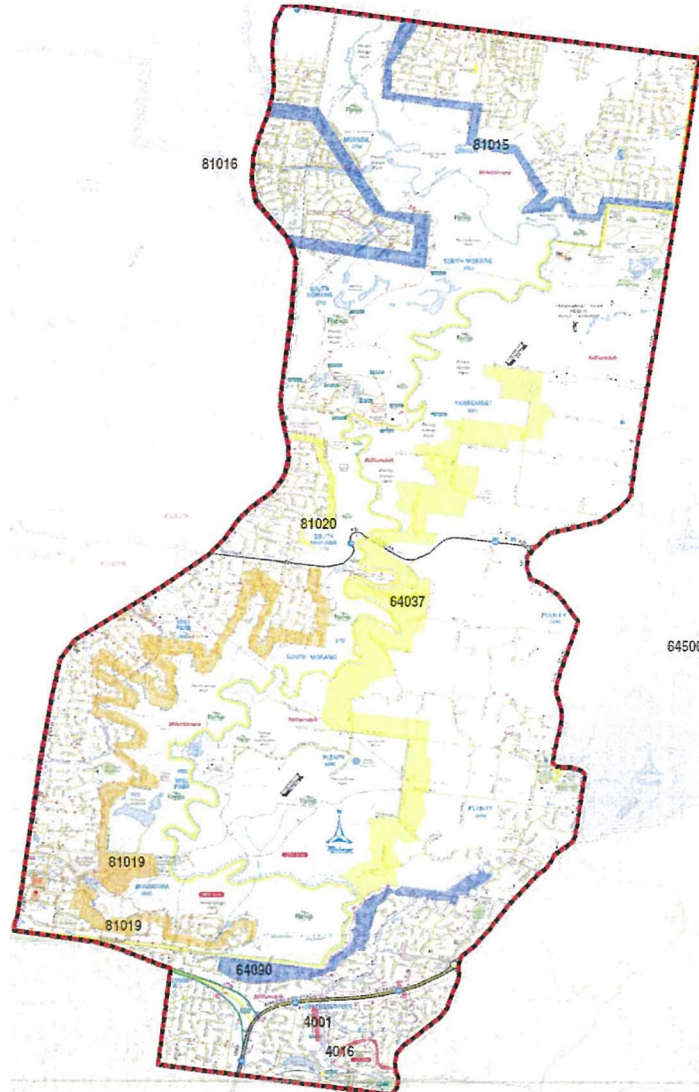




**Plenty Gorge  
Precinct Emergency Management Agreement  
2021-2026**



Document Summary

Item	Author
Authors	Norman Golgerth- Nillumbik FMPO Justin Murray - Nillumbik Council Emergency Manager
Title	Plenty Gorge Precinct Fire Management Committee
Date	22 <sup>nd</sup> August 2011

Item	Author
Authors	Norman Golgerth- Nillumbik FMPO Gavin Wright – Ops Commander Diamond Valley / Whittlesea Group Snr Sgt Wayne Spence – Officer in Charge Diamond Creek Police
Title	Plenty Gorge Precinct Fire Management Committee – 2016 - 2020
Replaces	Plenty Gorge Precinct Fire Management Committee
Date	12th April 2016

Item	Author
Authors	Snr Sgt Wayne Spence APM – Officer in Charge Diamond Creek Police
Title	Plenty Gorge Precinct Emergency Management Committee – 2021-2026
Replaces	Plenty Gorge Precinct Fire Management Committee 2016 - 2021
Date	12th October 2021

Version Control

Item	Date	Status	Description
V1.0	12/10/2021	Draft	V1.0 – Update of title to Plenty Gorge Precinct Emergency Management Committee 2021 -2016; inclusion of other emergencies to reflect 'all hazards' in planning and response

## Plenty Gorge - History of Major Fires

**25/12/63** - Fire occurred late morning and burnt south from near Kurrak Rd, on wind change burnt fiercely towards Bella Vista Crt/River Ave area of Plenty. Size U/K

On Christmas Day 1963 a fire started on the South Morang side of the Plenty River. The fire burnt on the west side of the River for some time until late morning when the high temperatures and strong winds brought it rushing towards Plenty. A number of trucks including Plenty, Diamond Creek and Wattle Glen were working on a ridge above the Gorge on a track that is now known as Bella Vista Court. The crews were trapped as the fire rushed at them and Captain Stone from Diamond Creek and Bill Upton steadied the crews and had them spray water over themselves and the trucks to stay alive. The Wattle Glen crew sustained burns to their hands, face and ears.

