

The Fire Rescue Victoria Fire District Review 2020-24

Findings Report

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List of abbreviations

Abbreviation	Definition
CPVZ	CFA's Proposed Variation Zone
CFA	Country Fire Authority
EMS	Emergency medical services
FFMV	Forest Fire Management Victoria
FRV	Fire Rescue Victoria
MVA	Motor vehicle accident
SA1	Statistical Area Level 1
SDS	Service Delivery Standard
SRA	Station response area

Chair's foreword

The independent Fire District Review Panel (the Panel) was established in 2020 as part of Victoria's fire services reform to provide advice to the Minister for Emergency Services (the Minister) about whether changes in fire risk may warrant a change to the Fire Rescue Victoria (FRV) fire district.

This *Fire Rescue Victoria Fire District Review 2020–24: Findings Report* (the Findings Report) to the Minister concludes the first 4-yearly review which commenced on 1 July 2020.

This Findings Report follows on from the Panel's determination published in the Victorian Government Gazette on 30 March 2023. The determination identified 13 Country Fire Authority (CFA) station response areas (SRAs) adjacent to FRV fire district boundaries where there was an increase in fire risk.

In line with legislative requirements, the Panel sought advice from the CFA about how they would support the capacity of relevant volunteer brigades to respond effectively to the change in fire risk. The Panel also considered formal submissions from other key stakeholders to evaluate whether the advice, across the 13 SRAs, sufficiently addressed the change in fire risk.

This Findings Report concludes that, despite the increase in fire risk across the 13 SRAs, any considerations for an immediate change to the FRV fire district would not necessarily result in the mitigation of identified fire risk.

Table S1 summarises the Panel's recommendations. These are elaborated more fully in Section 3 of the report.

The Panel considers that fire risk in a number of the SRAs cannot be effectively addressed in isolation. Projected population growth and urban density in surrounding SRAs needs to be considered to strategically address changes in fire risk across the larger area.

In this regard it would be beneficial for the government to establish a process that engages with fire services to conduct comprehensive fire station location plan reviews to inform future boundary configurations. This Findings Report identifies the districts requiring a broader strategic planning lens.

Completing the FRV fire district review for 2020–24 has set a sound baseline for the Panel's work and future reviews. Despite this, the review has not been without its challenges, in particular the accessibility and quality of data.

From the onset of the review the Panel has always ensured the basis of its analysis was informed by data from credible sources including directly from the fire services agencies. The growing challenge that has been evident and likewise recognised by the fire services agencies is the accuracy, consistency and reliability of the data. The Panel acknowledges that progress has been made on this front, noting it is a longer-term piece of work that will assist future panel reviews.

In accordance with the legislation, this Findings Report is submitted to the Minister for consideration of the recommendations associated with each of the 13 SRA's listed in the Panel's gazetted determination.

On behalf of the Panel, I would like to acknowledge the collaborative involvement of the CFA and FRV throughout this review. Sharing their knowledge and data over the past 3 years has underpinned the analysis that formed the findings for the 2020–24 cycle.

I also acknowledge the support of the Department of Justice and Community Safety through the Office of the Fire District Review Panel, as well as their consolidated contributions on behalf of the various emergency services agencies and entities that are administered by the department. Further acknowledgement also to the contributions of other key stakeholders during all stages of the review.

Lastly, thank you to the staff of the Office of the Fire District Review Panel. Their specialist expertise and dedication to this work has enabled the Panel to discharge its legislative responsibilities.



Valerie Callister PSM

Chair

28 June 2024

Summary

The Fire District Review Panel (the Panel) was established as an independent public entity on 1 July 2020 under section 4A of the *Fire Rescue Victoria Act 1958* (the Act) to conduct a review of fire risk across the state, in both the Fire Rescue Victoria (FRV) fire district and the country areas of Victoria serviced by the Country Fire Authority (CFA), and provide independent advice to the Minister for Emergency Services (the Minister) on whether changes in fire risk may warrant a change to the FRV fire district.

The Panel's legislative obligations also require, as a minimum, consultation with the fire services agencies and any municipal councils directly affected by the review. The inaugural review commenced on 1 July 2020 and is now complete, with recommendations provided to the Minister at the end of June 2024.

This *Fire Rescue Victoria Fire District Review 2020-24: Findings Report* (the Findings Report) presents the Panel's findings on the 13 CFA station response areas (SRAs) which were published as the Panel's determination in the Victorian Government Gazette on 30 March 2023.

The Findings Report also contains the underpinning detail that support the Panel's findings.

Findings of the Fire Rescue Victoria Fire District Review 2020–24

In accordance with section 4L of the Act, the Panel may make the following recommendations:

- that no change be made to the Fire Rescue Victoria fire district; or
- that a change be made to the Fire Rescue Victoria fire district; or
- that the Panel conduct a further review of the Fire Rescue Victoria fire district within the period specified in the report.

The findings, which encompass both recommendations and observations, outlined in this Findings Report have been developed in consideration and analysis of:

- submissions provided by the CFA and other key stakeholders in response to the Panel's determination
- the district boundaries and distribution of the fire risk across the 13 CFA SRAs and the adjacent FRV fire districts and their respective SRAs.

Table S1 lists the Panel's recommendations on each of the 13 SRAs.

Table S1: Panel recommendations by station response area

CFA SRA	Recommendations
Eaglehawk	The Panel has identified an increase in fire risk across the Eaglehawk and Kangaroo Flat SRAs. Currently this is adequately mitigated by the response arrangements of the fire services agencies. The Panel recommends that no change be made to the FRV fire district.
Kangaroo Flat	
Edithvale	The Panel has identified an increase in fire risk across the Edithvale SRA. Currently this is adequately mitigated by the response arrangements of the fire services agencies. The Panel recommends that no change be made to the FRV fire district.
Berwick	The Panel has identified an increase in the fire risk across the Berwick SRA that is currently adequately mitigated. The Panel recommends that no change be made to the FRV fire district.
Carrum Downs	The Panel has identified an increase in fire risk across the Carrum Downs SRA that cannot be adequately mitigated by a change to the adjacent FRV fire district. The Panel recommends that no change be made to the FRV fire district.

CFA SRA	Recommendations
Hampton Park	The Panel has identified an increase in fire risk across the Hampton Park SRA that cannot be adequately mitigated by a change to the adjacent FRV fire district. The Panel recommends that no change be made to the FRV fire district.
Narre Warren	The Panel has identified an increase in fire risk across the Narre Warren SRA. Currently this is adequately mitigated by the response arrangements of the fire services agencies. The Panel recommends that no change be made to the FRV fire district.
Epping	The Panel has identified an increase in fire risk across the Epping SRA. Currently this is adequately mitigated by the response arrangements of the fire services agencies. The Panel recommends that no change be made to the FRV fire district.
Werribee	The Panel has identified an increase in fire risk across the Werribee SRA that cannot be adequately mitigated by a change to the adjacent FRV fire district. The Panel recommends that no change be made to the FRV fire district.
Wyndham Vale	The Panel has identified an increase in fire risk across the Wyndham Vale SRA. Currently this is adequately mitigated by the response arrangements of the fire services agencies. The Panel recommends that no change be made to the FRV fire district.
Ballarat	The Panel has identified an increase in fire risk across the Ballarat, Sebastopol and Wendouree SRAs. Currently this is adequately mitigated by the response arrangements of the fire services agencies. The Panel recommends that no change be made to the FRV fire district.
Sebastopol	
Wendouree	

Table S2 lists the Panel's further observations on each of the 13 SRAs.

Table S2: Panel further observations by station response area

CFA SRA	Observations
Eaglehawk	N/A
Kangaroo Flat	
Edithvale	<p>The Panel considers that fire risk cannot be effectively addressed in isolation. Projected population growth and urban density in surrounding SRAs needs to be considered to strategically address changes in fire risk across the larger area. The Panel therefore considers that a strategic fire station location plan review would inform any changes to the FRV fire district to mitigate future fire risk. This should include the surrounding SRAs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CFA <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Edithvale ○ Keysborough ○ Noble Park • FRV <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Springvale ○ Dandenong.

CFA SRA	Observations
Berwick	<p>The Panel considers that fire risk cannot be effectively addressed in isolation. Projected population growth and urban density in surrounding SRAs needs to be considered to strategically address changes in fire risk across the larger area. The Panel therefore considers that a strategic fire station location plan review would inform any changes to the FRV fire district to mitigate future fire risk. This should include the surrounding SRAs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CFA <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Berwick ○ Clyde ○ Clyde North ○ Officer ○ Narre Warren ○ Narre Warren North ○ Hampton Park • FRV <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Hallam ○ Pakenham ○ Cranbourne.
Carrum Downs	<p>The Panel has identified an increased risk area in the southern portion of the SRA due to elevated response times. These elevated response times appear to be a result of road access limitations. This needs to be addressed by the fire services agencies.</p> <p>The Panel considers that fire risk cannot be effectively addressed in isolation. Projected population growth and urban density in surrounding SRAs needs to be considered to strategically address changes in fire risk across the larger area. The Panel therefore considers that a strategic fire station location plan review would inform any changes to the FRV fire district to mitigate future fire risk. This should include the surrounding SRAs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CFA <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Carrum Downs ○ Langwarrin ○ Skye • FRV <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Patterson River ○ Frankston ○ Cranbourne.
Hampton Park	<p>The Panel considers that fire risk cannot be effectively addressed in isolation. Projected population growth and urban density in surrounding SRAs needs to be considered to strategically address changes in fire risk across the larger area. The Panel therefore considers that a strategic fire station location plan review would inform any changes to the FRV fire district to mitigate future fire risk. This should include the surrounding SRAs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CFA <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Berwick ○ Clyde ○ Clyde North ○ Officer ○ Narre Warren ○ Narre Warren North ○ Hampton Park • FRV <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Hallam ○ Pakenham ○ Cranbourne.

CFA SRA	Observations
Narre Warren	<p>The Panel considers that fire risk cannot be effectively addressed in isolation. Projected population growth and urban density in surrounding SRAs needs to be considered to strategically address changes in fire risk across the larger area. The Panel therefore considers that a strategic fire station location plan review would inform any changes to the FRV fire district to mitigate future fire risk. This should include the surrounding SRAs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CFA <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Berwick ○ Clyde ○ Clyde North ○ Officer ○ Narre Warren ○ Narre Warren North ○ Hampton Park • FRV <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Hallam ○ Pakenham ○ Cranbourne.
Epping	<p>The Panel considers that fire risk cannot be effectively addressed in isolation. Projected population growth and urban density in surrounding SRAs needs to be considered to strategically address changes in fire risk across the larger area. The Panel therefore considers that a strategic fire station location plan review would inform any changes to the FRV fire district to mitigate future fire risk. This should include the surrounding SRAs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CFA <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Epping ○ Kalkallo ○ Wollert and District ○ Mernda • FRV <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Epping ○ Craigieburn.
Werribee	<p>The Panel has identified an increased risk in the university and hospital precincts due to elevated response times and demand.</p> <p>The Panel considers that fire risk cannot be effectively addressed in isolation. Projected population growth and urban density in surrounding SRAs needs to be considered to strategically address changes in fire risk across the larger area. The Panel therefore considers that a strategic fire station location plan review would inform any changes to the FRV fire district to mitigate future fire risk. This should include the surrounding SRAs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CFA <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Werribee ○ Wyndham Vale ○ Rockbank ○ Diggers Rest • FRV <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Point Cook ○ Tarneit.

CFA SRA	Observations
Wyndham Vale	<p>The Panel considers that fire risk cannot be effectively addressed in isolation. Projected population growth and urban density in surrounding SRAs needs to be considered to strategically address changes in fire risk across the larger area. The Panel therefore considers that a strategic fire station location plan review would inform any changes to the FRV fire district to mitigate future fire risk. This should include the surrounding SRAs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CFA <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Werribee ○ Wyndham Vale ○ Rockbank ○ Diggers Rest • FRV <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Point Cook ○ Tarneit.
Ballarat	<p>The Panel considers that fire risk cannot be effectively addressed in isolation. Projected population growth and urban density in surrounding SRAs needs to be considered to strategically address changes in fire risk across the larger area. The Panel therefore considers that a strategic review of the fire services agencies' response arrangements across the Ballarat, Sebastopol and Wendouree SRAs would address the distribution of fire risk within the current district configuration to ensure future fire risk can continue to be mitigated.</p>

1. Introduction

1.1 Purpose

The *Fire Rescue Victoria Fire District Review 2020–24: Findings Report* (the Findings Report) is to provide the Minister for Emergency Services (the Minister) with the independent findings of the Fire District Review Panel (the Panel) regarding its review of the Fire Rescue Victoria (FRV) fire district for the 2020-24 cycle.

The Findings Report also includes details to support the Panel's findings, which encompass both recommendations and observations, relating to the 13 CFA station response areas (SRAs) identified in the Panel's determination published in March 2023.

1.2 Legislative context

The Panel was established as an independent public entity on 1 July 2020 under section 4A of the *Fire Rescue Victoria Act 1958* (the Act) to conduct a review of fire risk across the state in both the FRV fire district and the country area of Victoria as serviced by the Country Fire Authority (CFA). The Panel provides independent advice to the Minister on whether changes in fire risk may warrant a change to the FRV fire district.

The Panel's legislative obligations also require, as a minimum, consultation with fire services agencies and any municipal councils directly affected by the review.

The inaugural review commenced on 1 July 2020 and is now complete, with the Panel's findings provided to the Minister in June 2024.

More information, including about the process of the review and previous reports, is available on the Panel's website vic.gov.au/fire-district-review-panel.

1.3 Legislated process

Under the Act, several legislated processes were required before the Panel could complete its review.

1.3.1 Publication of determination

The Panel's determination was published in the Victorian Government Gazette on 30 March 2023. The *Fire Rescue Victoria Fire District Review 2020–24: Supporting Report to the Determination*¹ outlines the analysis and methodology used to assess changes in fire risk. This was published at the same time on [the Panel's website](#).

The determination identified 13 CFA SRAs adjacent to FRV fire district boundaries that experienced a change in fire risk and required further advice from the CFA.

1.3.2 Review suspension for CFA advice and other submissions

After publishing the Panel's determination, the review was suspended for 10 months from 30 March 2023. This allowed the CFA the opportunity to advise on how it would support volunteer brigades, to which the determination was relevant, to ensure it has the capacity to respond effectively to the change in fire risk. Later, the CFA also advised, as per legislation, on the progress of such actions.

Although not specifically required under the Act, the Panel also invited submissions from other affected stakeholders for consideration.

¹ [The Fire Rescue Victoria Fire District Review 2020–24: Supporting Report to the Determination \[PDF 20.5MB\]](#)

In addition to the CFA's advice, the Panel also received submissions from:

- Department of Justice and Community Safety
- FRV
- Victoria Fire Brigade Volunteers.

Submissions were also received from the United Firefighters Union Victoria and FRV in response to the CFA's advice, which was made publicly available by CFA on its website, and from the CFA in response to FRV's submission.

These submissions focused on the data and methodology used in the review as well as investments and capital works related to the fire services agencies.

The submissions covered a wide range of issues including:

- FRV's response outside the FRV district
- the Panel's interpretation of the Act in relation to datasets
- the Panel's interpretation of the Act in relation to the methodology
- current and future investments and capital projects benefitting both the CFA and FRV
- potential service delivery impacts of the findings.

2. CFA advice

The CFA Chief Officer provided the required advice to the Panel on 30 January 2024. Advice on the CFA's progress in supporting volunteer brigades in the 13 SRAs was provided on 6 March 2024.

The CFA published its own [submission](#) on its website on 31 January 2024.²

An overarching element of the CFA advice describes a collaborative approach to managing changing fire risk. Under this arrangement, a joint response from FRV and surrounding brigades (often including the Forest Industry Brigades and Forest Fire Management Victoria [FFMV]) would serve as a response network.

The CFA identified ongoing risk mitigation activities across the 13 SRAs, focusing on:

- community engagement and capability-building programs
- prevention and preparedness activities
- installing smoke alarms and detectors
- identifying and addressing key training needs and developing volunteer capability in line with each brigade's operating procedures and requirements
- undertaking targeted recruitment, upgrades and relocations of appliances, as well as infrastructure improvements to address challenges with station access for responding personnel.

