

MEMORANDUM

DATE: 2nd March 2026
TO: Competing Brigades & State Rural Championships Committee
FROM: Mark Dryden – VFBV Executive Officer
SUBJECT: 2026 State Rural Championships – Stawell, 28th & 29th March

Dear competing teams,

Please find attached some additional material relating to this year's State Championships, being held in Stawell on the 28th and 29th March 2026 at North Park, Newington Road, Stawell:

- This year's Team entries and Rankings.
- Line Up for all competing Brigades for the Official Opening, Saturday.
- Trial Event Juniors – Tanker, Hose Reel & Ladder
- Safety Notes for information of officials, coaches and competitors.
- Make-Up Rosters for Saturday (Seniors) and Sunday (Juniors)
- Map of competition grounds

ACCESS TO COMPETITION VENUE

There is no access to the competition venue for teams before 3pm on Friday afternoon (27th March).

PARKING, DROP OFF AND BUS PARKING

- Street Parking is available within a one block radius of North Park Reserve.
- Accessible Permit parking located within the Newington Road closure.
- Parking is not permitted in the Aquatic Centre or Tennis Centre car parks.
- Bus parking and a designated drop-off loop is located at the Lamont Street entrance.
- A map of the competition grounds is attached to this memo

OFFICIAL OPENING (SENIORS)

The Official Opening on Saturday (28th March) will commence **at 0820 hours**, and all Brigades are requested to be in attendance **by 0745 hours** for Roll Call and assembly on the main oval adjacent to the competition track.

For the Official Opening on Saturday, all competing Brigades are to line up 'in file' behind the Echelon Movement Brigades, in alphabetical order – from the right hand side of the oval when viewed from the Dais, to the left hand side. VFBV officials will direct Brigades to their position. Please see attached sheet of the line up for all Brigades.

Brigades in the Echelon Movement will wear CFA Dress Uniform. Brigades lined up behind should be in their competition running gear. The Echelon Movement Brigades will comprise six members and a Commander.

Further details to be included in CFA's Circular, which will be distributed prior to the Championship

SUNDAY OPENING CEREMONY (JUNIORS)

The Junior Championship will commence with the opening ceremony to be begin at **0830 hours** on Sunday (29th March) and will take place on the competition track. If brigades can please ensure that their members are in attendance prior to 0830 hours for assembly.

BBQ LUNCH (JUNIORS)

CFA is funding a BBQ Lunch for Junior competitors on the Sunday (29th March), and all Junior competitors will be provided a voucher to obtain their free lunch, which will be available from within the grounds.

RULE BOOK AND RULE CHANGES

A copy of the current rules can be downloaded from the VFBV website <https://tinyurl.com/rural-champs>

A reminder also that all Senior Events now have 4 competitors with changes made to the rules for Events 1 and 3.

MAKE UP ROSTERS

Teams are requested to ensure that a brigade member is available for Make Up per the attached roster. All make up crew members are requested to be wearing appropriate attire including closed toe shoes.

TARGET CHANGES

To prevent spectators from being continually wet the State Rural Championships Committee have decided that the Right Hand Side target in Event 2 (Juniors), Event 5 (Seniors & Juniors) and Event 6 (Seniors & Juniors) will be moved to a position of 1.5 metres to the right of the centre line of the competition track. This is a slight deviation from the rule book for these events at this year's State Championships.

DISQUALIFICATION UPDATE (SENIORS – Events 1 and 3)

Following the changes to Events 1 and 3 to now have 4 competitors a subsequent change was not made to the Disqualification 12 in the rule book released in November 2025. Disqualification 12 will now apply to events 2 and 4 only – this disqualification no longer applies to events 1 and 3.

TRAIL EVENT – TANKER, HOSE REEL & LADDER (JUNIORS ONLY)

The Committee have agreed to trial a Tanker, Hose Reel & Ladder event for Junior competitors on Sunday providing there is time available for this. The rules for the trial event are attached to this memo for teams to review in advance.

Any brigade which participates in the trial event will be encouraged to provide feedback to the State Rural Championships Committee for consideration later in the year when they are determining if there are to be any changes to the Junior Championship program.