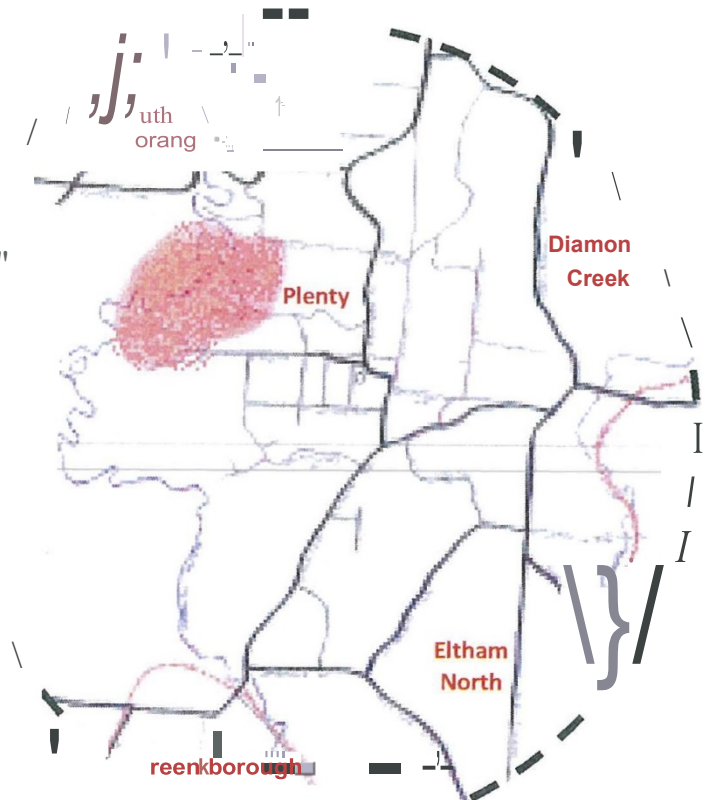
Ian Dunne was a 16 year old member of Plenty Brigade at the time and recalls his experience of the fire.

*We were down the ridge at the end of Bellavista Court, before there were any houses in the end section of that road.*

*It was a very hot day and a fire was burning down near the Plenty River. I was with the Plenty truck, but became separated from the other bfokes when the fire moved quickly up to the track on the ridge. Fortunately I married up with the Pantom Hill truck. We couldn't drive out. The fire burnt the bush all round us, but their captain kept good order - had us breathing through wet handker-*

*- It was very, very hot and very frightening, but we all came through unscathed.*

