Joint Fuel Management Program 2024/2025 – 2026/2027

State Overview
FFMVic and CFA

Photo credits: FFMVic Daniel Deppeler (Kentbruck Heath Mosaic Burn)

ISBN 978-1-76136-875-2

Accessibility

If you would like to receive this publication in an alternative format, please telephone the DEECA Customer Service Centre on 136186, email customer.service@deeca.vic.gov.au or via the National Relay Service on 133 677 www.relayservice.com.au. This document is also available on the internet at www.deeca.vic.gov.au.

Contents

Foreword

Working together, Forest Fire Management Victoria* (FFMVic) and the Country Fire Authority (CFA) have developed a Joint Fuel Management Program (JFMP) for each DEECA and CFA Region. It demonstrates our commitment to working more closely together to deliver the best bushfire risk reduction outcomes for Victorians.

Each JFMP is planned to achieve an integrated and risk-focused fuel management program across public and private land. It is designed to implement long-term bushfire management strategies that outline how the risk of bushfires to life, property and the environment can be managed on public and private land, while maintaining and improving natural ecosystems.

In response to the devastating 2019/20 bushfires and subsequent inquiries, the Victorian Government has committed to new programs which complement our current fuel management program and aim to reduce bushfire risk across all land tenures.

Investment will be made in fuel management on private property, targeting long grass and other flammable undergrowth, particularly along our major road and rail corridors. We will work together with Local Government Authorities and water, road, and rail authorities to ensure that our works are complementary.

We have worked with Traditional Owners in preparing the following program and we value their input into planned burns and other fuel treatment works. FFMVic and CFA continue to support Traditional Owners to return cultural fire to their Country.

The program has also been shaped by a variety of research and local information, such as specialist input from FFMVic, CFA, and key industries, as well as knowledge from local communities, including Traditional Owners and key stakeholders. We would like to recognise the work that has been put into developing this JFMP, by FFMVic, CFA and local communities.

We encourage your continued input to ensure our plans protect those assets and values which are important to all Victorians.

Steve Pellicano
Deputy Chief Fire Officer
Bushfire Risk Reduction DEECA

Alen Slijepcevic
Deputy Chief Officer
Fire Risk, Research and Community Preparedness CFA

* Forest Fire Management Victoria (FFMVic) – is the organisation that delivers services to achieve DEECA's legislated responsibilities. It consists of specialist staff from DEECA, Parks Victoria, Melbourne Water.

About the program

The JFMP encompasses fuel management activities planned to be delivered by CFA and FFMVic across the coming three years. DEECA and CFA Regions are depicted in **Map 1** and **Map 2** below. Detailed plans and maps are available to view online or download at (address).

Each activity is led by either CFA or DEECA and delivered with the support of partner agencies including the Department of Transport and Planning (DTP), Emergency Management Victoria (EMV), Traditional Owners, and local businesses.

The JFMP is prepared in accordance with the *Code of Practice for Bushfire Management on Public Land 2012 (amended 2022),* Victoria's Bushfire Management Strategy, *Safer Together: A new approach to reducing the risk of bushfire in Victoria*, Regional Bushfire Management Strategies, and relevant CFA and FFMVic guidelines and procedures.

The JFMP web page contains a live interactive map showing CFA and DEECA led planned burns and other fuel management activities for 2024-2025 to 2026-2027. The JFMP webpage can be accessed via https://www.ffm.vic.gov.au/jfmp and the live JFMP map at https://bushfireplanning.ffm.vic.gov.au/jfmp/.

The JFMP does not include burns managed by private landholders or industry.

The program is designed to be flexible, allowing the timing of proposed activities over the three-year period to change in response to weather and other conditions. This means activities such as burns may be conducted in a different year than indicated in the maps and plans.

This document contains details about the following planned activities:

Non-Burn Fuel Treatments (NBFT) – modification of bushfire fuels through activities other than planned burning. Examples include mowing, slashing, mulching, spraying, rolling, and grazing.

