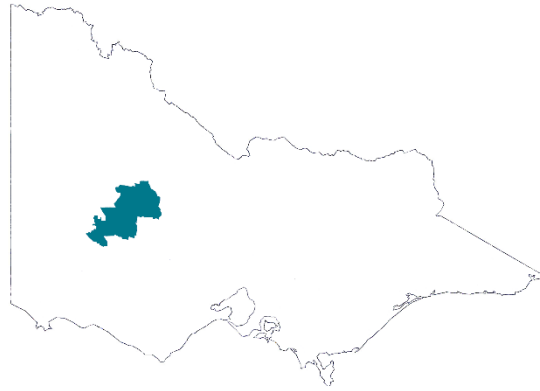


Municipal Emergency
Management Planning

Northern Grampians Shire



Municipal Emergency Animal Welfare Plan
2023-2026

Version 3.0, April 2024

Amendment history

Version	Date	Author/s	Brief description of change
1.0	April 2018	Coordinator Environment & Community Safety, Emergency Management Officer	First version. Endorsed by NGS MEMPC on 28 March 2018.
2.0	May 2020	Emergency Management Officer, Manager Regulatory Services (MERO), Coordinator Environment & Community Safety, Team Leader Community Safety	General update to reflect current planning arrangements within council. Endorsed by MEMPC on 21 May 2020.
3.0	April 2024	Emergency Management Officer, Emergency Management Support Officer	General update to transition to new EMLA arrangements.

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1. Introduction

1.1 Acknowledgement of Country

The Northern Grampians Shire (NGS) Municipal Emergency Management Planning Committee (MEMPC) acknowledges the Traditional Owners and other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples across the Northern Grampians municipality and pays respect to Elders, past and present. Today, the municipality coincides with multiple, diverse Traditional Owner groups, including the Wotjobaluk, Jaadwa, Jadawadjali, Wergaia, Jupagulk and Dja Dja Wurrung) peoples. This Plan acknowledges the important role of Traditional Owners of this Country.

1.2 Authority

In 2020, the [Emergency Management Legislation Amendment Act 2018](#) amended the [Emergency Management Act 2013](#) (the Act) to provide for new integrated arrangements for emergency management planning in Victoria, including the obligation for MEMPCs to be responsible for collaborative municipal level emergency planning.

This Emergency Animal Welfare Plan (EAWP) is a sub-plan of the NGS Municipal Emergency Management Plan (MEMPC) and has been developed in consultation between the Northern Grampians Shire Council (NGSC), Agriculture Victoria (Ag Vic), the NGS MEMPC and other agencies as required. In developing this sub-plan, reference has been made to the Victorian Animal Emergency Welfare Plan (Revision 2 – October 2019).

This Plan has been prepared by the MEMPC in accordance, and complies, with the requirements of the Act including having regard to the guidelines issued under s77, [Guidelines for Preparing State, Regional and Municipal Emergency Management Plans](#).

1.3 Plan assurance and approval

This Plan was approved by the Northern Grampians Shire MEMPC on 19 April 2024. A Statement of Assurance, including a checklist and certificate, was prepared and submitted to the Grampians Regional Emergency Management Planning Committee (REMPC) pursuant to the Act (s60AG).

This Plan comes into effect on date of signed approval and remains in effect until superseded by an approved and published update. Recipients should remove superseded versions from circulation.

1.4 Plan review

To ensure the plan provides for a current integrated, coordinated, and comprehensive approach to emergency management and is effective, it is to be reviewed at least every three years or as required.

MEMPC member agencies and organisations will have the opportunity to participate in relevant emergency exercises during the three-year plan review period.

Urgent update of this Plan is permitted if there is significant risk that life or property will be endangered if the plan is not updated (the Act s60AM). Urgent updates come into effect when published on the municipal council website and remain in force for a maximum period of three months.

Administrative updates will be made to this plan from time to time that will be noted in the [Amendment history](#). Administrative amendments do not substantially change the content or intent of this Plan, and do not require the Plan to be endorsed by the MEMPC.

A Public version of the Plan is available from the NGSC website: www.ngshire.vic.gov.au. Please note the Public version will have some details removed to comply with confidentiality and privacy requirements. The Restricted version has full details included and is only made available to the appropriate agency and their representatives who have a role or responsibility detailed in this plan.

Access to the Restricted version of the plan may be considered upon application to the MEMPC Chair via the contact details below. Names and contact details in the Restricted version of this Plan are only to be used for emergency management purposes and must be managed in accordance with the *Privacy & Data Protection Act 2014*.