² [CFA Chief Officer's Advice to the Fire District Review Panel \(Section 4K Advice\) 2024 \[PDF 26.5MB\]](#)

The CFA also identified specific measures for 9 of the CFA SRAs (Table 1) and presented these for consideration by the Panel. These specific measures included ‘CFA Proposed Variation Zones’ (CPVZ), which were small portions of current CFA SRAs that could transition to the FRV fire district either immediately or upon a defined trigger.³ While the CFA states that these CPVZs ‘have been identified based on analysis of the nature and trends of incidents and a consideration of how-to best address future community needs’ the evidence considered by the Panel did not find these proposed changes would further mitigate changes in fire risk. The Panel considers each of these proposals under Section 3 of the Findings Report.

Table 1: Summary of CFA advice and associated triggers as defined by CFA for the 13 SRAs

CFA SRA	CFA advice
Eaglehawk	The CFA considered that an upgrade to the pumper appliance could mitigate the increase in risk through reduced response times, expansion of the area able to be serviced and increased capability through improved equipment.
Kangaroo Flat	
Edithvale	No specific identified measures provided by the CFA.
Berwick	The CFA considered that a change to the FRV fire district across the southern portion of Berwick SRA could occur subject to the operationalisation of the proposed FRV station at Clyde North. In addition, the CFA considered that the immediate transfer of the southern portion of Carrum Downs SRA could mitigate the increased fire risk.
Carrum Downs	
Hampton Park	The CFA considered that the establishment of a satellite fire station could mitigate the increased fire risk.
Narre Warren	No specific identified measures provided by the CFA.
Epping	The CFA considered that a change to the FRV fire district across a portion of the Epping SRA could occur subject to the amalgamation of the CFA Epping and Wollert brigades and establishment of a new CFA station north of the current Epping CFA fire station.
Werribee	The CFA considered that the immediate transfer of the Werribee Hospital and University Precinct within the Werribee SRA could mitigate the increased fire risk
Wyndham Vale	No specific identified measures provided by the CFA.
Ballarat	No specific identified measures provided by the CFA.
Sebastopol	The CFA considered that an upgrade to the pumper appliance could mitigate the increase in risk through reduced response times, expansion of the area able to be serviced and increased capability through improved equipment. In addition, the CFA proposes that the feasibility of a satellite station could also be explored at Wendouree to further mitigate the increased fire risk.
Wendouree	

³ The thresholds and triggers for each CPVZ would be quantified, thus supporting more effective long-term service delivery planning for the 2 agencies. Furthermore, existing resources can be leveraged to risk approaches.

3. Findings of the Fire Rescue Victoria Fire District Review 2020-24

In accordance with section 4L of the Act, the Panel may make the following recommendations:

- that no change be made to the Fire Rescue Victoria fire district; or
- that a change be made to the Fire Rescue Victoria fire district; or
- that the Panel conduct a further review of the Fire Rescue Victoria fire district within the period specified in the report.

In line with section 4L of the Act, the Panel provides its recommendations (Table 2) for each of the 13 CFA SRAs. In making these recommendations, the Panel has considered the CFA's advice, other stakeholder submissions and the Panel's own subsequent analysis.

Table 2: Recommendations of the Fire Rescue Victoria Fire District Review 2020–24

CFA SRA	
Eaglehawk	The Panel has identified an increase in fire risk across the Eaglehawk and Kangaroo Flat SRAs. Currently this is adequately mitigated by the response arrangements of the fire services agencies. The Panel recommends that no change be made to the FRV fire district.
Kangaroo Flat	
Edithvale	The Panel has identified an increase in fire risk across the Edithvale SRA. Currently this is adequately mitigated by the response arrangements of the fire services agencies. The Panel recommends that no change be made to the FRV fire district.
Berwick	The Panel has identified an increase in the fire risk across the Berwick SRA that is currently adequately mitigated. The Panel recommends that no change be made to the FRV fire district.
Carrum Downs	The Panel has identified an increase in fire risk across the Carrum Downs SRA that cannot be adequately mitigated by a change to the adjacent FRV fire district. The Panel recommends that no change be made to the FRV fire district.
Hampton Park	The Panel has identified an increase in fire risk across the Hampton Park SRA that cannot be adequately mitigated by a change to the adjacent FRV fire district. The Panel recommends that no change be made to the FRV fire district.
Narre Warren	The Panel has identified an increase in fire risk across the Narre Warren SRA. Currently this is adequately mitigated by the response arrangements of the fire services agencies. The Panel recommends that no change be made to the FRV fire district.
Epping	The Panel has identified an increase in fire risk across the Epping SRA. Currently this is adequately mitigated by the response arrangements of the fire services agencies. The Panel recommends that no change be made to the FRV fire district.
Werribee	The Panel has identified an increase in fire risk across the Werribee SRA that cannot be adequately mitigated by a change to the adjacent FRV fire district. The Panel recommends that no change be made to the FRV fire district.
Wyndham Vale	The Panel has identified an increase in fire risk across the Wyndham Vale SRA. Currently this is adequately mitigated by the response arrangements of the fire services agencies. The Panel recommends that no change be made to the FRV fire district.

CFA SRA	
Ballarat	The Panel has identified an increase in fire risk across the Ballarat, Sebastopol and Wendouree SRAs. Currently this is adequately mitigated by the response arrangements of the fire services agencies. The Panel recommends that no change be made to the FRV fire district.
Sebastopol	
Wendouree	

The recommendations have been prepared using the fire risk and projected population profiles for each CFA SRA, provided in Figures A2–A6 (refer to Appendix B). Where relevant, factors that may affect fire risk are discussed including the presence of public forest and plantations and the availability of reticulated water in the SRA.

The CFA's advice to the Panel provides information that has been used to develop findings, in particular:

- coverage of SRAs by appliances
- total demand between 2010 and 2023 by incident type
- growth zones in SRAs
- travel time to fire stations for operational members.

The risk mitigation measures proposed by CFA, such as upgrades to tankers, proposed/planned establishment of a satellite/additional stations, along with the identification of CPVZs were also taken into consideration by the Panel.

Submissions to the Panel from FRV have provided information on the capacity of the neighbouring FRV SRAs to assist in fire risk mitigation. This has included:

- their availability⁴
- coverage of their own SRA
- coverage of each of the 13 CFA SRAs within 7.7-minutes⁵
- the percentage of incidents that FRV were dispatched to where they were first responders within the 13 CFA SRAs.

Through the analysis of the detailed submissions and advice provided by CFA and other stakeholders the Panel have also made a number of observations (Table 3) that could be further considered by the Minister.

⁴ Availability is an indicative measure of the percentage of time the primary appliances in the station are available at station and ready to respond operationally to incidents. A lower percentage indicates that the station is generally busier and has less availability to respond. Availability is calculated only on primary appliances and averaged to a station level from July 2021 to July 2023. It does not take into account when resources are being serviced/unavailable for duty. This metric is purely operational and does not consider where resourcing is otherwise engaged (community engagement) / training / studies / other duties. Data provided by FRV.

⁵ Code 1 incidents (emergency) attended within the FRV Fire District that are further than a modelled 6.2-minute drive time (7.7-minute target minus the 1.5-minute turnout time target). EMR incidents are excluded from this measurement because they have a different benchmark. Data provided by FRV.

Table 3: Panel further observations by station response area

CFA SRA	Observations
Eaglehawk	N/A
Kangaroo Flat	
Edithvale	<p>The Panel considers that fire risk cannot be effectively addressed in isolation. Projected population growth and urban density in surrounding SRAs needs to be considered to strategically address changes in fire risk across the larger area. The Panel therefore considers that a strategic fire station location plan review would inform any changes to the FRV fire district to mitigate future fire risk. This should include the surrounding SRAs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CFA <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Edithvale ○ Keysborough ○ Noble Park • FRV <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Springvale ○ Dandenong.
Berwick	<p>The Panel considers that fire risk cannot be effectively addressed in isolation. Projected population growth and urban density in surrounding SRAs needs to be considered to strategically address changes in fire risk across the larger area. The Panel therefore considers that a strategic fire station location plan review would inform any changes to the FRV fire district to mitigate future fire risk. This should include the surrounding SRAs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CFA <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Berwick ○ Clyde ○ Clyde North ○ Officer ○ Narre Warren ○ Narre Warren North ○ Hampton Park • FRV <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Hallam ○ Pakenham ○ Cranbourne.
Carrum Downs	<p>The Panel has identified an increased risk area in the southern portion of the SRA due to elevated response times. These elevated response times appear to be a result of road access limitations. This needs to be addressed by the fire services agencies.</p> <p>The Panel considers that fire risk cannot be effectively addressed in isolation. Projected population growth and urban density in surrounding SRAs needs to be considered to strategically address changes in fire risk across the larger area. The Panel therefore considers that a strategic fire station location plan review would inform any changes to the FRV fire district to mitigate future fire risk. This should include the surrounding SRAs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CFA <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Carrum Downs ○ Langwarrin ○ Skye • FRV <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Patterson River ○ Frankston ○ Cranbourne.

CFA SRA	Observations
Hampton Park	<p>The Panel considers that fire risk cannot be effectively addressed in isolation. Projected population growth and urban density in surrounding SRAs needs to be considered to strategically address changes in fire risk across the larger area. The Panel therefore considers that a strategic fire station location plan review would inform any changes to the FRV fire district to mitigate future fire risk. This should include the surrounding SRAs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CFA <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Berwick ○ Clyde ○ Clyde North ○ Officer ○ Narre Warren ○ Narre Warren North ○ Hampton Park • FRV <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Hallam ○ Pakenham ○ Cranbourne.
Narre Warren	<p>The Panel considers that fire risk cannot be effectively addressed in isolation. Projected population growth and urban density in surrounding SRAs needs to be considered to strategically address changes in fire risk across the larger area. The Panel therefore considers that a strategic fire station location plan review would inform any changes to the FRV fire district to mitigate future fire risk. This should include the surrounding SRAs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CFA <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Berwick ○ Clyde ○ Clyde North ○ Officer ○ Narre Warren ○ Narre Warren North ○ Hampton Park • FRV <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Hallam ○ Pakenham ○ Cranbourne.
Epping	<p>The Panel considers that fire risk cannot be effectively addressed in isolation. Projected population growth and urban density in surrounding SRAs needs to be considered to strategically address changes in fire risk across the larger area. The Panel therefore considers that a strategic fire station location plan review would inform any changes to the FRV fire district to mitigate future fire risk. This should include the surrounding SRAs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CFA <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Epping ○ Kalkallo ○ Wollert and District ○ Mernda • FRV <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Epping ○ Craigieburn.

CFA SRA	Observations
Werribee	<p>The Panel has identified an increased risk in the university and hospital precincts due to elevated response times and demand.</p> <p>The Panel considers that fire risk cannot be effectively addressed in isolation. Projected population growth and urban density in surrounding SRAs needs to be considered to strategically address changes in fire risk across the larger area. The Panel therefore considers that a strategic fire station location plan review would inform any changes to the FRV fire district to mitigate future fire risk. This should include the surrounding SRAs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CFA <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Werribee ○ Wyndham Vale ○ Rockbank ○ Diggers Rest • FRV <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Point Cook ○ Tarneit.
Wyndham Vale	<p>The Panel considers that fire risk cannot be effectively addressed in isolation. Projected population growth and urban density in surrounding SRAs needs to be considered to strategically address changes in fire risk across the larger area. The Panel therefore considers that a strategic fire station location plan review would inform any changes to the FRV fire district to mitigate future fire risk. This should include the surrounding SRAs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CFA <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Werribee ○ Wyndham Vale ○ Rockbank ○ Diggers Rest • FRV <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Point Cook ○ Tarneit.
Ballarat	<p>The Panel considers that fire risk cannot be effectively addressed in isolation. Projected population growth and urban density in surrounding SRAs needs to be considered to strategically address changes in fire risk across the larger area. The Panel therefore considers that a strategic review of the fire services agencies' response arrangements across the Ballarat, Sebastopol and Wendouree SRAs would address the distribution of fire risk within the current district configuration to ensure future fire risk can continue to be mitigated.</p>

In the following subsections, the above information is presented in a structured way to help understand the findings and any observations for each SRA.

3.1 Eaglehawk

3.1.1 Adjacent FRV fire district and SRAs

The Eaglehawk SRA borders the FRV North and West Regional district boundary, with FS73 (Bendigo) sharing a section of its boundary.

3.1.2 Fire risk and other considerations

The highest fire risk in the Eaglehawk SRA lies in the centre and along its southern boundary with FS73 (Figure A2).

The Eaglehawk SRA contains both regional park and national park (47%).⁶

There are a small number of dwellings located on the perimeter of the forested area without reticulated water.

3.1.3 CFA advice and stakeholder submissions

The CFA resource capability for Eaglehawk SRA relies on a long-established protocol of joint response from FRV, FFMV and surrounding brigades as a response network. For example, bushfire risk from regional park and national park is mitigated through FFMV, with support from the Eaglehawk SRA.

Of the 13 CFA SRAs, Eaglehawk SRA has the second lowest number (47) of volunteers.⁷ Most operational members live within 4 to 6 minutes' travel time to the primary station.⁸ Recruitment of new members continues to target those who live within 4 to 6 minutes of the station.

Fire and explosions have remained consistently the main incident type in the Eaglehawk SRA. The total number of fire and explosion incidents in the Eaglehawk SRA for the period January 2010 to December 2023 was 1252 (762 primary brigade count, 490 support brigade count).⁹ Since 1 July 2020, the CFA has responded to fewer fire and explosion incidents in the Eaglehawk SRA.¹⁰ The total number of incidents that CFA have responded to in this SRA was approximately 150 in 2023.

FRV support the response across all incidents in the Eaglehawk SRA from the adjacent FRV fire district as required. The FRV coverage analysis, based on a 6.2-minute drive time, shows that FS73 (Bendigo) can respond to 94% of Code 1 incidents (emergencies) occurring in its SRA and could cover 4.6% of the Eaglehawk SRA.¹¹

⁶ Represented by the classifications National Park, Regional Park, State Forest in the LANDUSE2017 spatial layer. <https://discover.data.vic.gov.au/dataset/victorian-land-use-information-system-2016-2017>

⁷ [CFA Chief Officer's Advice to the Fire District Review Panel \(Section 4K Advice\) 2024 \[PDF 26.5MB\]](#) As of December 2023.

⁸ [CFA Chief Officer's Advice to the Fire District Review Panel \(Section 4K Advice\) 2024 \[PDF 26.5MB\]](#) This travel time only refers to when the volunteer is at their home. It doesn't account for when they are at their place of employment or elsewhere.

⁹ [CFA Chief Officer's Advice to the Fire District Review Panel \(Section 4K Advice\) 2024 \[PDF 26.5MB\]](#)

¹⁰ [CFA Chief Officer's Advice to the Fire District Review Panel \(Section 4K Advice\) 2024 \[PDF 26.5MB\]](#)

¹¹ Coverage represents the percentage of the brigade area covered by FRV resourcing based on a modelled 6.2-minute drive time from existing FRV stations. Coverage is a general indicator of the area an agency can effectively service based on a target – for example, 7.7-minutes. However, it is important to note populations/incidents can be clustered in small portions of the SRA and the actual modelled coverage percentage depends on the road network/tuning. Data provided by FRV.

Between July 2021 and February 2024, of all incidents where FRV arrived on scene in the Eaglehawk SRA, 72% were first arrival (171 incidents).¹² Of the non-emergency medical response (EMR) incidents where FRV was the first arriving agency, 73% of incidents (91) FRV did not arrive within 7.7-minutes.¹³

The evidence and data provided through the submissions from CFA and other stakeholders indicates that the current complementary fire services model is adequately mitigating the fire risk in this SRA.

Acknowledging the location of FS73 (Bendigo), should the FRV fire district boundary be changed, FS73 is unlikely to be able to service an increased geographical area.

3.1.4 Recommendation

The Panel has identified an increase in fire risk across the Eaglehawk SRA. Currently, this is adequately mitigated by the response arrangements of the fire services agencies. The Panel recommends that no change be made to the FRV fire district.

¹² The assessed period is from July 2021 to February 2024. First arrivals indicate where FRV is the first arriving agency as a percentage of the total incidents FRV arrived at. Data provided by FRV.

¹³ The assessed period is from July 2021 to February 2024. Response performance measures the percentage of non-EMR incidents where FRV is the first arriving agency, which met the response time target of 7.7-minutes. EMR incidents are excluded because FRV uses a 9.2-minute target to assess. Data provided by FRV.

3.2 Kangaroo Flat

3.2.1 Adjacent FRV fire district and SRAs

The Kangaroo Flat SRA borders the FRV North and West Regional district boundary, with FS73 (Bendigo) sharing a section of its boundary.

