PYRENEES SHIRE COUNCIL FEEDBACK TO THE LGV ON THE:

‘COUNCILS AND EMERGENCIES DIRECTIONS PAPER’
1. Introduction

This document is a response to an invitation from LGV to provide feedback on whether the current emergency management responsibilities and actions described in the ‘Councils and Emergencies Directions Paper’ accurately describe what we do in the Pyrenees Shire. The risks each council in Victoria face vary with the biggest differences being between rural and urban municipalities. Pyrenees is a small rural municipality with a rich history of emergencies, particularly with natural events such as flood and fire.

The Pyrenees Shire Council agrees (in part or fully) with the majority of the responsibilities and actions described in the ‘Councils and Emergencies Directions Paper’ (even though the rating of some of those responsibilities as a legislative requirement is questionable), there are some changes we would like to make. This submission responds to the listed capabilities and responsibilities by exception. That means what is already in the paper that Pyrenees doesn’t fully agree with is modified (in bold italic font) to reflect our current responsibilities and arrangements.

2. Core Capabilities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Core Capability</th>
<th>When</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Critical Transport</td>
<td>(ADD) After</td>
<td>Clear and restore damaged local roads. Provide input on alternate local road routes.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Health Protection</td>
<td>(ADD) Before</td>
<td>Develop plans, procedures and conduct training exercises for public health risk events such as pandemics, extreme heat events as well as identifying vulnerable people in the community.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Relief assistance</td>
<td>(ADD) Before</td>
<td>Develop plans, procedures and conduct training exercises.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Environmental Response</td>
<td>(ADD) After</td>
<td>Working in partnership with Agriculture Victoria, support non-primary producers with the animal welfare requirements of their animals.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Natural and Cultural Rehabilitation</td>
<td>(ADD) Before</td>
<td>Create a register of all the natural and cultural heritage resources to provide an assessment checklist after an emergency.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fire Management and Suppression</td>
<td>(MODIFY) Before</td>
<td>Implement fire risk reduction activities and provide resources to support firefighting capabilities .... etc</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Recovery</td>
<td>(ADD) Before</td>
<td>Develop plans, procedures and conduct training exercises.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assurance and Learning</td>
<td>(ADD) Before</td>
<td>Prepare debriefing procedures and arrangements for Council teams and their staff.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
2. Current Responsibilities and Actions

2.1 Planning

(ADD) After

13. Prepare recovery implementation plans, in partnership with relevant agencies, after the impact assessments have been conducted.

2.2 Operational Management

Before

37. Facilitate response, relief and recovery training activities and participate in those lead by agencies and other councils.

After

62. Support agencies to coordinate animal welfare for non-primary producers within council resources.

2.3 Fire Management and Suppression

Before and During

86. Meeting the costs of providing, marking and maintaining all fire plugs in the municipality. (delete installing)

2.4 Relief Assistance

(ADD) Before

113. Develop plans and arrangements which provide for the special needs of the young and the elderly.

After

118. When a protracted event, inform the community about financial hardship assistance payments.

2.5 Natural and Cultural Rehabilitation

After

128. Restore local cultural heritage sites on council managed public land.

2.6 Built Recovery

Before

133. Identify community needs and priorities of the built environments on private and public lands including essential services, commercial and industrial facilities, public buildings, assets and housing.
2.7 Social Recovery

(ADD) Before

Develop plans and procedures for social recovery activities which include:

- Emergency communications
- Recovery centre operations
- Outreach activities
- Vulnerable people
- Donations and appeals

(ADD) During

Assess and prepare to activate relevant social recovery plans and procedures.

After

147. Coordinate community health programs to ensure the continuity and availability of advice and services.

148. Support agencies with their delivery of services for the medium-to-long-term psychological needs of the community.

149. Coordinate access to short, medium and long term housing options for displaced people.

150. Support agencies to assess and deliver financial re-establishment assistance.

2.8 Assurance and Learning

(REPLACE) After

- Using feedback from debriefs and surveys, evaluate the effectiveness of council operations before, during and after the emergency to draw on lessons learned and modify council plans and procedures where required.
- Report those learnings and changes to the MEMPC and Council.

3. Conclusion

Being a small, high-risk, rural municipality, Pyrenees welcomes the phase 2 part of this project where the capability and capacity of local government will be assessed. We are still unsure what a core capability would be because many of the responsibilities listed in the LGV paper are broad and open to interpretation (particularly in a small council such as ours with the resources we currently have at our disposal). The MAV ‘maturity model’ has merit as it provides an opportunity to specifically state what a council such as ours would be ‘required’ to do as compared to what would be ‘desirable’.

[Signature], on behalf of the Pyrenees Emergency Management Team

April 2017