FIRE SERVICES COMMISSIONER VICTORIA

. REF : CD/11/562479±

POLICY

Subject: Strategic Control Priorities - State Controller's Intent	
Number: FSCPOLICY001/2011	
Background	The strategic control priorities, also known as the State Controllers Intent, were developed to articulate and formalise the focus on primacy of life and issuing community information and community warnings to assist people to make informed decisions about their safety, and to communicate other priorities including protection of property, economies and the environment.
Purpose	The strategic control priorities provide direction and guidance to Incident Controller/s, Region Controller/s and the State Controller to inform the development of the Incident Strategies and Incident Action Plans.

Policy	The following strategic control priorities shall form the basis of the Incident Strategy and Incident Action Planning processes:
	
	• **Protection and preservation of life is paramount** – this includes:
	  ○ safety of emergency services personnel; and
	  ○ safety of community members including vulnerable community members and visitors / tourist located within the incident area.
	
	• **Issuing of community information and community warnings** detailing incident information that is timely, relevant and tailored to assist community members make informed decisions about their safety.
	
	• **Protection of critical infrastructure and community assets** that supports community resilience.
	
	• **Protection of residential property** as a place of primary residence.
	
	• **Protection of assets supporting individual livelihoods and economic production** that supports individual and community financial sustainability.
	
	• **Protection of environmental and conservation assets** that considers the cultural, biodiversity, and social values of the environment.
	
	The Incident Controller is responsible for operational decision making and is supported by the Regional Controller and State Controller.
	
	The Incident Strategy and Incident Action Plan will consider the strategic, operational and tactical issues to be managed. This includes initial attack strategies, incident escalation, incident management structures, community impact and resourcing.

In the context of protecting human life as the paramount concern, early advice to communities is as critical as operations. Under some conditions, and for some incidents, fires, the most effective way of protecting communities is to shift the focus to providing timely and accurate warnings with appropriate suppression efforts.

The Incident Controller may need to vary the strategic control priorities in some circumstances. This shall be done in consultation with the Regional Controller and State Controller based on sound incident predictions and risk assessments.

To assist the Incident Management Team (IMT) and Emergency Management Team (EMT) achieve the strategic control priorities, the Incident Controllers should ensure that there is a focus on the following activities:
- continuous situational awareness,
- issuing community information / warnings
- incident intelligence (fire behaviour),
- incident prediction,
- dynamic risk assessment,
- weather prognosis,
- mapping,
- resources,
- incident management structure—Field Command, Incident, Regional & State Control.
- understanding community impact and consequences —discuss with EMT
- Communications—maintain two-way communications with IMT, EMT & Regional / State Control.

(signature)	9 December 2011
Craig William Lapsley Fire Services Commissioner	Date

Expiry date (if any):	Review date: November 2012