*I think we all owe our lives to that captain; he did a great job.*

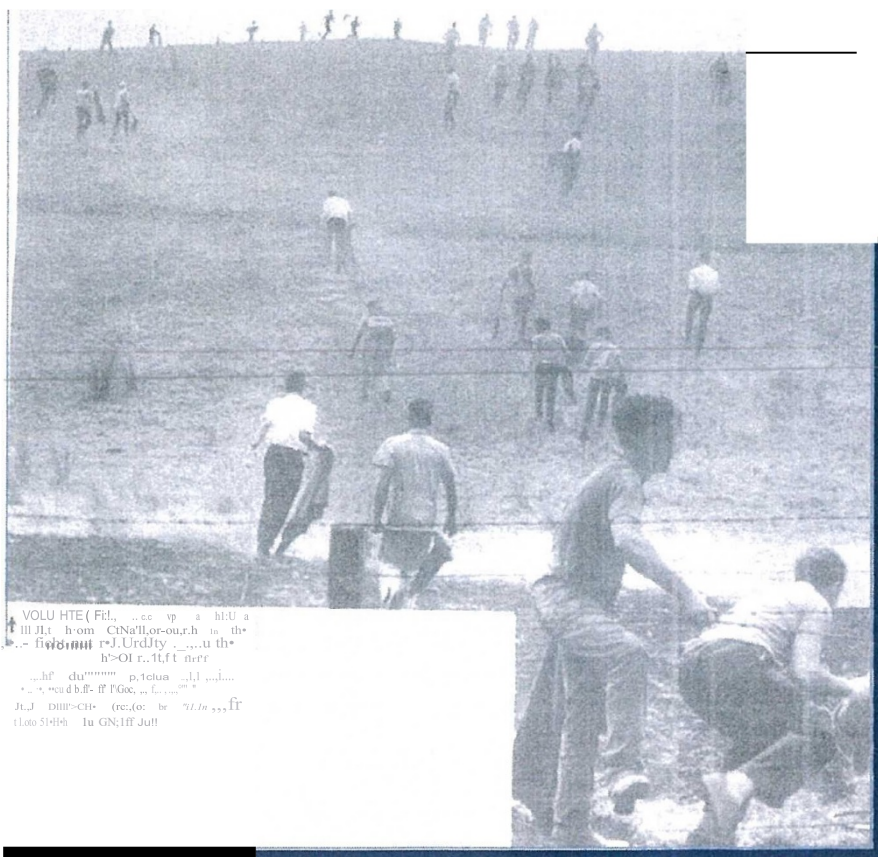


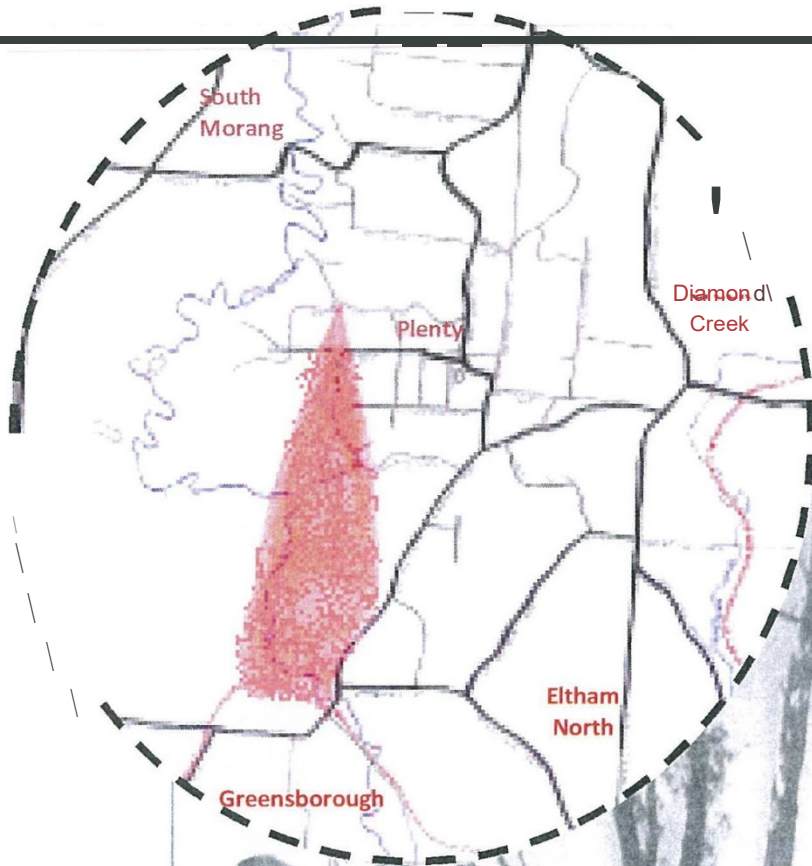
**11/03/65** - Fire started in yard of home at intersection of River Ave and Bella Vista Crt Plenty and burnt under strong northerly until stopped at edge of Greensborough. The fire burnt through the eastern edge of what is now Yellowgum Park and burnt the farmhouse that stood approx. 5km west of the intersection of Mackelroy and Oatlands Rds. The fire also burnt around the Bells property in Happy Hollow Drive and the farming property that eventually became the Apollo Parkways housing estate. Size 500Ha approx.

