



**The Barossa Council  
Community Resilience & Emergency Management  
Plan  
March 2018**

## Introduction

**Across Australia there are a range of natural disaster incidents such as bushfires, storms, heatwaves and floods that cause devastating losses. They can all have significant impacts on communities, the economy, infrastructure and the environment.**

Local government areas are at risk of a number of natural disasters. This document describes the priority risks that have been identified to the community, economy, infrastructure and environment in The Barossa Council area.

The identification of and analysis of a number of risks has been completed for The Barossa Council. This has been completed using a robust system that is endorsed and utilised nationally and is known as the National Emergency Risk Assessment Guidelines. This same system has been used to conduct a thorough and highly detailed risk assessment across the Barossa Zone, which includes the Adelaide Plains Council, The Barossa Council, Light Regional Council and the Town of Gawler.

The purpose of doing this locally was to identify the risks relevant to the area and highlight where, as a community, we can all work together to make our local government area safe and more resilient in times of emergencies. This document provides residents with advice and information to prepare for, prevent, respond to and recovery from the key risks that our community faces.

## The Barossa Council Region

The Barossa Council is approximately 80kms from the Adelaide CBD. The latest Census data shows that there are now 23, 558 people residing in The Barossa Council region.<sup>1</sup> The area is a predominantly rural with substantial rural-residential and township areas. The Council area encompasses a total land area of over 900 square kilometres. The major townships include Angaston, Lyndoch, Mount Pleasant, Nuriootpa, Tanunda and Williamstown. There are many smaller settlements of Moculta, Lights Pass, Rosedale, Eden Valley, Springton, Bethany, Penrice, Sandy Creek, Roland Flat and Stockwell. Rural land is used mainly for sheep and cattle grazing, crop and fruit growing and viticulture. Tourism is also an important industry, with Barossa being one of Australia's renowned wine regions with some of the world famous wineries located here, including Jacob's Creek, Penfolds, Wolf Blass and Yalumba.

Whilst not an exhaustive list the major landscape parks of the Council area include Kaiserstuhl Conservation Park, Sandy Creek Conservation Park, Barossa Reservoir, South Para Reservoir, Warren Reservoir, Parra Wirra Recreation Park and the Barossa Bush Gardens. Numerous trails and bushwalk areas including the Heysen and Lavender trails, extensive open spaces include parks, gardens and sporting and community facilities. Significant infrastructure of the Council area includes extensive wine, food, tourism and agricultural assets and businesses, over 900km of road infrastructure, flood and stormwater infrastructure, TAFE SA (Barossa Nuriootpa Campus), Angaston Hospital, Mount Pleasant District Hospital, Tanunda War Memorial Hospital, The Barossa Museum, Barossa Regional Gallery, Barossa Aquatic & Fitness Centre, State Government facilities, SA Water and SAPN depot, aged care and retirement facilities and extensive retail precincts. Large essential service assets include mains water throughout the townships, reticulated irrigation systems of Barossa Infrastructure Limited, mains gas supply, community wastewater management systems or SA water sewer systems, power supply network and mobile and fixed telecommunications and NBN services.

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<sup>1</sup> 2016 Census Quick Stats (Barossa DC).

[http://www.censusdata.abs.gov.au/census\\_services/getproduct/census/2016/quickstat/LGA40310?opendocument](http://www.censusdata.abs.gov.au/census_services/getproduct/census/2016/quickstat/LGA40310?opendocument)

## A shared responsibility

Councils support the emergency management arrangements in South Australia and have a particularly important role to play in mitigating risk, supporting emergency service agencies in response to an emergency and supporting the community during recovery. Local government also has a role to educate communities about emergencies and providing local knowledge to support responses to emergencies.

Effective emergency management involves community members playing their part in each stage of the process when it comes to preventing, preparing for, responding to and recovering from emergencies. This can be done by individuals understanding their exposure to risk by accessing information resources available through government, non-government agencies and community organisations in terms of planning and preparation for protecting life and property. It involves becoming aware of the potential threats in localities and environments and is increased by familiarising with local community emergency management arrangements.

## Emergency Prevention, Preparedness, Response and Recovery

**In the *Emergency Management Act 2004*, Prevention, Preparedness, Response and Recovery are defined as:**

### **Prevention**

In relation to an emergency, means measures taken to eliminate or reduce the incidence or severity of the emergency.

