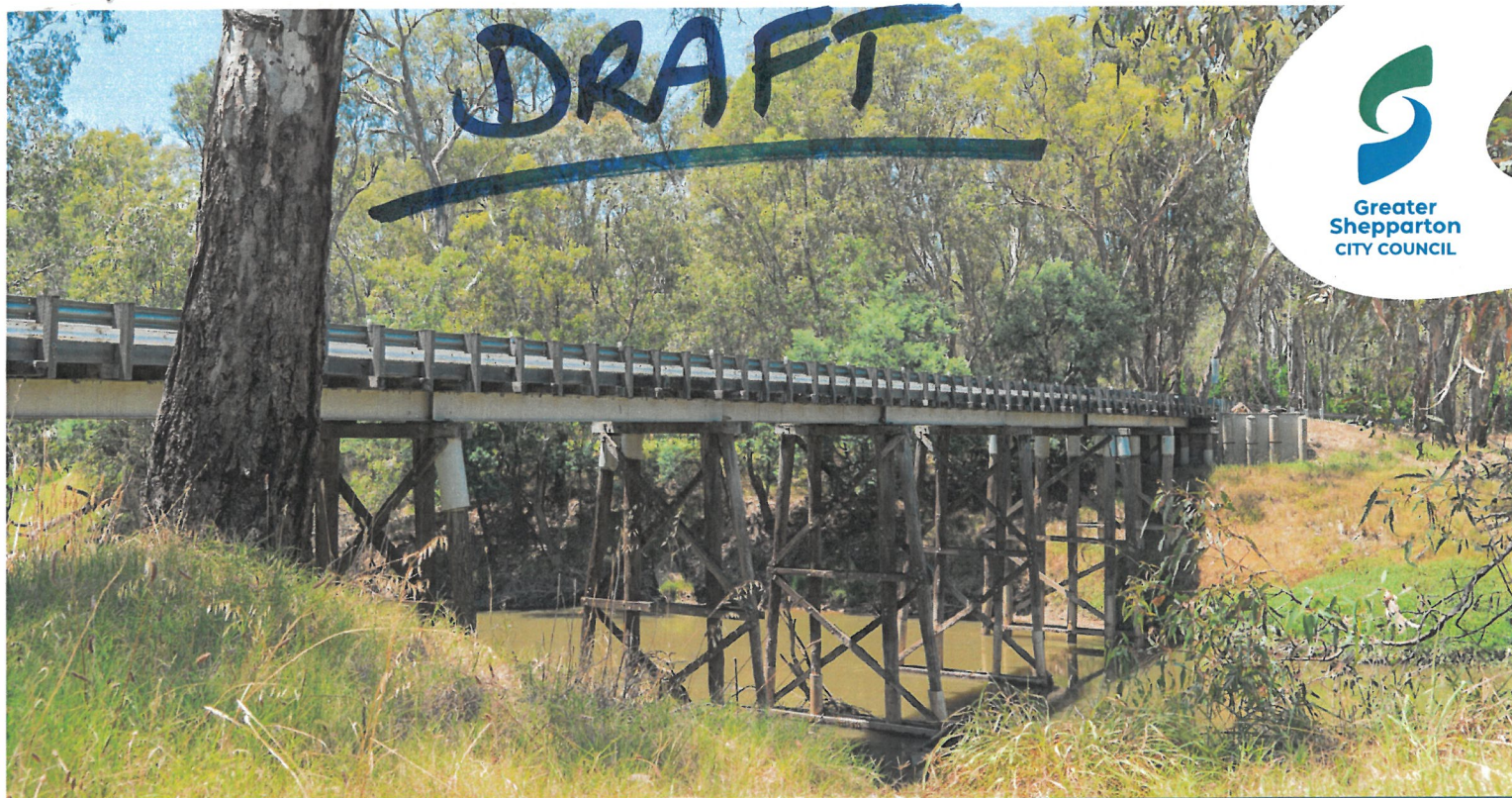




TOOLAMBA AND DISTRICT

Local Emergency Action Plan

Toolamba's local risks are:

Home to 822 residents (2021 Census), Toolamba and Old Toolamba face a range of risks associated with their rural setting and proximity to natural hazards. Located between the Goulburn River and extensive bushland, the communities are exposed to flooding, bushfire, storm events and extreme heat, all of which have the potential to impact homes, farms, infrastructure and community wellbeing. The area's natural environment, while highly valued, can also contribute to increased hazard exposure, particularly for residents living near waterways, bushland or isolated rural properties.