The 1965 fire started from hot coals placed in a garden at the corner of River Avenue and Bella Vista Court and spread very rapidly to the south under a strong northerly wind. John Lierse was working in his poultry sheds on the family's property in Oatlands Road when the fire suddenly approached. Sprinklers in the garden saved the home but over 500 hens were lost in the heat and smoke as the fire raced passed. The fire destroyed a farm house on a large property to the west of the end of Mackelroy Road and continued on to Greensborough where hundreds of volunteers rallied to stop the fire at the railway line and keep it from entering the main street of Greensborough.

Local resources were stretched on this day as serious fires also broke out at Warrandyte and Eltham.

*The Sun*  
NEWS - TOTTENHAM





The Sun Herald, March 12, 1965 - Page 3

## BATTLE FOR THE TREES

### Six houses go in two suburbs

THE circle of fire around Melbourne yesterday burnt five houses in Eltham North, one at Warrandyte, and very nearly destroyed Greensborough.

More than a thousand Green-boroughers with hoses, saws with sharp-edged sprays, axes with flails and some with green branches ripped from trees tonight lit up a standstill along the town's edge.

The five houses lost at Eltham included a \$11,500 home.

Early today Green-boroughers were still not keeping a check on manufacturing risk.

Eltham, which has had more houses lost than any other town, would take \$100,000 today.

The \$10,000 house, which contained 2,000 worth of paintings, was at Laughing Waters, four miles from Eltham.

The owner, Mr. Ken Grant, arrived here to find his property in flames.

Earlier in the night Grant had been Mr. Grant was out to fight back the flames with the help of neighbors, but a sudden rising of smoke saved the situation.

Mr. Grant's house was lost but the house and a garage were saved. 300 people were talking in the town when news of the loss.

Two days ago...

YESTERDAY firefighters battled frantically with beaters to halt flames which had taken hold in thick bush near Warrandyte last night.

BELOW: Men rush to form a defence line at the fire's edge towards the Diamond Creek Greensborough Rd. yesterday.

Yesterday afternoon all shops at Greensborough closed at 4 p.m. as everyone turned out to fight the most menacing fire most residents can remember.

Fanned by a hot southerly wind that at times reached gale force, the flames raced across farmland into a forest four miles west of Greensborough.

The Green-borough fire-breaks from the Diamond Creek-Greensborough Rd. in the hope that they could stop the blaze before it reached the Plenty River, he crossed the road.

But the fire did not gather to the west and in a sudden, swirling second wave all Greensboroughers notified tanks.

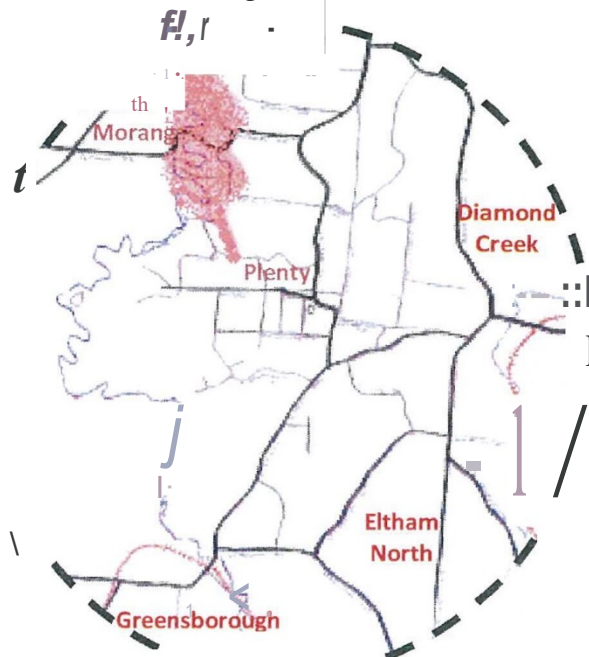
A garage containing two cars went up in a street of Eltham.

Two days ago...