MARQUEES

We have been advised by the 2026 State Championship Committee that limited shade awnings will be provided for Brigades to use on a first-come, first-served basis. Brigades are also permitted to utilise their own marquees in designated areas. The maximum size must not exceed 6m x 6m; pegs must be used to secure marquees and not exceed 150mm in length; weights are not permitted to be used to secure marquees; sprinkler lines will be marked and brigades must ensure that pegs are not placed into sprinkler infrastructure. Marquees must be secured at all times and covers removed overnight.

NO SMOKING

Under state legislation and local Council policy, smoking is not permitted within the Championship grounds. All areas of the track, and surrounding areas in use such as seating areas, brigade marquees, sponsor marquees and catering areas will be designated non-smoking zones. All Brigade members and spectators are requested to please observe the No Smoking requirement.

OTHER ITEMS OF NOTE

- The wearing of a go pro camera, video camera or similar devices by a competitor whilst competing in an event, is not permitted.
- The State Competition Committee encourages competitors to wear gloves on safety grounds.
- Throughout the weekend the Event Control Centre can be contacted on 0461 333 645 to report any incidents of anti-social behaviour.

TORCHLIGHT PROCESSION – SATURDAY 28TH MARCH IN STAWELL

Brigades competing in the rural events at this year's State Championships are encouraged to take part in the Torchlight Procession on Saturday evening 28th March commencing at 2030 hours.

Any brigade participating in the Torchlight Procession will be supplied with LED torches and a Name Plate which will need to be picked up from the FEM tent located on the Newington Road side of the Urban Main Track from 1400 hours on Saturday 28th March. CFA personnel will be in attendance at the assembly point for the Torchlight to collect bags and excess torches and other torches will be collected at the end of the Torchlight Procession.

Further information about the Torchlight Procession is available from the Members Online www.members.cfa.vic.gov.au/torchlightprocessions and in information distributed to competing brigades by CFA prior to the Championships.

Dress for the Torchlight Procession for brigades competing in the rural events is CFA Dress Uniform (blue trousers, Uniform shirt and CFA jumper if required); CFA Workwear, clean turnout gear; a brigade specific uniform if the brigade has one or competition gear. All members of the squad must wear the same apparel.

Roll call for the Torchlight Procession is 2000 hours in the carpark at the corner of Church Street and Allen Street Stawell. Each group of brigades will be headed by a CFA vehicle. The Torchlight Procession will conclude at the Senior Citizens Hall, Victoria Street where CFA personnel will be in attendance to collect the LED torches.

Brigades should refer to CFA Circular distributed prior to the Championships, for details of the Groups and line up order of Brigades.

If your brigade is interested in marching in the Torchlight Procession please contact the VFBV office ASAP via championships@vfbv.com.au or (03) 9886 1441

TRAVEL CLAIMS

Must be completed and lodged with CFA by midnight **Sunday 3rd May 2026**. Travel claims can be completed online at tinyurl.com/2026-travel-claim or by completing and returning the form attached to this Memo. Any claims submitted after Sunday 3rd May may not be accepted by CFA, so please do not delay in returning your claim form.

BUS TRAVEL

A reminder to brigades if they are wishing to claim for bus travel to the State Championship this must be approved by CFA prior to the Championship, please provide a quote for the use of a bus to championships@cfa.vic.gov.au to seek approval for this cost prior to the Championships.

RESULTS

Live results will be available over the weekend using the QR codes below. Updates will also be provided on VFBV's dedicated Championships Facebook page www.facebook.com/vfbvchamps

Seniors



Juniors



I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all the best for the upcoming State Championships, and look forward to seeing you all on the weekend.