All comments regarding this Plan should be forwarded to:

MEMPC Chair
Northern Grampians Shire Council
PO Box 580
Stawell Vic 3380

1.5 Plan audience, aims and objectives

The NGS EAWP is intended for the use of the members of the NGS MEMPC and the Grampians REMPC.

This Plan provides a coordinated approach to the management of animal welfare in the Northern Grampians Shire in the event of an emergency. This plan is based on the principle of “shared responsibility” where the owners of domestic animals and livestock will have arrangements in place before, during and after an emergency to manage the welfare of their animals.

This Plan prescribes the coordination arrangements that exist to support agencies that have a responsibility for emergency animal welfare before, during and after an emergency, which includes:

- Domestic animals (pets): Local Government
- Livestock: Agriculture Victoria (Ag Vic)
- Wildlife: Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action (DEECA)

This Plan has been developed to guide local emergency animal welfare arrangements with emphasis given to:

- Identification of affected animals
- Management of evacuated animals at emergency relief centres
- Management of displaced, including stray or roaming, animals
- Veterinary treatment and triage
- Humane destruction and disposal of animals
- Logistical coordination of goods, services and donations including provisions of pet food, livestock fodder and water

The aim of this EAWP is to define agreed arrangements for the management of emergency animal welfare within the municipality including the following.

- Roles and responsibilities of key agencies and stakeholders.
- Operational interactions between key agencies and stakeholders.
- Resources (personnel, facilities, equipment, services) to be used in the delivery of animal welfare services.

The overarching objectives of the EAWP are to:

- Contribute to enhanced public safety and community resilience within the municipality through effective planning and management of animals in emergencies, and
- Ensure animals within the municipality are better considered and protected from suffering during and immediately following emergencies.

1.6 Municipal district characteristics

The Northern Grampians Shire consists of an area of almost 6,000 square kilometres and encompasses large areas of farmland as well as large expanses of National Park and State Forest. The shire has approximately 2,244 companion animals registered, along with a substantial livestock and wildlife population. Fire, flood, storm, and road transport incident (large commercial vehicle) have been identified as risks (by the MEMPC, via the Community Emergency Risk Assessment process) within the Northern Grampians Shire which could impact on the welfare of domestic animals and livestock. Livestock processors include Frewstal Abattoir, located in Stawell, and St. Arnaud Piggery which has two sites in St. Arnaud and may have biosecurity risks that need to be managed.

1.7 Information sharing

At times, animal owner/carer details may need to be provided to animal welfare support agencies to ensure comprehensive assessment of animals impacted by an emergency. This enables the coordinated delivery of services to affected owners/carers and their animals.

Any personal information captured during the registration process must be in compliance with privacy legislation. However, in an emergency situation, the public interest in safety will override the privacy requirements of the *Privacy and Data Protection Act 2014*, even where the emergency response was not the primary reason for collection.

Information Sheet 02.10 from the Office of the Victorian Privacy Commissioner states:

“Usually an organisation should only use information for the purpose it is collected (IPP 2). However, if new personal information is collected in order to respond to an emergency, sharing that information where necessary with other organisations involved in the disaster response or recovery may be considered to be disclosure for the primary purpose of collection.”

2. Roles and responsibilities

2.1 Agencies and organisations

This plan aligns to agency and organisation roles and responsibilities detailed in the [VEAWP](#) and the [State Emergency Management Plan \(SEMP\)](#).

NGSC contains the following key emergency management positions to coordinate emergency animal welfare before, during, and after an emergency.

Municipal Emergency Management Officer (MEMO)	The MEMO is responsible for the coordination of council resources and activities in support of a controlling agency managing an emergency.
Municipal Recovery Manager (MRM)	The MRM, in consultation with the MEMO, is responsible for the coordination of relief and recovery activities.
Emergency Relief Centre (ERC) Manager	The ERC Manager manages the relief centre and the services provided therein.
Community Safety Officer (CSO)	CSOs advise and consult with the MEMO and MRM on emergency animal welfare support issues.

2.2 Community planning

Animal owners are responsible for planning for the management of their animals in an emergency event. As with any emergency planning, this should occur early and prior to an event.

It is strongly advised that residents include animals (i.e., pets and livestock) in their emergency plan, and that these animals are properly identified with name tags, registration tags, microchips or brands, and that stock registers are current and stored in a safe place. Information on pets and emergencies can be found on the [Agriculture Victoria website](#).