Sleepless town waited, P. 4

20/02/80 - Fire started at end of Gordon's Rd South Morang and burnt through the Gorge to the south. Was eventually stopped at Namitjira Avenue Plenty. 7 homes lost in Gordons Lane, Clarkes Rd and Charlesville Rd. Size 172Ha

At 3pm on Wednesday the 20<sup>th</sup> of February 1980 two youths started a fire at the Nioka Scout Camp in Gordons Road South Morang. The fire spread rapidly in the steep gorge and within 40 minutes had burnt to Kurrak Road where it damaged the wooden timbers on the bridge over the Plenty River. Max McLean, Jason Caine, Doug Bird and Adrian Henning were on the new Acco anker and were pursued by the fire as they drew from Clarkes Road Yarrambat. The fire carried on to Charlesville Road where three homes were destroyed. The Acco crew and John and Ian Upton in the Brigade's new International Unit then cut through paddocks from Browns Lane to Namitjira Avenue where they attempted to halt the fire as it came up the steep slope from the River. The bulk of the fire was stopped at this location with the exception of a small area of fire that ran through the open paddocks to River Avenue where it was rounded up. A total of 48 CFA tankers fought the fire - 31 from Region 14 and 17 from Region 13.



The agony of the wait, the ecstasy of survival

By ROBERT WHITE who was at the scene for almost five hours

It was a scene of chaos and confusion as the fire raged through the trees and houses of the Plenty area. People were seen running through the smoke and ash, some carrying their belongings. The air was thick with the smell of burning wood and the sound of fire engines and sirens in the distance.

Heading to the front



Children and their parents, some relatives, head off from the scene of the fire.

The tragedy of plenty



A fireman mops up the remains of Milton and Girada. In the background, the charred remains of the house. A truck of bricks, a wagon and a fire engine are seen in the foreground.

Work goes on behind the scenes

Plenty firefighters were behind the scenes activity while the fire raged. They were seen working tirelessly to contain the fire and to help the community. The firefighters were seen in their gear, working in the smoke and ash. They were seen carrying equipment and supplies to the scene. The firefighters were seen in their gear, working in the smoke and ash. They were seen carrying equipment and supplies to the scene.



A group of people, including children, gathered outdoors, possibly at a community event or a memorial service.

A firefighter says thanks to his mates



By Craig Nelson

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A 'terrifying experience'

The fire was a 'terrifying experience' for the firefighters who were working on the scene in Plenty. They were seen working tirelessly to contain the fire and to help the community. The firefighters were seen in their gear, working in the smoke and ash. They were seen carrying equipment and supplies to the scene.

Fire charge

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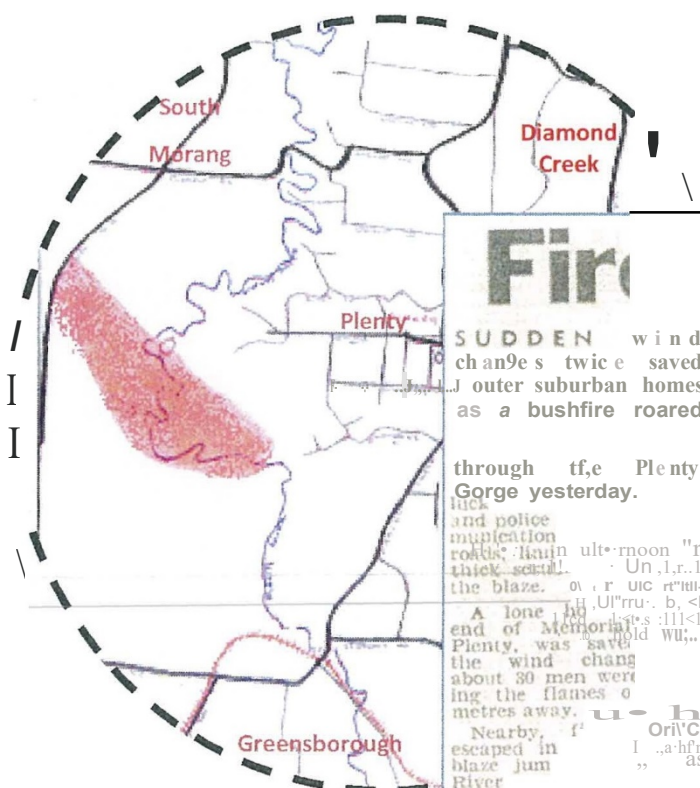
Bushfire brings a town together

The bushfire brought the town of Plenty together. People were seen working tirelessly to contain the fire and to help the community. The firefighters were seen in their gear, working in the smoke and ash. They were seen carrying equipment and supplies to the scene.