3.2.2 Fire risk and other considerations

Highest fire risk in the Kangaroo Flat SRA lies in the centre of the SRA (Figure A2).

The Kangaroo Flat SRA contains both regional park and national park (48%).¹⁴

There are a small number of dwellings located on the perimeter of the forested area without reticulated water.¹⁵

3.2.3 CFA advice and stakeholder submissions

The CFA resource capability for Kangaroo Flat SRA relies on a long-established protocol of joint response from FRV, FFMV and surrounding brigades as a response network.¹⁶ For example, bushfire risk from regional park and national park is mitigated through FFMV, with support from the Kangaroo Flat SRA.

Of the 13 CFA SRAs, Kangaroo Flat SRA has the fourth-highest number (80) of volunteers.¹⁷ Most operational members live within 4 to 6 minutes' travel time to the primary station.¹⁸ Recruitment of new members continues to target those who live within 4 minutes of the station.¹⁹

Fire and explosions have remained consistently the main incident type in the Kangaroo Flat SRA. The total number of fire and explosion incidents in the Kangaroo Flat SRA for the period January 2010 to December 2023 was 775 (481 primary brigade count and 294 support brigade count).²⁰ Since 1 July 2020, the CFA has responded to fewer fire and explosion incidents, in the Kangaroo Flat SRA. The total number of incidents that CFA have responded to in this SRA was approximately 200 in 2023.

FRV support the response across all incidents in the Kangaroo Flat SRA from the adjacent FRV fire district as required. The FRV coverage analysis, based on a 6.2-minute drive time, shows that FS73 (Bendigo) can respond to 94% of Code 1 incidents (emergencies) occurring in its SRA²¹ and could cover 0.5% of the Kangaroo Flat SRA.²²

¹⁴ Represented by the classifications National Park, Regional Park, State Forest in the LANDUSE2017 spatial layer. <https://discover.data.vic.gov.au/dataset/victorian-land-use-information-system-2016-2017>

¹⁵ Represented by data provided by Coliban Water.

¹⁶ This statement also refers to the joint response that operated between MFB, CFA, FFMV and surrounding brigades prior to FSR.

¹⁷ [CFA Chief Officer's Advice to the Fire District Review Panel \(Section 4K Advice\) 2024 \[PDF 26.5MB\]](#) As of December 2023.

¹⁸ [CFA Chief Officer's Advice to the Fire District Review Panel \(Section 4K Advice\) 2024 \[PDF 26.5MB\]](#) This travel time only refers to when the volunteer is at their home. It doesn't account for when they are at their place of employment or elsewhere.

¹⁹ [CFA Chief Officer's Advice to the Fire District Review Panel \(Section 4K Advice\) 2024 \[PDF 26.5MB\]](#)

²⁰ [CFA Chief Officer's Advice to the Fire District Review Panel \(Section 4K Advice\) 2024 \[PDF 26.5MB\]](#)

²¹ EMR incidents are excluded from this measurement because they have a different benchmark. The assessed period is from July 2021 to February 2024. Data provided by FRV.

²² Coverage represents the percentage of the brigade area covered by FRV resourcing based on a modelled 6.2-minute drive time from existing FRV stations. Coverage is a general indicator of the area an agency can effectively service based on a target – for example, 7.7-minutes. However, it is important to note populations/incidents can be clustered in small portions of the SRA and the actual modelled coverage percentage depends on the road network/tuning. Data provided by FRV.

Between July 2021 and February 2024, of all incidents where FRV arrived on scene in the Kangaroo Flat SRA, 14% were first arrival (29 incidents).²³ Of the non-EMR incidents where FRV was the first arriving agency, in 28% of incidents (8) did not arrive within 7.7-minute target.²⁴

A new CFA station at Golden Square is under construction.²⁵ The Panel notes that once delivered it will help further mitigate fire risk in adjacent Kangaroo Flat SRA.

The evidence and data provided through the submissions from CFA and other stakeholders indicates that the current complementary fire services model is adequately mitigating the fire risk in this SRA. In addition, the new CFA station at Golden Square, will provide additional coverage as it shares a longer and more accessible boundary with the Kangaroo Flat SRA. The CFA appliances to be available from Golden Square are also more suited to the landcover and terrain of the Kangaroo Flat SRA.

3.2.4 Recommendation

The Panel has identified an increase in fire risk across the Kangaroo Flat SRA. Currently this is adequately mitigated by the response arrangements of the fire services agencies. The Panel recommends that no change be made to the FRV fire district.

²³ The assessed period is from July 2021 to February 2024. First arrivals indicate where FRV is the first arriving agency as a percentage of the total incidents FRV arrived at. Data provided by FRV.

²⁴ The assessed period is from July 2021 to February 2024. Response performance measures the percentage of non-EMR incidents where FRV is the first arriving agency, which met the response time target of 7.7-minutes. EMR incidents are excluded because FRV uses a 9.2-minute target to assess. Data provided by FRV.

²⁵ Department of Justice and Community Safety submission to the Fire District Review Panel boundary change determination 2023.

3.3 Edithvale

3.3.1 Adjacent FRV fire district and SRAs

Edithvale SRA borders the FRV Southern D1 and Southern D2 district boundaries, with FS33 (Mentone), FS89 (Springvale) and FS90 (Patterson River) SRAs sharing sections of its boundary.

3.3.2 Fire risk and other considerations

Highest fire risk in the Edithvale SRA lies along the western boundary of the SRA, extending south to FS90 (Patterson River) (Figure A3).

3.3.3 CFA advice and stakeholder submissions

Of the 13 CFA SRAs, Edithvale SRA has the highest number (128) of volunteers.²⁶ FRV is dispatched in support of the Edithvale Fire Brigade across all code 1 responses to mitigate service demand management in the event that the Edithvale brigade has multiple incidents to attend to.²⁷ It is noted that FRV were only first on scene at incidents within the Edithvale SRA 2% of the time.

The total number of fire and explosion incidents in the Edithvale SRA for the period January 2010 to December 2023 was 903 (473 primary brigade count and 430 support brigade count).²⁸ Since 1 July 2020, the CFA has responded to fewer fire and explosion incidents in the Edithvale SRA. The total number of incidents that CFA have responded to in this SRA was approximately 220 incidents in 2023. Of this number, nearly 50% were service calls²⁹ attended by CFA in support of FRV resources.

FRV support the response across all incidents in the Edithvale SRA from the adjacent FRV fire district as required. The FRV coverage analysis, based on a 6.2-minute drive time, shows that FS33 (Mentone), FS89 (Springvale) and FS90 (Patterson River) can respond to 99%, 100% and 96% of Code 1 incidents (emergencies) occurring in their respective SRAs.³⁰ They could also collectively cover 39.1% of the Edithvale SRA.³¹

Between July 2021 and February 2024, of all incidents where FRV arrived on scene in the Edithvale SRA, 15% were first arrival (15 incidents).³² Of the non-EMR incidents where FRV was the first arriving agency, 47% of incidents (7) did not meet the 7.7-minute target.³³ It is also noted that both FS89 (Springvale) and FS90 (Patterson River) are single truck (primary appliance) FRV stations.³⁴

²⁶ [CFA Chief Officer's Advice to the Fire District Review Panel \(Section 4K Advice\) 2024 \[PDF 26.5MB\]](#) As of December 2023.

²⁷ [CFA Chief Officer's Advice to the Fire District Review Panel \(Section 4K Advice\) 2024 \[PDF 26.5MB\]](#)

²⁸ [CFA Chief Officer's Advice to the Fire District Review Panel \(Section 4K Advice\) 2024 \[PDF 26.5MB\]](#)

²⁹ Provision of support to other agencies.

³⁰ EMR incidents are excluded from this measurement because they have a different benchmark. The assessed period is from July 2021 to February 2024. Data provided by FRV.

³¹ Coverage represents the percentage of the brigade area covered by FRV resourcing based on a modelled 6.2-minute drive time from existing FRV stations. Coverage is a general indicator of the area an agency can effectively service based on a target – for example, 7.7-minutes. However, it is important to note populations/incidents can be clustered in small portions of the SRA and the actual modelled coverage percentage depends on the road network/tuning. Data provided by FRV.

³² The assessed period is from July 2021 to February 2024. First arrivals indicate where FRV is the first arriving agency as a percentage of the total incidents FRV arrived at. Data provided by FRV.

³³ The assessed period is from July 2021 to February 2024. Response performance measures the percentage of non-EMR incidents where FRV is the first arriving agency, which met the response time target of 7.7-minutes. EMR incidents are excluded because FRV uses a 9.2-minute target to assess. Data provided by FRV.

³⁴ FRV position regarding the CFA's response to the Panel's April 2024 determination (submission to the Panel).

The evidence and data provided through the submissions from CFA and other stakeholders indicates that the current complementary fire services model is adequately mitigating the fire risk in this SRA. Acknowledging the locations of FS33 (Mentone), FS89 (Springvale) and FS90 (Patterson River), should the FRV fire district boundary be changed, these stations are unlikely to be able to service an increased geographical area.

3.3.4 Recommendation

The Panel has identified an increase in fire risk across the Edithvale SRA. Currently this is adequately mitigated by the response arrangements of the fire services agencies. The Panel recommends that no change be made to the FRV fire district.

3.3.5 Observation

The Panel considers that fire risk cannot be effectively addressed in isolation. Projected population growth and urban density in surrounding SRAs needs to be considered to strategically address changes in fire risk across the larger area. The Panel therefore considers that a strategic fire station location plan review would inform any changes to the FRV fire district to mitigate future fire risk. This should include the surrounding SRAs:

- CFA
 - Edithvale
 - Keysborough
 - Noble Park
- FRV
 - Springvale
 - Dandenong.

3.4 Berwick

3.4.1 Adjacent FRV fire district and SRAs

The Berwick SRA borders the FRV Southern D2 district boundary, with FS88 (Hallam) and FS92 (Cranbourne) SRAs sharing sections of its boundary.

3.4.2 Fire risk and other considerations

The highest fire risk in the Berwick SRA is concentrated in a belt extending from FS88 (Hallam) across the centre of the SRA (Figure A3).

The Berwick SRA encompasses a significant growth area in the south, not fully covered within the combined fire services' 8-minute response profile.

The 2036 population projections for the Berwick SRA are classified as medium ($\leq 100,000$), whereas neighbouring FRV SRAs FS88 and FS92 have respective 2036 population projections of medium ($\leq 100,000$) and high ($\leq 150,000$).³⁵

3.4.3 CFA advice and stakeholder submissions

Of the 13 CFA SRAs, Berwick SRA has the third-lowest number (49) of volunteers.³⁶ Most operational members live within a 4-minute drive of the station.³⁷

The total number of fire and explosion incidents in the Berwick SRA for the period January 2010 to December 2023 was 1607 (1112 primary brigade count and 495 support brigade count).³⁸ Since 1 July 2020, the CFA has responded to fewer fire and explosion incidents in the Berwick SRA. The total number of incidents that CFA have responded to in this SRA was approximately 550 incidents in 2023. Fire and explosions were the fourth-highest incident type in this SRA, with other incident types such as motor vehicle accidents (MVA), rescue and emergency medical services (EMS) higher than in any of the preceding 13 years.³⁹

FRV support the response across all incidents in the Berwick SRA from the adjacent FRV fire district as required. The FRV coverage analysis, based on a 6.2-minute drive time, shows that FS88 (Hallam) and FS92 (Cranbourne) can respond to 97% and 87% of Code 1 incidents (emergencies) occurring in their respective SRAs.⁴⁰ They could also collectively cover 6.1% of the Berwick SRA.⁴¹ FRV modelling, based on the proposed location of a fire station at Clyde North, shows this growth area will be partially covered by the 7.7-minute response time, if constructed.⁴²

³⁵ <https://www.data.vic.gov.au/victoria-future-2023-vif2023-data-available-excel-spreadsheets>

³⁶ [CFA Chief Officer's Advice to the Fire District Review Panel \(Section 4K Advice\) 2024 \[PDF 26.5MB\]](#) As of December 2023.

³⁷ [CFA Chief Officer's Advice to the Fire District Review Panel \(Section 4K Advice\) 2024 \[PDF 26.5MB\]](#) This travel time only refers to when the volunteer is at their home. It doesn't account for when they are at their place of employment or elsewhere.

³⁸ [CFA Chief Officer's Advice to the Fire District Review Panel \(Section 4K Advice\) 2024 \[PDF 26.5MB\]](#)

³⁹ [CFA Chief Officer's Advice to the Fire District Review Panel \(Section 4K Advice\) 2024 \[PDF 26.5MB\]](#)

⁴⁰ EMR incidents are excluded from this measurement because they have a different benchmark. The assessed period is from July 2021 to February 2024. Data provided by FRV.

⁴¹ Coverage represents the percentage of the brigade area covered by FRV resourcing based on a modelled 6.2-minute drive time from existing FRV stations. Coverage is a general indicator of the area an agency can effectively service based on a target – for example, 7.7-minutes. However, it is important to note populations/incidents can be clustered in small portions of the SRA and the actual modelled coverage percentage depends on the road network/tuning. Data provided by FRV.

⁴² FRV modelled on a 6.2-minute drive time. Data provided by FRV.

Between July 2021 and February 2024, of all incidents where FRV arrived on scene in the Berwick SRA, 15% were first arrival (19 incidents).⁴³ Of the non-EMR incidents where FRV was the first arriving agency, 84% of incidents (16) did not meet the 7.7-minute target.⁴⁴ In addition, of all neighbouring FRV SRAs, Hallam has the least availability (86%)⁴⁵, both FS88 (Hallam) and FS92 (Cranbourne) are single truck (primary appliance) FRV stations.⁴⁶

The CPVZ presented in the submission from CFA related to the southern part of the Berwick SRA. This area covers Statistical Area Level 1 (SA1s), with low to medium fire risk. For the period 2010 to 2019, 16% of incidents occurring in the Berwick SRA occurred in the CPVZ. Of these, 34% of incidents were MVA, rescue and EMS, 29% fire and explosions and 16% hazardous calls.⁴⁷ Currently, FRV rarely responds within this CPVZ.⁴⁸

The proposed FRV station at Clyde North (in the planning stage) is expected to cover 71% of the CPVZ.⁴⁹ The current satellite station in Clyde North, currently operated by CFA Clyde volunteers assists with mitigating the Service Delivery Standard (SDS) challenges to the Berwick SRA.

3.4.4 Recommendation

The Panel has identified an increase in the fire risk across the Berwick SRA that is currently adequately mitigated. The Panel recommends that no change be made to the FRV fire district.

⁴³ The assessed period is from July 2021 to February 2024. First arrivals indicate where FRV is the first arriving agency as a percentage of the total incidents FRV arrived at. Data provided by FRV.

⁴⁴ The assessed period is from July 2021 to February 2024. Response performance measures the percentage of non-EMR incidents where FRV is the first arriving agency, which met the response time target of 7.7-minutes. EMR incidents are excluded because FRV uses a 9.2-minute target to assess. Data provided by FRV.

⁴⁵ Availability is an indicative measure of the percentage of time the primary appliances in the station are available at station and ready to respond operationally to incidents. A lower percentage indicates that the station is generally busier and has less availability to respond. Availability is calculated only on primary appliances and averaged to a station level from July 2021 to July 2023. It does not take into account when resources are being serviced / unavailable for duty. This metric is purely operational and does not consider where resourcing is otherwise engaged (community engagement) / training / studies / other duties. Data provided by FRV.

⁴⁶ FRV position regarding the CFA's response to the Panel's April 2024 determination (submission to the Panel).

⁴⁷ CPVZ spatial layer. FIRS dataset 2010–2019.

⁴⁸ Nine incidents for the period July 2021 to December 2023. Data provided by FRV.

⁴⁹ Percentage of CPVZ covered by a 6.2-minute drive time from FRV stations. Data provided by FRV.

3.4.5 Observation

The government has committed to the establishment of a FRV fire station in Clyde North to address the emergent growth in the southern part of the Berwick SRA. Currently a CFA satellite station operates from Clyde North.

The Panel considers that fire risk cannot be effectively addressed in isolation. Projected population growth and urban density in surrounding SRAs needs to be considered to strategically address changes in fire risk across the larger area. The Panel therefore considers that a strategic fire station location plan review would any changes to the FRV fire district to mitigate future fire risk. This should include the surrounding SRAs:

- CFA
 - Berwick
 - Clyde
 - Clyde North
 - Officer
 - Narre Warren
 - Narre Warren North
 - Hampton Park
- FRV
 - Hallam
 - Pakenham
 - Cranbourne.