Information which should be included in resident emergency plans include:

- Veterinary details
- For larger animals, details of animal transport services.

Council's Community Safety unit may assist with arranging transport services after liaising with the MEMO. However, animal owners must be advised prior to arrangements being made that they will be responsible for all costs associated with the transport and housing, feeding, and veterinary inspection (where required) of their animals. Owners must also be advised that council accepts no responsibility for any losses or damage that may be incurred during transportation.

Residents should consider whether they will move pets and other animals to a safer place on days of high risk or when warnings are issued.

2.2.1 Preparedness on high-risk days

On days of high-risk during flood, bushfire, severe storm and Total Fire Ban, moving animals to a safer place should be done early to avoid risks to residents and their animals. It should be noted that late evacuation can be very dangerous. If the decision is made to stay in the home or on the farm, pets should be brought indoors, separated in a quiet room with small or preferably no windows, and provided with food and water. For more information on pets and bushfires, go to the [Country Fire Authority \(CFA\) website](#).

2.2.2 Care for domestic pets during emergencies

If pets are likely to be at risk, pet owners should make every effort to relocate pets to a safer area in advance. This may include boarding kennels, the homes of friends or relatives, or a temporary animal shelter or established evacuation centre which accepts animals.

2.2.3 Care for livestock during emergencies

Stock owners should develop an emergency plan including or considering the following.

- 24hr contact details of local stock transport companies.
- Coordinate the relocation of livestock with neighbours, friends or livestock associations.
- Fit gates on internal fences to avoid stock on public roads.
- Contact Ag Vic to determine the level of assistance they can provide.
- Know the Property Identification Codes tags or the National Livestock Identification Scheme tags of your stock to enable tracking. Know your login and passwords to access this information.
- Mark gates and water locations on a map of your property and have this map available in case someone else needs to move the stock.
- On High-Risk days, move stock to a safe area before leaving your property for any length of time.
- In a severe storm, place animals under solid cover if possible.
- In flood events, relocate stock to a property that will not be impacted by flood waters. Ensure that the site has adequate feed. Council's Planning department may be able to advise details of properties that may be impacted by floodwaters.
- In a bushfire, move animals to a closely grazed or ploughed paddock (preferably near the homestead), with drinking water, steel fencing, and preferably shade.

2.2.4 If a resident is unable to take their animals

The Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (RSPCA) advises that animals should only be left behind when it is impossible to take them during evacuation or move them in advance. The RSPCA also advises that if animals must be left and are in danger of a painful death, owners should humanely 'put them down' where possible. If animals need to be left behind, the following precautions should be taken:

- Leave pets indoors. If pets must be left outdoors, do not tie them up.
- Place pets (separated) in rooms with small or preferably no windows (use easily cleaned areas, laundry, bathroom, or toilet). Avoid rooms with large windows.
- Provide adequate food and water in large heavy containers that cannot be tipped over. Consider leaving a slow-dripping tap that can supply a constant supply of water.
- Provide birds with food dispensers that can regulate the amount of food.
- Ensure all pets are properly identified.

- Leave a note containing the owner's contact details.

3. Preparedness

3.1 Municipal Emergency Management Planning Committee (MEMPC)

Emergency animal welfare support services will be represented by Ag Vic and NGSC at MEMPC meetings as required. The MEMPC will ensure that animal emergency welfare support will be included in appropriate exercises to test and train for the activation of this sub-plan.

3.2 Training

The NGSC facilitates appropriate training for council staff who may be involved in animal emergency welfare support activities.

Council officers have specific accreditations required to manage animals. These requirements are found under and may include:

- *Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1986* and Regulations 2008 – Authorisation
- *Domestic Animals Act 1994* and Regulations 2015 – Authorisation
- *Impoundment of Livestock Act 1994* and Regulations 2008 – Authorisation
- First aid

3.3 Resource sharing protocols

The Municipal Association of Victoria has developed a protocol for inter-council emergency management resource sharing. This document is available from the MEMO.

NGSC is a signatory to the Municipal Association of Victoria's Municipal Inter-Council Emergency Management Resource Sharing Protocol to ensure resource continuity, both externally to support neighbouring councils and internally to support the Northern Grampians Shire should resources become limited and/or unavailable.

3.4 Animal accumulation centres

Animal accumulation centres are sites where large numbers of animals are normally present. It is expected that these centres have emergency management plans in place to manage their livestock, however, during an emergency, they may require assistance or be able to provide assistance.

