5 May 2017

Councils and Emergencies Directions Paper
Local Government Victoria
LGV.emergencies@delwp.vic.gov.au

Dear Sir Madam

Re: Submission to LGV – Councils and Emergencies Direction Paper

Thank you for giving the Glenelg Shire Council the opportunity to respond to the LGV - Councils and Emergencies Direction Paper.

The Glenelg Shire is a large rural Shire of 6,215 km2, located in the far south-west corner of Victoria. The population of Glenelg Shire is 19,167 (2016 ABS est.).

Approximately 61% (12,299) of people in Glenelg Shire live in the main urban areas of Portland, Casterton and Heywood with the rest of the population dispersed throughout small towns, villages and rural hinterlands.

The area is in a high risk area of bushfires both grass and forest and flooding has occurred across the north and south of the Shire in past and recent times.

The 154 actions or responsibilities listed in the discussion paper are not all described in the paper as correct. They have been paraphrased rather than directly quoted from legislation responsibilities therefore, this can be interpreted differently to the commonly understood interpretation of the relevant legislation. There needs to be more clarity with regard to where the legislated action has come from.

Those in black font which comes from other sources are inappropriate and it seems to be examples of councils experiences in an emergency and may have been a one off actions that normally would be another agency’s responsibility. Many of the proposed responsibilities are repetitive, and some inaccurate.

This submission should be read in conjunction with the Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV) and the South West Region Municipal Emergency Management Enhancement Group (MEMEG) submissions as we support both.

As the Discussion paper is the first stage in identifying responsibilities/actions and with the matters that have been raised in the MAV & MEMEG submissions we look forward to further discussions in the next stage of this project.
If you have any queries regarding the above information please contact me either by email [redacted]@glenelg.vic.gov.au or telephone [redacted].

Yours faithfully