



DOOKIE AND SURROUNDS

Local Emergency Action Plan

Dookie's local risks are:

With a population of 333 (2021 Aust. Census data), Dookie is a close-knit rural community nestled among the striking landscapes of the Goulburn Valley. Renowned for its rich agricultural heritage, fertile red volcanic soils and the University of Melbourne's Dookie Campus, the township has long been a centre for agricultural education, innovation and farming excellence.

Dookie's history dates back to the 1850s, when European settlers established themselves in the region. The surrounding land was originally occupied by large grazing properties that supported sheep and cattle farming, laying the foundations for the area's strong agricultural identity.

A significant milestone in the town's development was the establishment of the Dookie Agricultural College in 1886. The college has played a

vital role in shaping the community, economy and character of the town, attracting students, researchers and agricultural professionals from across Victoria and beyond.

Today, Dookie is celebrated for its unique natural environment, including the iconic peaks of Mount Major and Mount Saddleback, scenic walking trails, public art and picturesque rural landscapes. These features, combined with its agricultural attractions, are helping to position Dookie as an emerging tourism destination.

Like many rural communities, Dookie faces a range of emergency risks. The most significant hazards include grass and bushfires, building fires, storms and road accidents. Understanding these risks and working together to prepare for them is an important part of building a safer, more resilient community.

We, the Greater Shepparton City Council, acknowledge the Yorta Yorta Peoples of the land which now comprises Greater Shepparton. We pay respect to their tribal Elders, we celebrate their continuing Culture and we acknowledge the memory of their ancestors.

Emergency Preparedness

Preparation is key

Share this LEAP with your local connections.

For more information scan the QR code below or visit shepp.city/emergency



In extreme weather and emergency events, essential services such as power, water, telecommunications and transport networks may be impacted, leaving households and communities isolated.

During emergency events, demand on CFA, VICSES, Police, and Ambulance may exceed capacity, meaning help may not be immediately available.



Stay informed during emergencies with the Greater Shepparton Emergency Dashboard, your one-stop source for warnings, road closures, weather alerts, local updates, community information and preparedness information.

First 72 Hours

Households should prepare an emergency plan and kit allowing for up to 72 hours of potential isolation and self-sufficiency.



Emergency management is a shared responsibility between individuals, communities, Council and agencies. Preparation is key to reducing impacts and to supporting emergency services.

greater-shepparton.com.au/72-hours

Prepare your household emergency plan and kit

Your emergency kit should include: A battery-powered torch and AM/ FM radio. Key documents (passport/ birth certificate etc.) and important contact numbers.

***Download apps on Apple App Store or Google Play**

emergency.vic.gov.au/

All hazards:

RediPlan – redcross.org.au/prepare

Get Prepared app
redcross.org.au/emergencies/prepare/get-prepared-app/

Bushfire:

cfa.vic.gov.au/plan-prepare

Flood & Storm:

ses.vic.gov.au/plan-and-stay-safe

*Vic Emergency app:

Set up a user profile and watch zones to ensure you receive official warnings alerts and emergency information.

Know your location

emergencyplus.com.au/



*Emergency+ app:

This app uses GPS in smart phones to help you provide critical location details required to mobilise emergency services.

Check your risk in your location

Closest CFA Brigades:

- Dookie: 65 Mary Street
- Currawa: Dookie College
- Cosgrove & Pine Lodge: 395 Cosgrove & Lemnos Road

Closest VICSES Units:

- Benalla: 64 Sydney Road
- Tatura: 52 Martin St

Shepparton Search and Rescue

- 15 Dudley St, Shepparton
sheppartonrescue.com.au



Fire:

CFA cfa.vic.gov.au

Select “Set your location” in the top left of the website to receive local information and warnings.



Flood & Storms:

VICSES ses.vic.gov.au

BOM Bureau Of Meteorology
bom.gov.au



Power Outages

powercor.com.au

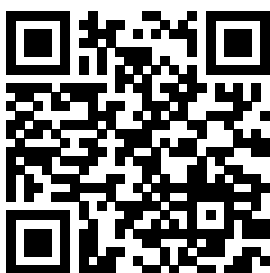
In an Emergency

Life threatening emergency	Fire, Ambulance, Police	☎ 000
Non-life threatening emergency	Floods and Storms - VICSES	☎ 132 500
Non urgent Police assistance	Non-urgent Police Assistance Line & on-line reporting	☎ 131 44 onlinereporting.police.vic.gov.au Report non-urgent crimes or events, 24/7
Warnings and updates	Vic Emergency: Radio: ABC Local 97.7	1800 226 226 emergency.vic.gov.au
Bushfire Place of Last Resort	There is currently no BPLR located within the Greater Shepparton municipality	
Reporting urgent issues or hazards	Greater Shepparton City Council	☎ 03 5832 9700
<i>Council offers an emergency after hours ranger service to deal with Animal Management, Local Laws and other Council-related emergencies</i>	Snap Send Solve 	snapsendsolve.com/report/victoria *download the app on the Apple App Store or Google Play
Road Closures:	Vic Traffic	traffic.transport.vic.gov.au/
Medical Advice:	Nurse on Call:	☎ 1300 60 60 24
	<i>Connect with a registered nurse 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.</i>	
	Victorian Virtual Emergency Department:	vved.org.au
	AED Locations <i>see map on page 7 for locations</i>	ambulance.vic.gov.au/find-aed
	Mental Health Support:	wellways.org/our-services/mental-health-and-wellbeing-local/ headspace.org.au/headspace-centres/shepparton/ primarycareconnect.com.au
Injured wildlife, wildlife rescue:	Bohollow Wildlife Shelter Inc.	☎ Deb Fowler 0418 328 671 ☎ Kirsty Ramadan 0447 636 953 ☎ 03 5826 9464 bohollowwildlife.com

LEAP Overview

This LEAP will be updated as required.

To ensure you have the latest version scan the QR Code or visit greater-shepparton.com.au/emergencies



A LEAP is a community specific strategy that helps residents prepare for, respond to, and recover from emergencies such as bushfires and floods. By identifying local risks, resources, and roles, LEAPs take a grassroots approach that complements broader emergency plans, empowering communities to build resilience and reduce impacts.

This LEAP has been developed as part of the LEAPing into Safe Communities project, a joint initiative between the Strathbogie Shire Council and Greater Shepparton City Council. Safer Together is a Victorian Government approach to reducing the risk of bushfire and funds the Strengthening Local Government Partnerships Grants, which provides funding for the Local Government Authorities (LGA's) to design collaborative projects that adopt a community centred approach to reducing bushfire risk and building community resilience and partnerships with agencies.

In March 2026 the Dookie Steering Group held its first meeting to guide the LEAP process. Following this, community members came together to explore ways to strengthen local emergency preparedness, with their ideas shaping the LEAP actions.

DOOKIE LOCAL RISKS ARE

FIRE: Dookie and the surrounding rural area face a predominantly grassfire risk, with additional bushfire risk in areas of remnant vegetation, roadside reserves, creek corridors, and nearby hills. The landscape is characterised by broadacre cropping and grazing land, where dry summer grasses, stubble and crop residues can create extensive fuel loads. During periods of extreme heat, low humidity and strong winds, fires can spread rapidly across open farmland and threaten the township with little warning.

Properties on the edge of Dookie are particularly vulnerable to grassfires moving from surrounding paddocks. Roadside vegetation, fencing, sheds and other farm infrastructure can contribute to fire spread and ember attack.

Common ignition sources include agricultural machinery, harvesting activities, vehicle exhausts, electrical faults and accidental or deliberate human causes. These risks are heightened during summer and harvest periods when fuels are dry.

Dookie's relatively limited road network may also be affected by fire, smoke, fallen trees or traffic congestion during an emergency, reinforcing the need for residents to have a well-understood fire plan and act early when conditions become dangerous.

STORMS/FLOODS: Dookie faces a moderate flood risk from intense local rainfall, overland flow, and flooding across the wider Goulburn Broken catchment. While the township is not located on a major waterway, surrounding low-lying areas can be affected during significant rain events.

A key risk for Dookie is becoming isolated due to flooded roads. The township relies on a limited rural road network, and road closures, water over roads, or storm damage can restrict access to emergency services, supplies, schools, workplaces, and surrounding communities, even where homes are not directly impacted by floodwater.

Infrastructure maintenance and ongoing regional oversight are continuously integrated into the Goulburn Broken Regional Floodplain Management Strategy which can be found at [Goulburn Broken Regional Floodplain Management Strategy 2018-2028](#)

POWER OUTAGES: Dookie is vulnerable to power outages, particularly during severe weather events such as storms, high winds, heatwaves, bushfires, and flooding. Due to Dookie's location and reliance on regional electricity networks, power outages may occur alongside other emergencies such as fire or flood, increasing the risk of community isolation and disruption to essential services. Residents should be prepared to manage without power for extended periods and have alternative arrangements for communication, lighting, and critical household needs.

Extended power outages can affect communications, internet access, refrigeration of food and medicines, water pumps, farming operations, and access to fuel and banking services. For residents on rural properties, loss of power may also impact stock water supplies and other essential farm infrastructure.