Flooding remains a significant concern due to the community's location alongside the Goulburn River and nearby creeks, with road closures and isolation posing challenges during major flood events. Bushfire risk is also present, particularly in areas adjoining vegetated landscapes and

during periods of heightened fire danger. In addition, severe weather events, prolonged power outages and communication disruptions can affect residents' ability to access essential services and information, particularly for those who are older, have limited mobility or live in more remote locations.

The community's strong culture of volunteering, neighbourly support and local action plays an important role in reducing these risks. However, like many rural communities, Toolamba and Old Toolamba face challenges associated with an ageing population, reliance on a limited number of access routes, and the need to ensure that all residents are prepared for emergencies. Building awareness of local risks, strengthening community networks and supporting individual and household preparedness will continue to be important actions in enhancing the community's resilience to future emergencies

We, the Greater Shepparton City Council, acknowledge the Yorta Yorta Peoples of the land which now comprises Greater Shepparton. We pay respect to their tribal Elders, we celebrate their continuing Culture and we acknowledge the memory of their ancestors.

Emergency Preparedness

Preparation is key

Share this LEAP with your local connections.

For more information scan the QR code below or visit shepp.city/emergency



In extreme weather and emergency events, essential services such as power, water, telecommunications and transport networks may be impacted, leaving households and communities isolated.

During emergency events, demand on CFA, VICSES, Police, and Ambulance may exceed capacity, meaning help may not be immediately available.



Stay informed during emergencies with the Greater Shepparton Emergency Dashboard, your one-stop source for warnings, road closures, weather alerts, local updates, community information and preparedness information.

First 72 Hours

Households should prepare an emergency plan and kit allowing for up to **72 hours of potential isolation and self-sufficiency.**



Emergency management is a shared responsibility between individuals, communities, Council and agencies. Preparation is key to reducing impacts and to supporting emergency services.

greater-shepparton.com.au/72-hours

Prepare your household emergency plan and kit

Your emergency kit should include: A battery-powered torch and AM/ FM radio. Key documents (passport/ birth certificate etc.) and important contact numbers.

***Download apps on Apple App Store or Google Play**

emergency.vic.gov.au/

All hazards:

RediPlan – redcross.org.au/prepare

Get Prepared app
redcross.org.au/emergencies/prepare/get-prepared-app/

Bushfire:

cfa.vic.gov.au/plan-prepare

Flood & Storm:

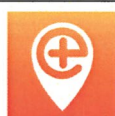
ses.vic.gov.au/plan-and-stay-safe

*Vic Emergency app:

Set up a user profile and watch zones to ensure you receive official warnings alerts and emergency information.

Know your location

emergencyplus.com.au/



*Emergency+ app:

This app uses GPS in smart phones to help you provide critical location details required to mobilise emergency services.

Check your risk in your location

Closest CFA Brigades:

- Toolamba: 20 Wren Street
- Murchison: 9 Robinson Street
- Mooroopna: 40 Ann Street

Closest VICSES Units:

- Murchison: 10a Watson St
- Tatura: 52 Martin St

Shepparton Search and Rescue

- 15 Dudley St, Shepparton
sheppartonrescue.com.au



Fire:

CFA cfa.vic.gov.au

Select “Set your location” in the top left of the website to receive local information and warnings.



Flood & Storms:

VICSES ses.vic.gov.au

BOM Bureau Of Meteorology
bom.gov.au



Power Outages

powercor.com.au

In an Emergency

Life threatening emergency	Fire, Ambulance, Police	☎ 000
Non-life threatening emergency	Floods and Storms - VICSES	☎ 132 500
Non urgent Police assistance	Non-urgent Police Assistance Line & on-line reporting	☎ 131 44 onlinereporting.police.vic.gov.au Report non-urgent crimes or events, 24/7
Warnings and updates	Vic Emergency: Radio: ABC Local 97.7	1800 226 226 emergency.vic.gov.au
Bushfire Place of Last Resort	There is currently no BPLR located within the Greater Shepparton municipality	
Reporting urgent issues or hazards	Greater Shepparton City Council	☎ 03 5832 9700
<i>Council offers an emergency after hours ranger service to deal with Animal Management, Local Laws and other Council-related emergencies</i>	Snap Send Solve 	snapsendsolve.com/report/victoria *download the app on the Apple App Store or Google Play
Road Closures:	Vic Traffic	traffic.transport.vic.gov.au/
Medical Advice:	Nurse on Call:	☎ 1300 60 60 24 <i>Connect with a registered nurse 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.</i>
	Victorian Virtual Emergency Department:	vved.org.au
	AED Locations	ambulance.vic.gov.au/find-aed <i>see map on page 7 for locations</i>
	Mental Health Support:	wellways.org/our-services/mental-health-and-wellbeing-local/ headspace.org.au/headspace-centres/shepparton/ primarycareconnect.com.au
Injured wildlife, wildlife rescue:	Bohollow Wildlife Shelter Inc.	☎ Deb Fowler 0418 328 671 ☎ Kirsty Ramadan 0447 636 953 ☎ 03 5826 9464 bohollowwildlife.com

LEAP Overview

This LEAP will be updated as required.

To ensure you have the latest version scan the QR Code or visit greater-shepparton.com.au/emergencies



A Local Emergency Action Plan (LEAP) is a community-specific strategy that helps residents prepare for, respond to, and recover from emergencies such as bushfires, floods, and severe storms. By identifying local risks, resources, and community roles, LEAPs complement formal emergency management arrangements and empower communities to build resilience and reduce the impacts of emergencies. This LEAP was developed through the **LEAPing into Safer Communities** project, a partnership between Strathbogie Shire Council and Greater Shepparton City Council, funded through the Victorian Government's **Safer Together** program. The project supports a community-centred approach to reducing risks, strengthening local partnerships, and building safer, more resilient communities.

On 27 February 2024, the Toolamba and District Emergency Response Group met to discuss the Community Emergency and Recovery Plan. During the workshop, community members identified a range of actions that could be undertaken before an emergency to support the collection and distribution of information and resources during a crisis. These actions recognise that power, water and road access may be disrupted, while building on the community's strong willingness to help others and the existing networks, groups and relationships that support local resilience.

TOOLAMBA & DISTRICTS LOCAL RISKS ARE

FIRE: Bushfire and grassfire risk in Toolamba and Old Toolamba is influenced by native vegetation along the Goulburn River corridor, the Shepparton Regional Park, roadside vegetation and surrounding grasslands. During hot, dry and windy conditions, these areas can support the rapid spread of grassfires and bushfires, particularly where rural residential properties adjoin vegetated land.

These natural features also contribute to the area's lifestyle appeal, attracting residents seeking a rural setting, access to nature and open space. As a result, the same landscape characteristics that make the area attractive also increase bushfire risk, highlighting the importance of ongoing preparedness and vegetation management.

STORMS/FLOODS: Severe storms can cause fallen trees, damaged powerlines, and power outages that disrupt communications, access to information, and essential services. The main flood risk for Toolamba and Old Toolamba is prolonged flooding from the Goulburn River during major rainfall across the catchment, which can affect homes, farms, roads, and services across the floodplain. Significant flooding in 2022 informed further flood modelling, studies, and community consultation to better understand local impacts. Further information can be found at:

[Goulburn Broken Regional Floodplain Management Strategy 2018-2028](#)

TRANSPORT ACCIDENTS: Transport accidents are a potential risk for Toolamba and Old Toolamba due to major road and rail corridors, including the Melbourne to Shepparton railway line and Mooroopna-Murchison Road. Passenger, freight, agricultural, and through traffic create risks of rail incidents, level crossing accidents, and road crashes, particularly during high traffic, poor weather, or low visibility. The development of the GV Link Enterprise Park may also increase heavy vehicle movements over time. While major incidents are relatively unlikely, they could impact community safety, disrupt access routes, and delay emergency services.

HEAT: Extreme heat is a risk for Toolamba and Old Toolamba, particularly during prolonged hot weather and heatwaves. It can affect health and wellbeing, especially for older people, young children, pregnant women, people with medical conditions, outdoor workers, and those without reliable cooling. Extreme heat can also place pressure on power supply, transport, health services, animals, and community facilities. During extremely hot weather, residents may seek relief in air-conditioned public places or designated cooling centres where available.

LEAP Priority Actions

LEAP Priority Actions - The 3 phases of an emergency event: Prepare, Respond, Recover

PHASE 1: PREPAREDNESS - planning and preparation before the event – ensure preparedness covers all possible events, not just the ones identified at a local level.