### **Preparedness**

In relation to an emergency, preparedness means arrangements made to ensure that, should an emergency occur, the resources and services needed to cope with the effect of the emergency can be mobilised and deployed efficiently.

### **Response**

Any measures taken in anticipation of, during or immediately after an emergency to ensure that the effect of the emergency is minimised and that affected individuals are given immediate relief and support.

### **Recovery**

The conduct of any measures (such as human, economic and environmental measures) taken during or after an emergency, being measures necessary to assist the re-establishment of the normal (or new normal) pattern of life of individuals, families and communities affected by the emergency.

## Emergency kits

A simple action everyone can take is to ensure they have an emergency kit, whilst this kit can contain more than what is outlined below it should contain the basic necessities that you and your family will need during any emergency event to sustain you for up to 72 hours. Your emergency kit should relate to the priority risk in your area; extreme weather, flood and rural fire. During disasters there could be long periods where your community will be without electricity, gas, water and mobile phone service. In some cases ATMs may not work, businesses will not be able to operate and petrol

stations may shutdown as a preventative safety measure. Having some basic items can help to make that time a little easier to manage.

Main items to have in your emergency kit:

- At least 3 litres of sealed drinking water per person, per day.
- Non-perishable food items (ready to eat tinned, dried and long-life, snacks)
- Battery-powered, solar or wind-up radio and torch
- First-aid kit
- Cash
- Important documents – passport
- Medications

In times of emergency management warnings issues raised regarding petrol, gas, and telecommunications are important considerations to plan for. Is your car fuel or has sufficient petrol if you have to move, do you have a backup gas cylinder and do you have sufficient backup batteries for your radio and torch.

### Local risk information

The Barossa Council has completed a risk assessment using the National Emergency Risk Assessment Guidelines. The key hazards identified as being priority risks for The Barossa Council area are: Extreme Weather (Heat and Storm), Flood and Rural Fire.

A number of risk statements were evaluated at a local level to determine where improvements or other activities could help to increase our community resilience. While these risks have been evaluated broadly across the entire community, your own individual risks may vary.

This will depend on many factors:

- where you live
- the type and size of your property
- if you're a business owner
- living circumstances (live alone or with others)
- where you drive to regularly
- where you work
- where your children go to school
- you have a disability or other mobility issues
- are you reliant on other people on a daily basis
- whether you have pets and other animals in your care.

These are all important factors that need consideration when assessing your own risks and writing an Emergency Plan.

### Extreme Weather (Heat and Storm)

Extreme heat events (also known as heatwaves) are three days or more of high maximum and minimum temperatures. Heat events are a risk for anyone who doesn't take precautions to keep cool, even people who are fit and healthy. People most at risk in these events are the elderly, babies and young children, and people with a medical condition or mental illness. Anyone working or spending time outdoors is also at an increased risk of heat stress.

Extreme storm events can bring heavy rain, strong wind, hail, thunder and lightning. Locally this can also mean that rivers and creeks will flood.

The most significant extreme weather risks for residents in The Barossa Council area are:

- Heat stress that causes illnesses or fatalities to residents.
- Heat or Storm damage to crops, grapes and livestock.

Extreme heat events also increase the risk of a fire starting.

For information about being prepared and what to do before and during extreme weather events go to these websites.

- Extreme Storm information - <https://www.sa.gov.au/topics/emergencies-and-safety/types/extreme-storm>
- Extreme Heat information - <https://www.sa.gov.au/topics/emergencies-and-safety/types/extreme-heat>
- Heatwave Service for Australia (includes four day forecast maps - <http://www.bom.gov.au/australia/heatwave/>)
- Red Cross - To register yourself or someone you look after, phone the Red Cross on 1800 188 071 or 8100 4510

## Flood

Flood is the most costly natural disaster in South Australia. The Barossa Council region is vulnerable to riverine flooding from the Light, North and South Para Rivers as well as flash flooding during extreme storm events.

The priority flood risk identified for The Barossa Council area is:

- Damage to business premises, equipment and stock and service interruption.

There will also be other risks created during and after a flood that everyone in the community should be aware of.

- Injuries and fatalities to people caused through driving, walking, swimming or playing in floodwater.
- Increased risk of injuries and fatalities to vulnerable people in the community (the elderly, children, people with disabilities)
- Injuries and fatalities to tourists and visitors who are unaware of the flood risk in the local area.