Planned Burns – the application of fire to a defined area of land, conducted in accordance with an approved plan to meet specified management objectives such as fuel reduction, ecological or others. Planned burns are listed by indicative year 2024-2025, 2025-2026 and 2026-2027.

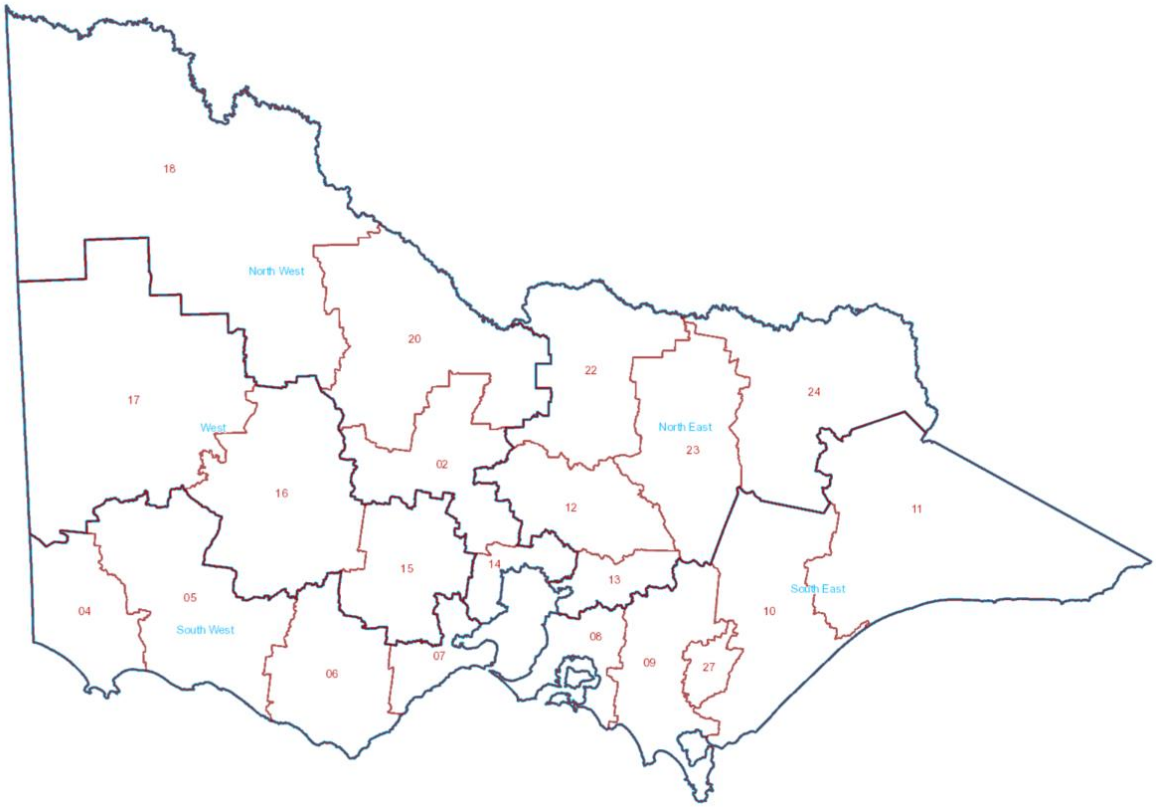
Strategic Fuel Break Maintenance – conducted to keep the Strategic Fuel Breaks operationally effective are considered routine activities and included in Non-Burn Fuel Treatments (NBFT).

Cultural burning – planned burns led by Traditional Owners for a range of land management and cultural outcomes. They are supported by the fire agencies, and while they may have risk reduction benefits this is not generally the primary purpose.

Small heap burns on public land associated with approved land management activities are not included in the JFMP.

Map 1 - DEECA Regions and Districts

Map 2 - CFA Regions and Districts



Our Objectives

This JFMP has been developed to implement strategies set out in regional Bushfire Management Strategies (BMS), developed by FFMVic and CFA in consultation with partner agencies, stakeholders, and the community.