3.5 Carrum Downs

3.5.1 Adjacent FRV fire district and SRAs

The Carrum Downs SRA borders the FRV Southern D2 district boundary, with FS87 (Dandenong), FS90 (Patterson River) and FS91 (Frankston) SRAs sharing sections of its boundary.

3.5.2 Fire risk and other considerations

The highest fire risk in the Carrum Downs SRA is mostly in the south, near the boundary with FS90 (Patterson River) and FS91 (Frankston) (Figure A3).

The Carrum Downs SRA is a fully developed area, with the 2036 population projections classified as low ($\leq 50,000$).⁵⁰

3.5.3 CFA advice and stakeholder submissions

Of the 13 CFA SRAs, Carrum Downs SRA has the fifth lowest number (59) of volunteers.⁵¹ Most operational members live within a 4-minute drive of the station.⁵²

The total number of fire and explosion incidents in the Carrum Downs SRA for the period January 2010 to December 2023 was 1748 (943 primary brigade count and 805 support brigade count). Since 1 July 2020, the CFA has responded to fewer fire and explosion incidents in the Carrum Downs SRA. The total number of incidents that CFA have responded to in this SRA was approximately 340 incidents in 2023. Fire and explosions were the second-highest incident type in this SRA, with other incident types such as MVA, rescue and EMS driving demand.

FRV support the response across all incidents in the Carrum Downs SRA from the adjacent FRV fire district as required. The FRV coverage analysis, based on a 6.2-minute drive time, shows that FS87 (Dandenong), FS90 (Patterson River) and FS91 (Frankston) can respond to 90%, 96% and 95% of Code 1 incidents (emergencies) occurring in their respective SRAs.⁵³ They could also collectively cover 9% of the Carrum Downs SRA.⁵⁴

Between July 2021 and February 2024, of all incidents where FRV arrived on scene in the Carrum Downs SRA, 32% were first arrival (125 incidents).⁵⁵ Of the non-EMR incidents where FRV was the first arriving agency, 64% of incidents (53) did not meet the 7.7-minute target.⁵⁶ In addition, FS90 (Patterson River) is a single truck (primary appliance) FRV station.⁵⁷

⁵⁰ <https://www.data.vic.gov.au/victoria-future-2023-vif2023-data-available-excel-spreadsheets>

⁵¹ [CFA Chief Officer's Advice to the Fire District Review Panel \(Section 4K Advice\) 2024 \[PDF 26.5MB\]](#) As of December 2023.

⁵² [CFA Chief Officer's Advice to the Fire District Review Panel \(Section 4K Advice\) 2024 \[PDF 26.5MB\]](#) This travel time only refers to when the volunteer is at their home. It doesn't account for when they are at their place of employment or elsewhere.

⁵³ EMR incidents are excluded from this measurement because they have a different benchmark. The assessed period is from July 2021 to February 2024. Data provided by FRV.

⁵⁴ Coverage represents the percentage of the brigade area covered by FRV resourcing based on a modelled 6.2-minute drive time from existing FRV stations. Coverage is a general indicator of the area an agency can effectively service based on a target – for example, 7.7-minutes. However, it is important to note populations/incidents can be clustered in small portions of the SRA and the actual modelled coverage percentage depends on the road network/tuning. Data provided by FRV.

⁵⁵ The assessed period is from July 2021 to February 2024. First arrivals indicate where FRV is the first arriving agency as a percentage of the total incidents FRV arrived at. Data provided by FRV.

⁵⁶ The assessed period is from July 2021 to February 2024. Response performance measures the percentage of non-EMR incidents where FRV is the first arriving agency, which met the response time target of 7.7-minutes. EMR incidents are excluded because FRV uses a 9.2-minute target to assess. Data provided by FRV.

⁵⁷ FRV position regarding the CFA's response to the Panel's April 2024 determination (submission to the Panel).

The CPVZ presented in the submission from CFA related to the most southern portion of the Carrum Downs SRA. This area covers a single SA1 with medium fire risk. For the period 2010 to 2019, only 3% of incidents occurring in the Carrum Downs SRA occurred in the CPVZ. Of these, 34% of incidents were MVA, rescue and EMS, 32% fire and explosions and 9% service calls.⁵⁸

The CPVZ in Carrum Downs is covered by the combined fire services 8-minute response profile, except for a primary school and community sports ground. The area is located between 2 major road arterials (Peninsula Link and Eastlink) which reduces accessibility and extends response times. While FRV could geographically respond to incidents across 34% of the CPVZ from its current fire stations⁵⁹, FRV rarely responds within this area.⁶⁰ In incidents where FRV is first to arrive on scene, only 38% of the time does this occur with the 7.7-minute target.⁶¹

The evidence and data provided through the submissions from CFA and other stakeholders indicates that the current complementary fire services model is adequately mitigating the fire risk in this SRA. Acknowledging the locations of FS87 (Dandenong), FS90 (Patterson River) and FS91 (Frankston), should the FRV fire district boundary be changed, these stations are unlikely to be able to service an increased geographical area.

3.5.4 Recommendation

The Panel has identified an increase in fire risk across the Carrum Downs SRA that cannot be adequately mitigated by a change to the adjacent FRV fire district. The Panel recommends that no change be made to the FRV fire district.

3.5.5 Observation

The Panel has identified an increased risk area in the southern portion of the SRA due to elevated response times. These elevated response times appear to be the result of road access limitations. This needs to be addressed by the fire services agencies.

The Panel considers that fire risk cannot be effectively addressed in isolation. Projected population growth and urban density in surrounding SRAs needs to be considered to strategically address changes in fire risk across the larger area. The Panel therefore considers that a strategic fire station location plan review would inform any changes to the FRV fire district to mitigate future fire risk. This should include the surrounding SRAs:

- CFA
 - Carrum Downs
 - Langwarrin
 - Skye
- FRV
 - Patterson River
 - Frankston
 - Cranbourne.

⁵⁸ CPVZ spatial layer. FIRS dataset 2010–2019.

⁵⁹ Percentage of CPVZ covered by 6.2-minute drive time from FRV stations.

⁶⁰ Sixteen incidents for the period July 2021 to December 2023.

⁶¹ July 2021 to December 2023.

3.6 Hampton Park

3.6.1 Adjacent FRV fire district and SRAs

The Hampton Park SRA borders the FRV Southern D2 district boundary, with FS87 (Dandenong), FS88 (Hallam) and FS92 (Cranbourne) SRAs sharing sections of its boundary.

3.6.2 Fire risk and other considerations

The highest fire risk in the Hampton Park SRA is mostly in the north, along the boundary with FS88 (Hallam) (Figure A3).

The 2036 population projections for the Hampton Park SRA are classified as medium ($\leq 100,000$). However, neighbouring SRAs FS87 and FS88 both have a population projection of medium ($\leq 100,000$), whereas the projection is high for FS92 ($\leq 150,000$).⁶²

3.6.3 CFA advice and stakeholder submissions

Of the 13 CFA SRAs, Hampton Park SRA has the lowest number (36) of volunteers.⁶³ Most operational members live outside a 4-minute travel time to the station.⁶⁴

The total number of fire and explosion incidents in the Hampton Park SRA for the period January 2010 to December 2023 was 1545 (893 primary brigade count and 652 support brigade count). Since 1 July 2020, the CFA has responded to fewer fire and explosion incidents in the Hampton Park SRA. The total number of incidents that CFA have responded to in this SRA was approximately 400 incidents in 2023. Fire and explosions were the third-highest incident type in this SRA, with other incident types such as MVA, rescue and EMS driving demand.

FRV support the response across all incidents in the Hampton Park SRA from the adjacent FRV fire district as required. The FRV coverage analysis, based on a 6.2-minute drive time, shows that FS87 (Dandenong), FS88 (Hallam) and FS92 (Cranbourne) can attend 90%, 97% and 87% of Code 1 incidents (emergencies) occurring in their respective SRAs.⁶⁵ They can also collectively cover 49.7% of the Hampton Park SRA.⁶⁶ It is also noted that of all neighbouring FRV SRAs, FS88 (Hallam) has the least availability (86%).⁶⁷

⁶² <https://www.data.vic.gov.au/victoria-future-2023-vif2023-data-available-excel-spreadsheets>

⁶³ [CFA Chief Officer's Advice to the Fire District Review Panel \(Section 4K Advice\) 2024 \[PDF 26.5MB\]](#) As of December 2023.

⁶⁴ [CFA Chief Officer's Advice to the Fire District Review Panel \(Section 4K Advice\) 2024 \[PDF 26.5MB\]](#) This travel time only refers to when the volunteer is at their home. It doesn't account for when they are at their place of employment or elsewhere.

⁶⁵ EMR incidents are excluded from this measurement because they have a different benchmark. The assessed period is from July 2021 to February 2024. Data provided by FRV.

⁶⁶ Coverage represents the percentage of the brigade area covered by FRV resourcing based on a modelled 6.2-minute drive time from existing FRV stations. Coverage is a general indicator of the area an agency can effectively service based on a target – for example, 7.7-minutes. However, it is important to note populations/incidents can be clustered in small portions of the SRA and the actual modelled coverage percentage depends on the road network/tuning. Data provided by FRV.

⁶⁷ Availability is an indicative measure of the percentage of time the primary appliances in the station are available at station and ready to respond operationally to incidents. A lower percentage indicates that the station is generally busier and has less availability to respond. Availability is calculated only on primary appliances and averaged to a station level from July 2021 to July 2023. It does not take into account when resources are being serviced / unavailable for duty. This metric is purely operational and does not consider where resourcing is otherwise engaged (community engagement) / training / studies / other duties. Data provided by FRV.

Between July 2021 and February 2024, of all the incidents where FRV arrived on scene in the Hampton Park SRA, 87% were first arrival (557 incidents).⁶⁸ Of the non-EMR incidents where FRV was the first arriving agency, 53% of incidents (250) did not meet the 7.7-minute target.⁶⁹ In addition, both FS88 (Hallam) and FS92 (Cranbourne) are single truck (primary appliance) FRV stations.⁷⁰

In its initial determinations published in March 2023, the Panel found that a small section of the highest fire risk in the centre of the Hampton Park SRA cannot be fully covered by either fire services agency within their respective SDS. The CFA in its submission have proposed a number of mitigations including establishing a satellite fire station to address service delivery challenges in the Hampton Park SRA.

The evidence and data provided through the submissions from CFA and other stakeholders indicates that a change to the FRV fire district would not further mitigate the fire risk in this SRA. Acknowledging the locations of FS87 (Dandenong), FS88 (Hallam) and FS92 (Cranbourne), should the FRV fire district boundary be changed, these stations are unlikely to be able to service an increased geographical area.

3.6.4 Recommendation

The Panel has identified an increase in fire risk across the Hampton Park SRA that cannot be adequately mitigated by a change to the adjacent FRV fire district. The Panel recommends that no change be made to the FRV fire district.

3.6.5 Observation

The Panel considers that fire risk cannot be effectively addressed in isolation. Projected population growth and urban density in surrounding SRAs needs to be considered to strategically address changes in fire risk across the larger area. The Panel therefore considers that a strategic fire station location plan review would inform any changes to the FRV fire district to mitigate future fire risk. This should include the surrounding SRAs:

- CFA
 - Berwick
 - Clyde
 - Clyde North
 - Officer
 - Narre Warren
 - Narre Warren North
 - Hampton Park
- FRV
 - Hallam
 - Pakenham
 - Cranbourne.

⁶⁸ The assessed period is from July 2021 to February 2024. First arrivals indicate where FRV is the first arriving agency as a percentage of the total incidents FRV arrived at. Data provided by FRV.

⁶⁹ The assessed period is from July 2021 to February 2024. Response performance measures the percentage of non-EMR incidents where FRV is the first arriving agency, which met the response time target of 7.7-minutes. EMR incidents are excluded because FRV uses a 9.2-minute target to assess. Data provided by FRV.

⁷⁰ FRV position regarding the CFA's response to the Panel's April 2024 determination (submission to the Panel).

3.7 Narre Warren

3.7.1 Adjacent FRV fire district and SRAs

The Narre Warren SRA borders the FRV Southern D2 district boundary, with FS88 (Hallam) and FS92 (Cranbourne) SRAs sharing sections of its boundary.

3.7.2 Fire risk and other considerations

Highest fire risk in the Narre Warren SRA lies in the north along the boundary with FS88 (Hallam) and also in the southwest of the SRA (Figure A3).

The 2036 population projections for the Narre Warren SRA are classified as low ($\leq 50,000$). However, neighbouring SRAs FS88 (Hallam) and FS92 (Cranbourne) have respective 2036 population projections of medium ($\leq 100,000$) and high ($\leq 150,000$).⁷¹ Also, FS88 and FS92 demonstrate high total demand and large areas of high fire risk.⁷²

3.7.3 CFA advice and stakeholder submissions

Of the 13 CFA SRAs, Narre Warren SRA has the second-highest number (124) of volunteers.⁷³ The brigade has implemented a support call roster to ensure calls to members for night response are distributed evenly. A daytime firefighter program specifically recruiting volunteers with daytime availability has also been implemented.⁷⁴

The total number of fire and explosion incidents in the Narre Warren SRA for the period January 2010 to December 2023 was 2895 (823 primary brigade response and 2075 support brigade response). Since 1 July 2020, the CFA has responded to fewer fire and explosion incidents in the Narre Warren SRA. The total number of incidents that CFA have responded to in this SRA was approximately 800 incidents in 2023.

FRV support the response across all incidents in the Narre Warren SRA from the adjacent FRV fire district as required. The FRV coverage analysis, based on a 6.2-minute drive time, shows that FS88 (Hallam) and FS92 (Cranbourne) can attend 97% and 87% of Code 1 incidents (emergencies) occurring in their respective SRAs.⁷⁵ They could also collectively cover 25.1% of the Narre Warren SRA.⁷⁶ It is also noted that of all neighbouring FRV SRAs, FS88 (Hallam) has the least availability (86%).⁷⁷

⁷¹ <https://www.data.vic.gov.au/victoria-future-2023-vif2023-data-available-excel-spreadsheets>

⁷² AIRS dataset 2010–2019

⁷³ [CFA Chief Officer's Advice to the Fire District Review Panel \(Section 4K Advice\) 2024 \[PDF 26.5MB\]](#) As of December 2023.

⁷⁴ [CFA Chief Officer's Advice to the Fire District Review Panel \(Section 4K Advice\) 2024 \[PDF 26.5MB\]](#)

⁷⁵ EMR incidents are excluded from this measurement because they have a different benchmark. The assessed period is from July 2021 to February 2024. Data provided by FRV.

⁷⁶ Coverage represents the percentage of the brigade area covered by FRV resourcing based on a modelled 6.2-minute drive time from existing FRV stations. Coverage is a general indicator of the area an agency can effectively service based on a target – for example, 7.7-minutes. However, it is important to note populations/incidents can be clustered in small portions of the SRA and the actual modelled coverage percentage depends on the road network/tuning. Data provided by FRV.

⁷⁷ Availability is an indicative measure of the percentage of time the primary appliances in the station are available at station and ready to respond operationally to incidents. A lower percentage indicates that the station is generally busier and has less availability to respond. Availability is calculated only on primary appliances and averaged to a station level from July 2021 to July 2023. It does not take into account when resources are being serviced / unavailable for duty. This metric is purely operational and does not consider where resourcing is otherwise engaged (community engagement) / training / studies / other duties. Data provided by FRV.

Between July 2021 and February 2024, of all incidents where FRV arrived on scene in the Narre Warren SRA, 44% were first arrival (75 incidents).⁷⁸ Of the non-EMR incidents where FRV was the first arriving agency, 18% of incidents (6) did not meet the 7.7-minute target.⁷⁹ In addition, both FS88 (Hallam) and FS92 (Cranbourne) are single truck (primary appliance) FRV stations.⁸⁰

In its initial determinations published in March 2023, the Panel found that a small section of the highest fire risk along Narre Warren's northern boundary with FS88 (Hallam), and a growth area in the southeast of the SRA cannot be fully covered by either fire services agency within their respective SDS.

The evidence and data provided through the submissions from CFA and other stakeholders indicates that a change to the FRV fire district would not further mitigate the fire risk in this SRA. Acknowledging the locations of FS88 (Hallam) and FS92 (Cranbourne), should the FRV fire district boundary be changed, these stations are unlikely to be able to service an increased geographical area.

