



22 September 2023

By Email

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Dear All,

We trust that you are well. You may be aware that earlier this month, the Bureau of Meteorology declared an El Niño weather event is currently underway and have forecast an increased risk of wildfires, bushfires and grassfires across Victoria.

[Bureau of Meteorology formally declares El Niño weather event, as hot and dry conditions sweep south-east Australia — as it happened - ABC News](#)

I raise this announcement with you to advise you of the need to be on the front foot this coming season when it comes to the potential impacts of these weather events on buildings and their owners and occupiers. The impacts are already evident, with an early start to the fire season, and several currently active fires around Australia. . We also note that there are Victorian Emergency warnings are already in place for Victoria.

Past natural disaster events have shown us that the engagement of Municipal Building Surveyors and Inspectors (and Environmental Health Officers) to assist with post event response and inspections has not been very well planned or coordinated. I think that we would all agree that this was certainly the case following the 2019 bushfires and the recent flooding events.

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The need for Building Surveyors and Inspectors (and Environmental Health Officers) has historically been an afterthought. We are hoping that this year we can be better organised and prepared. As we know, these events are more likely to occur in municipalities that do not have Building Surveyor and Inspector staff resources readily available. A planned response, coupled with prior agreement with Councils to join and volunteer resources would be beneficial to all concerned.

We propose that Emergency Management Victoria together with relevant State and Local Authorities (DTP, VBA, MAV, VMBSG etc.) meet to discuss and plan how to best manage and roll out Municipal Building Surveyor and Inspector resources to affected areas. We hope that a planning meeting can be organised to occur as soon as possible to ensure a well-planned and mutually-agreed upon process for deploying resources if and when required.

I look forward to hearing from you all in the near future.

Yours sincerely



Peter Jolly  
President

Victorian Municipal Building Surveyors Group

