Information about changes to Bushfire At-Risk Register (BARR) actions due to Shelter-in-Place (SIP) works

Friday 13 November 2026

Dear parent/carer,

I am writing to tell you about a change to our bushfire plan for Billanook Primary School.

Our school has a **shelter-in-place** building, this is our gymnasium. This building is a last resort for staff and students to take shelter during a bushfire if they cannot evacuate.

Our gymnasium (shelter-in-place) needs additional building works before it can be used in a bushfire emergency. This building is safe to continue to be used for all other classes and activities while the bushfire works are completed.

Our school's bushfire plan will change until these building works are completed. This change is being made for the safety of students and staff and to make sure students can keep learning on high-risk days. The works are scheduled to start in December and be completed in February next year. Please note that TheirCare will share further information about the school holiday program in the coming weeks.

Our new plan for elevated fire weather days:

Plan A – relocate

Students that need to attend school will **relocate** to Boronia K-12 College, 35/37 Albert Ave, Boronia VIC 3155, on days where:

- the fire danger rating for Yarra Ranges Shire is Extreme
- the fire danger rating for Yarra Ranges Shire is High with a Fire Behaviour Index of 40+.

Please note that, on these days, an alternative learning program will operate, with classes combined to support the relocation arrangements.

Plan B - closure

The school will be **closed**, with no alternative provision available for students to attend Boronia K–12 College or another location, on a day forecast as a Catastrophic fire danger rating in the Yarra Ranges Shire fire weather district.

The Department will tell us if we need to relocate or close, the evening before or early on the morning of the day in question. They will tell us this when the fire weather forecast is confirmed. We will then tell you if our school needs to relocate or close by a Compass email notification.

The bushfire risk assessment thresholds for relocation or closure are designed to minimise the risk of the school needing to evacuate during the school day, prioritising the safety of students and staff.

The department uses fire weather forecasts issued by the Bureau of Meteorology (BoM). Some of the BoM forecasts that the department uses to decide if our school will close or relocate are not available to the public. For more information on how the department manages bushfire risk, please see www.vic.gov.au/bushfire-information-parents-and-carers

We encourage you to think about your family's plan, so you are ready if the school does need to relocate or close. This may include planning for:

- how your child will get to Boronia K-12 College if our school needs to relocate there.
- supervision of your child on days we are closed.

To assist with our planning, please access the newly created Compass event titled 'Bushfire Management Relocation' & indicate your intention should the school be required to relocate to Boronia K–12 College, 35–37 Albert Avenue, Boronia VIC 3155, on a day of extreme fire danger.

Please note that, on these days, an alternative learning program will operate, with classes combined to support the relocation arrangements.

The questions you are required to answer within the Compass Event read as follows:

1. **I intend for my child to attend Boronia P-12 College and am aware that I am responsible for transport to and from Boronia K-12.**
2. **I do not intend to have my child attend Boronia P-12 and will make alternative arrangements**

To keep safe, we encourage you to:

- review your family's bushfire plan
- reconsider any travel through bushfire risk areas
- follow your family's bushfire plan and the advice of emergency services.

For information on emergencies, please use:

- VicEmergency app (android/iOS)
- VicEmergency Hotline (1800 226 226)
- Website (https://emergency.vic.gov.au)
- Facebook (https://www.facebook.com/vicemergency)
- Emergency broadcasters (https://www.emv.vic.gov.au/official-emergency-broadcasters-in-victoria)

Please contact the school if you have any questions or concerns.

Regards

Kris Johnson

A/Principal