The BMS establish a cross-tenure fuel management strategy to address fuel-driven bushfire risk across public and private land and:

- sets clear objectives, approaches, and associated performance measures for fuel management at a regional scale.
- identifies where important values and assets are located across the landscape; and
- includes regional trends in population, industry, and environmental change.

The BMS define:

- fire management zones on public land that focus appropriate fire management activities to reduce fuel-driven bushfire risk to identified values and promote ecological resilience over the life of the strategy (30-40 years).
- Bushfire Risk Engagement Areas (BREA) across public and private land. These areas are intended to support agencies to engage with private landholders about fuel management where it will provide effective bushfire risk reduction.

You can explore your regional Bushfire Management Strategies by visiting the regional Bushfire Management Strategy webpage.

Fuel-driven Bushfire Risk

Victoria has a statewide target to maintain fuel-driven bushfire risk at or below 70% of maximum levels. The level of fuel-driven bushfire risk is different across the landscape, due to variations in vegetation, topography, and the location of houses. Each DEECA region and district has a long-term planning target for reducing fuel-driven bushfire risk, which contributes to the achievement of the statewide target.

Each regional BMS sets out the strategy for achieving the relevant long-term regional and district planning targets that contribute to maintaining fuel-driven bushfire risk at or below the Victorian Government statewide target of 70%, as well as achieving a broader range of objectives defined in the Code of Practice for Bushfire Management on Public Land 2012 (amended 2022).

Fuel-driven bushfire risk is the component of bushfire risk that is attributable to bushfire fuels, that is, vegetation that influences fire behaviour, such as the speed and intensity of a bushfire. It is expressed as the percentage of the risk that remains after bushfire history and fuel management (mainly planned burning) activities are considered. It is reported on an annual basis in the Office of Bushfire Risk Management Victorian Bushfire Risk Management Report.

Each region works towards managing local fuel-driven bushfire risk by identifying planned burns and other fuel management works, which will collectively meet the statewide fuel-driven bushfire risk target and other objectives and approaches. The JFMP developed for each region aims to meet or exceed long-term district and regional risk planning targets that contribute to the statewide target and to enable the delivery of our regional objectives and approaches as documented in the Bushfire Management Strategy. It provides flexibility to account for different seasonal conditions.

The current and projected changes to fuel-driven bushfire risk are shown in Table 1 and illustrate that over the next three years with no fuel management, fuel-driven bushfire risk will increase by 11% at state level.

Table 1: Modelled changes to fuel-driven bushfire risk

	Long-term risk-based planning target %	Current fuel-driven bushfire risk % 30 June 2023	Projected fuel-driven bushfire risk % 30 June 2024 no fuel management	Projected fuel-driven bushfire risk % 30 June 2025 no fuel management	Projected fuel-driven bushfire risk % 30 June 2026 no fuel management
STATE	***70***	65	**68**	**71**	**76**
DEECA Region					
BARWON SOUTH WEST	***60***	58	63	64	69
GIPPSLAND	***71***	46	50	60	68
GRAMPIANS	***70***	77	78	78	81
HUME	***69***	71	73	77	82
LODDON MALLEE	***75***	73	77	77	81
PORT PHILLIP	***85***	89	88	89	91
DEECA District					
FAR SOUTH WEST	***55***	51	53	56	57
GOULBURN	***75***	71	73	77	78
LATROBE	***80***	84	86	89	90
MACALISTER	***65***	57	62	71	75
MALLEE	***90***	82	80	83	81
METROPOLITAN	***85***	96	93	89	98
MIDLANDS	***70***	79	81	80	82
MURRAY GOLDFIELDS	***75***	73	77	77	81
MURRINDINDI	***80***	80	81	84	85
OTWAY	***60***	59	64	65	70
OVENS	***55***	66	70	74	84
SNOWY	***65***	8	16	28	45
TAMBO	***65***	33	38	53	64
UPPER MURRAY	***60***	42	48	53	59
WIMMERA	***70***	41	43	53	54
YARRA	***85***	88	88	89	89