MARK DRYDEN
Executive Officer

2026 State Rural Senior Championship Teams

Division 1	
1	Beazley's Bridge A
2	Beazley's Bridge B
3	Dunolly A
4	Dunrobin-Nangeela A
5	Dunrobin-Nangeela B
6	Dunrobin-Nangeela C
7	Eldorado A
8	Eldorado D
9	Hurstbridge A
10	Hurstbridge C
11	Leopold A
12	Mannerim A
13	Moorooduc A
14	Moorooduc B
15	Napoleons-Enfield A
16	Springhurst A
17	Springhurst B
18	Truganina A

Division 2	
1	Beazley's Bridge C
2	Elaine A
3	Eldorado B
4	Eldorado C
5	Eltham A
6	Gapsted A
7	Hurstbridge B
8	Leopold B
9	Leopold C
10	Mandurang A
11	Mannerim B
12	Miners Rest A
13	Napoleons-Enfield B
14	Pearcedale A
15	Pearcedale B
16	Rutherglen A
17	Strathmerton A
18	Truganina B

Division 3	
1	Chiltern A
2	Doreen A
3	Dunrobin-Nangeela D
4	Elaine B
5	Eldorado E
6	Glenlyon A
7	Glenlyon B
8	Hurstbridge D
9	Maiden Gully A
10	Maiden Gully B
11	Mandurang B
12	Mandurang C
13	Miners Rest B
14	Moorooduc C
15	Napoleons-Enfield C
16	Pearcedale C
17	Rutherglen B
18	Rutherglen C
19	South East Region Staff Team A
20	Strathmerton B
21	Truganina C
22	Truganina D
23	Warragul A
24	Warragul B
25	Wodonga West A
26	Yarroweyah A

2026 State Rural Junior Championship Teams

Brigade Name	11-13 years	11-15 years
Ascot & District		1
Beazley's Bridge	2	1
Doreen		2
Elaine	2	
Gapsted	1	1
Glenlyon	1	1
Leopold	1	
Maiden Gully	1	3
Mandurang	1	2
Mannerim	1	1

Brigade Name	11-13 years	11-15 years
Miners Rest	1	1
Mt Buninyong		1
Napoleons-Enfield	1	2
Pearcedale	2	1
Research		1
Springhurst		2
Strathmerton	1	1
Truganina		2
Wodonga West	1	1



2026 CFA/VFBV STATE FIREFIGHTER CHAMPIONSHIPS

LINE UP FOR
OFFICIAL OPENING & ECHELON
MOVEMENT

Saturday 28th March

Roll Call 0745 hours
Commences 0820 hours

Beazley's Bridge
Bendigo
Chiltern
Cohuna
Creswick
Dandenong
Doreen
Drysdale
Dunolly
Dunrobin/Nangeela
Eaglehawk
Echuca
Elaine
Eldorado
Eltham
Euroa
Gapsted
Glenlyon
Hallam
Harvey
Hoppers Crossing
Horsham
Hurstbridge
Kangaroo Flat
Kerang
Knox Group
Kyneton
Leopold
Maffra
Maiden Gully
Mandurang
Mannerim
Maryvale
Melton
Miners Rest
Moorooduc
Mooroopna
Morwell
Napoleons-Enfield
Narre Warren
Osborne Park
Pakenham
Patterson River
Pearcedale
Rutherglen
Sale
Seymour
South East Region Staff
Springhurst
Strathmerton
Swan Hill
Tatura
Traralgon
Truganina
Warracknabeal
Warragul
Warrnambool
Wendouree
Werribee
Wodonga West
Yarroweyah

Brigades in Echelon Movement will be selected by CFA and advised separately of their involvement

CFA Chief Officer & Deputy Chief Officers

DAIS

TRIAL EVENT: EVENT 3 - JUNIORS

TANKER, HOSE REEL & LADDER (Four Competitors)

EQUIPMENT INVENTORY (Per Track)

Competitors	Four
Tanker	One
NRL Delivery Hose (one length to be used as dummy length)	Three
Steel Ring 50mm x 5mm (to be attached to one length of NRL hose branch end)	One
Ladder	One
Ladder Securing Plate	One
Ladder Stand	One
Targets	Three
Branches – Small Town	Two
Safety Harness	One

TRACK DIMENSIONS

Tanker Line	15m from Start line
Ladder Line	38.6m from Start line
Bar Line	40m from Start line
Target Line No. 1 & No. 3	44.6m from Start line
No. 1 Target	3m right of centre line
No. 3 Target	(on centre line)
Target Line No. 2	74m from Start line (on centre line)

1.0 TRACK DETAILS

- 1.1. The tanker shall be positioned on the centre line of the track with its rear facing the bar line and with the delivery outlets over a line 15m from start line.
- 1.2. The centre line of the ladder securing plate shall be 38.6m from start line and on centre line of track.
- 1.3. No. 1 target shall be 44.6m from start line, situated 3m right of the centre line of track.
- 1.4. No. 2 target shall be 74m from start line, situated on the centre line of the track.
- 1.5. No. 3 target shall be 44.6m from start line, situated on the centre line of track.

