



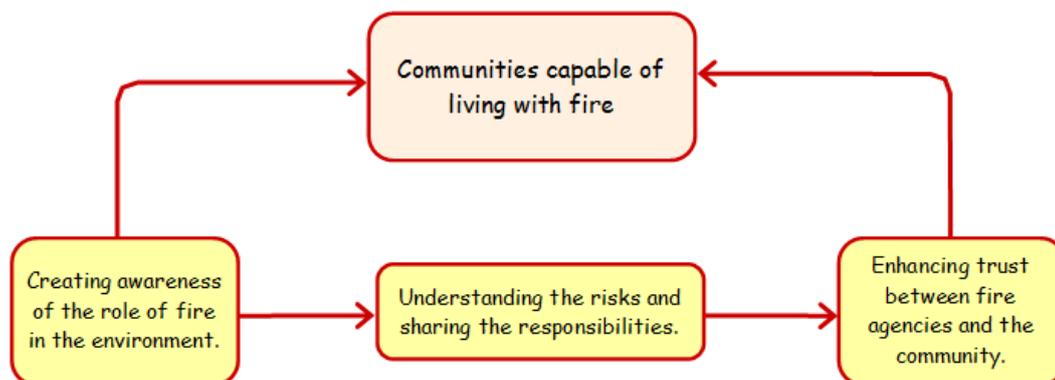
Point Henry Community Fire Strategy

Community Resilience

The National Strategy for Disaster Resilience ¹ defines a community which is resilient to disaster as one where:

- People understand the risks that may affect them and others in their community.
- People have taken steps to anticipate disasters and to protect themselves their assets and their livelihoods,
- People work together with local leaders using their knowledge and resources to prepare for and deal with disasters.
- People work in partnership with emergency services, their local authorities and other relevant organisations before, during and after emergencies.
- Emergency management plans are resilience-based, to build disaster resilience within communities over time.
- Communities, governments and other organisations take resilience outcomes into account when considering and developing core services, products and policies.
- The emergency management volunteer sector is strong.
- Businesses and other service providers undertake wide reaching business continuity planning.
- Land use planning systems and building control arrangements reduce, as far as is practicable, community exposure to unreasonable risks from known hazards, and suitable arrangements are implemented to protect life and property.
- Following a disaster, a satisfactory range of functioning is restored quickly.

Fundamental to the concept of disaster resilience, is that individuals and communities should be more self-reliant and prepared to take responsibility for the risks they live with. Resilient communities are aware of the risks and engage in the management of these as shown below²:



The level of vulnerability of a community can be categorised as³:

Low Vulnerably

- Area receives targeted community education programs
- Properties are prepared e.g. Building protection zones are maintained; gutter are cleaned and flammable objects are located away from hazards and buildings.
- Adequate access and egress.
- Residents/owners likely to be able to defend their own property.
- Adequate water supply.

¹ Council of Australian Governments (2011) *National Strategy for Disaster Resilience* Page 5

² CFA (2008) *Living With Fire Victoria's Bushfire Strategy* Page 12.

³ CFA (2011) *Victorian Fire Risk Register – Reference Guide* Table 2.4

Moderate Vulnerability

- The majority of houses meet current construction standards for buildings in bush fire prone areas.
- The area has had targeted community education programs.
- The properties are not prepared.
- Adequate access and egress.
- Residents/owners likely to be able to defend their own property.
- Adequate water supply.
- Special fire protection assets with fire relocation plans.

High Vulnerability

- No recent or targeted community education programs or programs have been ineffective.
- The properties are not prepared.
- Inadequate access and egress.
- Residents/owners unlikely to be able to defend their own property.
- Inadequate water supply
- Special fire protection assets with no fire relocation plans.