Communities of the Omeo Region: Register of Community Action and Expectations for Agency(s) by Community

This Agency Consultation Log outlines the hazards and community priorities for each community in the Omeo Region. It also describes each community's expectations of agencies to strengthen the resilience of the communities.

Event/Trigger	Anglers Rest	Benambra	Cobungra	Ensay	Omeo	Swifts Creek	Tambo Crossing
Fire season commences							
Community action	Clean up around house/property Locate local static water tank(s) for times of emergency Get the fire pumps ready, test the sprinklers, slip-ons Undertake informal community briefings (Pre-season) Provide input into the JFMP and inform location of Asset Protection Zones Practice using local STAND/satellite communications for community meetings (e.g., DELWP, CFA) Check and practice using UHF Radio Ch 2 duplex	(Pre-season) Benambra-dedicated operators to be certified to operate machinery with bush specs Check that slip-ons (~14) are operational around the area Discuss with older/less mobile residents about evacuation options and community impact if choose to stay Locate local static water tank(s) for times of emergency	Livestock to graze around assets, clear properties Clean up around house/property Test sprinkler, pumps Locate local static water tank(s) for times of emergency	Individual responsibility to keep water tanks supplied, pumps working, generator maintained, properties clear Reach out to new neighbours / locals who have moved in during the pandemic Locate local static water tank(s) for times of emergency	Clean up around house and property Take rubbish to transfer station Locate local static water tank(s) for times of emergency	Individual responsibility to keep water tanks supplied, pumps working, generator maintained, properties clear Locate local static water tank(s) for times of emergency Farmers to check their own slip-on / spray unit List of skills / structure for managing spontaneous volunteers (eg. good spreadsheet skills, barber/hairdresser, remedial massage, make tea, clean kitchen, food prep (heating containers)) Reach out to new neighbours / locals who have moved in during the pandemic Prepare list of who has satellite phone/internet	Individual responsibility to keep water tanks supplied, pumps working, generator maintained, properties clear Locate local static water tank(s) for times of emergency
Expectation of agencies	**Pre-season:** DELWP supports input into small scale fuel reduction burn nominations for JFMP Request CFA volunteers to attend a couple of planned burns a year DELWP supports ad hoc and small scale planned burns on the spur **Season commence:** DELWP to meet with local community re ICC Planning CFA volunteers re-familiarise with truck (eg. water access, pumping, hose handling, etc) and run truck into Omeo to ensure all in working order	Require volunteer(s) / bushfire liaison agency staff to attend BNH from start of season to get to know locals Reinforce importance of handover processes shift change of agency personnel and keeping the local community informed With agency collaboration, inform community of Neighbourhood Safer Place, refuge centre and local procedures and information available at BNH	Pre-season briefing re importance of evacuating early Critical to keep Mt Battery Tk clear for alternative access DELWP seeks local input for Asset Protection Zones in the Joint Fuel Management Plan	'Knowledge for newcomers' made more obvious (eg. community-based and mental health services available) Community template of the available options (eg. for caring for / evacuating elderly or those whose mobility is limited	'Knowledge for newcomers' made more obvious (eg. community-based and mental health services available) CFA provides 'table-top simulation' sessions Council keeps roadsides clean between town and Rec Reserve Roadsides slashed generally Council has full time coordinator in Omeo	'Knowledge for newcomers' made more obvious (eg. community-based and mental health services available) Bulk purchasing arrangements through agencies, such as Landcare, e.g., encourage people to have spray units for own use on property, or Bush Nurse for air-purifiers/filters for those with breathing challenges Access to fire preparedness training (off farm) Air purifier / filters for Hall Navigate privacy implications for community registers, eg., volunteer skills, satellite phone and evacuation registers	Refuel all generators for Telstra and Optus Towers and put in place arrangements for regular refuelling during an emergency (whether community or telco provider) AusNet to slash area under and around powerlines
Smoke/fire in landscape							