**01/01/78 - Fire started on east side of Plenty Rd between Mill Park and South Morang and burnt in a southeasterly direction and entered southern part of gorge. Size 222Ha**

A fire that broke out at 1.10pm on New Years Day 1978 caused major concern for Plenty Brigade. A car accident the previous day in South Morang had damaged a power pole and under strong winds on January 1<sup>st</sup> an SEC low voltage fell to the on to a wire fence and started three fires along Plenty Road. Brigades from the area rushed to the scene and quickly brought two of the fires under control but the third raced under the influence of a westerly wind through paddocks and quarry holes into the Plenty Gorge.

In the early stages of the fire Plenty sent its tanker over to assist but it then rushed back to Plenty when the fire entered the Gorge. The fire threatened to burn towards homes in Apollo Parkways and Happy Hollow Drive before a wind change and cooler weather helped bring it under control. The Police helicopter was used to track the extent of the fire which proved valuable in the rugged areas along the river. Don Brereton's bulldozer was brought in to push tracks through the scrub so tankers could get in and black out the area. These tracks are still in place today and are used as access routes by the Brigade for fires in the Plenty Gorge Park.



# Fire threatens houses

**SUDDEN** wind changes twice saved outer suburban homes as a bushfire roared through the Plenty Gorge yesterday.

and police multiplication roads; main ult-moon "r thick serall. Un.l.r.l the blaze. ov r uc r'mul in.Ul"rru: b, <l end of Memorial Plenty, was saved the wind change about 30 men were ing the flames o metres away.

Nearby, f' Oriv' escaped in blaze jum River River their.

By BRINA BUCHANAN

He said it was impossible to see how close the fire had come until the wind changed and took the blaze away. A wide of scorched earth 100 metres

It do'lln Into tile \*orge J1tm!)EJ the Plcnt, RJl<l

## Wind pushed blaze

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NEW YEARS Day 1978 .



31/01/90 - Fire started in Plenty Gorge Park on west side of Plenty River opposite Hamish Crt at approximately 3.55pm. Burnt south and stopped near Kariboo Gve. Size 50Ha

Late January 1991 saw a fire break out in bushland between Janefield and Apollo Parkways. A crew on the Diamond Creek tanker had a narrow escape when the fire jumped the Maroondah Aqueduct and scorched the side of their truck. The fire burnt 50 Ha and 40 units from the CFA and MFB fought the fire.

# Bushland burn in major fire outbreak

GREENSBORO  
ROUGH Residents

By Gill COOPER

2.30 a.m. Wednesday  
Maitland

has their first major encounter with bushfires for the summer with a major outbreak in Corowa Crescent.

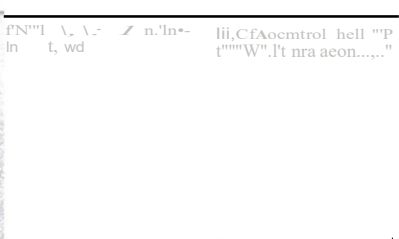
It was a late night fire, but it was not a major one. The fire was contained to a small area and did not cause any damage.

The fire was caused by a person who was smoking a cigarette. The fire was contained to a small area and did not cause any damage.