A list of animal accumulation centres within the Northern Grampians Shire is provided in [Appendix E](#).

3.5 Deceased animal disposal sites

It is the responsibility of the individual undertaking the burial of dead livestock to minimise any risks to human health or environment so far as reasonably practical. This is a general requirement (duty) of the *Environment Protection Act 2017* (section 25 General Environment Duty).

It is the Environment Protection Authority's (EPA's) strong preference that all reasonable attempts are made to dispose of dead livestock at an approved facility. This may be an EPA licenced landfill, rendering / abattoir, or knackery.

Any stockpile disposal under 500 sheep or 150 cattle needs to follow the guidance detailed in the following publications.

- EPA (Publication IWRG641.1) – [Farm Waste Management](#)
- Ag Vic Publication – [Disposing of Carcasses after Bushfire, Flood or Drought](#)
- EPA Fact Sheet (Publication 1738) – [Disposal of Bushfire Waste](#)

Ag Vic provides advice to local government regarding the disposal of dead animals, including location, type, and number of animals to be disposed of. The EPA will ensure that the appropriate disposal methods are adopted for wastes resulting from response activities.

Ag Vic has a list of licensed landfill sites that may take dead animal carcasses across the state. Other sites may be identified and assessed in consultation between the Environmental Health Officer from the municipality where the site is located and the EPA before an emergency and listed in this sub-plan as appropriate.

For biosecurity purposes, it is preferable to dispose of carcasses on the affected property. Where this is not practically possible, NGSC's designated site for carcass disposal (flood and drought) is as follows.

Stawell Landfill
Cleanaway
494 Pomonal Road, Stawell
Ph: 9541 4714

Ag Vic is responsible for the movement of all emergency animal disease waste, including carcasses, that may need to be taken off-site for disposal, ensuring that risks to the environment and public health when handling and transporting carcasses are reduced. If an emergency animal disease outbreak is declared Ag Vic will arrange for carcass transport and disposal. More information can be found on the Ag Vic Biosecurity webpage - [Guidance for on-farm burial of carcasses in an Emergency Animal Disease outbreak](#).

4. Response

In the event of an emergency impacting animals, an appointed Ag Vic Animal Welfare Liaison Officer (AWLO) will interact with the MEMO or their delegate to ensure animal welfare arrangements are in place that allow effective scoping, management and referral of animal welfare needs as well as distribution of relevant public information.

[Appendix C](#) provides a comprehensive list of key local contacts relating to animal welfare.

4.1 Activation of the plan

The MEMO will activate the EAWP following advice from the Municipal Emergency Response Coordinator (Victoria Police) or Ag Vic.

Triggers for plan activation may include:

- Opening an ERC,
- Carcass disposal, and/or
- Donated fodder or stock water supply.

In large-scale emergencies, the Manager Community Safety & Amenity will oversee the implementation of the plan in consultation with the Ag Vic AWLO assigned to the emergency.

4.2 Processing animals

4.2.1 Managing animals presenting at ERCs

The welfare of animals can be a deciding factor for people in making decisions about their personal welfare, including evacuating a threatened property or seeking emergency shelter.

If people have no other option but to bring their animals to the designated ERC, arrangements can be made to relocate the animals to the NGSC Pound or another suitable location if necessary. For example, animal owners may be staying in temporary accommodation where their animal/s are not permitted, in which case council may be able to offer support in the form of housing their animal/s temporarily at the Pound.

There is no provision for animals to remain at the ERC for extended periods, however [assistance animals](#) will be permitted to remain with their owners at the ERC. Other animals permitted to remain with their owners at the ERC for a short period will be determined on a case-by-case basis.

When an animal is brought to the ERC, the following process should be followed.

1. If the animal is with its owner:
 - a. If the animal requires medical attention, provide the owner with local veterinarian details.
 - b. If temporary housing is required for the animal:
 - i. Contact a CSO.
 - ii. Arrange for a CSO to meet the owner and animal at the Pound.
 - c. If temporary housing is not required, and the owner wishes to enter the ERC for a short period their companion animal may be temporarily accommodated in a suitable area (on a case-by-case basis).
2. If the animal is not with an owner:

- a. Request CSO attendance at ERC.
- b. If the animal requires first aid, ongoing care, or significant treatment, CSO to arrange for transfer to a veterinarian.
- c. If the animal appears fit and healthy, CSO to transfer the animal to the Pound or other suitable facility.