2.0 SETTING UP DETAILS

- 2.1. Three NRL delivery hoses shall be rolled on a reel and shall all be coupled together.

First (inner) couplings shall be as close to Right side of reel as possible (as seen from start) and the second (outer) couplings shall be as close to the Left side of the reel as possible (as seen from the start).

The hoses shall be rolled to come off the top of the reel with the lead coupling in the centre of the reel and level with the lower edge of the reel.

- 2.2. Position of taps and valves at start of each run shall be:

- (i) Tank gate valve – **ON**
- (ii) Delivery valves – **OFF**

- 2.3. Two branches shall be placed in a standing position on the tanker platform, one at each rear corner.

- 2.4. The ladder shall be fixed to the bar of the ladder stand with two rungs being above the bar. The bar height for junior events will be determined by placing a temporary bar through or attached to the 8th rung of the ladder from the ground.

Juniors may have their feet on but not above the 6th rung in any ladder event with three secure points of contact with the ladder.

- 2.5. The ladder stand shall be on the bar line.

- 2.6. No. 2 NRL hose (ie. Outer hose) shall be fitted with a 50mm diameter x 5mm steel ring securely fastened to the hose at the delivery end.

- 2.7. Pump pressure shall be set at 275kpa

3.0 RUNNING DETAILS

- 3.1. On starting signal, competitors shall run to their respective positions.

- 3.2. Competitors shall start motor, couple No. 1 length of NRL delivery hose to a delivery outlet, attach branch and strike No. 1 target with a stream of water. No. 2 length of NRL delivery hose shall be coupled to No. 1 hose and No. 2 target struck with a stream of water.

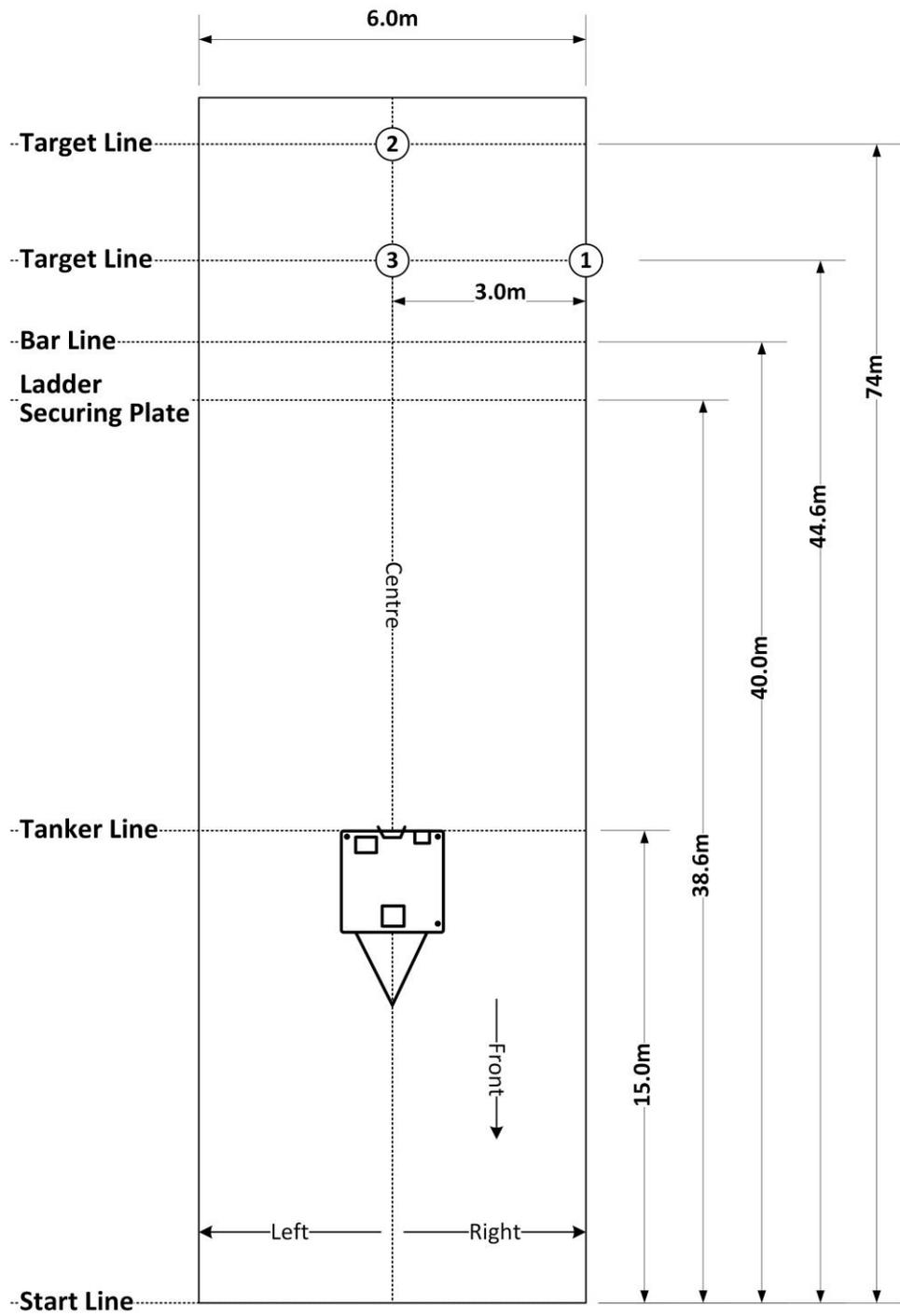
- 3.3. Branch will be uncoupled from No. 2 length of NRL delivery hose, returned and coupled to No 1 length of NRL delivery hose. The ladder climbing competitor shall wear a safety harness and attach No. 1 hose to safety harness, ascend ladder and strike No. 3 target, with a stream of water directed from above the bar.