Please refer to the latest Victoria's Bushfire Risk Management Report published by the Office of Bushfire Risk Management (OBRM) for the latest information, and a detailed explanation of factors contributing to district and regional bushfire risk levels. The latest report can be found by visiting the OBRM Publications webpage* ***www.vic.gov.au/obrm-publications.*

Ecological Burns

A program of ecological burns are included in the JFMP, based on using fire for clear and pre-defined ecological objectives including specific, process, species, and ecosystem outcomes within the planned burn.

Ecological burns align with Bushfire Management Strategies, and are done for one (or several) of the following reasons:

i. restore ecological processes through the functional application of fire.

ii. Support the succession of immature vegetation into mature states.

iii. Maximise post-fire habitat availability.

iv. Protect sensitive ecological communities and threatened species from the impacts of inappropriate bushfire regimes.

v. Align with conservation action plans and other ecological strategies.

vi. Consider recent shifts in the value of ecological assets in the landscape.

Program Summaries

Each Region has developed a schedule of fuel management activities available for download

These schedules contain the details of both DEECA and CFA led planned burning and mechanical works such as slashing, mowing, clearing works, and maintaining fuel breaks over the next three years. These regional schedules are summarised in **Tables 2, 3** and **4** below.

For further details of planned activities in each DEECA or CFA region and district, including burn locations, visit **www.ffm.vic.gov.au/jfmp** use our interactive map or download documents or maps.

A new live JFMP map is available and will always show the latest approved burns and mechanical treatments (including recent amendments) **www.bushfireplanning.ffm.vic.gov.au/jfmp**. Zoom in and out of areas of interest. The map first shows the 3-Year Joint Fuel Management Program and as you scroll down the page, more information about mechanical treatments and fire management zoning is displayed.

The JFMP is designed to be flexible, allowing the timing of proposed activities over the three-year period to change in response to weather and or other operational requirements. This means activities such as burns may be conducted in a different year than indicated in the maps and plans.

Table 2: Planned Burning CFA - State and Regional Summary

Lead Agency / Region / Burn Type	2024/2025 Area (ha)	2024/2025 No. of Burns	2025/2026 Area (ha)	2025/2026 No. of Burns	2026/2027 Area (ha)	2026/2027 No. of Burns
CFA - Statewide	**3,308**	**165**	**11,303**	**534**	**5,516**	**354**
Ecological	61	9	182	19	176	16
Fuel Reduction	3,247	156	11,120	515	5,339	338
CFA – Regions						
North East	**230**	**24**	**542**	**61**	**1,284**	**117**
Ecological	0	0	3	2	2	2
Fuel Reduction	230	24	540	59	1,282	115
North West	**264**	**23**	**792**	**66**	**354**	**37**
Ecological	8	2	20	6	16	4
Fuel Reduction	256	21	771	60	338	33
South East	**715**	**53**	**451**	**36**	**681**	**31**
Ecological	3	2	1	1	1	1
Fuel Reduction	712	51	450	35	680	30
South West	**1,262**	**34**	**7,034**	**249**	**1,273**	**82**
Ecological	0	0	138	7	79	3
Fuel Reduction	1,262	34	6,896	242	1,195	79
West	**836**	**31**	**2,484**	**122**	**1,924**	**87**
Ecological	50	5	20	3	79	6
Fuel Reduction	786	26	2,463	119	1,845	81