LEAP Priority Actions

LEAP Priority Actions - The 3 phases of an emergency event: Prepare, Respond, Recover

PHASE 1: PREPAREDNESS - planning and preparation before the event – ensure preparedness covers all possible events, not just the ones identified at a local level.

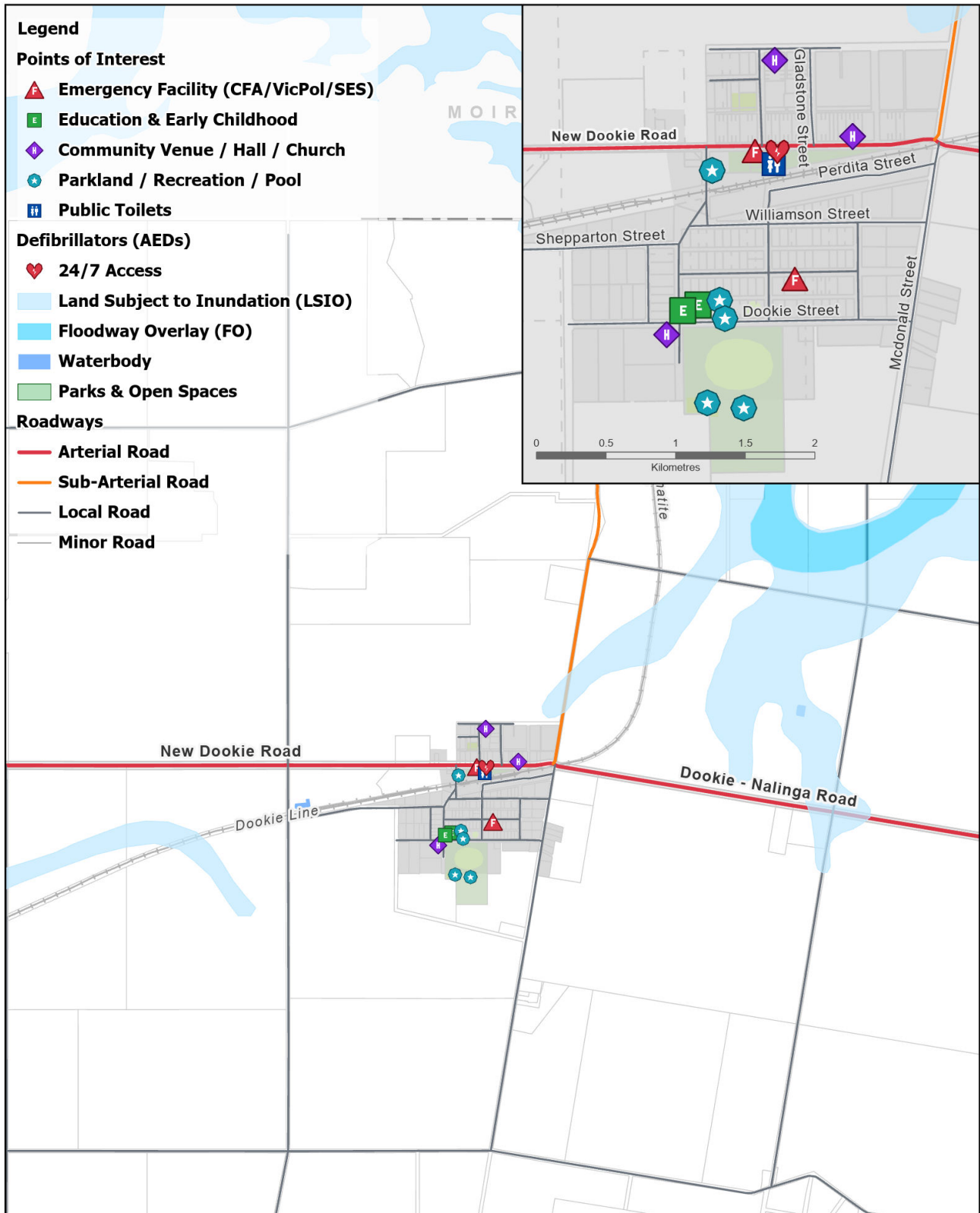
Description	Lead	Timeframe
1.1 Property preparedness. • Reduce fuel loads on individual properties - within township and rural, as well as on communal land.	Residents / Households, Community Groups, Dookie CFA Brigade	Annually - ongoing
1.2 Identify designated gathering point – establish community hub • look at possibility of installing external generator plug on Community Centre for Plug and Go capability; alternatively look at solar set-up with battery. • Apply for grants to fit the purpose.	Dookie & District Development Forum, Dookie Recreation Reserve Committee, Dookie CFA Brigade	12 – 24 months
1.3 Household Emergency Plans – writing a plan and practicing your plan • Hold a First 72 Hours workshop - via council	Dookie & District Development Forum, Dookie CFA Brigade, Community members	ASAP - ongoing practice & familiarise
1.4 Get to know your neighbour – Buddy System – community members check on vulnerable people. NB: This doesn't need to be in times of emergencies – this can be a general wellbeing initiative for the community.	Dookie & District Development Forum, Community members	Ongoing
1.5 Training: i. First Aid / CPR / De-fib – via council ii. Mental Health First Aid – via council iii. Chainsaw – via council iv. Technology – • digital and online safety – via Neighbourhood Houses shepp.city/comm-neighbourhood • and free online learner resources at Good Things Australia shepp.city/the_life_initiative	Council, Dookie & District Development Forum, Community members	Ongoing
1.6 Skill Bank – keep list of community trades/skills and resources up to date	Community members, Dookie CFA Brigade	
1.7 Communications: Develop community Phone Tree and look at possibly utilising UHF radios – identify a channel for use and spread the word!	Community members, Dookie CFA Brigade	
1.8 Design and distribute fridge magnet outlining information relating to First 72 Hours and summary of main LEAP information	LEAP Steering Group / Council	ASAP