4.0 DISQUALIFICATIONS

Failure to use branch uncoupled from No. 2 length of NRL delivery hose to strike target 3

Plus see full list of disqualifications on pages 17-18 of Rural State Championship Rules: Version 6.3

Event 3: TANKER HOSE REEL AND LADDER – TRACK LAYOUT



VFBV State Rural Championships

SAFETY NOTES – V6 March 2023

Activity / Tasks	Hazards / risks	Safety Controls / control measures
Track Officials		
Track: Drainage pipes, equipment, etc.	Tripping hazards	Items have existed for a long period of time, remind track officials of hazards.
Competitors		
Running: And use of equipment	Injury, aggravating previous injury.	Ensure Coach is aware before competition.
Reel: Rolling on and off hose from the reel	Having injury to hands/fingers/feet	Utilise gloves Feet are not to be used to slow or stop the reel.
Trailer: Mounting and dismounting	Injury from falling off	Ensure rails and all steps are used. When dismounting step backwards using all steps for safety.
Ladder: Mounting	Falling hazard or injury to body	As per disqualifications currently and coaches advice to competitors. Also have an appropriate person at bottom to act as catcher for juniors.
Ladder: Locking	Falling hazard or injury to body	As per disqualifications currently and coaches advice to competitors.
Track: Water making track slippery or uneven ground.	Slipping hazard causing injury	Use mats around trailer area; competitors should be aware and have appropriate footwear. Following flooding at the venue in late 2022, coaches and team managers are requested to ensure that competitors are wearing appropriate athletic footwear when competing for occupational health and safety reasons.
Host & State Committee		
Track: Level surface and no rocks, etc.	Tripping hazard, risk of injury	State Committee to inspect ground, Host committee to be aware and ensure level and clean surface.
Track surrounds: To be in reasonable condition, no “heavy” undulating areas or trip hazards	Tripping hazard, risk of injury during warm up or public walking around.	Ensure any problem areas are rectified or taped off.
Track fence: One way ties “tail”	Injury, may cause eye or other injury.	Ensure that one way ties “tail” are cut off so that they do not project outwards.
Track Firefighter Sprints: Competition track becomes wet.	Slipping hazard, injury. Objects near sprint track, injury.	Have this track separate to competition track, possibly near presentation area. Ensure objects are removed from finish line area.