## Staying safe during and after a flood event

### Safety on the road and outdoors

The biggest risk to human life during and after a flood event is drowning. The major risks associated with flooding is driving, riding, walking through, swimming or playing in flood waters. Flood waters can have strong under currents and are extremely unpredictable. There is no way to know what is under the surface of the water. It's important to remember that local areas you know well, and roads that you use often, could be damaged or washed away below the flood water.

### Be prepared at home

- Know what your flood risks are.
- Write an emergency household plan that states what you will do in the event of a flood.
- Ensure that your property is flood safe (move chemicals, hazardous and valuable items up to a higher level)
- Know your neighbours and check on the elderly and those most-at risk.
- Stay aware of your environment and listen to regular weather updates.
- Only return home when you have checked that it is safe to do so.

Flood Awareness Maps are available here:

<https://www.environment.sa.gov.au/topics/water/hazard-management>

For more information on what you need to do to minimise the impact to you, your family and your property visit:

SES Flood Safe - [http://www.ses.sa.gov.au/site/community\\_safety/floodsafe.jsp](http://www.ses.sa.gov.au/site/community_safety/floodsafe.jsp)

SA Government - <http://www.sa.gov.au/topics/emergencies-and-safety/types/flood>

### Rural Fire

The Barossa Council Area is part of the Mount Lofty Ranges Fire Ban District. If you live in The Barossa Council area you are at risk of rural fire. If you live in a Bushfire Safer Precinct the risk is minimised; however, everyone should be prepared emotionally and have their properties physically prepared to withstand a bushfire. Fire Danger Season generally begins on the 1 December and ends on the 30 April the following year.

The priority rural fire impacts for The Barossa Council area are:

- Increased health impacts to vulnerable people in the community (the elderly, babies and children, people with disabilities and mental illness).
- Injuries and fatalities of residents who evacuate at the last minute when it is unsafe.
- Injuries and fatalities of residents who stay back to care for their pets/animals.
- Injuries and fatalities of residents associated with driving when there is low visibility due to smoke from the fire.
- Injuries and fatalities of residents due to building and property damage.
- Disruption to the general community due to the interruption of essential services and utilities.
- Injuries and fatalities to farmers and other outdoor workers.
- Financial losses to small businesses and the primary industries of the area.
- Building and contents damage and financial loss.
- Increased demand on emergency services.
- Property damage and loss of lives that create community distress and anxiety.

## Prevention and preparedness

Simple things you can do to be prepared:

### **Have a Bushfire Survival Plan**

Talk to your family about what you will all do and where you will go on Severe, Extreme and Catastrophic Fire Danger days, or if a fire starts and threatens you and your property. Being prepared and having a plan significantly increases your chance of survival.

5 Minute Bushfire Plan is available through the CFS website:

[https://www.cfs.sa.gov.au/site/prepare\\_for\\_a\\_fire/5\\_minute\\_bushfire\\_plan.jsp](https://www.cfs.sa.gov.au/site/prepare_for_a_fire/5_minute_bushfire_plan.jsp)

You will need to be physically and emotionally prepared.

### **Know your neighbours**

Resilient communities who know one another will cope better in a disaster. Start a conversation with your family and neighbours, so if there is a bushfire you can better help each other and recover faster. Go to the Red Cross page 'Knowing your neighbours could save your life -

<https://www.redcross.org.au/news-and-media/news/knowing-your-neighbours-could-save-your-life>

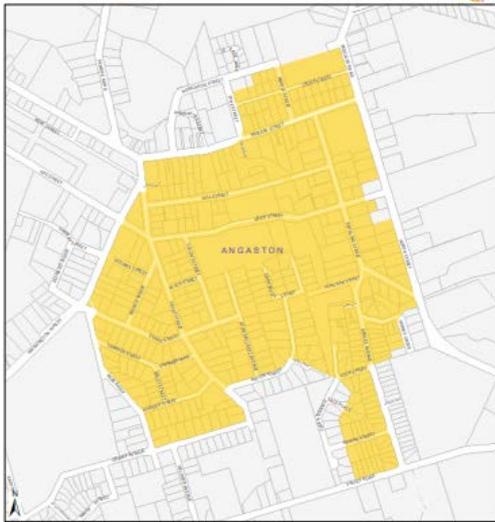
### **Know where your local Bushfire Safer Places are.**

The Barossa Council area has five Bushfire Safer Places. A Bushfire Safer Place is a place of relative safety. It may be used as a place for people to stay in or as a place of first resort for those who have decided they will leave high risk locations early on a high fire risk day.