Animals that are admitted to the Pound will be processed by CSOs using normal impound procedures. All animals admitted should be microchipped or otherwise identifiable to ensure the animal is returned to its owner. Where an animal is not microchipped, CSOs will recommend that the animal be microchipped, at the cost of the owner, to ensure the safe return of their animal.

If a CSO is not available to attend the ERC, neighbouring councils may be contacted to request additional CSO support.

If the NGSC Pound is impacted by the emergency, neighbouring councils may be contacted for animal management support.

People transporting livestock to an ERC are to be directed to the nearest large, safe venue for holding them (see [Appendix F](#)) (not available in public version of Plan due to privacy reasons).

4.2.2 Emergency containment of displaced (unconfined) animals

Livestock detained as a direct consequence of an emergency should be conveyed to the NGSC Pound or other suitable location, and owners should be notified when appropriate.

Ag Vic can be contacted to provide assessment for any displaced livestock that have been injured and can attend the NGSC Pound to provide support to CSOs.

Normal procedures for handling impounded stock will apply if the owners cannot be located. However, where it is clear that a recovered animal in good condition was located in or near the emergency area, such animals are to be held for a maximum period of 14 days.

4.3 Animal emergency accommodation

Accommodating animals in emergency housing is a last resort. The first option should always be with family or friends outside the affected area that can better provide for animals. If there is no feasible pet-friendly accommodation, boarding kennels may be available and appropriate. Wildlife should be transferred to authorised wildlife carers located in a safe area.

Available animal housing sites provides a list of sites where large animals, or large numbers of animals, may be safely contained temporarily during an emergency (See [Appendix F](#))

Animals should not be kept at the ERC or in emergency housing and shelters for more than three days.

4.4 Animal welfare needs assessment

Animal welfare needs assessment includes veterinary treatment, humane destruction, salvage slaughter, fodder, water, and carcass disposal. DEECA will assess the needs of wildlife, in partnership with Parks Victoria and registered wildlife groups. Ag Vic will assess livestock and companion animal welfare support needs on private property.

Livestock and companion animal welfare assessment needs on private property will be reported to Ag Vic for action through the Ag Vic Emergency Management Liaison Officer at the Incident Control Centre, or the Ag Vic AWLO. In smaller scale incidents where these roles have not been activated, reports can be sent to the Ag Vic Animal Welfare Officer listed in this Plan. Ag Vic will liaise with both council officers and the RSPCA to ensure a coordinated and appropriate response.

Wildlife welfare assessment needs will be reported to the Incident Controller or Planning Officer in the Incident Management Team, or Wildlife Welfare Officer if in place. In smaller scale incidents where these roles have not been activated, reports will be sent to the DEECA or Parks Victoria contact listed in this plan.

The [Wildlife Emergency app](#) provides a way to report wildlife injured during emergency events in Victoria to DEECA. The app allows members of the public to submit reports providing basic information on location, suspected injury, species, and the addition of photographs (if appropriate).

4.5 Veterinary treatment

While the treatment of animals will ideally be organised by owners in conjunction with their private veterinarian, local practices may be overwhelmed or inaccessible in a large-scale emergency.

Stawell Veterinary Clinic provides an after-hours service every other weekend. Council has access to this after-hours service, with the understanding that council are responsible for costs including after-hours fees.

Stawell Veterinary Clinic may also be able to assist with triage of animals in an emergency, however it should be noted that the Clinic site is not suitable for large animals. Other triage support organisations include RSPCA and AVA (see [Appendix C](#)) (not available in public version of Plan due to privacy reasons).

4.6 Humane destruction of animals

It is the responsibility of the person in charge of animals to arrange for the humane destruction or salvage slaughter of impacted animals where the animals will continue to suffer if they remain alive, or where the animals have little or no chance of survival.

Ag Vic will assist in the humane destruction or salvage slaughter of animals when the person in charge cannot perform the necessary actions to alleviate the suffering of their animals. This assistance may include referral to veterinarians, DEECA or the RSPCA. *Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1986* (POCTAA) trained and equipped officers (from the RSPCA or council) may also assist.

Where possible, destruction activities will take place in consultation with the person in charge of affected animals. In situations where owners cannot be found, indemnity for immediate destruction in their absence is provided by Section 21 (ii) of POCTAA.

DEECA is responsible for managing the assessment and treatment or euthanasia of wildlife during and following an emergency. This will be undertaken by field crews at the incident or by a veterinarian at the triage centre. While it is prohibited to destroy native wildlife under the *Wildlife Act 1975*, registered veterinary practitioners and appropriately authorised officers may euthanise wildlife in accordance with POCTAA.