MAKE-UP PERSONNEL ROSTER

2026 STATE CHAMPIONSHIP – SATURDAY 28th MARCH

EVENT	RED TRACK	YELLOW TRACK	GREEN TRACK	IN RESERVE
EVENT 1: Division 1 Division 2 Division 3	Beazley's Bridge Chiltern Connewarre Doreen	Dunolly Dunrobin/Nangeela Eldorado Eltham	Gapsted Glenlyon Hurstbridge Leopold	Maiden Gully Mandurang Rutherglen
EVENT 2: Division 1 Division 2 Division 3	Mannerim Miners Rest Moorooduc Napoleons-Enfield Pearcedale	Rutherglen South East Region Staff Springhurst Strathmerton Truganina	Warragul Wodonga West Yarroweyah Beazley's Bridge Chiltern	Connewarre Dunrobin/Nangeela Elaine
EVENT 3: Division 1 Division 2 Division 3	Eldorado Eltham Gapsted Glenlyon Hurstbridge	Leopold Maiden Gully Mandurang Mannerim Miners Rest	Moorooduc Napoleons-Enfield Pearcedale Rutherglen South East Region Staff	Springhurst Strathmerton Warragul
EVENT 4: Division 1 Division 2 Division 3	Warragul Wodonga West Yarroweyah Beazley's Bridge Connewarre	Doreen Dunolly Dunrobin/Nangeela Elaine Eldorado	Eltham Gapsted Glenlyon Hurstbridge Leopold	Chiltern Strathmerton Truganina
EVENT 5: Division 1 Division 2 Division 3	Maiden Gully Mandurang Mannerim Miners Rest	Moorooduc Napoleons-Enfield Pearcedale Rutherglen	South East Region Springhurst Strathmerton Truganina	Warragul Wodonga West Yarroweyah
EVENT 6: Division 1 Division 2 Division 3	Beazley's Bridge Chiltern Connewarre Doreen	Dunolly Dunrobin/Nangeela Elaine Eldorado	Eltham Gapsted Glenlyon Hurstbridge	Leopold Maiden Gully Mandurang

MAKE-UP PERSONNEL ROSTER

2026 JUNIOR CHAMPIONSHIP – SUNDAY 29th MARCH

EVENT	RED TRACK	YELLOW TRACK	GREEN TRACK
EVENTS 1A & 1B:	Ascot & District Beazley's Bridge Connewarre	Doreen Elaine Gapsted	Glenlyon Leopold Maiden Gully
EVENTS 2A & 2B:	Mandurang Mannerim Miners Rest Mt Buninyong Napoleons-Enfield	Pearcedale Springhurst Strathmerton Truganina Wodonga West	Ascot & District Beazley's Bridge Connewarre Doreen Elaine
EVENTS 4A & 4B:	Gapsted Glenlyon Leopold Maiden Gully	Mandurang Mannerim Miners Rest Mt Buninyong	Napoleons-Enfield Pearcedale Springhurst Strathmerton
EVENTS 5A & 5B:	Truganina Wodonga West Ascot & District Beazley's Bridge	Connewarre Doreen Elaine Gapsted	Glenlyon Leopold Maiden Gully Mandurang
EVENTS 6A & 6B:	Mannerim Miners Rest Mt Buninyong Napoleons-Enfield	Pearcedale Springhurst Strathmerton Truganina	Wodonga West Ascot & District Doreen Maiden Gully

CFA-VFBV State Firefighter Championships 2026



North Park Reserve - Stawell

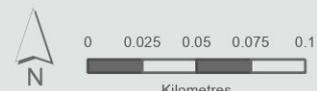


Legend	
	Pedestrian Entry Point
	First Aid
	Bus Parking
	Drop off Zone
	ECC
	Echelon
	FEM
	Marshall Track
	No Parking
	Pumper Track
	Road Closed - VIP and Accessible Permit Parking
	Rural Track
	Urban Main Track
	Urban Roll On
	VFBV Admin

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Explanation:

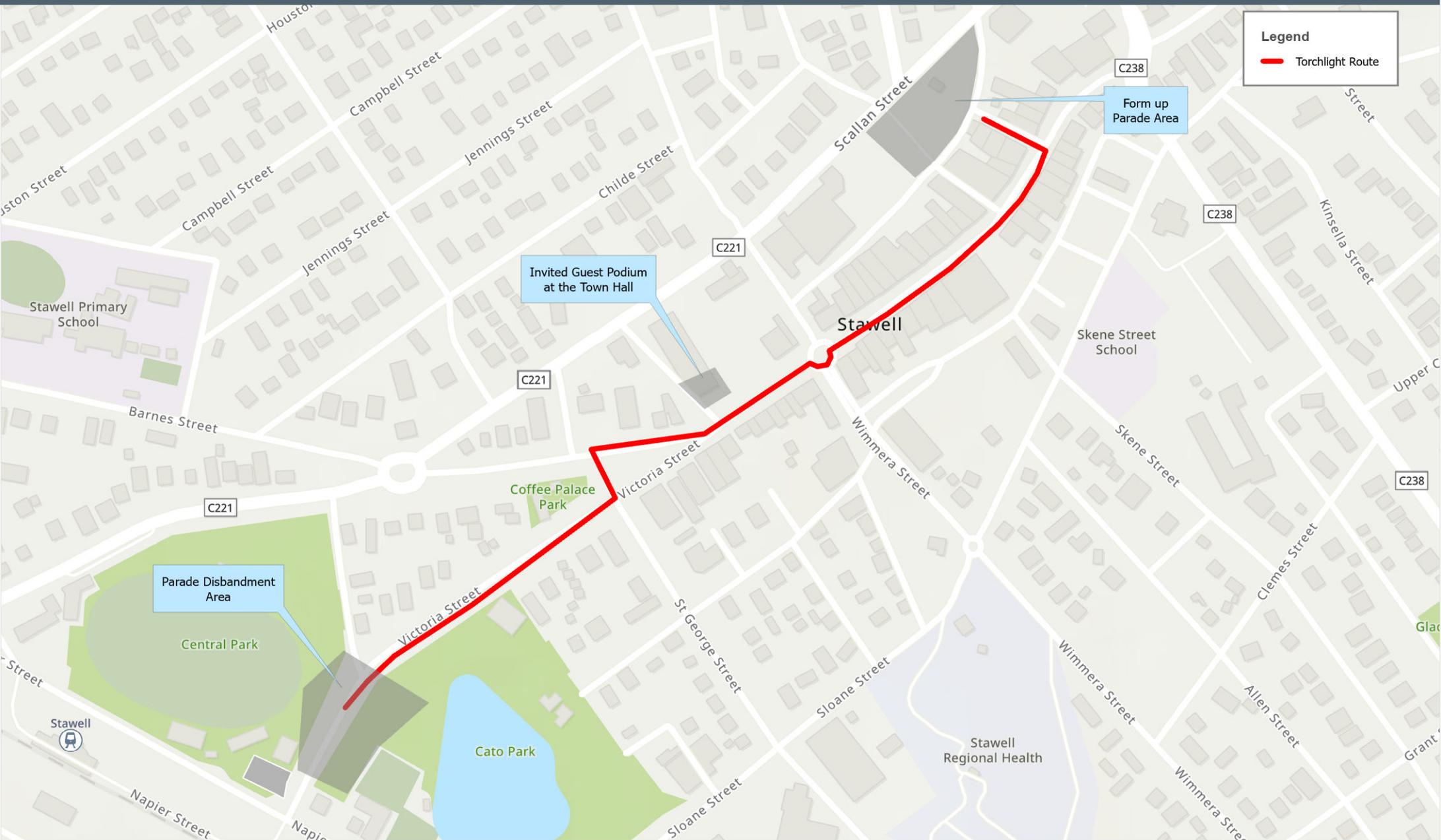


Job ID: ID 1416/20260209000
Date Prepared: 19/02/2026
Prepared by: Business Intelligence
Contact: bi-request@cfa.vic.gov.au

CFA-VFBV State Firefighter Championships 2026



Torchlight Procession - Stawell



Legend

- Torchlight Route

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Prepared by: Business Intelligence
Contact: bi-request@cfa.vic.gov.au