A Bushfire Safer Place is relatively safe from bushfire because:

- It is in an area of low levels of bushfire fuel
- It is far enough from continuous bushland or forest to reduce the risk of sparks and embers
- The bushfire will be interrupted by
  - established gardens and lawns
  - road networks and other low fuel areas
- There is likely to be access to emergency, health and other community services.

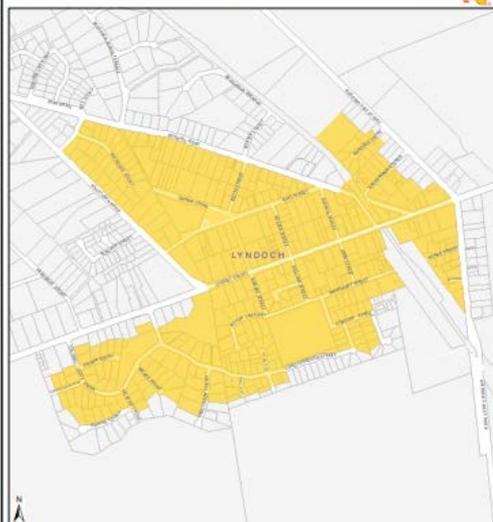
**Angaston  
Bushfire Safer Place**



Council: The Barossa Council  
Fire Ban District: Mount Lofty Ranges  
This Bushfire Safer Place is considered to be relatively safe from fire due to its low levels of fuel. Although the CFS has taken every care and precaution in identifying this area it will be subjected to spark and ember attack in the event of a fire.  
It is recommended that you identify several Bushfire Safer Places when creating your personal Bushfire Survival Plan. Templates for Bushfire Survival Plans are available from the CFS website.  
Map published: June 2017

www.cfs.sa.gov.au  
www.137 277 466  
Government of South Australia

**Lyndoch  
Bushfire Safer Place**



Council: The Barossa Council  
Fire Ban District: Mount Lofty Ranges  
This Bushfire Safer Place is considered to be relatively safe from fire due to its low levels of fuel. Although the CFS has taken every care and precaution in identifying this area it will be subjected to spark and ember attack in the event of a fire.  
It is recommended that you identify several Bushfire Safer Places when creating your personal Bushfire Survival Plan. Templates for Bushfire Survival Plans are available from the CFS website.  
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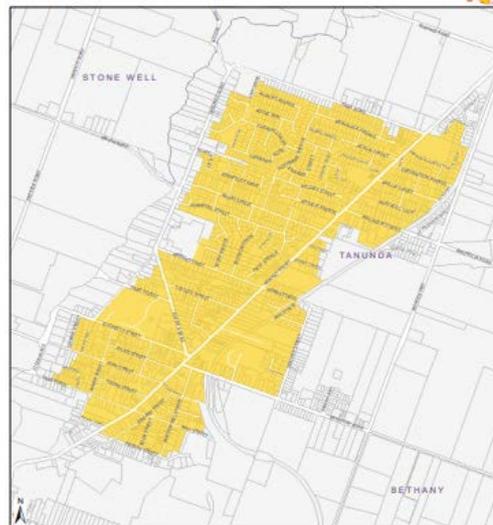
**Nuriootpa  
Bushfire Safer Place**



Council: The Barossa Council  
Fire Ban District: Mount Lofty Ranges  
This Bushfire Safer Place is considered to be relatively safe from fire due to its low levels of fuel. Although the CFS has taken every care and precaution in identifying this area it will be subjected to spark and ember attack in the event of a fire.  
It is recommended that you identify several Bushfire Safer Places when creating your personal Bushfire Survival Plan. Templates for Bushfire Survival Plans are available from the CFS website.  
Map published: June 2017

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www.137 277 466  
Government of South Australia

**Tanunda  
Bushfire Safer Place**



Council: The Barossa Council  
Fire Ban District: Mount Lofty Ranges  
This Bushfire Safer Place is considered to be relatively safe from fire due to its low levels of fuel. Although the CFS has taken every care and precaution in identifying this area it will be subjected to spark and ember attack in the event of a fire.  
It is recommended that you identify several Bushfire Safer Places when creating your personal Bushfire Survival Plan. Templates for Bushfire Survival Plans are available from the CFS website.  
Map published: June 2017

