

BULLETIN: 69/2020

SUPPORTING RESIDENTS PREPARE PROPERTIES FOR THE SUMMER SEASON

With the summer season imminent, property owners in bushfire prone areas, floodway or other hazard overlays must prepare their property to help reduce the risk of natural emergencies.

The Victorian Government recently announced that travel exemptions to complete this work will be available.

Metropolitan Melbourne residents are currently restricted from travelling more than 25 kilometres in metropolitan Melbourne and are unable to travel to regional Victoria – except for a small number of exemptions. To prepare their properties, letters are required to enable property owners from metropolitan Melbourne to travel to other areas of metropolitan Melbourne and regional Victoria, or for property owners from regional Victoria to travel to metropolitan Melbourne.

While travel is allowed if the property owner has been issued with a Fire Prevention Notice, councils will now also be able to issue a letter of support for property owners to travel to attend their property before an emergency for preparation activities.

Councils have long-standing responsibilities for fire prevention and are best placed to issue these letters of support.

Under the scheme, property owners will be able to request a letter of support to travel from their local government area to attend their property. To ensure the safety of all Victorians, the owner will be required to:

- travel within a defined 72 hour period requested by them,
- can only stay overnight at the property if required
- obey all restrictions in place at their primary address. Their restrictions travel with them.

Councils must confirm the ownership of the property and the requested timeframe for travel before issuing the letter of support.

The Chief Health Officer has also prepared a letter to explain the responsibilities of the owner and the penalties for not complying, which is attached. By using the letter of support, owners acknowledge the conditions that apply.

Emergency Management Victoria and Local Government Victoria, in consultation with the Municipal Association of Victoria, has prepared guidance for councils which is attached to this bulletin, along with a template letter that can be used to issue to the owner of the property.

Frequently asked questions (FAQ) have also been prepared for the public and are available on the [Victorian Government coronavirus website](#).

Councils are asked to have the scheme operational as soon as possible with travel allowed from 11.59pm Wednesday 21 October 2020 and to support residents and the community prepare for the summer season.

Regards

Colin Morrison
Acting Executive Director
Local Government Victoria

Authorised by Colin Morrison, Acting Executive Director, Local Government Victoria
Department of Jobs, Precincts and Regions, Level 35, 2 Lonsdale Street, Melbourne



Jobs,
Precincts
and Regions