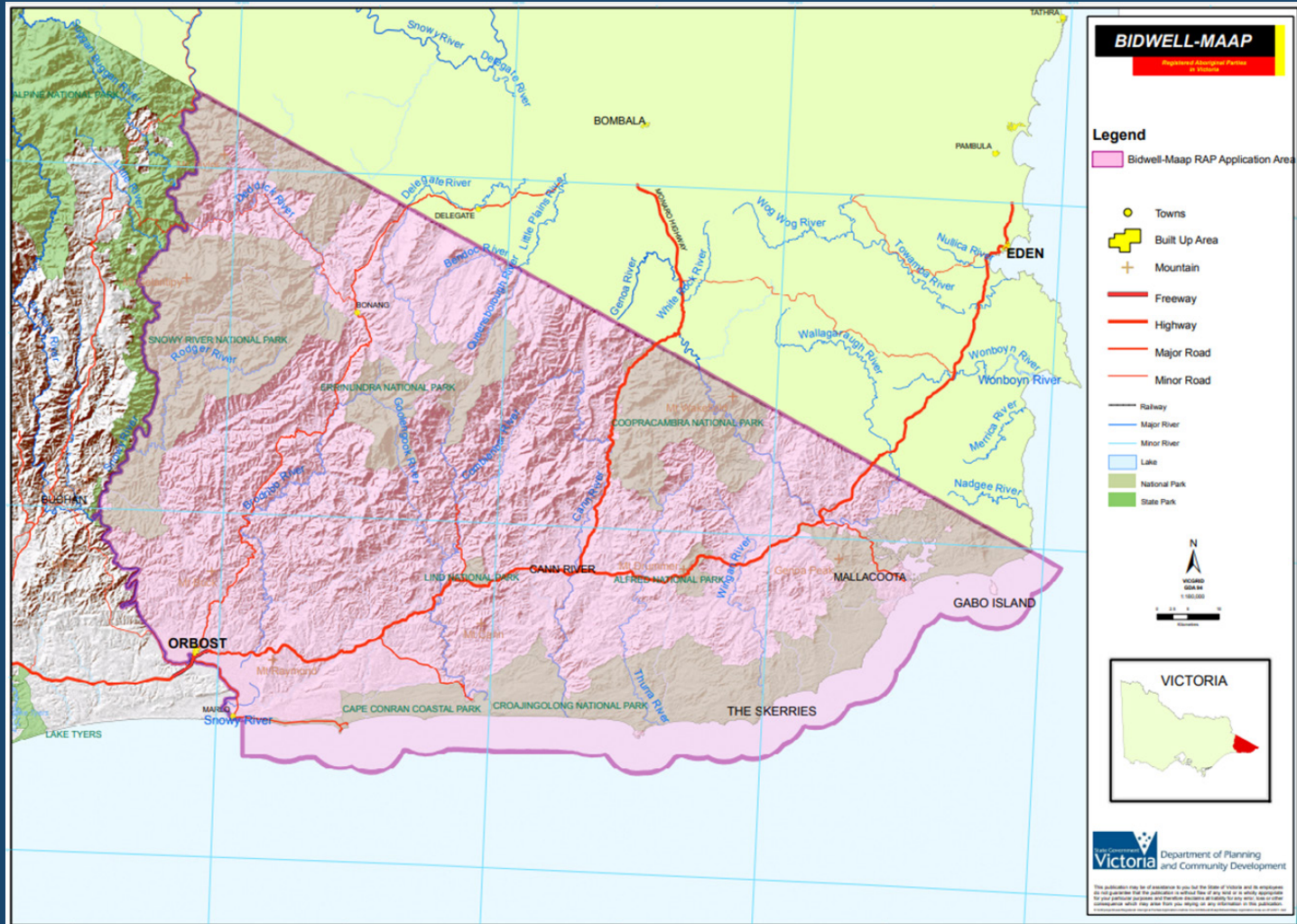


Community Emergency Management Plan

Bidwell–Maap Aboriginal Corporation ICN 7470

Bidwell–Maap Aboriginal Corporation have interests as a First Nation Community in large areas of East Gippsland, including all land from the eastern side of the Snowy River and extending to and beyond the NSW border (see RAP Application map below).

This **Bidwell–Maap Aboriginal Corporation Community Emergency Management Plan** (Bidwell–Maap CEMP) supports our emergency management arrangements. This CEMP sets out how we respond as a community organisation in an emergency. Our community actions below focus on the key activities taken by our community and the support we require from Agencies.



1

Before Any Emergency Starts (Pre-season)



i

Information

- Our people live in a range of locations across East Gippsland, including in and surrounding Bairnsdale, Lakes Entrance, Orbest and Cann River.
- 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 Bidwell–Maap community:
 - ◊ Aunty Paula Andy (Email: bidwellmaap@gmail.com)
 - ◊ Tyrone Hayes
- 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 if no phone reception for satellite)
- 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

2

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 Bidwell-Maap 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 Bidwell-Maap on all-hazards to ensure adequate preparation and planning.
- All emergency prevention planning and preparedness planning to occur in collaboration with Bidwell-Maap to facilitate the protection of cultural values.
- Provide a level of 'base-funding' for an Emergency Management Officer to support ongoing engagement and input into emergency management planning, including: Joint Fuel Management Planning and Municipal Fire and Emergency Management Planning.

3

During: Emergency Response



Community Action

- Bidwell-Maap will be available to support emergency response and provide advice and knowledge to Victorian Government agencies.
- As there is no Registered Aboriginal Party (RAP) over Bidwell-Maap Country, Bidwell-Maap Aboriginal Corporation acknowledges the statutory responsibilities for Aboriginal heritage as outlined under the Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006 rest with the Victorian Government. Bidwell-Maap, however wish to be actively involved as partners in providing Aboriginal heritage advice and knowledge before, during and after emergencies.
- Bidwell-Maap 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.
- Bidwell-Maap 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.
- Bidwell-Maap will continue to work collaboratively with ACCHO's across BidwellMaap's area.

Expectation of agency(s)

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

4

During: Communications



Community Action

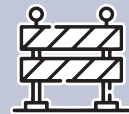
- Bidwell-Maap contacts (above) are the central point for all communications that relate to Aboriginal heritage. We will communicate with our community. We will also support the EMT to establish a system and approach that best meets the needs of the Bidwell-Maap community – we can identify key people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

Expectation of agency(s)

- IMT to contact Bidwell-Maap at the first instance of an emergency that may impact on Bidwell-Maap community and Country.
- Bidwell-Maap 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 Bidwell-Maap contact as required.
- Maintain up-to-date contact lists of key Bidwell-Maap personnel.

5

During: Road closures



Community Action

- Community members to carry proof of address (eg. licence).
- Community members to advise of 'pecuniary interest' at roadblock if seeking to return 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.

6

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.

7

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.

8

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 Bidwell-Maap community, Aboriginal heritage with 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 Bidwell-Maap 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, that are culturally safe and 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 in partnership with Bidwell-Maap that identifies threats to Aboriginal heritage and necessary management action is taken, including further survey.