



MEDIA RELEASE: MONDAY, 11 NOVEMBER, 2019

WHAT IS A BUSHFIRE PLACE OF LAST RESORT?

Council reminds residents that Bushfire Places of Last Resort are available across the Strathbogie Shire in times of fire emergency.

A Bushfire Place of Last Resort (BPLR), or formally referred to as a Neighbourhood Safer Place, is a place where you can go when your personal bushfire plans have failed.

A BPLR is a predetermined location which is considered relatively safe from bushfire.

The following locations in the Strathbogie Shire are Bushfire Places of Last Resort:

- ✓ Kirkland Avenue, between Clifton Street and Bury Street, Euroa
- ✓ Avenel Recreation Reserve Pavilion, 33A Anderson Street and Watson Street, Avenel
- ✓ Longwood Recreation Reserve Pavilion, 2A Down Street, Longwood
- ✓ Mangalore Airport Main Building, 331 Aerodrome Road, Mangalore
- ✓ Nagambie Lakes Regatta Centre, 66 Loddings Lane, Nagambie
- ✓ Ruffy Recreation Reserve Oval, 36 Noye Lane, Ruffy
- ✓ Strathbogie Golf Club House, 17 Armstrong Avenue, Strathbogie
- ✓ Violet Town Recreation Reserve Pavilion, 2 Tulip Street, Violet Town

Country Fire Authority (CFA) provides the following advice about Bushfire Places of Last Resort on their website:

- ✓ Locations may provide some protection from direct flame and heat from a fire, but they do not guarantee safety
- ✓ They are not an alternative to planning to leave early or to stay and defend your property; they are a place of last resort if all other fire plans have failed
- ✓ They are an existing location and not a purpose-built, fire-proof structure. It is important to know that many NSP-BPLRs are simply a clearing that provides separation distance from the bushfire hazard (e.g. forest).
- ✓ They are not to be confused with Community Fire Refuges, Relief Centres, Recovery Centres or Assembly Areas, each of which have a different and specific purpose.
- ✓ They are not an appropriate destination when leaving the area early
- ✓ They are not a place of shelter from other types of emergencies (e.g. to escape rising floodwaters or severe weather events)

A Bushfire Place of Last Resort should not be confused with a Relief Centre, which is designated, established and run by Council to accommodate residents when they need to be evacuated during an emergency.

The location of a Relief Centre is determined at the time of the emergency by the Incident Control Centre in consultation with Council, depending on where the emergency is located.

In times of emergency, Council and relevant authorities will release communications to inform residents of a Relief Centre opening, often through website, social media or on the local radio.

Strathbogie Shire Mayor Amanda McClaren said Council urges residents to remain vigilant during the fire danger period and ensure they continue to prepare themselves and their properties, especially on days of high fire danger.

“We want to remind our communities that a Bushfire Place of Last Resort is a place you can go when all other fire plans have failed; it is not an alternative to your fire plan,” Cr McClaren explained.

“If you would like more information about Bushfire Places of Last Resort or planning and preparing for fires, please visit www.cfa.vic.gov.au/plan-prepare or contact your local CFA.”

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