3.7.4 Recommendation

The Panel has identified an increase in fire risk across the Narre Warren SRA. Currently this is adequately mitigated by the response arrangements of the fire services agencies. The Panel recommends that no change be made to the FRV fire district.

3.7.5 Observation

The Panel considers that fire risk cannot be effectively addressed in isolation. Projected population growth and urban density in surrounding SRAs needs to be considered to strategically address changes in fire risk across the larger area. The Panel therefore considers that a strategic fire station location plan review would inform any changes to the FRV fire district to mitigate future fire risk. This should include the surrounding SRAs:

- CFA
 - Berwick
 - Clyde
 - Clyde North
 - Officer
 - Narre Warren
 - Narre Warren North
 - Hampton Park
- FRV
 - Hallam
 - Pakenham
 - Cranbourne.

⁷⁸ The assessed period is from July 2021 to February 2024. First arrivals indicate where FRV is the first arriving agency as a percentage of the total incidents FRV arrived at. Data provided by FRV.

⁷⁹ The assessed period is from July 2021 to February 2024. Response performance measures the percentage of non-EMR incidents where FRV is the first arriving agency, which met the response time target of 7.7-minutes. EMR incidents are excluded because FRV uses a 9.2-minute target to assess. Data provided by FRV.

⁸⁰ FRV position regarding the CFA's response to the Panel's April 2024 determination (submission to the Panel).

3.8 Epping

3.8.1 Adjacent FRV fire district and SRAs

The Epping SRA borders the FRV Northern district boundary, with FS80 (Craigieburn), FS09 (Somerton), FS11 (Epping) and FS81 (South Morang) SRAs sharing sections of its boundary.

3.8.2 Fire risk and other considerations

The highest fire risk in the Epping SRA is mostly in the south, along the boundary with FS11 (Epping) (Figure A4).

The 2036 population projections for the Epping SRA are classified as low ($\leq 50,000$). However, the neighbouring SRA FS80 (Craigieburn) has a population projection of high ($\leq 150,000$).⁸¹

3.8.3 CFA advice and stakeholder submissions

Of the 13 CFA SRAs, Epping SRA, has the eighth highest number (59) of volunteers.⁸² A substantial number of operational members live within a 6-minute drive of the station.⁸³ Recruitment campaigns are conducted regularly, targeting those in close proximity to the station (within 4 minutes) and those with availability to respond during business hours.⁸⁴

The total number of fire and explosion incidents in the Epping SRA for the period January 2010 to December 2023 was 1300 (786 primary brigade response and 514 support brigade response). Since 1 July 2020, the CFA has responded to fewer fire and explosion incidents in the Epping SRA. The total number of incidents that CFA have responded to in this SRA was more than 500 incidents in 2023. Fire and explosions were the fourth-highest incident type in this SRA, with other incident types such as MVA, rescue and EMS driving demand. In addition, nearly 40% of the total demand related false alarms and service calls.⁸⁵

FRV support the response across all incidents in the Epping SRA from the adjacent FRV fire district as required. The FRV coverage analysis, based on a 6.2-minute drive time, shows that FS80 (Craigieburn), FS09 (Somerton), FS11 (Epping) and FS81 (South Morang) can attend 85%, 99%, 99% and 99% of Code 1 incidents (emergencies) occurring in their respective SRAs.⁸⁶ They could also collectively cover 59.4% of the Epping SRA.⁸⁷

Between July 2021 and February 2024, of all incidents where FRV arrived on scene in the Epping SRA, 72% were first arrival (395 incidents).⁸⁸

⁸¹ <https://www.data.vic.gov.au/victoria-future-2023-vif2023-data-available-excel-spreadsheets>

⁸² [CFA Chief Officer's Advice to the Fire District Review Panel \(Section 4K Advice\) 2024 \[PDF 26.5MB\]](#) As of December 2023.

⁸³ [CFA Chief Officer's Advice to the Fire District Review Panel \(Section 4K Advice\) 2024 \[PDF 26.5MB\]](#). This travel time only refers to when the volunteer is at their home. It doesn't account for when they are at their place of employment or elsewhere.

⁸⁴ [CFA Chief Officer's Advice to the Fire District Review Panel \(Section 4K Advice\) 2024 \[PDF 26.5MB\]](#)

⁸⁵ Those responses that provide support other agencies.

⁸⁶ EMR incidents are excluded from this measurement because they have a different benchmark. The assessed period is from July 2021 to February 2024. Data provided by FRV.

⁸⁷ Coverage represents the percentage of the brigade area covered by FRV resourcing based on a modelled 6.2-minute drive time from existing FRV stations. Coverage is a general indicator of the area an agency can effectively service based on a target – for example, 7.7-minutes. However, it is important to note populations/incidents can be clustered in small portions of the SRA and the actual modelled coverage percentage depends on the road network/tuning. Data provided by FRV.

⁸⁸ The assessed period is from July 2021 to February 2024. First arrivals indicate where FRV is the first arriving agency as a percentage of the total incidents FRV arrived at. Data provided by FRV.

Of the non-EMR incidents where FRV was the first arriving agency, 54% of incidents (171) did not meet the 7.7-minute target.⁸⁹ In addition, FS11 (Epping), FS80 (Craigieburn) and FS81 (South Morang) are single truck (primary appliance) FRV stations.⁹⁰

The CPVZ presented in the submission from CFA related to the southern half of the Epping SRA. This area covers a single SA1 with low to high fire risk. For the period 2010 to 2019, 64% of incidents occurring in the Epping SRA occurred in the CPVZ. Of these, 30% of incidents were false alarm and false calls, 22% fire and explosions, and 20% MVA, rescue and EMS.⁹¹ The Panel notes that the Epping SRA encompasses a significant growth area in the northeast, not covered by the CPVZ, nor fully covered within the combined fire services' 8-minute response profile.

While FRV could geographically respond to incidents across 96% of the proposed variation zone, for those incidents where FRV currently arrive on scene first, only 66% of arrivals met the 7.7-minute target.⁹² The CFA identified a number of longer-term mitigation measures in its submission to the Panel, including joining of the CFA's Epping and Wollert SRAs, alongside completing a new fire station north of the current CFA Epping fire station.

The evidence and data provided through the submissions from CFA and other stakeholders indicates that the current complementary fire services model is adequately mitigating the fire risk in this SRA. Acknowledging the locations of FS80 (Craigieburn), FS09 (Somerton), FS11 (Epping) and FS81 (South Morang), should the FRV fire district boundary be changed the station is unlikely to be able to service and increased geographical area.

3.8.4 Recommendation

The Panel has identified an increase in fire risk across the Epping SRA. Currently, this is adequately mitigated by the response arrangements of the fire services agencies. The Panel recommends that no change be made to the FRV fire district.

3.8.5 Observation

The Panel considers that fire risk cannot be effectively addressed in isolation. Projected population growth and urban density in surrounding SRAs needs to be considered to strategically address changes in fire risk across the larger area. The Panel therefore considers that a strategic fire station location plan review would inform any changes to the FRV fire district to mitigate future fire risk. This should include the surrounding SRAs:

- CFA
 - Epping
 - Kalkallo
 - Wollert and District
 - Mernda
- FRV
 - Epping
 - Craigieburn.

⁸⁹ The assessed period is from July 2021 to February 2024. Response performance measures the percentage of non-EMR incidents where FRV is the first arriving agency, which met the response time target of 7.7-minutes. EMR incidents are excluded because FRV uses a 9.2-minute target to assess. Data provided by FRV.

⁹⁰ FRV position regarding the CFA's response to the Panel's April 2024 determination (submission to the Panel).

⁹¹ CPVZ spatial layer. FIRS dataset 2010–2019.

⁹² July 2021 to December 2023.

3.9 Werribee

3.9.1 Adjacent FRV fire district and SRAs

The Werribee SRA borders the FRV Western D1 district boundary, with FS57 (Tarneit) and FS58 (Point Cook) SRAs sharing sections of its boundary.

3.9.2 Fire risk and additional consideration

The highest fire risk in the Werribee SRA is concentrated in the north, along a small section of boundary with FS57 (Tarneit), as well as Werribee's central business district (Figure A5).

The 2036 population projections for the Werribee SRA are classified as low ($\leq 50,000$), whereas neighbouring FRV SRAs FS57 (Tarneit) and FS58 (Point Cook) have respective 2036 population projections of highest ($\leq 200,000$) and high ($\leq 150,000$).⁹³

3.9.3 CFA advice and stakeholder submissions

Of the 13 CFA SRAs, Werribee SRA has the third-highest number (112) of volunteers. Many operational members live within 4 minutes of the station.⁹⁴ FRV is dispatched in support of the Werribee Fire Brigade across all responses to mitigate service demand management in the event that the Werribee brigade has multiple incidents to attend to.⁹⁵ It is noted that FRV were only first on scene at incidents within the Werribee SRA on a small percentage of occasions. The Werribee brigade has created two custom-built applications (ERMA and WerribeeFIRE) that assist the Brigade Management Team to view operational member availability at all times. The apps also track member participation in training, meetings, station attendance and night roster participation.⁹⁶

The total number of fire and explosion incidents in the Werribee SRA for the period January 2010 to December 2023 was 2683 (1589 primary brigade response and 1094 support brigade response). Since 1 July 2020, the CFA has responded to fewer fire and explosion incidents in the Werribee SRA. The total number of incidents that CFA have responded to in this SRA was more than 800 incidents in 2023. Fire and explosions alongside other incident types such as MVA, rescue and EMS are driving this demand.

FRV support the response across all incidents in the Werribee SRA from the adjacent FRV fire district as required. The FRV coverage analysis, based on a 6.2-minute drive time, shows that FS57 (Tarneit) and FS58 (Point Cook) can attend 71% and 81% of Code 1 incidents (emergencies) occurring in their respective SRAs.⁹⁷ They could also collectively cover 1.6% of the Werribee SRA.⁹⁸ It is also noted that of all neighbouring FRV SRAs, FS57 (Tarneit) and FS58 (Point Cook) have the second and third least availability (87% and 89% respectively).⁹⁹

⁹³ <https://www.data.vic.gov.au/victoria-future-2023-vif2023-data-available-excel-spreadsheets>

⁹⁴ [CFA Chief Officer's Advice to the Fire District Review Panel \(Section 4K Advice\) 2024 \[PDF 26.5MB\]](#) As of December 2023. This travel time only refers to when the volunteer is at their home. It doesn't account for when they are at their place of employment or elsewhere.

⁹⁵ [CFA Chief Officer's Advice to the Fire District Review Panel \(Section 4K Advice\) 2024 \[PDF 26.5MB\]](#)

⁹⁶ [CFA Chief Officer's Advice to the Fire District Review Panel \(Section 4K Advice\) 2024 \[PDF 26.5MB\]](#)

⁹⁷ EMR incidents are excluded from this measurement because they have a different benchmark. The assessed period is from July 2021 to February 2024. Data provided by FRV.

⁹⁸ Coverage represents the percentage of the brigade area covered by FRV resourcing based on a modelled 6.2-minute drive time from existing FRV stations. Coverage is a general indicator of the area an agency can effectively service based on a target – for example, 7.7-minutes. However, it is important to note populations/incidents can be clustered in small portions of the SRA and the actual modelled coverage percentage depends on the road network/tuning. Data provided by FRV.

⁹⁹ Availability is an indicative measure of the percentage of time the primary appliances in the station are available at station and ready to respond operationally to incidents. A lower percentage indicates that the station is generally busier and has less availability to respond. Availability is calculated only on primary appliances and averaged to a station level from July 2021 to July 2023. It does not take into account when resources

Between July 2021 and February 2024, of all incidents where FRV arrived on scene in the Werribee SRA, 28% were first arrival (164 incidents).¹⁰⁰ Of the non-EMR incidents where FRV was the first arriving agency, 74% of incidents (107) did not meet the 7.7-minute target.¹⁰¹ In addition, both FS57 (Tarneit) and FS58 (Point Cook) are single truck (primary appliance) FRV stations.¹⁰²

The CPVZ presented in the submission from CFA relates to the hospital and university precincts and proposed that these areas are transitioned immediately to FS57 and FS58. This area covers a single SA1 and demonstrates the lowest fire risk. For the period 2010 to 2019, 7% of incidents occurring in the Werribee SRA occurred in the CPVZ. Of these, 7% of incidents were false alarm and false calls, 26% fire and explosions, and 37% MVA, rescue and EMS.¹⁰³ The Panel notes that the Werribee SRA encompasses a significant growth area in the north and northeast that cannot be fully covered by either fire services agency within their respective SDS.

While FRV could geographically respond to incidents across 27% of the CPVZ, in incidents where FRV arrive on scene first, only 29% of arrivals met the 7.7-minute target.¹⁰⁴ In addition, FRV network data modelling shows that FS57 (Tarneit) cannot service any part of the Werribee SRA within SDS¹⁰⁵ and FS58 (Point Cook) could only service a small section of the CPVZ within SDS.¹⁰⁶

The evidence and data provided through the submissions from CFA and other stakeholders indicates that the current complementary fire services model is adequately mitigating the fire risk in this SRA. Acknowledging the locations of FS57 (Tarneit) and FS58 (Point Cook), should the FRV fire district boundary be changed, these FRV stations are unlikely to be able to service an increased geographical area.

3.9.4 Recommendation

The Panel has identified an increase in fire risk across the Werribee SRA that cannot be adequately mitigated by a change to the adjacent FRV fire district. The Panel recommends that no change be made to the FRV fire district.

Availability is an indicative measure of the percentage of time the primary appliances in the station are available at station and ready to respond operationally to incidents. A lower percentage indicates that the station is generally busier and has less availability to respond. Availability is calculated only on primary appliances and averaged to a station level from July 2021 to July 2023. It does not take into account when resources are being serviced / unavailable for duty. This metric is purely operational and does not consider where resourcing is otherwise engaged (community engagement) / training / studies / other duties. Data provided by FRV.

¹⁰⁰ The assessed period is from July 2021 to February 2024. First arrivals indicate where FRV is the first arriving agency as a percentage of the total incidents FRV arrived at. Data provided by FRV.

¹⁰¹ The assessed period is from July 2021 to February 2024. Response performance measures the percentage of non-EMR incidents where FRV is the first arriving agency, which met the response time target of 7.7-minutes. EMR incidents are excluded because FRV uses a 9.2-minute target to assess. Data provided by FRV.

¹⁰² FRV position regarding the CFA's response to the Panel's April 2024 determination (submission to the Panel).

¹⁰³ CPVZ spatial layer. FIRS dataset 2010–2019.

¹⁰⁴ July 2021 to December 2023. Data provided by FRV.

¹⁰⁵ Arrive on scene, within 7.7-minutes, 90% of the time. Data provided by FRV.

¹⁰⁶ Arrive on scene, within 7.7-minutes, 90% of the time. Data provided by FRV.

3.9.5 Observation

The Panel has identified an increased risk in the university and hospital precincts due to elevated response times and demand.

The Panel considers that fire risk cannot be effectively addressed in isolation. Projected population growth and urban density in surrounding SRAs needs to be considered to strategically address changes in fire risk across the larger area. The Panel therefore considers that a strategic fire station location plan review would inform any changes to the FRV fire district to mitigate future fire risk. This should include the surrounding SRAs:

- CFA
 - Werribee
 - Wyndham Vale
 - Rockbank
 - Diggers Rest
- FRV
 - Point Cook
 - Tarneit.

3.10 Wyndham Vale

3.10.1 Adjacent FRV fire district and SRAs

The Wyndham Vale SRA borders the FRV Western D1 district boundary, with FS57 (Tarneit) SRA sharing a section of its boundary.

3.10.2 Fire risk and other considerations

The highest fire risk in the Wyndham Vale SRA is concentrated in the southeast corner, near the FS57 (Tarneit) boundary (Figure A5).

The 2036 population projections for the Wyndham Vale SRA are classified as medium ($\leq 100,000$), whereas adjacent FRV SRA FS57 (Tarneit) is classified as highest ($\leq 200,000$).¹⁰⁷ Also, FS57 (Tarneit) demonstrates the highest total demand of adjacent FRV SRAs.¹⁰⁸

3.10.3 CFA advice and stakeholder submissions

Of the 13 CFA SRAs, Wyndham Vale SRA has the fourth-lowest number (54) of volunteers. Most operational members live within 4 to 6 minutes' travel time to both primary and satellite stations.¹⁰⁹

The total number of fire and explosion incidents in the Wyndham Vale SRA for the period January 2010 to December 2023 was 1529 (808 primary brigade response and 721 support brigade response). Since 1 July 2020, the CFA has responded to fewer fire and explosion incidents in the Wyndham Vale SRA. The total number of incidents that CFA have responded to in this SRA was approximately 400 incidents in 2023. Fire and explosions were the main incident type in this SRA, with other incident types such as MVA, rescue and EMS also driving demand.