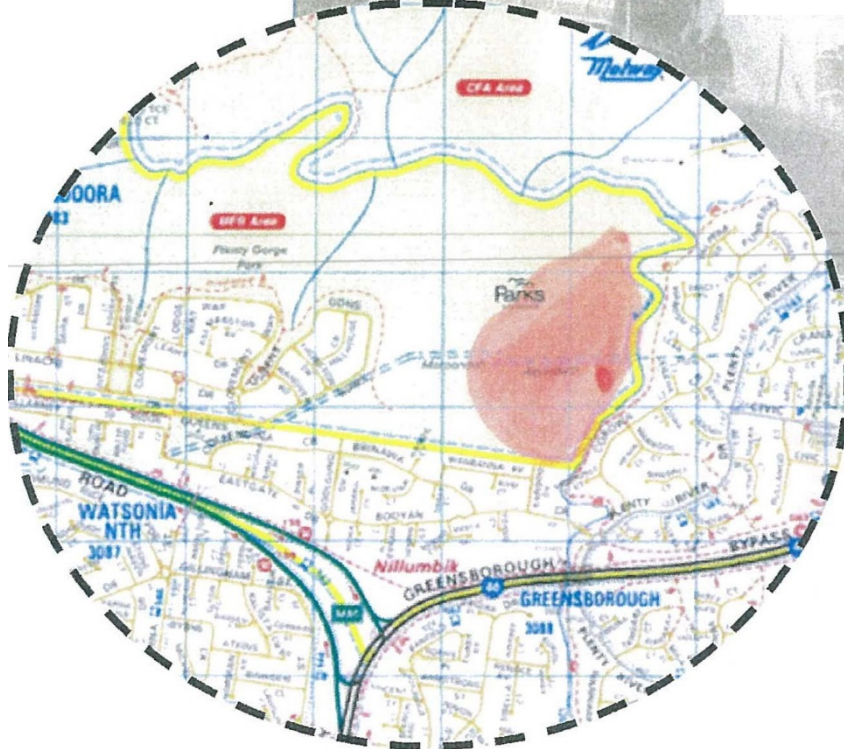
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Firefighters battling the blaze.

There was a lot of traffic congestion, with people trying to get in and out of the area. We were able to support those who stayed to protect their homes with tankers and hose lines over the back fences. I urge residents to visit their local fire station and find out what they should do in case of fire. Mr McLean said.

## Background

The Plenty Gorge Precinct is an area of high bushfire risk that spans three municipalities, two fire districts and multiple land tenures. The level of risk prompted the development of the "*Plenty Gorge Fire Prevention Strategy*". The strategy was developed by a committee with representatives from local community members, The City of Banyule, City of Whittlesea, Nillumbik Shire Council, Country Fire Authority (CFA), Fire Rescue Victoria (FRV) (formerly Metropolitan Fire Brigade), Parks Victoria (PV) and Victoria Police (VICPOL). This committee is deemed to be a subcommittee of the Banyule, Nillumbik and Municipal Emergency Management Planning Committees.

The Committee members agree that there is a need for ongoing monitoring and review of the effectiveness of implemented risk treatments. The impact of changes in the environment and use of land within and outside the park also needs to be monitored.

This document has been developed to formalise this agreement and to ensure that the monitoring and review of the risks associated with bushfire and other emergencies within the Plenty Gorge Precinct is integrated with current fire and emergency management planning structures.

### Purpose:

The purpose of this agreement is to:

- Document the commitment of all parties to continue to work together to manage the bushfire and other emergency risks associated with the Plenty Gorge Precinct
- Provide a sustainable forum for the effective collaboration of community, local government and emergency management agencies which share the responsibility for managing fire and other emergency risks in the Plenty Gorge Precinct.

### Scope:

This agreement refers to the management of bushfire and other emergency risks within Plenty Gorge Park and the area surrounding the park which is:

#### Fire related:-

- Likely to be impacted by a bushfire originating in the park
- In a location where if a fire originated it would be likely to impact on the park.

#### Other Emergency

- Involving activities or in locations likely to cause injury / death requiring a response from emergency services

This total area is known as the "Plenty Gorge Precinct" (Refer attached map).

This agreement refers to the management of the following risks:

- There is a risk that a fire originating within the Plenty Gorge Park, could lead to loss

of life, injury and destruction of assets.

- There is a risk that a fire origination close to the Plenty Gorge Park could extend into the park leading to loss of life, injury and destruction of assets.
- There is a risk of members of the public engaging in activities or be at locations within the Plenty Gorge Precinct that could lead to loss of life or injury.

**Administration:**

Victoria Police will chair the meetings and maintain the plan, with Nillumbik Shire Council providing administrative support for the facilitation of meetings.

**Meetings:**

Meetings will occur at least twice a year (one pre and one post summer). Other meetings will be convened as required.

Representatives of non-member organisations will be invited to meetings as required.

To record actions required and taken an minutes will recorded and disseminated at each meeting.

**Communications:**

Members are responsible for communicating any relevant issues to their own organisations and other relevant emergency management committees. Relevant committees include but are not limited to: The Municipal Fire Management and Emergency Management Planning Committees of Banyule, Nillumbik and Whittlesea and the Northern and Western Metropolitan Strategic Fire Management Planning Committee.