Community action	Keep well-stocked pantries, medications and fuel Identify (visual/smell) where smoke is coming from and notify agencies accordingly Check properties and check in on each other Refer to Anglers Rest/ Bundara Valley LIMP (also at CFA Shed)	Local certified operators to operate machinery (eg. a nominated responsible person(s)) Provide a central place (eg. BNH) to take respite between attending animals/property Keep well-stocked pantries and fuel Look out for each other Refer to Benambra LIMP	Cobungra CFA Shed as assembly point Keep well-stocked pantries, medications and fuel Look out for each other Refer to Cobungra LIMP (tbc)	Plan for 3 weeks worth of supplies (medication, food, water) in case of power outage or road closure. Use phone trees and know who the key contacts are and their next of kin. Refer to Ensay LIMP	Smoke/fire at Mt Mesley (West): Use Rec Reserve as the central place to take respite and then go back to attend animals/property Keep well-stocked pantries, medication and fuel Locals with Agency roles are proactive and get on with the job Look out for each other Follow Omeo LIMP and Facility Guide	Local operators to operate machinery (eg. a nominated responsible person(s)) Provide Hall as a central place to take respite and then go back to attend animals/property Kids to run around in hall/ community centre (to socialise) Keep well-stocked pantries and fuel Look out for each other Refer to Swifts Creek LIMP	Look out for each other (10 houses west side of river, 2 the other) Reasonably self-sufficient and we are prepared to defend own area and problem solve Keep well-stocked pantries and fuel Look out for each other Refer to Tambo Crossing LIMP
Expectation of agencies	Agencies to be engaged and provide locals with timely communications (meetings re planning and response) Engage early with locals to ensure local knowledge drawn upon Send teams to correct coordinates and undertake grading using a risk-based approach We appreciate support in response to fires, but never expect it Note: CFA shed is past two gates/ cattle grids	Open communication channels with partner agencies from the north (i.e. Corryong) Certify local operators to operate machinery Heavy machinery and required attachments available locally Grade around town and assets incl. houses, hay/woolsheds Strike teams to use Rec Reserve as basecamp (close to CFA, DEWLP accommodation) Use local fire crews, who know the tracks and the conditions	Agencies to be engaged and provide locals with timely communications. i.e., let us know when back-burning so we can manage it (eg. not let the gal burn off the fencing) Develop Cobungra LIMP with Cobungra CFA Sheds as assembly point	Use local fire crews, they know the tracks and the conditions	Agencies provide local emergency workers timely clearance to act Agencies to engage with community and provide timely communications, especially where delays for support Local knowledge should be drawn upon, non-local agency support has been observed to stop when they don't know the tracks or the conditions Heritage area "H1536" (in middle of town) to be protected	Grade around township to prepare a fire break Use local fire crews, who know the tracks and the conditions Access to water at Rec Reserve Cassilis Historic site "H1940" to be protected	Use farmers' good local knowledge of tracks, their condition and the location of dams Support provision of water when river stops, gets dirty and water holes are contaminated

Event/Trigger	Anglers Rest	Benambra	Cobungra	Ensay	Omeo	Swifts Creek	Tambo Crossing
Communication							
Community action	Satellite/Wi-Fi/Mobile phone booster/Generators for charging phones at CFA Shed CFA Shed is an assembly point where can contact others, or can meet remotely UHF repeater station (local Ch2 duplex) installed in the valley	Informal community telephone tree to check on everyone Use UHF Radio Handsets - channel 40 BNH is the information and communication hub with technology and generator Community discussion at pre-Summer briefing that outlines LIMP and local \an (in conjunction with local agency)	Satellite/Wi-Fi/Generators for charging at CFA Shed Most have UHF radios – ABC Radio 720AM Most have boosters as well as landlines, due to limited mobile coverage Many have satellite NBN	Satellite/Wi-Fi/ Generators at Hall and Rec Reserve Local 'responsible' person to fill generator to power Comms Darby's has wi-fi (Swift Creek IGA)	Satellite/Wi-Fi/Generators for charging phones at Rec Reserve Local pharmacy has a Smart TV ABC Radio 720AM gets over the hills and into the valleys up here Community meetings and info at the Rec Reserve	Darby's (Swift Creek IGA) and Hall have Wi-fi Local 'responsible' person to fill generator to power Comms UHF radio – Ch 40 Local community radio (97.1AM) for news updates (eg. time convoy is leaving) Over summer, sporting clubs not good as comms network	**Telecommunications infrastructure:** When comms are out, known 'hot-spot' on Tambo-Spur Creek Rd hill to make phone calls Satellite/Wi-Fi/charging at Community facility **Communicating with each other:** Coordination plans made at community facility (e.g., fuel runs, dinner arrangements, checking in on each other) Everyone uses UHF radio Ch 40 (invaluable)