Description	Lead	Timeframe
1.1 Develop a core team to assist with preparedness activities & communications, incorporating assistance from other local groups: • Lions Club • CWA • Sporting Groups	Toolamba Emergency Response Group (TERG)	ASAP, ongoing
1.2 Connect with relevant stakeholders to build relationships and enhance community preparedness and resilience initiatives • Greater Shepparton City Council • Shepparton Search and Rescue Squad • VICSES • VicPol • CFA	TERG	As required, ongoing
1.3 Skill Bank – get to know who has what skills and what resources/equipment, available to use, if required	TERG / Residents / Community Groups	As required, ongoing
1.4 Generator Plug at Recreation Reserve – ensure its serviceable and ready for use as/when required	TERG	As required, ongoing
1.5 Have a plan for any type of event – the First 72 Hours If evacuating, develop a list of what to take, consider: • medications and first aid • pets and livestock • food supplies	Individual residents and households	ASAP
1.6 Download the Vic Emergency App Another app worthwhile having is Emergency Plus	Individual residents and households	ASAP
1.7 Get to know your neighbours – Particularly those closest to you; for instance those within 5 houses nearby and those with reduced mobility or people who may require additional support.	Individual residents and households	ASAP, ongoing

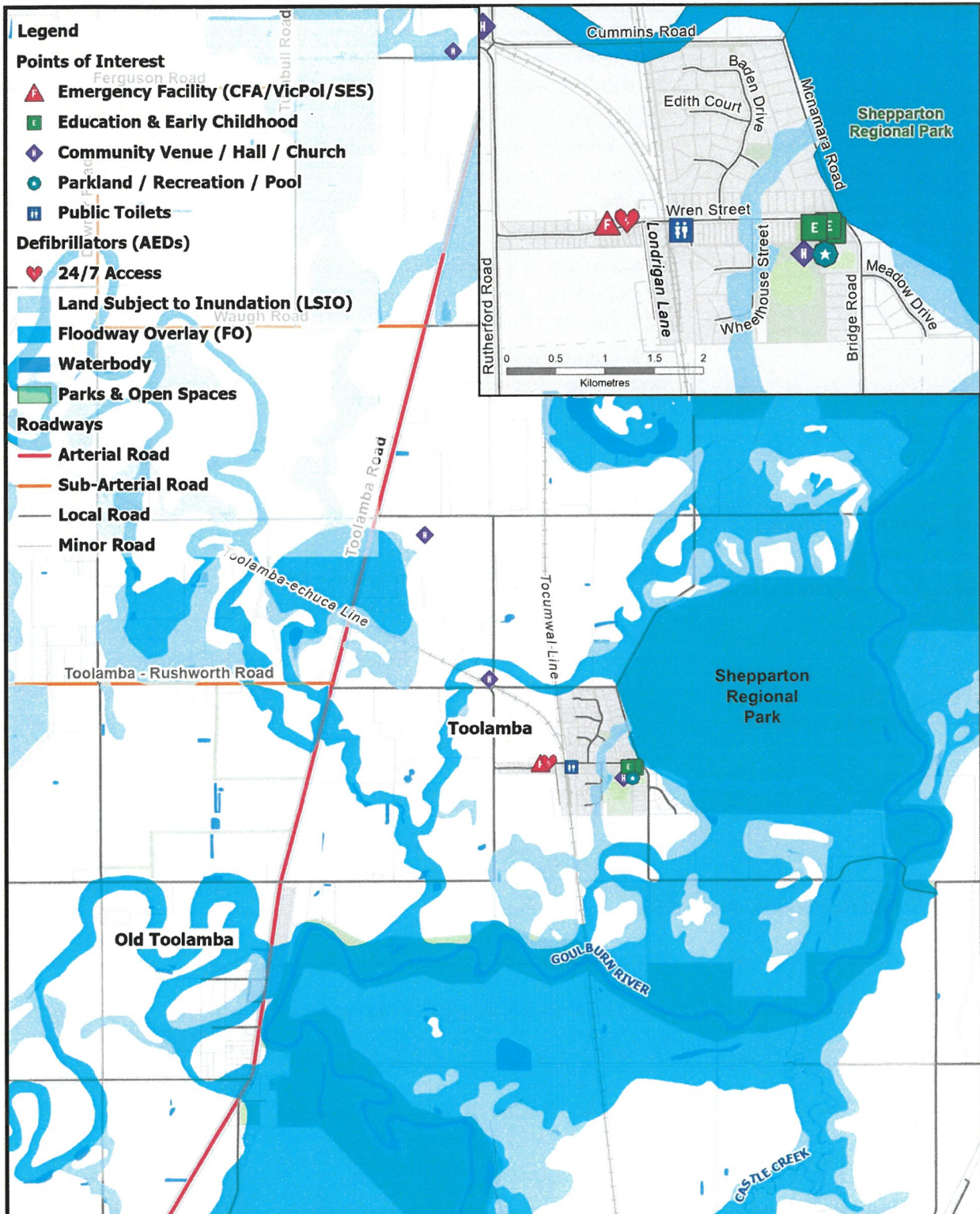
PHASE 2: RESPONSE - during the event, response activities are primarily led by designated control agencies such as the CFA, VICSES and Victoria Police.

