Councils and Emergencies Project
Phase Two

▶ **What is the Councils and Emergencies Project?**

The project is a multi-year, three phased project that aims to enhance the emergency management capability and capacity of local governments to meet their obligations in the management of emergencies. It is listed as one of the state-wide strategic priorities within the Victorian Emergency Management Strategic Action Plan following initial recognition in the Hazelwood Mine Fire Inquiry Report.

The emergency management sector has made a real commitment to better understand capacity and capability, to achieve our goal of safer and more resilient communities. Local governments are a critical partner in the delivery of emergency management in Victoria and the Councils and Emergencies Project provides a unique opportunity for local governments to evaluate their emergency management capacity and capability using the comprehensive framework developed.

Data from the evaluation will be used to develop strategies to improve councils' capacity and capability and provide evidence-based information to the broader sector to enable all agencies and government to share the responsibility of emergency management into the future.
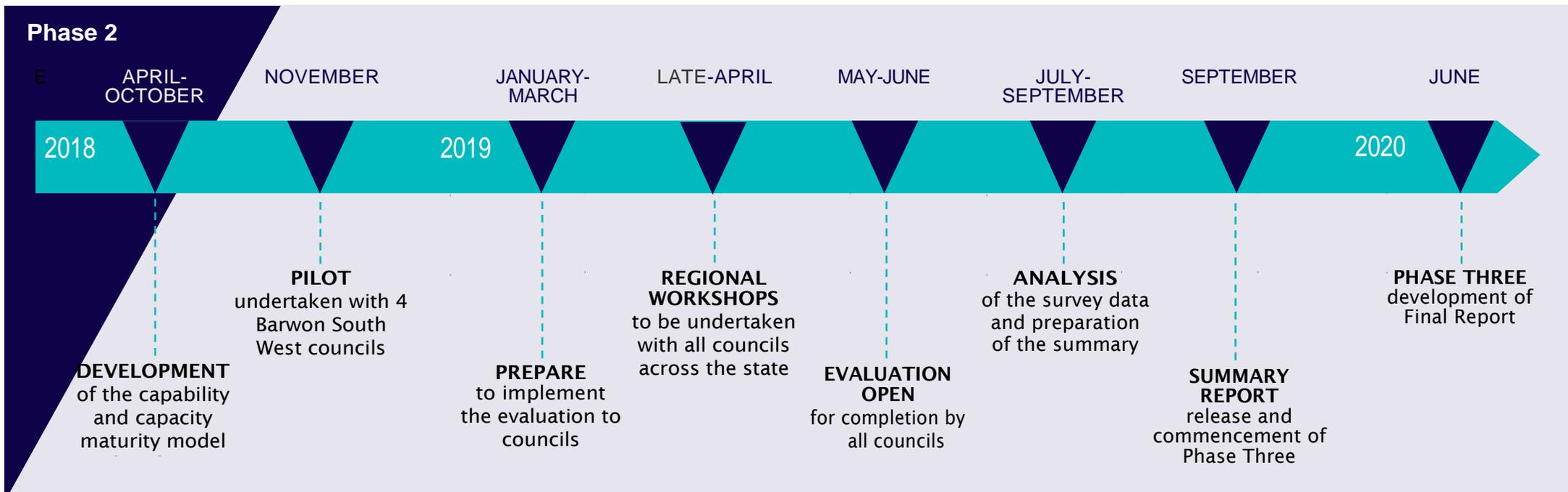
Additionally, the detailed analysis will enable local governments to better understand their own capacity and capability and allow for better planning locally to undertake emergency management responsibilities.

The effort taken by local governments to complete the evaluation and commitment to the Councils in Emergencies Project is vital to improve emergency management outcomes for communities.

▶ Where is the project up to?

Phase Two of the project has commenced. This involves the evaluation of councils' capability and capacity in emergency management. A Phase Two Summary Report will be produced and published in 2019.