Expectation of agencies	ICC to provide transparency into decision-making, updates regarding conditions, and when convoys are leaving/returning ICC require all crews to undertake shift handovers Swifts Creek ICC to not hang up when calling the ICC phone, or put in place a protocol Telstra to install Small Cell Tower	Up to date, accurate and detailed agency information (also via official apps) Community to access communications at BNH where agencies (and other communities) provide updates via video-link Satellite, internet and wi-fi calling enabled at BNH Provide CFA with back-up power and back-up communications UHF Radio Handsets made available for community use	**Communications**: Require timely, up to date and accurate information about conditions Rely on communication from agencies to the North **Telecommunications infrastructure:** Telstra to boost mobile capacity, which drops when its crowded (eg. Easter, snow season, times of emergency)	Regular, accurate and timely Agency information ICC to record audio of community briefing and remotely relay via Community Radio	Certify a local for refuelling generators on telecommunications towers	2 point of comms for DELWP daily report – Hall and the IGA (need volunteer to relay info sheet every couple of hours) Regular and accurate Agency information (official apps are hours behind / lack required detail) ICC to record audio of community briefing and remotely relay via Community Radio	Activate arrangements with telco's for regular refuelling of generators
Power down							
Community action	We are self-sufficient, living off-grid with own generators If affected, CFA Shed has backup generator	Maintain own generator (where relevant) Local electrician and mechanics certified for refuelling any specific generators in an emergency Store owner equitably distributes fuel amongst community	We are self-sufficient, living off-grid with own generators Power is necessary for the telecommunications infrastructure	Many have own generators and are self-sufficient, but not everyone Big cook-ups (when all freezers emptied) Hall and Rec Reserve have generators	Many have own generators and are self-sufficient, but not everyone Big cook-ups (all freezers emptied) Rec Reserve has generator	Many have own generators and are self-sufficient, but not everyone Big cook-ups (when all freezers emptied) Hall has generator When Mill closes, an organised casual workforce becomes available	Well-equipped with own generators and are self-sufficient
Expectation of agencies	NA	Require fuel drops Larger (temporary) generators required and to be situated at Benambra Turn off (near Rodger Connley's house) and Benambra Hotel AusNet provide dedicated High Country resource Power back-up on communications tower where power is out for more than a day	Ensure plan for timely refuelling of generators for telecommunications tower where power outage Create connection from Omeo to Dinner Plain to provide an power infrastructure loop	Certify a local for refuelling generators	Need to accredit local contractors to respond and refuel generators	Power back-up on communications tower needs to be more than a day Local technician to support refuelling generator or AusNet dedicated High Country resource Unlock the transfer station Provide generators (x3) to service station, pub and community centre	Where appropriate, supply large generator to Omeo to power Tambo Crossing (reverse power direction down the line)
Road closures							
Community action	Locals must carry proof of address, eg. 2nd wallet (ID, Property Identification Code number and/or rates notice) Locals have a "pecuniary interest" (mention at roadblock) Rely on many local Facebook pages for road closure information WAYZ also has crowd-sourced road closures	Key road closures (eg. Omeo Hwy, Great Alpine, Corryong): Locals carry proof of address to access, eg. 2nd wallet (ID, Property Identification Code number and/or rates notice)	Locals carry proof of address, eg. 2nd wallet (ID, Property Identification Code number and/or rates notice) Locals have a "pecuniary interest" (mention at roadblock)	Locals carry proof of address, eg. 2nd wallet (ID, Property Identification Code number and/or rates notice)	Locals carry proof of address, eg. 2nd wallet (ID, Property Identification Code number and/or rates notice)	**Key road closures (eg. Great Alpine Road):** Locals carry proof of address, eg. 2nd wallet (ID, Property Identification Code number and/or rates notice)	Locals carry proof of address, eg. 2nd wallet (ID, Property Identification Code number and/or rates notice)