Methods of destruction of animals must be consistent with the relevant Code of Practice, available from the [Ag Vic website](#).

4.7 Disposal of dead animals

The [SEMP](#) states that the Recovery Lead Agency for the coordination of clean-up activities for the disposal of deceased animals (domestic, native, and feral) is the 'relevant land manager', with the EPA, council and RSPCA being Recovery Support Agencies.

Therefore, municipal councils are responsible for the coordination of this activity on council-owned or managed land.

The [SEMP](#) also lists DEECA as the Recovery Lead Agency to liaise with local government, as relevant land manager, to co-ordinate clean-up activities for the disposal of deceased animals (domestic, native and feral) during emergency events as required.

At the time of updating this Plan, the advice from Emergency Management Victoria is that *"the responsibilities for deceased livestock following a Class 1 Emergency is on the Future SEMP Issues Register for discussion and detailed resolution at the next SEMP review. Councils remain a support agency for this activity."*

Due to possible health hazards, timely disposal of animal carcasses is critical. Several on-farm and off-farm options exist for the disposal of dead animals resulting from an emergency, including licensed landfills, knackeries and rendering facilities and high-temperature incineration. Disposal on private land and government-owned sites, such as unlicensed or decommissioned landfill sites, may be allowed subject to *Environment Protection Act 2017* (section 25 General Environment Duty) and will require the development of a Site Management Plan.

In an emergency, Ag Vic will liaise with each municipality regarding the carcass disposal needs of livestock and companion animals (number and type of animals and location). The EPA can assist each municipality to identify suitable sites for disposal.

In the event of a single house fire with deceased companion animals, council will support the owner/s in the removal of their deceased animals. Council will cover the cost of disposal, however if cremation is preferred then the owner/s would be required to cover the cost.

For wildlife, where a response is based on the Bushfire Protocols, it is the responsibility of the triage veterinarian to work with each municipality to oversee the disposal of carcasses of euthanised wildlife.

5 Relief

5.1 Managing animals at relief centres

When a relief centre is open, the provision for animals will be made in accordance with the NGSC ERC Operations Plan. CSOs will work closely with the ERC Manager to assist in the management of companion animals and stray animals.

Evacuated households may bring their pets with them as they are viewed as a member of their family. History has shown the presence of pets inside the ERC is disruptive and unhygienic. Provision for the welfare of pets outside the ERC is the responsibility of the CSO, however, responsibility for the control and welfare of the animal rests with the owner.

[Assistance animals](#) are permitted into and can stay in ERCs. Other domestic animals that present may not be housed on-site, but in consultation with the owner/carer taken to alternative venues. The ERC Manager and/or CSO will assist in facilitating alternative arrangements.

6 Recovery

Longer-term animal welfare will be documented and addressed through the development of the Municipal Recovery Plan for the emergency event, led by council's MRM.

6.1 Donations

6.1.1 Food items

The MRM will require the assistance of local animal welfare organisations to coordinate the distribution of pet food donations.

In large-scale emergencies, fodder may be donated for distribution to affected animal owners. Ag Vic will work with the Victorian Farmers Federation or NGSC in the establishment of distribution sites. Suitable distribution sites within the Northern Grampians Shire may include the following.

- NGSC Pound, 15-21 Ormston Road, Stawell.
- Lord Nelson Park, 26 Dunston St, St Arnaud.

6.1.2 Non-food items

The management of non-food items will be coordinated by the MRM who may delegate responsibility to an appropriate organisation.

6.1.3 Financial

The NGSC supports monetary donations in preference to donated goods. Financial donations provide a level of choice and personal dignity, accurately target identified needs, and help circulate money in impacted communities. The MRM will liaise with appropriate organisations that have established processes for managing financial donations and potential recipients to this source of support. The NGSC Recovery Committee will develop criteria for distribution of these funds if necessary.

6.2 Volunteers

In the context of this sub-plan, volunteers who assist in emergency animal welfare support activities are members of organisations that are accredited to perform work in this area and have the appropriate management structure and training in place for their personnel.

Spontaneous volunteers are to be acknowledged and referred to appropriate organisations that may be able to incorporate them into their activities. There may be no opportunity to utilise the services of a spontaneous volunteer due to:

- The specialised nature of the work
- Limited resources to equip a spontaneous volunteer, for example, safety equipment
- Limited management structures to supervise spontaneous volunteers
- Sufficient resources are already employed to manage the workload

- The MRM will coordinate acknowledgement of the offer of service from spontaneous volunteers in an appropriate manner.