Phase 2

	APRIL-OCTOBER	**NOVEMBER**	**JANUARY-MARCH**	**LATE-APRIL**	**MAY-JUNE**	**JULY-SEPTEMBER**	**SEPTEMBER**	**JUNE**
2018			**2019**					**2020**

DEVELOPMENT of the capability and capacity maturity model

PILOT undertaken with 4 Barwon South West councils

PREPARE to implement the evaluation to councils

REGIONAL WORKSHOPS to be undertaken with all councils across the state

EVALUATION OPEN for completion by all councils

ANALYSIS of the survey data and preparation of the summary

SUMMARY REPORT release and commencement of Phase Three

PHASE THREE development of Final Report

▶ Phase Two

Phase Two will evaluate councils' emergency management capability and capacity against the responsibilities and activities identified in the Councils and Emergencies Position Paper (produced in Phase One).

This project recognises that no two councils' approach their emergency management responsibilities in the same way due to the differences in emergency risk, communities needs and organisational capability and capacity. To address this complexity, a maturity model has been used.

Maturity Model

A maturity model can help an organisation to identify their performance or position against a target. In this project, the model enables each council to evaluate their capability and capacity relative to their own organisation. The maturity model has been developed into a platform that will guide each council through the process of evaluating their emergency management capability and capacity. The platform is accessible online.

The model requires each council to identify a target maturity and actual maturity.

Target Maturity

Each council will be able to specify their own target maturity, which is defined as the level at which the organisation would like to be able to provide emergency management services to the community considering its emergency risk, communities needs and organisational capability and capacity.

Councils will calculate their target maturity using two elements: emergency risk and relative need of the organisation.

Emergency risk will be self-assessed by council using existing municipal risk data, while relative need is calculated by using 2018/19 Victoria Grants Commission (VGC) data. A target maturity value between one and five will be generated for each council.

Actual Maturity

Actual maturity is an indication of the level of capability and capacity your council currently has to undertake emergency management responsibilities & activities, before, during and after an emergency, and undertake business-as-usual responsibilities and activities with emergency management implications.
Councils will determine their actual maturity by answering a series of questions. All questions are based on the responsibilities and activities identified in the Councils and Emergencies Position Paper 2017.

The questions are grouped into six categories; planning with stakeholders, planning within council, risk mitigation, planning for activation, planning for relief coordination, planning for recovery coordination. Each council will generate an actual maturity value for each of the six categories between one and five.

Implementation

The evaluation will be open from late April until mid-June 2019. It is anticipated it may take each council about a day to complete. Councils may consider splitting this time over several sessions or just one.

To ensure all councils understand the process, regional workshops will be held in April/ May 2019. The workshops will provide project context and an overview of how to complete the evaluation.

Support

To support local governments to complete the evaluation, extensive guidance and support has been developed including a training video and a Frequently Asked Questions guide.

Evaluation Results

Councils will receive their results as soon as they complete the evaluation. Once council is satisfied that their results accurately reflect their emergency management capability and capacity, the Chief Executive Officer or delegate can endorse the evaluation and submit the results to Local Government Victoria (LGV).

Individual council results will not be shared with other councils or the public.

Councils can use their results to gain an understanding of their organisation's emergency management capability and capacity before, during and after emergencies.

The data can help council to plan for or improve upon how they undertake their emergency management responsibilities and activities.

▶ What are the next steps for Phase Two of the project?

A summary report will be produced following the closure of the evaluation.

The report will identify strengths and gaps in the provision of councils' emergency management responsibilities and activities before, during and after emergencies.

All councils will be notified when the report is released.

▶ Phase Three

LGV will work with councils and state government agencies to develop strategies and plans to enhance emergency management capability and capacity. The focus will be on capability and capacity gaps identified in Phase 2 of the project.

The strategies and plans will also align to other sector reform including the Victorian Preparedness Framework and Resilient Recovery to build safer and more resilient communities.

A final report will be developed for the State Crisis and Resilience Council's consideration before being published.

▶ What else is changing for local government in emergency management?

The emergency management sector is in an exciting period of reform, and many initiatives have strong links to the Councils and Emergencies Project.

Reform initiatives to be aware of include:

- ▶ Emergency Management Legislation Amendment Bill 2018
- ▶ Victorian Preparedness Framework
- ▶ Resilient Recovery Strategy
- ▶ Emergency Management Planning Guidelines
- ▶ Reform of the Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements
  - ▶ Commonwealth
  - ▶ Victoria