FRV support the response across all incidents in the Wyndham Vale SRA from the adjacent FRV fire district as required. The FRV coverage analysis, based on a 6.2-minute drive time, shows that FS57 (Tarneit) can attend 71% of Code 1 incidents (emergencies) occurring in its SRA¹¹⁰. It is noted that FS57 (Tarneit) could not cover any of the Wyndham Vale SRA.¹¹¹ It is also noted that of all neighbouring FRV SRAs, FS57 (Tarneit) has the second-least availability (87%).¹¹²

Between July 2021 and February 2024, of all incidents where FRV arrived on scene in the Wyndham Vale SRA, 7% were first arrival (3 incidents).¹¹³

¹⁰⁷ <https://www.data.vic.gov.au/victoria-future-2023-vif2023-data-available-excel-spreadsheets>

¹⁰⁸ AIRS data 2010–2019.

¹⁰⁹ [CFA Chief Officer's Advice to the Fire District Review Panel \(Section 4K Advice\) 2024 \[PDF, 26.5MB\]](#) As of December 2023. This travel time only refers to when the volunteer is at their home. It doesn't account for when they are at their place of employment or elsewhere.

¹¹⁰ EMR incidents are excluded from this measurement because they have a different benchmark. The assessed period is from July 2021 to February 2024. Data provided by FRV.

¹¹¹ Coverage represents the percentage of the brigade area covered by FRV resourcing based on a modelled 6.2-minute drive time from existing FRV stations. Coverage is a general indicator of the area an agency can effectively service based on a target – for example, 7.7-minutes. However, it is important to note populations/incidents can be clustered in small portions of the SRA and the actual modelled coverage percentage depends on the road network/tuning. Data provided by FRV.

¹¹² Availability is an indicative measure of the percentage of time the primary appliances in the station are available at station and ready to respond operationally to incidents. A lower percentage indicates that the station is generally busier and has less availability to respond. Availability is calculated only on primary appliances and averaged to a station level from July 2021 to July 2023. It does not take into account when resources are being serviced / unavailable for duty. This metric is purely operational and does not consider where resourcing is otherwise engaged (community engagement) / training / studies / other duties. Data provided by FRV.

¹¹³ The assessed period is from July 2021 to February 2024. First arrivals indicate where FRV is the first arriving agency as a percentage of the total incidents FRV arrived at. Data provided by FRV.

Of the non-EMR incidents where FRV was the first arriving agency, none met the 7.7-minute target.¹¹⁴ In addition, FS57 (Tarneit) is a single truck (primary appliance) FRV station.¹¹⁵

CFA in its submission to the Panel provided a number of mitigations. Most notably, construction has commenced of a new, purpose built 3-bay motor room fire station at Armstrong Road, Manor Lakes (within the Wyndham Vale SRA). Currently, Wyndham Vale SRA has two stations: a primary station and a satellite station. The third station is forecast to be completed in March 2025, with proposed, continued maintenance of the current primary station.

The Wyndham Vale SRA encompasses a significant growth area (18% of the SRA) in the south and east of the SRA. This cannot be fully covered by either fire services agency within their respective SDS.¹¹⁶ The evidence and data provided through the submissions from CFA and other stakeholders indicates that a change to the FRV fire district would not further mitigate the fire risk in this SRA. Acknowledging the location of FS57 (Tarneit), should the FRV fire district boundary be changed, FS57 is unlikely to be able to service an increased geographical area.

3.10.4 Recommendation

The Panel has identified an increase in fire risk across the Wyndham Vale SRA. Currently this is adequately mitigated by the response arrangements of the fire services agencies. The Panel recommends that no change be made to the FRV fire district.

3.10.5 Observation

The Panel considers that fire risk cannot be effectively addressed in isolation. Projected population growth and urban density in surrounding SRAs needs to be considered to strategically address changes in fire risk across the larger area. The Panel therefore considers that a strategic fire station location plan review would inform any changes to the FRV fire district to mitigate future fire risk. This should include the surrounding SRAs:

- CFA
 - Werribee
 - Wyndham Vale
 - Rockbank
 - Diggers Rest
- FRV
 - Point Cook
 - Tarneit.

¹¹⁴ The assessed period is from July 2021 to February 2024. Response performance measures the percentage of non-EMR incidents where FRV is the first arriving agency, which met the response time target of 7.7-minutes. EMR incidents are excluded because FRV uses a 9.2-minute target to assess. Data provided by FRV.

¹¹⁵ FRV position regarding the CFA's response to the Panel's April 2024 determination (submission to the Panel).

¹¹⁶ [CFA Chief Officer's Advice to the Fire District Review Panel \(Section 4K Advice\) 2024 \[PDF 26.5MB\]](#)

3.11 Ballarat

3.11.1 Adjacent FRV fire district and SRAs

The Ballarat SRA borders the FRV North and West Regional district boundary, with FS67 (Ballarat City) SRA sharing a section of its boundary.

3.11.2 Fire risk and other considerations

The highest fire risk within the SRA is centred on the central business district / Bakery Hill area, close to the FS67 (Ballarat City) boundary (Figure A6).

The Ballarat SRA contains both regional park and state forest (16%) as well as private plantations (1%).¹¹⁷ These areas are interspersed with vegetated private land and a limited number of dwellings, with no reticulated water.¹¹⁸

3.11.3 CFA advice and stakeholder submissions

The CFA resource capability for Ballarat SRA relies on a long-established protocol of joint response from FRV, FFMV and surrounding brigades as a response network.¹¹⁹ For example, bushfire risk from private plantations and forested public land is mitigated through the legislated Forest Industry Brigades and FFMV, respectively, with support from the Ballarat SRA.

Of the 13 CFA SRAs, Ballarat SRA has the 6th highest number (65) of volunteers.¹²⁰ Most operational members live within 4 to 6 minutes' travel time to the primary station.¹²¹ CFA have advised that a further recruitment campaign is planned to ensure an appropriate number of volunteers with availability across the 24-hour spectrum.¹²²

The total number of fire and explosion incidents in the Ballarat SRA for the period January 2010 to December 2023 was 2023 (1214 primary brigade response and 809 support brigade response). Since 1 July 2020, the CFA has responded to fewer fire and explosion incidents in the Ballarat SRA. The total number of incidents that CFA have responded to in this SRA was approximately 500 incidents in 2023.

FRV support the response across all incidents in the Ballarat SRA from the adjacent FRV fire district as required. The FRV coverage analysis, based on a 6.2-minute drive time, shows that FS67 (Ballarat City) can respond to 99% of Code 1 incidents (emergencies) occurring in its SRA¹²³ and could provide coverage to 36.4% of the Ballarat SRA.¹²⁴

¹¹⁷ Represented by the classifications National Park, Regional Park, State Forest in the LANDUSE2017 spatial layer.

<https://discover.data.vic.gov.au/dataset/victorian-land-use-information-system-2016-2017> Represented by the PLANTATION spatial layer accessed via the Victorian Spatial Data Library (VSDL)

¹¹⁸ Represented by data provided by Central Highlands Water.

¹¹⁹ This statement also refers to the joint response that operated between MFB, CFA, FFMV and surrounding brigades prior to FSR.

¹²⁰ [CFA Chief Officer's Advice to the Fire District Review Panel \(Section 4K Advice\) 2024 \[PDF 26.5MB\]](#) As of December 2023.

¹²¹ [CFA Chief Officer's Advice to the Fire District Review Panel \(Section 4K Advice\) 2024 \[PDF 26.5MB\]](#). This travel time only refers to when the volunteer is at their home. It doesn't account for when they are at their place of employment or elsewhere.

¹²² [CFA Chief Officer's Advice to the Fire District Review Panel \(Section 4K Advice\) 2024 \[PDF 26.5MB\]](#)

¹²³ EMR incidents are excluded from this measurement because they have a different benchmark. The assessed period is from July 2021 to February 2024. Data provided by FRV.

¹²⁴ Coverage represents the percentage of the brigade area covered by FRV resourcing based on a modelled 6.2-minute drive time from existing FRV stations. Coverage is a general indicator of the area an agency can effectively service based on a target – for example, 7.7-minutes. However, it is important to note populations/incidents can be clustered in small portions of the SRA and the actual modelled coverage percentage depends on the road network/tuning. Data provided by FRV.

Between July 2021 and February 2024, of all incidents where FRV arrived on scene in the Ballarat SRA, 90% were first arrival (678 incidents).¹²⁵ Of the non-EMR incidents where FRV was the first arriving agency, 41% of incidents (236) did not meet the 7.7-minute target.¹²⁶

The evidence and data provided through the submissions from CFA and other stakeholders indicates that a change to the FRV fire district would not further mitigate the fire risk in this SRA. Acknowledging the location of FS67 (Ballarat City), should the FRV fire district boundary be changed, FS67 is unlikely to be able to service and increased geographical area.

3.11.4 Recommendation

The Panel has identified an increase in fire risk across the Ballarat SRA. Currently this is adequately mitigated by the response arrangements of the fire services agencies. The Panel recommends that no change be made to the FRV fire district.

3.11.5 Observation

The Panel considers that fire risk cannot be effectively addressed in isolation. Projected population growth and urban density in surrounding SRAs needs to be considered to strategically address changes in fire risk across the larger area. The Panel therefore considers that a strategic review of the fire services agencies' response arrangements across the Ballarat, Sebastopol and Wendouree SRAs would address the distribution of fire risk within the current district configuration to ensure future fire risk can continue to be mitigated.

¹²⁵ The assessed period is from July 2021 to February 2024. First arrivals indicate where FRV is the first arriving agency as a percentage of the total incidents FRV arrived at. Data provided by FRV.

¹²⁶ The assessed period is from July 2021 to February 2024. Response performance measures the percentage of non-EMR incidents where FRV is the first arriving agency, which met the response time target of 7.7-minutes. EMR incidents are excluded because FRV uses a 9.2-minute target to assess. Data provided by FRV.

3.12 Sebastopol

3.12.1 Adjacent FRV fire district and SRAs

The Sebastopol SRA borders the FRV North and West Regional district boundary, with FS67 (Ballarat City) and FS68 (Lucas) SRAs sharing sections of its boundary.

3.12.2 Fire risk and other considerations

The highest of the fire risk is concentrated in the north of the SRA, along the boundary with FS67 (Ballarat City) (Figure A6).

The Sebastopol SRA contains state forest (1.27%) and private plantations (6.24%).¹²⁷

3.12.3 CFA advice and stakeholder submissions

The CFA resource capability for Sebastopol SRA relies on a long-established protocol of joint response from FRV, FFMV and surrounding brigades as a response network.¹²⁸ For example, bushfire risk from private plantations and forested public land is mitigated through the legislated Forest Industry Brigades and FFMV, respectively, with support from the Sebastopol SRA.

Of the 13 CFA SRAs, Sebastopol SRA has the 7th highest number (59) of volunteers.¹²⁹ Most operational members live within 4–6 minutes' travel time to the primary station.¹³⁰

The total number of fire and explosion incidents in the Sebastopol SRA for the period January 2010 to December 2023 was 1395 (696 primary brigade count and 699 support brigade count). Since 1 July 2020, the CFA has responded to fewer fire and explosion incidents in the Sebastopol SRA. The total number of incidents that CFA have responded to in this SRA was approximately 230 incidents in 2023.

FRV support the response across all incidents in the Sebastopol SRA from the adjacent FRV fire district as required. The FRV coverage analysis, based on a 6.2-minute drive time, shows that FS67 (Ballarat City) and FS68 (Lucas) can attend 99% and 89% of Code 1 incidents (emergencies) occurring in their respective SRAs.¹³¹ They could also collectively cover 31.1% of the Sebastopol SRA.¹³²

Between July 2021 and February 2024, of all incidents where FRV arrived on scene in the Sebastopol SRA, 85% were first arrival (327 incidents).¹³³

¹²⁷ Represented by the classifications National Park, Regional Park, State Forest in the LANDUSE2017 spatial layer. <https://discover.data.vic.gov.au/dataset/victorian-land-use-information-system-2016-2017> Represented by the PLANTATION spatial layer accessed via the Victorian Spatial Data Library (VSDL).

¹²⁸ This statement also refers to the joint response that operated between MFB, CFA, FFMV and surrounding brigades prior to FSR.

¹²⁹ [CFA Chief Officer's Advice to the Fire District Review Panel \(Section 4K Advice\) 2024 \[PDF 26.5MB\]](#) As of December 2023.

¹³⁰ [CFA Chief Officer's Advice to the Fire District Review Panel \(Section 4K Advice\) 2024 \[PDF 26.5MB\]](#). This travel time only refers to when the volunteer is at their home. It doesn't account for when they are at their place of employment or elsewhere.

¹³¹ EMR incidents are excluded from this measurement because they have a different benchmark. The assessed period is from July 2021 to February 2024. Data provided by FRV.

¹³² Coverage represents the percentage of the brigade area covered by FRV resourcing based on a modelled 6.2-minute drive time from existing FRV stations. Coverage is a general indicator of the area an agency can effectively service based on a target – for example, 7.7-minutes. However, it is important to note populations/incidents can be clustered in small portions of the SRA and the actual modelled coverage percentage depends on the road network/tuning. Data provided by FRV.

¹³³ The assessed period is from July 2021 to February 2024. First arrivals indicate where FRV is the first arriving agency as a percentage of the total incidents FRV arrived at. Data provided by FRV.

Of the non-EMR incidents where FRV was the first arriving agency, 53% of incidents (141) did not meet the 7.7-minute target.¹³⁴ In addition, FS68 (Lucas) is a single truck (primary appliance) FRV station.¹³⁵

The CFA, in its submission to the Panel has indicated that a satellite facility in the next 5 years may be required due to ongoing development in the residential growth zone¹³⁶, particularly in the south of the SRA.

The evidence and data provided through the submissions from CFA and other stakeholders indicates that a change to the FRV fire district would not further mitigate the fire risk in this SRA. Acknowledging the locations of FS67 (Ballarat City) and FS68 (Lucas), should the FRV fire district boundary be changed these stations are unlikely to be able to service and increased geographical area.

3.12.4 Recommendation

The Panel has identified an increase in fire risk across the Sebastopol SRA. Currently this is adequately mitigated by the response arrangements of the fire services agencies. The Panel recommends that no change be made to the FRV fire district.

3.12.5 Observation

The Panel considers that fire risk cannot be effectively addressed in isolation. Projected population growth and urban density in surrounding SRAs needs to be considered to strategically address changes in fire risk across the larger area. The Panel therefore considers that a strategic review of the fire services agencies' response arrangements across the Ballarat, Sebastopol and Wendouree SRAs would address the distribution of fire risk within the current district configuration to ensure future fire risk can continue to be mitigated.

¹³⁴ The assessed period is from July 2021 to February 2024. Response performance measures the percentage of non-EMR incidents where FRV is the first arriving agency, which met the response time target of 7.7-minutes. EMR incidents are excluded because FRV uses a 9.2-minute target to assess. Data provided by FRV.

¹³⁵ FRV position regarding the CFA's response to the Panel's April 2024 determination (submission to the Panel).

¹³⁶ The Residential Growth Zone (RGZ) is considered a substantial change area where medium density housing growth and diversity of housing types is encouraged for example townhouses and apartments around activity centres and close to train stations. There are also a limited range of non-residential uses allowed to serve local community needs.

3.13 Wendouree

3.13.1 Adjacent FRV fire district and SRAs

The Wendouree SRA borders the FRV North and West Regional district boundary, with FS67 (Ballarat City) and FS68 (Lucas) SRAs sharing sections of its boundary.

3.13.2 Fire risk and other considerations

The high fire risk is located in the centre, extending to most of the eastern boundary of the Wendouree SRA, which abuts the FS67 (Ballarat City) SRA boundary (Figure A6).

The 2036 population projections for the Wendouree SRA and the adjoining FRV SRAs are all classified as low ($\leq 50,000$).¹³⁷

3.13.3 CFA advice and stakeholder submissions

The CFA resource capability for Wendouree SRA relies on a long-established protocol of joint response from FRV, FFMV and surrounding brigades as a response network.¹³⁸ For example, bushfire risk from private plantations and forested public land is mitigated through the legislated Forest Industry Brigades and FFMV, respectively, with support from the Wendouree SRA.