Table 3: Planned Burning FFMVic - State and Regional Summary

Lead Agency / Region / Burn Type	2024/2025 Area (ha)	2024/2025 No. of Burns	2025/2026 Area (ha)	2025/2026 No. of Burns	2026/2027 Area (ha)	2026/2027 No. of Burns
DEECA - Statewide	**417,145**	**467**	**261,593**	**384**	**278,218**	**423**
Ecological	12,017	53	9,712	67	11,699	63
Fuel Reduction	141,052	383	166,486	310	193,299	353
Landscape Mosaic	264,076	31	85,395	7	73,220	7
DEECA - Regions						
Barwon South West	**71,124**	**84**	**16,070**	**47**	**15,334**	**44**
Ecological	5,595	17	3,033	14	4,343	9
Fuel Reduction	18,213	55	13,037	33	10,992	35
Landscape Mosaic	47,315	12	0	0	0	0
Gippsland	**144,204**	**102**	**142,881**	**79**	**107,516**	**99**
Ecological	4,739	17	1,010	9	1,798	14
Fuel Reduction	33,833	78	69,618	68	67,735	83
Landscape Mosaic	105,632	7	72,253	2	37,982	2
Grampians	**59,020**	**61**	**29,220**	**50**	**25,459**	**44**
Ecological	967	5	3,196	9	2,710	9
Fuel Reduction	16,641	49	13,715	37	16,456	33
Landscape Mosaic	41,413	7	12,308	4	6,293	2
Hume	**116,047**	**107**	**42,225**	**90**	**99,574**	**119**
Ecological	65	3	858	6	586	3
Fuel Reduction	46,266	99	40,533	83	70,043	113
Landscape Mosaic	69,716	5	834	1	28,945	3
Loddon Mallee	**21,596**	**79**	**26,260**	**70**	**25,561**	**74**
Ecological	0	0	0	0	659	6
Fuel Reduction	21,596	79	26,260	70	24,902	68
Port Phillip / Metro	**5,154**	**34**	**4,937**	**48**	**4,774**	**43**
Ecological	650	11	1,614	29	1,603	22
Fuel Reduction	4,504	23	3,323	19	3,171	21

Table 4: Non-burn Fuel Treatments - State and Regional Summary

Lead Agency / Region	2024/2025		2025/2026		2026/2027	
	Area (ha)	No. of Blocks	Area (ha)	No. of Blocks	Area (ha)	No. of Blocks
CFA - Statewide	**95**	**13**	**234**	**28**	**436**	**43**
CFA - Regions						
North East	36	4	30	6	360	30
North West	11	5	92	16	31	1
South East	1	2	0	1		
South West			110	3	33	10
West	46	2	2	2	11	2
DEECA - Statewide	**27,188**	**n/a**	**4,084**	**n/a**	**1,217**	**n/a**
DEECA - Regions						
Barwon South West	2,374	n/a	239	n/a	10	n/a
Gippsland	6,406	n/a	2,530	n/a	13	n/a
Grampians	3,403	n/a	284	n/a	282	n/a
Hume	6,331	n/a	279	n/a		n/a
Loddon Mallee	6,169	n/a	752	n/a	913	n/a
Port Phillip / Metro	2,505	n/a		n/a		n/a

Cultural Burning

Cultural fire is fire deliberately put into the landscape lead by the Traditional Owners of that Country for a variety of purposes, including ceremony, protection of cultural and natural assets, fuel reduction, regeneration and management of food, fibre and medicines, flora regeneration, fauna habitat protection and healing Country's spirit.

We are guided by the Victorian Traditional Owner Cultural Fire Strategy which provides policy direction and a framework for fire and land management agencies to better enable Traditional Owners to undertake cultural burning for these cultural objectives.

There are six principles underpinning this strategy:

- cultural burning is right fire, right time, right way and for the right cultural reasons, according to lore
- burning is a cultural responsibility
- cultural fire is living knowledge
- monitoring, evaluation and research support cultural fire objectives and enable adaptive learning
- Country is managed holistically
- cultural fire is healing.

FFMVic and CFA recognise that cultural burning can assist landholders and communities in the use of fire to care for Country. The sharing of knowledge by local Traditional Owners as well as from Indigenous peoples from other parts of Australia will assist in improving our adaptive fire management practices in Victoria. This builds on supporting community through learning about how we live with fire. Working together to foster knowledge sharing is an important way to enable participation of Aboriginal communities.

