

BULLETIN: 88/2021

TRAVEL PERMITS FOR FIRE PREPAREDNESS

As we approach the 2021-22 Fire Danger Period, the Victorian Government is aware the current COVID-19 restrictions do not allow property owners to travel for the purposes of summer fire preparedness.

The Country Fire Authority (CFA) and Emergency Management Victoria (EMV) understand the need for fire preparedness activities to commence during spring and that local councils have received enquiries from property owners in their municipality.

Travel exemption permit scheme

A permit scheme, similar to that which was run in 2020, has now been approved. This will allow an exemption to the current Chief Health Officer (CHO) directions for some Victorians to travel beyond their existing limits for the purposes of fire preparedness activities.

We understand Councils have long-standing responsibilities for fire prevention and are best placed to manage applications under the scheme. The attached document Council Guidance: Travel exemption for Victorian residents to prepare properties in Victoria for fire season outlines the details of the scheme, incorporating feedback from received from councils. It includes advice on the role of councils as well as a permit template and checklist for applicants.

Timelines

- Permit applications will open on Wednesday 6 October 2021.
- Permit holders can then commence travel from Wednesday 11 October 2021.

We understand a public announcement on the scheme will be made in the coming days.

Given the above timeframes we have developed the Council Guidance document to allow Councils' time to prepare. Further resources to support implementation of this scheme will be provided in the coming days.

Further resources (to come prior to applications opening)

<i>Supporting letter</i>	A letter signed by the Chief Commissioner of Police (CCP) and the Chief Health Officer (CHO) authorising travel under the scheme. This letter can then be issued by councils to authorised property owners.
Q&A's	External communications regarding common queries around emergency preparedness and the travel scheme will be available on coronavirus.gov.au

We expect these resources to be available by **Monday 4 October**.

Local Government Victoria will shortly send invites for an information session to be held early next week with affected councils. Representatives from EMV and CFA will also be in attendance.

Regards,

Julie Reid
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Local Government Victoria

Authorised by Emily Phillips, Deputy Secretary
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