

19 November 2021

Valerie Callister PSM
Chair
Fire District Review Panel



Dear Ms Callister

MAV Response to Proposed Risk Assessment Methodology Discussion Paper

The Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV) acknowledges receipt of the Proposed Risk Assessment Methodology Discussion Paper (the Paper) provided by the Fire District Review Panel (the Panel).

The MAV is the peak representative and advocacy body for Victoria's 79 councils. The MAV was formed in 1879, with the Municipal Association Act 1907 appointing the MAV the official voice of local government in Victoria.

From a MAV perspective, the proposed risk assessment methodology outlined appears robust and likely to support the Panel in determining appropriate fire agency boundaries.

Nonetheless, the MAV would like to bring to the attention of the Panel issues relating to the existing delineation of Country Fire Authority (CFA) and Fire Rescue Victoria (FRV) boundaries.

In consultation with Victorian councils, the MAV is aware of significant impacts on councils issuing Fire Prevention Notices (FPNs) at properties where the existing CFA / FRV boundary crosses through individual property parcels.

In these circumstances, councils are being forced to apply an inefficient process that results in the issuing of two FPNs at the same property. This approach is being applied to ensure the land delineated as FRV, as well as CFA, is covered.

The MAV understands the existing boundary delineation also affects the issuing of Permits to Burn.

The MAV was recently advised that FRV and CFA intended to request the Panel to consider these concerns, with a view to resolving the issue by ensuring boundaries do not cross individual properties. On advice of the fire agencies, the MAV understands potential solutions could include, but are not limited to, delineating fire districts by ensuring the boundaries follow property perimeters or roadways.

We remain committed to continuing to liaise with the Panel and other key stakeholders about council issues, concerns and opportunities in relation to the Panel's risk assessment methodology and fire risk management more broadly.

Should you have any queries about this letter, please contact [REDACTED]

Yours sincerely

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