6.3 Water

The MRM may liaise with Grampians Wimmera Mallee Water (GMMWater) to work out an appropriate response and plan for the supply of water to livestock depending on the scenario. This will include identifying suitable locations and access points for water for livestock. GMMWater can supply water trailers for domestic animals at ERCs if required.

In the event that emergency water supplies are needed for livestock (due to contamination of private supplies), water may be collected by owners from the following sites (viewable on council's online [Community Map](#)).

Lake Fyans Bore 4 Tunnel Road, Lake Fyans	Joel Joel Well 2047 Landsborough Road, Joel Joel
Garden Gully Bore 329 Garden Gully Road, Great Western	Stuart Mill Bore 74 Teddington Road, Stuart Mill
Campbells Bridge Bore 348 Campbells Bridge Road, Campbells Bridge	Carapooee Bore Dunolly Road, Carapooee
Greens Creek Bore 17 Tulkara Road, Greens Creek	St Arnaud Nelson Park Bore Alma Street, St Arnaud
Marrows Crossing Bore 988 North Woodlands Road, Navarre	Darcys Bridge Bore 161 Darcy Bridge Road, Moolerr
Barratt Road Bore 958 Barratt Road, St Arnaud North	

It should be noted that council is not responsible for the water quality and does not test the quality of the water. It is the user's responsibility to test and use the water for stock at their own discretion.

Appendices

Appendix A – Acronyms

AWLO	Animal Welfare Liaison Officer
Ag Vic	Agriculture Victoria
CFA	Country Fire Authority
CSO	Community Safety Officer
DEECA	Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action
EAWP	Emergency Animal Welfare Plan
EPA	Environment Protection Authority
ERC	Emergency Relief Centre
GWMWater	Grampians Wimmera Mallee Water
MEMP	Municipal Emergency Management Plan
MEMPC	Municipal Emergency Management Planning Committee
MEMO	Municipal Emergency Management Officer
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
MRM	Municipal Recovery Manager
NGS	Northern Grampians Shire
NGSC	Northern Grampians Shire Council
POCTAA	<i>Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1986</i>
REMPC	Regional Emergency Management Planning Committee
RSPCA	Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals
The Act	<i>Emergency Management Act 1986 & 2013</i>

Appendix B – Glossary

Agency	A Government agency, including Commonwealth, state or local government authority.
Animal	Refer to the definition in <i>Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act 1986</i> (POCTAA) which basically includes any live member of a vertebrate species (other than human) and some crustaceans.
Animal welfare	<p>How an animal is coping with the conditions in which it lives. An animal is in a good state of welfare if (as indicated by scientific evidence) it is healthy, comfortable, well nourished, safe, able to express innate behaviour, and if it is not suffering from unpleasant states such as pain, fear, and distress.</p> <p>Good animal welfare requires disease prevention and veterinary treatment, appropriate shelter, management, nutrition, humane handling and humane slaughter/killing.</p> <p>Animal welfare refers to the state of the animal; the treatment that an animal receives is covered by other terms such as animal care, animal husbandry, and humane treatment.</p>
Assistance animal	<p>Under section 9(2) of the <i>Commonwealth Disability Discrimination Act 1992</i>, an assistance animal is a dog or other animal that is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) accredited under a State or Territory law to assist a person with a disability to alleviate the effects of disability; or (b) accredited by an animal training organisation prescribed in the regulations; or (c) trained to assist a person with a disability to alleviate the effect of the disability and meets standards of hygiene and behaviour that are appropriate for an animal in a public place.”
Biosecurity	The protection of the economy, the environment, social amenity, or human health from negative impacts associated with the entry, establishment or spread of animal or plant pests and disease, or invasive plant and animal species.
Command	The direction of personnel and resources of an agency in the performance of that organisation’s role and tasks. Authority to command is established in legislation or by agreement within an agency.
Commander	A role established by the Department of Environment, Energy and Climate Action (Agriculture Victoria) to lead the agency’s emergency animal welfare support services at the state, regional or incident level.
Companion animal	Any non-human vertebrate animal kept for the purpose of companionship, recreation, protection, or work.