Communication with the community and other stake holders will be done with due consideration of other initiatives and processes undertaken at the organisational and committee level.

**Members and Signatories:**

City of Whittlesea	
Shire of Nillumbik	
City of Banyule	
FRV	
Parks Vic	
CFA Whittlesea/Diamond Valley Fire Brigades Group	
Local Community	
Victoria Police	S/Sgt Wayne Spence (OIC Diamond Creek)
CFA North & West Region	
Plenty Fire Brigade	
Doreen Fire Brigade	
South Morang FRV	
Yarrambat Fire Brigade	

For further information contact Nillumbik / Whittlesea / Banyule Municipal Fire Prevention Officers on 9433 3167, 9217 2506, 9490 4222

**Action Plan:**

Objectives	Actions	Measure	Time Frame	Responsibility	Progress
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Malicious/Arson / Unauthorised Fires</li> </ul>	<p>Fire Prevention patrols within the Plenty Gorge Precinct and its surrounds</p> <p>All fires to be reported to VicPol which will ensure full investigations and prosecutions of all offenders</p> <p>Patrols of the Plenty Gorge Precinct throughout the summer period</p>	% Reduction in fire ignitions caused by human activity	Throughout FOP	<p>VicPol and Parks Victoria</p> <p>VicPol, CFA, Parks Victoria</p> <p>VicPol and Parks Vic</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Future growth/development</li> </ul>	This committee is to be advised of proposed developments within the Plenty Gorge Precinct to enable assessment of the risk(s) implications of such development	Level of engagement with committee	Throughout each year	Whittlesea and Nillumbik Councils	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Weed Control</li> </ul>	Weed control and eradication programs to be included in planning of fuel reduction strategies	Assessment of weed infestation within the Gorge Precinct	Annually	<p>Whittlesea and Nillumbik Councils</p> <p>Parks Vic</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Community Awareness - Education</li> </ul>	<p>Community Fire Awareness session to be conducted in the lead up to the Declared Fire Danger Period</p> <p>Whittlesea Council attend the Community Fire Awareness</p>	% Reduction in fire ignitions caused by human activity		<p>CFA FRV, Nillumbik Council, Whittlesea Council, VicPol</p> <p>Whittlesea Council with</p>	

	<p>lead up to the FDR</p> <p>Doreen CFA Summer Fire Safety session at Laurimar CAC</p> <p>Plenty 'Fire Ready Vic' meetings</p>		<p>10th, 16<sup>th</sup> - 17<sup>th</sup> December 2015</p>	<p>CFA</p> <p>CFA with VicPol</p>	<p>Session held - 5 residents attended. 350+ flyers sent out.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bush Fire Mitigation works</li> </ul>	<p>Fire Hazard Inspections begin October and are continuous until the end of the Fire Danger Period</p> <p>The frequency of grass cutting in Council's neighbourhood parks is every 21 days but this can change</p> <p>Slashing works within Parks Vic controlled assets have been planned. <b>See attached map</b></p>	<p>Fire Prevention notices are issued on properties in and around Plenty Gorge</p>	<p>October-May</p> <p>November-December</p>	<p>City of Whittlesea</p> <p>Parks Vic</p>	<p>On track</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Access/egress</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Signage at points of entry warning of bushfire danger.</li> <li>Signage at locations of danger of injury</li> <li>Limitation of access to park by the community on designated days FDR&gt; Severe</li> <li>Traffic Management Plan developed for</li> </ul>		<p>November</p>	<p>Parks Vic</p> <p>Parks Vic</p> <p>Parks Vic</p> <p>VicPol</p>	

the precinct

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	and reviewed annually. (				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Water Supply</li> </ul>	<p>Expansion of reticulated water supply within new developments to be mapped with locations of hydrants highlighted.</p> <p>Water supply assets within Plenty and Yarrambat to be assessed annually for readiness</p>	<p>Knowledge of locations of new water supply assets increased.</p> <p>Maintenance of current equipment and installation of new assets managed</p>	<p>August to October</p> <p>Annually</p>	<p>CFA with MFPO's</p>	