Expectation of agencies	Timely, accurate and current information about access routes (websites/apps up date eg. VicRoads and EM App) ESTA000 needs to know there are no cross-streets where we are (what3words app) Timely response to call-outs re road blockages Those enforcing road incident control protocols need to be properly briefed about local hazards, conditions and to allow locals through Communicate clearly when convoys are leaving	Timely information about access routes when open and when convoys in/out (incl via website) Prioritise food/fodder deliveries and stock transport Those enforcing road incident control protocols need to be properly briefed about local hazards, conditions and to allow locals through Closure signage at corners (not 40km down road)	Timely, accurate and current information about access routes (websites, VicEM App) Timely response to call-outs re road blockages Those enforcing road incident control protocols need to be properly briefed about local hazards, conditions and to allow locals through	Timely accurate information about access routes (via website (if can access)) Prioritise food/fodder deliveries and stock transport Prioritise vet access to area Those enforcing road incident control protocols need to be properly briefed about local hazards, conditions and to allow locals through	Timely/current information about access routes (websites are out of date (if able to access), eg. VicRoads and EM App need to be accurate Accurate plotting of accidents and road closures Timely response to call-outs re road blockages Those enforcing road incident control protocols need to be properly briefed about local hazards, conditions and to allow locals through	Timely information about access routes (websites are out of date (if able to access)) Prioritise food/fodder deliveries and stock transport Those enforcing road incident control protocols need to be properly briefed about local hazards, conditions and to allow locals through	Timely accurate information about access routes (via website (if can access)) Prioritise food / fodder deliveries Local knowledge to inform roadblock decisions Road blocks in sensible places and sensible detours (i.e., road block not at Bruthen) Out of town police need to be properly briefed about local hazards, conditions and to allow locals through Communicate when convoy/escort vehicles (where dangerous roadside trees)
Goods and fodder delivery							
Community action	Collect deliveries from CFA Shed	Pack boxes and enable equitable distribution (to those in most need first) to community from BNH (cool room once built) Independent and informed person to equitably distribute resources (avoid making assumptions)	Food, bottled water, donated goods, fodder delivered to CFA Shed Individuals to collect from CFA Shed	Communal carpooling for supply-trips to Bairnsdale Distribution of goods to those in need with advice from Bush Nurse	Equitable distribution of goods to those in need from Rec Reserve	Communal carpool for supply-trips to Bairnsdale Distribution of goods to those in need with advice from Bush Nurse	Coordinate supply-trips to Bairnsdale (e.g., for medication, fuel) Food, water, donated goods deliveries to Community Facility
Expectation of agencies	We appreciate donated goods of toiletries, food (fresh fruit, pasta, rice, flour, SPAM) Thank-you for individual house-drops (Victorian Farmers Federation, Apex)	Donated goods (food/water) to be offered to community and stored at BNH Documented process for communicating and managing donated goods to be put in place with support agencies (Lions, Rural Aid, Salvos, etc) Require volunteer(s) (jobshare) or relief agency staff to attend BNH during an emergency event Require vermin proof distribution shed (under grant application)	Water tanks trucked in from Dinner Plain	Prefer money or vouchers, not donated goods. Volunteers to help with distribution, unloading water, also identifying who has extra beds Donated hay need to keep somewhere safe	Prefer money or vouchers, not donated goods Volunteers to help with distribution, unloading water, also identifying who has extra beds	Prefer money or vouchers, not donated goods. Volunteers to help with distribution, unloading water, also identifying who has extra beds	Donated meals and goods appreciated (e.g., little toiletry bags)