PHASE 2: RESPONSE - during the event, largely the responsibility of control agencies e.g. CFA, VICSES, VicPolice.

Description	Lead	Timeframe
2.1 Designated gathering point / community hub activated	Dookie Recreation Reserve Committee	As required
2.2 Community Welfare checks - local buddy system – welfare checks for vulnerable community members i.e. elderly/living alone etc.	Dookie CFA Brigade Dookie & District Development Forum Residents	As required during or straight after an event
2.3 Community notice board – central point for information; get quotes and apply for grant	Dookie & District Development Forum / Dookie CFA Brigade	12-18 months
2.4 Community Newsletter Major Saddle Back News – regular articles	Dookie & District Development Forum / Dookie CFA Brigade	Monthly publication – quarterly articles to coincide with each season.

PHASE 3: RECOVERY - after the event, recovery is led by the local community, council and support agencies such as Australian Red Cross, Department of Families, Fairness and Housing (DFFH), Department of Health (DoH), Department of Education (DoEd) Agriculture Victoria (AgVIC), Emergency Management Victoria (EMV). There are a number of additional agencies who may support when required.

Description	Lead	Timeframe
3.1 Community gatherings – pre and post season: - Community meetings and gatherings - Community days: - Town clean ups / working bee's - Utilising community newsletter – Major Saddleback News	Dookie & District Development Forum Dookie CFA Brigade Residents ALL community groups	As required
3.2 Community debrief and reviews after events	Council and Agencies, Dookie Community members / Residents	ASAP after an event, as required



Connected Communities Are Resilient Communities

Identified strengths and values of the Dookie & District community:

The Dookie community has demonstrated a strong foundation of resilience, local leadership, and community spirit through its participation in the LEAPing into Safer Communities (LEAP) project. A key strength of the community is its willingness to work collaboratively, with residents, community groups, emergency services, and local stakeholders coming together to identify local risks and develop practical actions to strengthen preparedness.

Dookie residents have shown a deep connection to their community, a strong sense of responsibility for supporting one another during emergencies, and a commitment to protecting local assets, including people, businesses, farms, and community infrastructure.

The LEAP process has also highlighted the community's local knowledge, resourcefulness, and proactive approach to problem-solving, with residents drawing on lived experience of past events to inform future planning.

These values of collaboration, preparedness, inclusiveness, and community care provide a solid foundation for the development and ongoing implementation of Dookie's Local Emergency Action Plan, helping to build a safer, more connected, and more resilient community.

Local Community Groups:

Preparation is about people, knowing your neighbours and being part of your community. Your involvement matters. Join a group, or start one, to help create a safer, more connected community.

- **Dookie Lions Club**
- **Dookie CFA**
- **Dookie and District Development Forum (DDDF)**
- **Dookie United Football Netball Club**
- **Dookie Bowls Club**
- **Dookie Showgrounds and Recreation Reserve Committee**
- **Dookie Memorial Hall Committee**
- **Country Women's Association (CWA) Dookie Branch**

Note your important information HERE:

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Translating and
Interpreting Service (TIS)
☎ 131 450

Expression
Australia (formally Vicdeaf)
☎ 03 9473 1111