



Community Emergency Management Plan

Gippsland and East Gippsland Aboriginal Cooperative

Gippsland and East Gippsland Aboriginal Co-operative Limited (GEGAC) is located across several sites in Bairnsdale, with the main office at 37-53 Dalmahoy Street, Bairnsdale. GEGAC is a community controlled not-for-profit organisation with a proud history dated back to 1972, where the East Gippsland Aboriginal Women's Group was formed, consisting of 67 proud, strong and resilient women and men in response to the poor health and housing outcomes experienced by Aboriginal families across the region. Today, GEGAC offers a full range of holistic services for Aboriginal people across the region that includes, but is not limited to, medical, housing, community wellbeing, family support, education, employment and a place of cultural connection and representation for all Aboriginal people.

This **GEGAC Community Emergency Management Plan** (GEGAC CEMP) is developed in line with our detailed GEGAC Emergency Management Plan and GEGAC Business Continuity Plan. This CEMP sets out how we respond as an organisation in an emergency. GEGAC actions below focus on the key activities taken by our organisation and the support we require from Agencies.



1 Before Any Emergency Starts (Pre-season)



Information

- Refer to GEGAC's Emergency Management Plan for detailed information. This Community EMP serves as a summary and advice for agencies.
- We have Satellite Internet Service (Starlink) in case the phone network is compromised.
- Key Contacts into Community:
 - ◊ Emergency Control Organisation (ECO) – Kenton Winsley (CEO)
 - ◊ Telephone: 03 5150 0700 (Business Hours)
 - ◊ Chief Warden – Kenton Winsley (CEO) ceo@gegac.org.au
 - ◊ Deputy Chief Warden – Joshua Tuiono (Deputy CEO/ED Culture) deputyceo@gegac.org.au
- ABC Radio 828AM 100.7 FM
- ABC App
- Facebook – CFA and DEECA
- UHF Channel 40
- Emergency information: <https://www.emergency.vic.gov.au>

Phone numbers

- GEGAC 03 5150 0700
- Police / Fire / Ambulance 000
- 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/Storm) Season Commences



GEGAC Action

- Resource dependant, prepare GEGAC's Elders / HACC building.
- Based on our legislative and contractual requirements, prepare personal/family emergency management plans for clients where required. Ensure GEGAC Preparedness', including annual exercise/drill, checking water supplies, generators, communications equipment, etc. Ensure it is clean and available for agency staff to attend and set-up.
- Ensure firefighting capability around our assets (test fire hoses, extinguishers, water, etc.).
- Maintain regular communication on social media referring community to appropriate sites such as the VIC Emergency App, etc.
- Provide input into the DEECA Joint Fuel Management Plan (JFMP) as it relates to key GEGAC remote sites.
- Advocate to key agencies on required resources to prepare and respond during emergency events.

Expectation of Agency(s)

Pre-season

- DFFH, DH and DEECA supports input into annual planning meetings.
- Clarify agency key contacts including conversations (face to face annual meetings) in the lead up to emergency season (i.e. communication & expectations).
- Keep GEGAC informed about any available resources to support community in the event of emergencies.

Season commences

- DEECA Emergency Management Team to meet with GEGAC ICC planning.
- Develop plans in partnership with GEGAC for the protection of significant sites.

3 Emergency Occurs (eg. Storms/fire in the landscape)



GEGAC Action

- Resources dependant we will keep well-stocked pantries and medications at the Elders / HACC building.
- If aware, identify (visual/smell) where smoke or other emergency is coming from and notify agencies (000) accordingly.
- Notify clients of situation, if appropriate and where required.
- Provide support to those clients whom we are required to support to enact their emergency management plans.
- Use Vic Emergency App / website for updates.

Expectation of Agency(s)

- Advise GEGAC CEO (ECO Chief Warden) at first indication of fire in the landscape (or other emergency) with potential to impact so that GEGAC can be kept informed.
- Include GEGAC in all EMT meetings as a matter of course, including on email distribution list.
- Support GEGAC Elders / HACC building with EMT Liaison Officer
- Provide available resources to GEGAC to support the opening of the Elders / HACC building.

4 Communications

GEGAC Action

- GEGAC refers community to information from Government sources regarding the emergency.
- Satellite/Wi-Fi/Mobile phone booster for charging phones provided at key GEGAC Site/s.
- Use mobile phones to stay in contact with key personnel.
- If GEGAC is in a position to support community members attending on site, eg if we have a generator, GEGAC will identify themselves to community through social media.

Expectation of Agency(s)

- IMT to contact GEGAC at the first instance of an emergency that may impact on GEGAC community.
- EMT to provide regular, up-to-date and accurate reports on situation through EMT meetings and direct phone calls to GEGAC contact as required.
- Maintain up-to-date contact lists of key GEGAC personnel.

5 Power out

GEGAC Action

- Maintain back-up generator at core GEGAC sites, only currently used for medical specific needs.

Expectation of Agency(s)

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

6 Road closures

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

GEGAC 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 central GEGAC site.

Expectation of Agency(s)

- Facilitate the delivery of essential goods and services.
- Donated goods to be offered to community.
- Arrangements to be made with GEGAC Emergency Control Organisation Chief Warden, Kenton Winsley (CEO).
- Coordinate with local businesses to ensure continuity of supplies.
- Provide logistical support for large scale deliveries as needed.

8 Meals

GEGAC Action

- If resourced to provide meals, ensure systems and processes for equitable allocation to community members.

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

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.

10 Evacuation

GEGAC Action

- We will support the evacuation from GEGAC sites, only.
- We will keep a register of those who we have supported with their emergency management plans.
- We will update the register of people's movements where we are required to do so.
- Where we are required and have supported the development of emergency management plans we will encourage those to evacuate early.

Expectation of Agency(s)

- Provide adequate support to community members, particularly vulnerable community members, in evacuation and transport to appropriate 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 GEGAC CEO.

11 Relief & Recovery

GEGAC Action

- Participate in clean-up, relief and recovery activities for GEGAC specific sites/ infrastructure.
- Provide support to vulnerable community members within our program and service deliveries.
- Offer debriefing opportunities to staff and impacted community members following incident/s
- If resourced to do so, implement case management and recovery programs.

Expectation of Agency(s)

- Provide support for families whose homes are impacted and/ or lost (immediate relief, rebuilding, relocating).
- Provide emotional, mental health and counselling services at GEGACs Elders / HACC building.
- Facilitate key agencies (including Department of Families, Fairness and Housing, Department of Health) to be on-site at GEGACs Elders / HACC building to support rapid access to community needs.