Control	The overall direction of response activities in an emergency. Authority for control is established in legislation or in an emergency response plan and carries with it the responsibility for tasking other agencies in accordance with the needs of the situation. Control relates to situations and operates horizontally across agencies.
Control agency	The agency responsible for leading the response to a particular type of emergency.
Coordination	The bringing together of agencies and resources to ensure effective response to and recovery from emergencies. The main functions of coordination are to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure effective control has been established and maintained • Ensure effective information sharing, and • Systematic acquisition and allocation of resources in accordance with the requirements imposed by emergencies.
Emergency	An emergency due to the actual or imminent occurrence of an event which in any way endangers or threatens to endanger the safety or health of any person in Victoria or which destroys or damages, or threatens to destroy or damage, any property in Victoria, or endangers or threatens to endanger the environment or an element of the environment in Victoria.
Emergency Relief Centre	A building or place established to provide life support and essential needs to persons affected by an emergency (including evacuees). Emergency Relief Centres (ERCs) are established on a temporary basis to cope with the immediate needs of those affected during the initial response to the emergency. They do not imply any longer-term use of facilities as a location for recovery services.
Emergency Response Coordinator	A person appointed as state, regional, municipal, or incident emergency response coordinator, whose role is to coordinate the response to an emergency.
Evacuation	The planned relocation of persons from dangerous or potentially dangerous areas to safer areas and eventual return.
Fodder	Feed for livestock such as hay, or pre-prepared feedstuffs designed specifically for livestock.
Livestock	Any animal kept for the purposes of primary production, including cattle, sheep, pigs, poultry, ratites, buffalo, camels, alpacas, goats and deer; or horses, including where used for recreation.
Organisation	Any non-government or not for profit entity, company, or authority.
Person in charge of animals	A person who is the owner or has the animal in their possession or custody, or under the person's care, control or supervision and any employee or agent of the owner of the animal.
Recovery	The assisting of persons and communities affected by emergencies to achieve a proper and effective level of functioning

Salvage slaughter	The processing of animals through an abattoir. Livestock impacted by an emergency, suitable for salvage slaughter are those that do not show signs of distress or disablement and are fit enough to be transported.
State Agency Commander	A role established within state government departments like DEECA to coordinate its emergency response arrangements across the organisations at State level.
Support agency	An agency which provides services, personnel, or material to support or assist a control agency or affected persons.
Triage	The process of determining the priority of veterinary treatment based on the severity of an animal's condition. This rations veterinary treatment efficiently when resources are insufficient for all animals to be treated immediately.
Wildlife	Any vertebrate animal indigenous to Australia, some non-indigenous vertebrates (deer and game birds declared to be wildlife under the <i>Wildlife Act 1975</i>), any terrestrial invertebrates listed as threatened under the <i>Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988</i> and does not include fish within the meaning of the <i>Fisheries Act 1995</i> .

Appendix C – Local contact information for emergency animal welfare support

Content redacted for privacy purposes.

Appendix D – Statewide contact information for emergency animal welfare support

Content redacted for privacy purposes.

Appendix E – Animal accumulation centres

Content redacted for privacy purposes.

Appendix F – Available animal housing sites

Content redacted for privacy purposes.

Appendix G – Emergency animal welfare kit checklist

This checklist ensures there is a complete Emergency Animal Welfare Kit for council's Community Safety Officers to respond to emergency animal welfare needs and process animals at an Emergency Relief Centre.

Item	Quantity	Checked
NGSC Emergency Animal Welfare Plan	1	
Legal document folder	2	
Pens	4	
Drinking bowl	2	
Dog lead	2	
Cat cages	2	
Catching pole	1	
Rags - packet	1	
Water bottle - 10L	1	
Horse lead & headstall	1	

Note that the above list is not exhaustive, and other items (such as gloves, microchip scanners, muzzles, etc.) are kept either in the Community Safety vehicles or at the Pound.

Appendix H – Related documents and legislation

- Related documents
 - [Code of Practice for the Management of Dogs and Cats in Shelters and Pounds](#) (Revision 1) (updated June 2022)
 - [Victorian Emergency Animal Welfare Plan](#) (Revision 2) (Oct 2019)
 - Northern Grampians Shire Municipal Emergency Management Plan
 - Northern Grampians Shire Domestic Animal Management Plan

- Relevant legislation
 - *Emergency Management Act 1986 & 2013*
 - *Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1986 (POCTA)*
 - *Domestic Animals Act, 1994*
 - *Livestock Management Act, 2010*
 - *Impounding of Livestock Act, 1994*
 - *Wildlife Act, 1975*
 - *Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act, 1988*
 - *Occupational Health and Safety (OH&S) Act, 2004*