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Government of South Australia

**Williamstown  
Bushfire Safer Place**



Council: The Barossa Council  
Fire Ban District: Mount Lofty Ranges  
This Bushfire Safer Place is considered to be relatively safe from fire due to its low levels of fuel. Although the CFS has taken every care and precaution in identifying this area it will be subjected to spark and ember attack in the event of a fire.  
It is recommended that you identify several Bushfire Safer Places when creating your personal Bushfire Survival Plan. Templates for Bushfire Survival Plans are available from the CFS website.  
www.cfs.sa.gov.au  
Government of South Australia

**Know where the Last Resort Refuges are.**

The Barossa Council area has three Last Resort Refuges. A Last Resort Refuge is your LAST choice of location to shelter from a bushfire. This is where you go if your Bushfire plan has failed. It is an area that provides a minimum level of protection from the immediate life threatening effects of radiant heat and direct flame contact in a bushfire.

Location	Site Name	Open Space	Address	Fire Ban District
Mount Pleasant	Mount Pleasant Oval	Open Space	Melrose Street, Mount Pleasant SA 5235	Mount Lofty Ranges
Sandy Creek	Curdnatta Recreation Park	Open Space	Davies Road, Sandy Creek SA 5350	Mount Lofty Ranges
Stockwell	Stockwell Recreation Park	Open Space	Sturt Highway, Stockwell SA 5355	Mount Lofty Ranges

**Fire Danger Ratings**

The Country Fire Service issues the Fire Danger Rating for each Fire Ban District after 4pm each day. It is a good idea to check these each night to determine what you will do the following day.

[https://www.cfs.sa.gov.au/site/bans\\_and\\_ratings/more\\_about\\_fire\\_danger\\_ratings.jsp](https://www.cfs.sa.gov.au/site/bans_and_ratings/more_about_fire_danger_ratings.jsp)

Severe, Extreme and Catastrophic warnings should be your trigger to action your Bushfire Survival Plan.

**Leave Early or Stay and Defend**

Your Bushfire Survival Plan must include whether you will 'leave early' or stay and defend. Either way you still need to have a plan of what you will do. The Country Fire Service advises that leaving early is always the safest option.

Read more <http://www.sa.gov.au/topics/emergencies-and-safety/types/bushfire>

Bushfire Information Hotline 1300 362 361

Stay tuned to your local ABC radio station (ABC Radio 891 AM, ABC Classic FM 103.9FM, ABC Digital Radio 206.352MHz)

An extensive list is here

<http://www.sa.gov.au/topics/emergencies-and-safety/prepare-for-an-emergency/emergency-kit>

It is important to know that during any disaster, emergency services may not be able to reach you immediately. This is why we all have a shared responsibility in being aware of our own risks, planning what we will do in such events, and supporting others who are more at risk.

## Emergency numbers and websites

All emergencies dial 000 or Teletype 106

Listen to your local ABC radio station to stay informed (ABC Radio 891 AM, ABC Classic FM 103.9FM, ABC Digital Radio 206.352MHz)

### **Extreme Heat**

Bureau of Meteorology Heatwave Service for Australia -

<http://www.bom.gov.au/australia/heatwave/>

### **Extreme Storm and Flood**

Bureau of Meteorology - Extreme Weather & Flood Warning      **1300 659 215**

State Emergency Services - 24 hr Emergency      **132 500**

SA Police (non-urgent)      **131 444**

Bureau of Meteorology warnings - <http://www.sa.gov.au/topics/emergencies-and-safety/during-an-emergency/BOM-flood-warnings>

SES website - <http://www.ses.sa.gov.au/site/home.jsp>

### **Bushfire**

Country Fire Service - Bushfire Information Hotline      **1300 362 361**

### *Hearing or speech impaired?*

Contact the CFS via the National Relay Service (NRS) by calling (TTY 133 677) or through other contact options available [www.relayservice.gov.au](http://www.relayservice.gov.au)

CFS website      [www.cfs.sa.gov.au](http://www.cfs.sa.gov.au)

Facebook      @Countryfireservice

Twitter      @CFSalerts

### **Electricity**

SA Power – network faults and emergencies, including loss of supply      13 13 66

### **Gas**

Australian Gas networks – gas leaks      1800 427 532 or 000

### **Water**

SA Water – burst water mains      1300 650 950