Of the 13 CFA SRAs, Wendouree SRA has the fifth-highest number (70) of volunteers.¹³⁹ Most operational members live within a 4-minute drive of the station.¹⁴⁰

The total number of fire and explosion incidents in the Wendouree SRA for the period January 2010 to December 2023 was 1755 (1137 primary brigade count and 618 support brigade count). Since 1 July 2020, the CFA has responded to fewer fire and explosion incidents in the Wendouree SRA. The total number of incidents that CFA have responded to in this SRA was approximately 400 incidents in 2023, with false alarms and false calls remaining high.

FRV support the response across all incidents in the Wendouree SRA from the adjacent FRV fire district as required. The FRV coverage analysis, based on a 6.2-minute drive time, shows that FS67 (Ballarat City) and FS68 (Lucas) can respond to 99% and 89% of Code 1 incidents (emergencies) occurring in their respective SRAs.¹⁴¹ They could also collectively cover 24.9% of the Wendouree SRA.¹⁴²

Between July 2021 and February 2024, of all incidents where FRV arrived on scene in the Wendouree SRA, 87% were first arrival (614 incidents).¹⁴³

¹³⁷ <https://www.data.vic.gov.au/victoria-future-2023-vif2023-data-available-excel-spreadsheets>

¹³⁸ This statement also refers to the joint response that operated between MFB, CFA, FFMV and surrounding brigades prior to FSR.

¹³⁹ [CFA Chief Officer's Advice to the Fire District Review Panel \(Section 4K Advice\) 2024 \[PDF 26.5MB\]](#) As of December 2023.

¹⁴⁰ [CFA Chief Officer's Advice to the Fire District Review Panel \(Section 4K Advice\) 2024 \[PDF 26.5MB\]](#). This travel time only refers to when the volunteer is at their home. It doesn't account for when they are at their place of employment or elsewhere.

¹⁴¹ EMR incidents are excluded from this measurement because they have a different benchmark. The assessed period is from July 2021 to February 2024. Data provided by FRV.

¹⁴² Coverage represents the percentage of the brigade area covered by FRV resourcing based on a modelled 6.2-minute drive time from existing FRV stations. Coverage is a general indicator of the area an agency can effectively service based on a target – for example, 7.7-minutes. However, it is important to note populations/incidents can be clustered in small portions of the SRA and the actual modelled coverage percentage is dependent on the road network/tuning. Data provided by FRV.

¹⁴³ The assessed period is from July 2021 to February 2024. First arrivals indicate where FRV is the first arriving agency as a percentage of the total incidents FRV arrived at. Data provided by FRV.

Of the non-EMR incidents where FRV was the first arriving agency, 43% of incidents (236) did not meet the 7.7-minute target.¹⁴⁴ In addition, FS68 (Lucas) is a single truck (primary appliance) FRV station.¹⁴⁵

The CFA, in its submission to the Panel has indicated that it may undertake a feasibility assessment for setting up a satellite fire station in the north of the Wendouree SRA to address future service delivery challenges.

The Wendouree SRA encompasses a significant growth area in the north that cannot be fully covered by either fire services agency within their respective SDS. The evidence and data provided through the submissions from CFA and other stakeholders indicates that a change to the FRV fire district would not further mitigate the fire risk in this SRA. Acknowledging the locations of FS67 (Ballarat City) and FS68 (Lucas), should the FRV fire district boundary be changed, these stations are unlikely to be able to service an increased geographical area.

3.13.4 Recommendation

The Panel has identified an increase in fire risk across the Wendouree SRA. Currently this is adequately mitigated by the response arrangements of the fire services agencies. The Panel recommends that no change be made to the FRV fire district.

3.13.5 Observation

The Panel considers that fire risk cannot be effectively addressed in isolation. Projected population growth and urban density in surrounding SRAs needs to be considered to strategically address changes in fire risk across the larger area. The Panel therefore considers that a strategic review of the fire services agencies' response arrangements across the Ballarat, Sebastopol and Wendouree SRAs would address the distribution of fire risk within the current district configuration to ensure future fire risk can continue to be mitigated.

¹⁴⁴ The assessed period is from July 2021 to February 2024. Response performance measures the percentage of non-EMR incidents where FRV is the first arriving agency, which met the response time target of 7.7-minutes. EMR incidents are excluded because FRV uses a 9.2-minute target to assess. Data provided by FRV.

¹⁴⁵ FRV position regarding the CFA's response to the Panel's April 2024 determination (submission to the Panel).

4. Conclusion

The Panel's FRV Fire District Review 2020–24 has found an increase in fire risk across all 13 CFA SRAs, which will need to be considered into the future. Notwithstanding, the Panel does not consider any immediate changes to the FRV fire district are required.

Analysis of fire risk distribution and specific CFA and FRV SRA information from stakeholder submissions and the CFA advice has provided insight in informing the Panel's findings. Information such as public forests, water reticulation and population projections were also considered.

Most notably, insights from the CFA advice revealed that since 1 July 2020:

- Fire and explosion incidents across all the 13 CFA SRAs have declined. However, Kangaroo Flat, Sebastopol and Wendouree have demonstrated an increasing trend of fire and explosion incidents.
- Eaglehawk, Kangaroo Flat, Edithvale, Carrum Downs, Ballarat, Sebastopol and Wendouree have all experienced corresponding declines or stabilisations in total incident count (total demand) in these SRAs.
- Berwick, Hampton Park, Narre Warren, Epping, Werribee and Wyndham Vale have all experienced unprecedented high number of total incident count (total demand) in these SRAs.

Despite these insights, the Panel found that any considerations for an immediate change to the FRV fire district, at this stage, would not necessarily result in the mitigation of fire risk. There are several reasons for this including:

- the location of current FRV fire stations, meaning they cannot service additional areas within their SDS
- insufficient appliances suitable to the environment
- lack of required infrastructure to enable firefighting capability – for example, the location of reticulated water points.

The Panel also recognises the importance and effectiveness of the joint response model between the fire services agencies in the mitigation of fire risk. Assigning responsibility for an SRA to either FRV or the CFA should not limit prevention and mitigation activities by either fire services agency; and the Panel expects the continuation of such arrangements.

The 13 CFA SRAs identified through this inaugural review will continue to be monitored as part of the Panel's next review cycle.

5. Next steps

This Findings Report marks the completion of the Panel’s inaugural FRV fire district review for the period 2020–24 and is provided to the Minister for consideration in accordance with section 4L of the Act.

In accordance with section 4M of the Act, the Minister may make a determination on the review that either:

- no change be made to the FRV fire district
- a change be made to the FRV fire district, or
- the Panel conduct a further review of the FRV fire district within a specified period in the determination.

In making a determination, the Minister must consider:

- the report and recommendations of the Panel
- the capacity of each relevant fire services agency to perform its statutory functions and duties
- the implications of making the determination for the budget and resources of each relevant fire services agency
- the implications of making the determination for the budget and resources of the emergency management sector
- the other implications of making the determination for the emergency management sector.

The Minister’s determination must be published in the Government Gazette. If there is a change to the fire districts, the Governor in Council may by order, make a change to Schedule 2 of the Act.

The Panel anticipates that the experience and associated lessons from this review will help stakeholders in responding effectively to future reviews with fire risk mitigation strategies that ensure the ongoing safety of the Victorian public.

In accordance with section 4G of the Act, the Panel’s next 4-yearly review findings will be due to the Minister by 30 June 2028.

6. Related documents and useful links

- The Fire Rescue Victoria Fire District Review 2020–24: Supporting Report to the Determination – [vic.gov.au/fire-rescue-victoria-fire-district-review-2020-24](https://www.vic.gov.au/fire-rescue-victoria-fire-district-review-2020-24)
- Fire District Review Panel – [vic.gov.au/fire-district-review-panel](https://www.vic.gov.au/fire-district-review-panel)
- Fire Services Reform – [vic.gov.au/fire-services-reform](https://www.vic.gov.au/fire-services-reform)
- Country Fire Authority – cfa.vic.gov.au/
- Fire Rescue Victoria – frv.vic.gov.au/

Appendix A: Adjacent FRV district and SRAs

The Panel's findings consider the district boundaries and distribution of the fire risk across the 13 CFA SRAs, the adjacent FRV fire districts and their respective SRAs. In Table A1, and demonstrated by Figure A1, the 13 CFA SRAs have varying circumstances with respect to the FRV fire district and SRA boundaries. These include:

- multiple adjacent FRV fire district boundaries with multiple adjacent FRV SRA boundaries – for example, Edithvale
- a single adjacent FRV fire district boundary with multiple adjacent FRV SRA boundaries – for example, Berwick, Carrum Downs, Hampton Park, Narre Warren, Werribee, Epping, Sebastopol and Wendouree
- a single adjacent FRV fire district boundary with a single adjacent FRV SRA boundary – for example, Ballarat, Eaglehawk, Kangaroo Flat and Wyndham Vale.

This provides a more comprehensive view of the fire risk situation and supports the Panel in determining whether a change to the adjacent FRV fire district should be considered for an individual SRA, or a more holistic, strategic consideration of the larger area is required.

Table A1: CFA SRAs and adjacent FRV fire district and SRA boundaries

Agency	District	CFA SRA	Adjacent FRV district	Adjacent FRV SRAs
CFA	2	Eaglehawk	North and West Regional	FS73
		Kangaroo Flat		FS73
	8	Edithvale	Southern D1 Southern D2	FS33 FS89, FS90
		Berwick	Southern D2	FS88, FS92
		Carrum Downs		FS87, FS90, FS91
		Hampton Park		FS87, FS88, FS92
		Narre Warren		FS88, FS92
	14	Epping	Northern	FS80, FS09, FS11, FS81
		Werribee	Western D1	FS57, FS58
		Wyndham Vale		FS57
	15	Ballarat	North and West Regional	FS67
		Sebastopol		FS68, FS67
		Wendouree		FS68, FS67

Bold denotes an FRV-CFA co-located station.

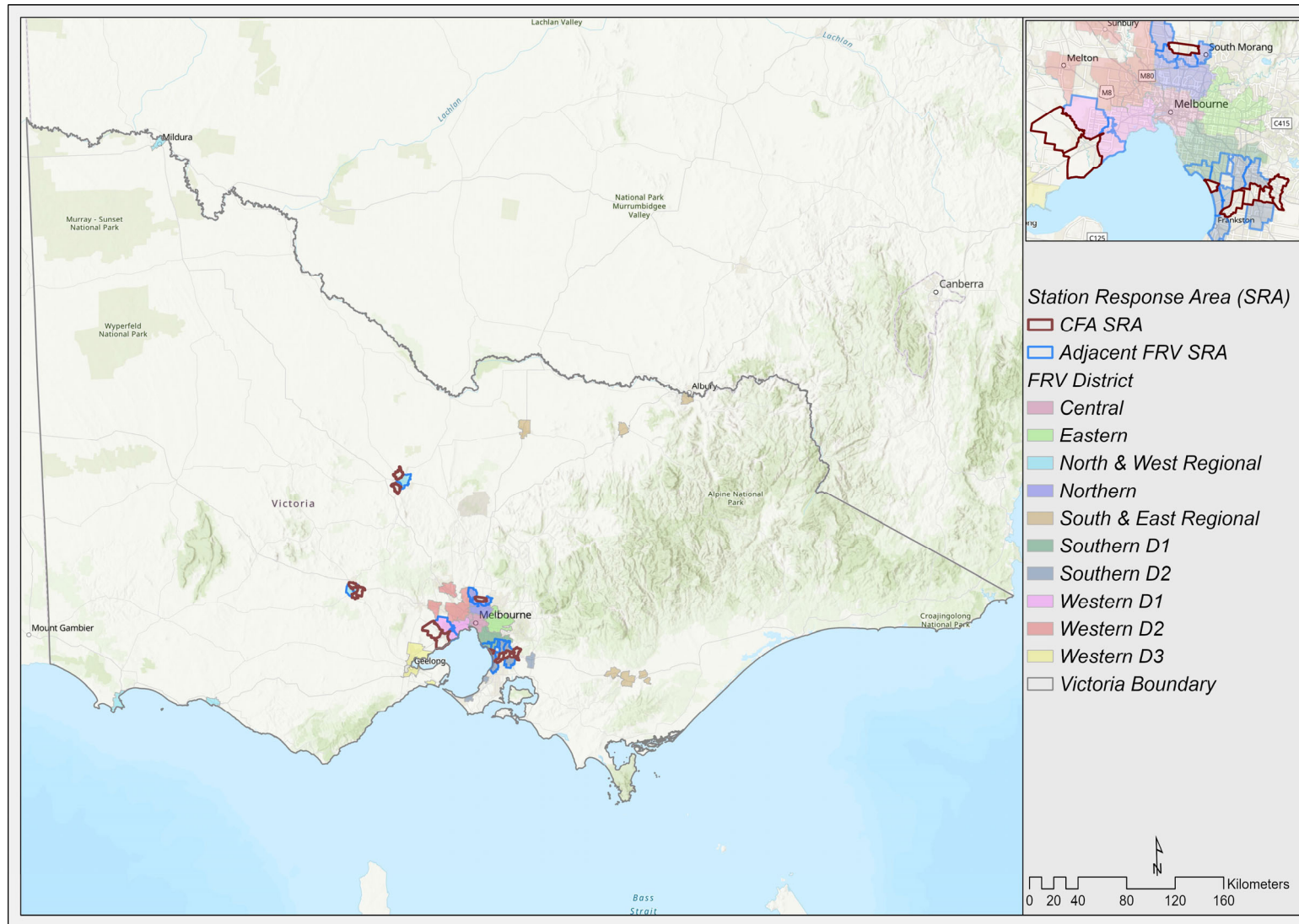


Figure A1: CFA SRAs and adjacent FRV district and SRAs – statewide

Appendix B: Fire risk distribution and projected population

Fire risk is spatially distributed across the state, as demonstrated in the *Fire Rescue Victoria Fire District Review 2020–24: Supporting Report to the determination* (Determination Report). Figures A2 to A6 show the distribution of fire risk within the 13 CFA SRAs and adjacent FRV SRAs identified in the initial decision support analysis. They also show the 2036 projected population for each SRA.

The Determination Report provided the **statewide** distribution of the highest fire risk.

The analysis in this Findings Report provides the distribution of fire risk **within** only the 13 CFA SRAs and the adjacent FRV SRAs.

Using multiple input layers detailed in section 2.4 of the Determination Report, the SRA fire risk profiles are created for both CFA and FRV SRAs.