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Food and meals							
Community action	NA	Coordinate a list of locals who can help cater (requires succession planning) Register kitchen at BNH (once built)	Community freezer at CFA Shed, where meals can be heated	Empty own pantry and cook for others Donated non-perishable goods at the hall Vermin-proof cool room (e.g., at winery) Cooking meals/catering from the Ensay & Swifts Creek pubs	Cooking meals / catering from the pub (support local business)	Cooking meals / catering from the pub and bakery (support local business) Chef – up to 400 meals/day	Meals heated/prepared at Community Facility
Expectation of agencies	NA	Local freezer vans and cool rooms	Emergency worker meals delivered to CFA Shed	Food, water supplies if can't get to Bairnsdale (balance with need to support local stores) Local freezer vans and cool rooms Food requests of surge firefighting workforce need to be simpler (eg. limit to regular, vegetarian or vegan options)	NA	Local freezer vans and cool rooms	Meals for emergency workers delivered to community facility
Pets and livestock							
Community action	Individual responsibility to manage	Equitable fodder delivery prioritised to burnt properties Cages / pens for own pets Yards at Rec Reserve for larger pets (tbc)	Individual responsibility to manage	Move horses and pets to Rec Reserve. Pets to be on leash and owners' responsibility.	Animals on leash/ pets in crates Cages / pens for own pets at Rec Reserve (people can't seek respite if can't bring their animals)	Cages / pens for own pets (people can't seek respite if can't bring their animals)	Know where animals are and take responsibility for own
Expectation of agencies	Prioritise permits (easy process) to allow vets, stock and fodder transport (road access) Need for emergency provisions for farmers to put down own stock if suffering	Prioritise permits (easy process) to allow stock and fodder transport (road access) Prioritise vets to access area	Prioritise permits (easy process) to allow vets, stock and fodder transport (road access) Farmers put down own stock if suffering	Prioritise permits (easy process) to allow vets, stock and fodder transport (road access) Need for emergency provisions for farmers to put down own stock if suffering	Prioritise permits (easy process) to allow stock and fodder transport (road access) Prioritise vets to access area Large wire cages available for larger animals	Prioritise permits (easy process) to allow stock and fodder transport (road access) Prioritise vets to access area Large wire cages available for larger animals	Prioritise permits (easy process) to allow stock and fodder transport (road access) Prioritise vets to access area
Evacuation							
Community action	We respect individual decision to evacuate Omeo Rec Reserve provides respite	Self-declare to BNH when evacuating If electing to stay, complete "Do Not Evacuate" form Older and mobility restricted people are evacuated to BNH for respite, as required	Capture who's staying, going, how much water, etc. in a spreadsheet Evacuate early where don't have capability to defend property Notify neighbours when evacuating	Personal responsibility to evacuate and notify neighbours Plan to evacuate the elderly is a family/personal decision as some elderly will choose to stay	Personal responsibility to evacuate and notify neighbours / Rec Reserve of decision Visitors / households evacuate early where don't have know how, capability or equipment to defend property	Evacuate early when taking pets and animals If choose to stay, make neighbours/locals aware Let your neighbours know when evacuating	Individual responsibility taken for decision to stay (not evacuate)
Expectation of agencies	Respect decision to stay. Many of us have been through 2003 and 2019/20. We know we're older, we wouldn't stay if we weren't prepared. Note: Some of us wouldn't stay.	Clear, correct and concise information provided the community about evacuations, convoys and road opening times Respect individual preferences not to leave livestock	Respect decision to not evacuate (i.e., stay) with livestock	Respect individual preference not to leave the land or livestock	Respect individual decision to stay	Older and mobility restricted people may seek respite (and clean air) at Bush Nursing Centre Where no family support at home, require laundry service, meals, support for wellbeing Respect preference not to leave livestock	Respect preference not to leave to manage livestock