Description	Lead	Timeframe
2.1 Gather information relating to the event/situation/emergency. This can be achieved by utilising the Vic Emergency App and the Greater Shepparton City Council's Emergency Dashboard	TERG / CFA Captain or liaison person	ASAP or as required
2.2 Designated gathering point / community hub activated – utilising generator plug and Wi-Fi capability at the Community Hall	Toolamba CFA Brigade / Community Action Group / Residents	As required
2.3 Appoint main liaison from each community group to assist with gathering and disseminating information	TERG / Community Groups	As required
2.4 Access registries prepared in advance – skills bank and resources / equipment	TERG / Residents / Community Groups	As required
2.5 Identify Community needs: food, housing, health/ medical etc.	TERG / Residents / Community Groups	As required

PHASE 3: RECOVERY - after the event, recovery is led by the local community, council and support agencies such as Australian Red Cross, Department of Families, Fairness and Housing (DFFH), Department of Health (DoH), Department of Education (DoEd) Agriculture Victoria (AgVIC), Emergency Management Victoria (EMV). There are a number of additional agencies who may support when required.

Description	Lead	Timeframe
3.1 Community gatherings – pre and post season: • Community meetings / debriefs after events • Community Gatherings: • Dinners, Morning teas, Craft & sporting activities, Walks • Information evenings • Training / familiarisation activities	TERG / Residents / Community Groups	As required
3.2 Identify community needs – wellbeing checks, door knocking and phone calls/phone tree	TERG / Residents / Community Groups	As required
3.3 Central location to gather and seek support: • Initiate Community Hub, inviting services from outside the local community to assist, as needed • Utilise Toolamba pub as community gathering point	TERG / Residents / Community Groups	As required

TOOLAMBA & DISTRICT



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Connected Communities Are Resilient Communities

Identified strengths and values of the Toolamba & District community:

Toolamba District's identified community strengths are centred on a strong community spirit, generosity, and the close relationships between neighbours who regularly support one another. Residents value being part of a proactive community that works together to address local issues, organise events, and strengthen community wellbeing.

Well-utilised community facilities and gathering spaces provide important opportunities for connection, information sharing, and social participation. A range of local groups and organisations contribute to community life, bringing diverse expertise, skills, and knowledge that can be drawn upon during times of need.

Word of mouth remains an important and trusted means of communication, helping information reach residents quickly and effectively.

The community also demonstrates a strong sense of self-reliance, with many residents possessing equipment, practical skills, and local knowledge that can support preparedness, response, and recovery efforts. Together, these strengths reflect a connected, capable, and resilient community that values collaboration, mutual support, and local action.

Local Community Groups:

Preparation is about people, knowing your neighbours and being part of your community. Your involvement matters. Join a group, or start one, to help create a safer, more connected community.

- Toolamba Lions Club
- Toolamba CFA
- Toolamba Emergency Planning Group
- Toolamba & District Steering Committee
- Toolamba CWA
- Toolamba Recreation Reserve Committee of Management
- Toolamba Tennis Club
- Murchison Toolamba Football and Netball Club
- Toolamba Junior Soccer Club
- Toolamba Fishing Club
- Toolamba Cemetery Trust
- Toolamba Choir
- Stationeer's Program
- Friends of Daunts Bend Group

Note your important information HERE:



Translating and
Interpreting Service (TIS)
☎ 131 450

Expression
Australia (formally Vicdeaf)
☎ 03 9473 1111