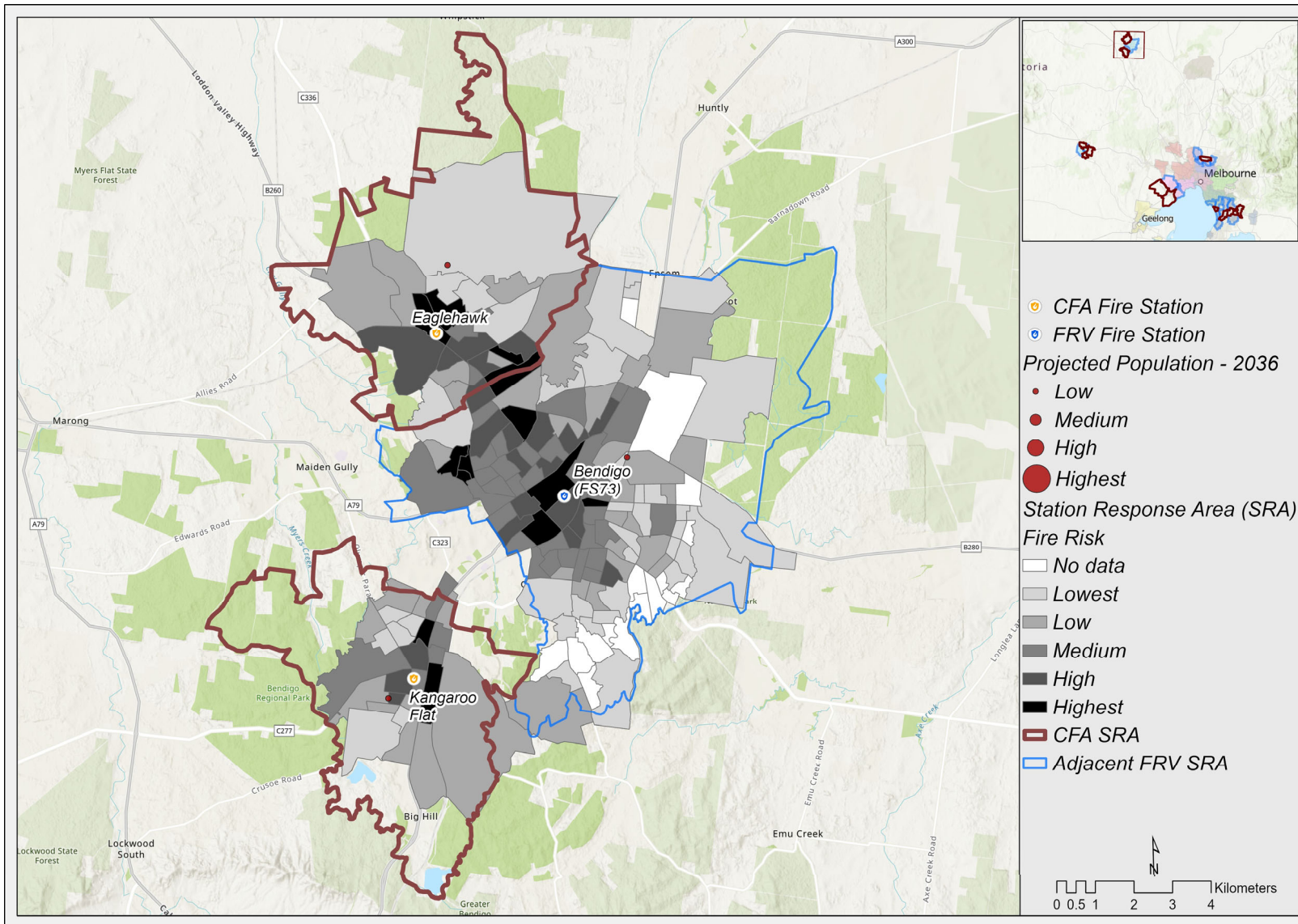


Figure A2: Distribution of fire risk and projected population within CFA SRAs and adjacent FRV SRA – Eaglehawk and Kangaroo Flat

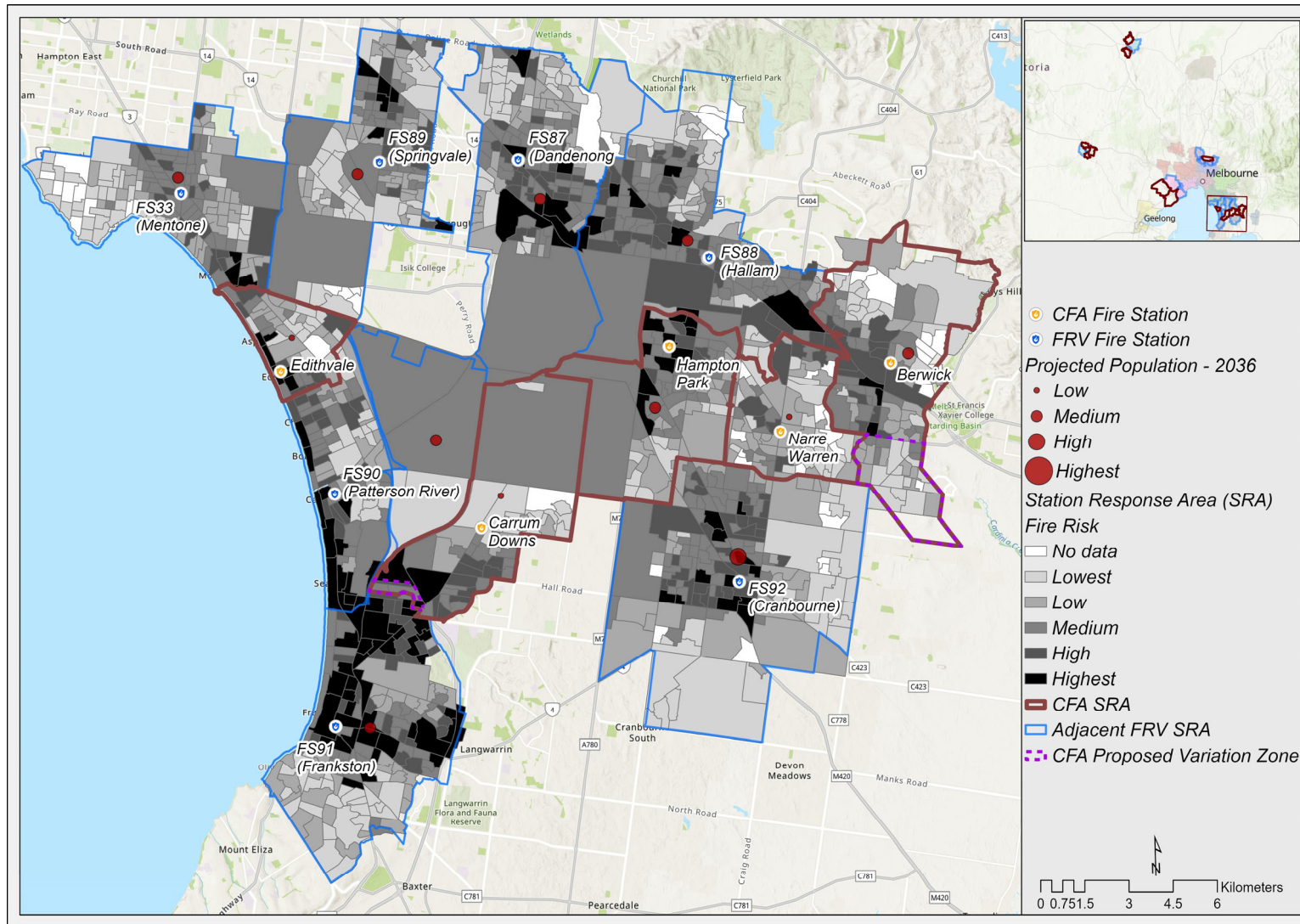


Figure A3: Distribution of fire risk and projected population within CFA SRAs and adjacent FRV SRA – Edithvale, Berwick, Carrum Downs, Hampton Park and Narre Warren

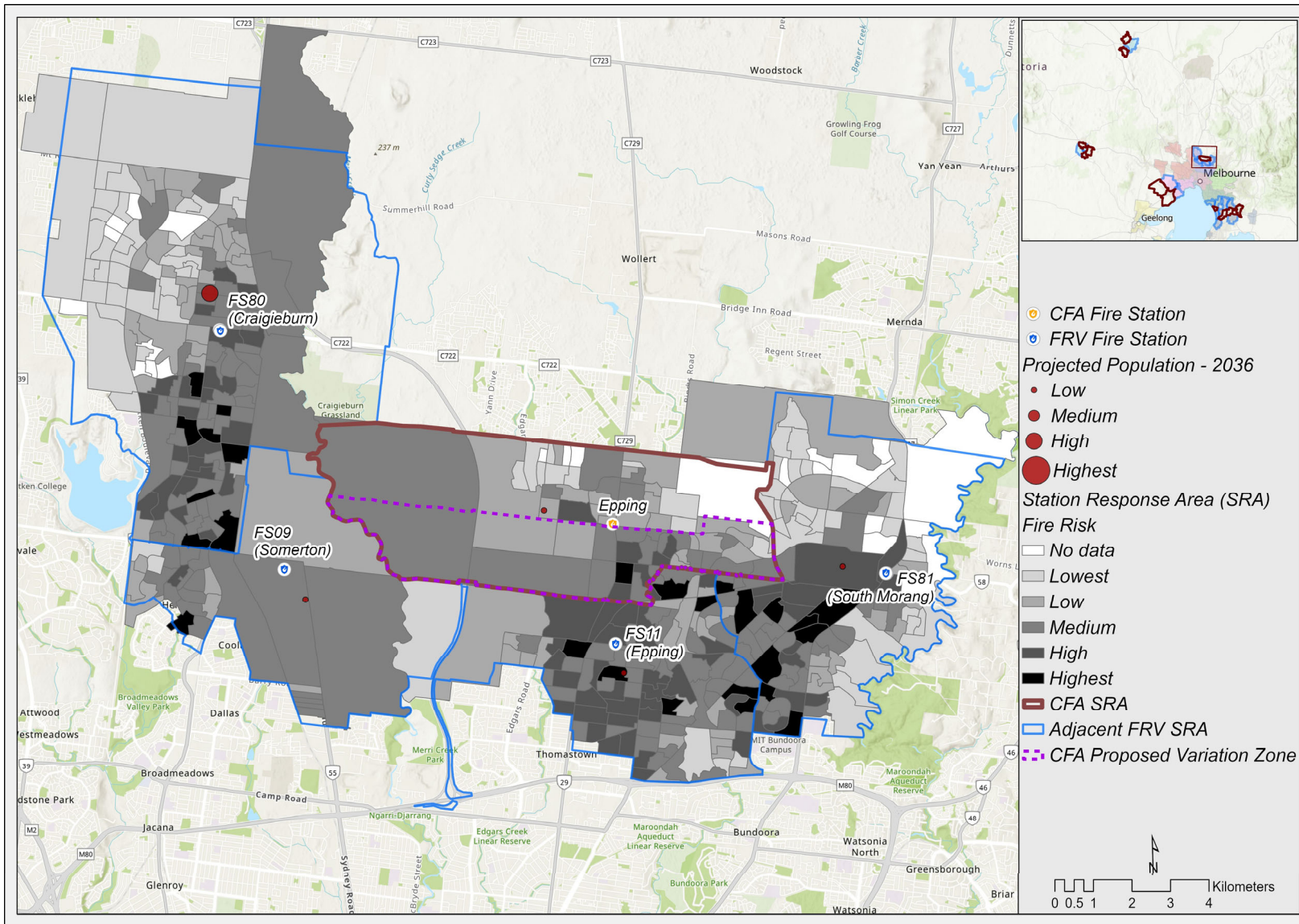


Figure A4: Distribution of fire risk and projected population within CFA SRAs and adjacent FRV SRA – Epping

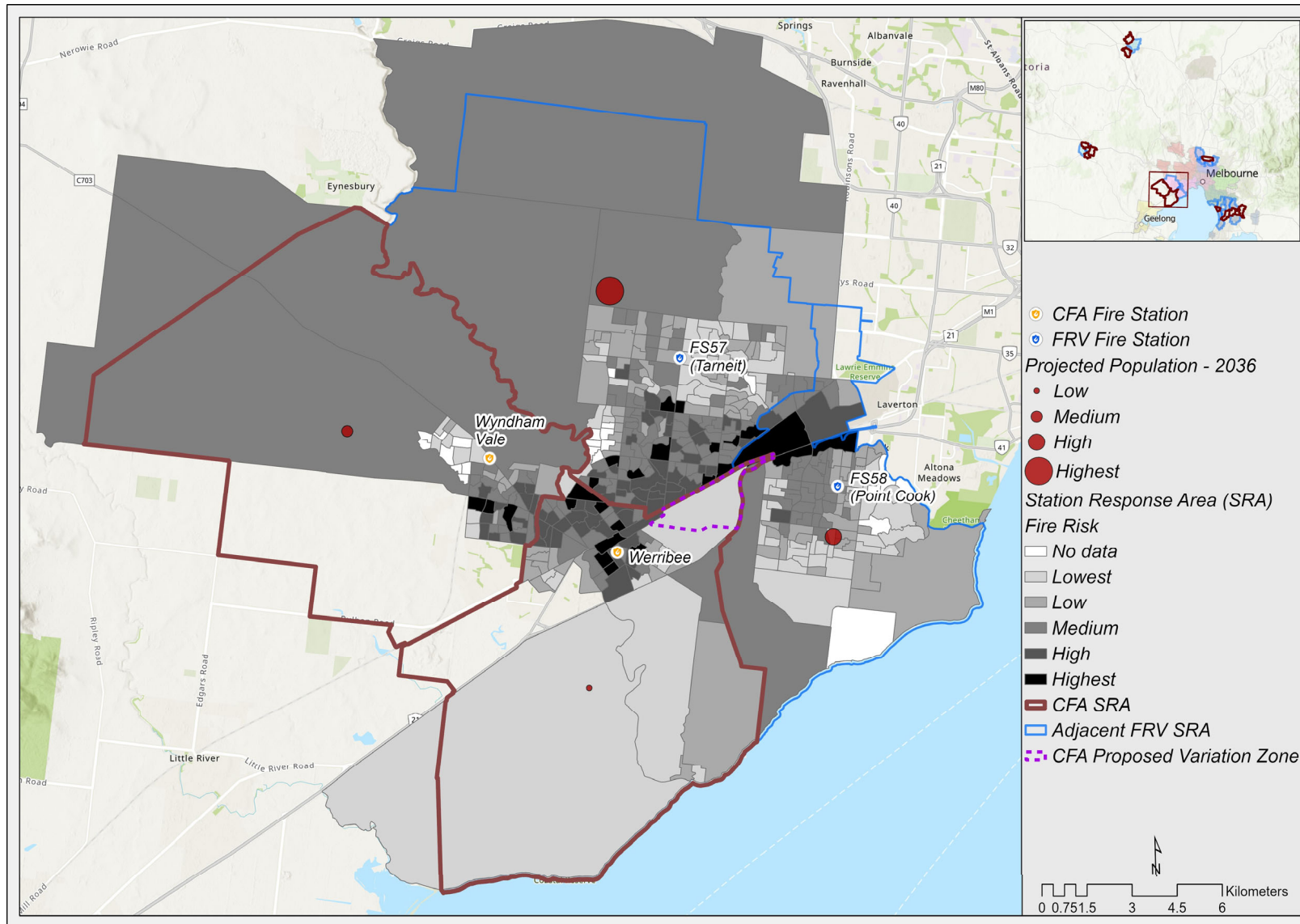
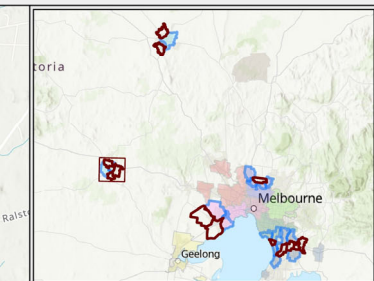


Figure A5: Distribution of fire risk and projected population within CFA SRAs and adjacent FRV SRA – Werribee and Wyndham Vale



The graph shows the force exerted by a car engine over a distance of 3.2 kilometers. The force is constant at 1000 N from 0 to 0.4 km, increases to 2000 N from 0.4 to 0.8 km, decreases back to 1000 N from 0.8 to 1.6 km, increases to 2000 N from 1.6 to 2.4 km, and decreases back to 1000 N from 2.4 to 3.2 km.

Appendix C: Limitations, assumptions and considerations

Methods:

- The analysis presented in this report focuses only on demonstrating fire risk within the 13 CFA SRAs and the adjacent FRV SRAs. The risk profiles for both CFA and FRV SRAs are developed by integrating multiple input layers. The derivation of these input layers is detailed in section 2.4 of the Determination Report.
- The total demand profiles for these SRAs are created using all reported incidents from the CFA and FRV, including incidents involving casualties and those failing the SDS.
- Volunteer numbers within CFA SRAs are only reported from May 2022 and December 2023 for a comparative purpose only. These numbers are not broken down by operational and non-operational roles.

Data:

- In considering future demand, the Panel used freely available 2036 projected population data at the Statistical Area Level 2.¹⁴⁶
- FRV and the CFA have different terms to describe the area that individual stations respond to. As a result, the term ‘station response area’ or SRA has been used in this report.
- The term ‘station’ has been used by the Panel when referring to the physical station building.
- For the CFA incident data, the hazard classes and associated response times no longer reflect the current land use and related risk. A review of these hazard classes is required.
- For FRV coverage data:
 - Populations/incidents can be clustered in small portions of the SRA and the actual modelled coverage percentage depends on the road network/tuning.
 - It is a general indicator of the area an agency can effectively service based on a target – for example, 7.7-minutes.
- No CFA modelled response/drive time data was available to the Panel.

General:

- The simple presence of a high fire risk, as presented in the CFA SRA maps found in Appendix B, does not result in a change to the FRV fire district.
- Many of the adjacent FRV SRAs are co-located with the CFA. The capacity and capability of the CFA as a co-located resource is not accounted for when discussing how effectively an FRV SRA services risk.
- The CPVZs, referred to as Agreed Variations Zones (AVZ) in the CFA advice, have not been agreed to by the Panel or FRV.

¹⁴⁶ <https://www.data.vic.gov.au/victoria-future-2023-vif2023-data-available-excel-spreadsheets>