Cultural burns are nominated by and will be led by Traditional Owners with support from FFMVic and CFA.

Table 5: Traditional Owner Burns - State and Regional Summary

Lead Agency / Region	2024/2025 No. of Burns	2025/2026 No. of Burns	2026/2027 No. of Burns
CFA - Statewide	**7**	**15**	**12**
North East			7
North West		1	
South East	7		
South West		6	5
West		8	
DEECA – Statewide	**104**	**60**	**47**
Barwon South West	10		
Gippsland	9	2	1
Grampians	13	13	6
Hume	18	9	1
Loddon Mallee	38	29	32
Port Phillip / Metro	16	7	7

How to get involved

DEECA and CFA welcome comment on strategic and operational fire management all year round. Due to the planning cycle your comments relating to certain aspects of the program may not be included until the following year's JFMP. Comments and suggestions relating to the JFMP can be sent to:

DEECA
Regional Fuel Management Coordinator

CFA
Manager Community Safety

Alternatively, please contact your local **DEECA office**, **Parks Victoria** or **CFA**.

Planned Burns Victoria (PBV) is an easy-to-use, opt-in system customisable to suit your notification needs. PBV provides an overview of all planned burns on this JFMP and allows individuals to sign up to receive notification of when a burn is scheduled and ignited.

You can find out more about our fuel management programs and subscribe to notifications at https://plannedburns.ffm.vic.gov.au/

Approval

The 2024-2025 to 2026-2027 Joint Fuel Management Program is developed and endorsed at regional level by the DEECA Deputy Chief Fire Officer and the CFA Deputy Chief Officer, prior to approval by:

DEECA Chief Fire Officer, Chris Hardman
CFA Chief Officer, Jason Heffernan

The 2024-2025 to 2026-2027 Joint Fuel Management Program was approved on 26 September 2024 and remains current until superseded with a new JFMP.

The following abbreviations may be used:

'*' asterisk on burn name denotes a cross-tenure burn;

PV - Parks Victoria;

COM - Committee of Management;

DEECA - Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action;

PP – Private Property;

FRB – Fuel Reduction Burn;

FFMVic - is the organisation that delivers services to achieve DEECA's legislated responsibilities. It consists of specialist staff from DEECA, Parks Victoria, Melbourne Water.

ECO - Ecological burn;

REG – Regeneration Burn;

TO – Traditional Owner;

FMZ – Fire Management Zone;

APZ - Asset Protection Zone;

BMZ – Bushfire Moderation Zone;

LMZ - Landscape Management Zone;

PBEZ – Planned Burn Exclusion Zone;

NZ - Not Zoned;

FPA – Fire Protected Area

Glossary

This glossary provides information on terms contained within the body of this document and the regional schedules.

Amendment - On occasion, it is necessary to modify activities, such as modifying a burn boundary, rescheduling burns, or removing or adding new burns to the Joint Fuel Management Program. Program amendments are listed and available on the JFMP website for download at https://www.ffm.vic.gov.au/jfmp , however amendments are not added or removed from the regional schedules or pdf maps available for download.

BREA – Bushfire Risk Engagement Areas.

Burn Type – indicates the primary purpose of the burn.

Burn Number and Name – the unique identifier for each burn or planned fuel management activity.

Cross-tenure burn – a burn that covers both public and private land.

Fire Management Zone (FMZ) – an area of public land in which fire is managed for specific asset, fuel, and ecological objectives. Values included in this column can be APZ - Asset Protection Zone; BMZ – Bushfire Moderation Zone; LMZ - Landscape Management Zone, PBEZ – Planned Burn Exclusion Zone; or NZ - Not Zoned.

Forest Fire Management Victoria (FFMVic) – is made up of staff from the Department of Energy, Environment, and Climate Action (DEECA), Parks Victoria, Melbourne Water. FFMVic's core purpose is to protect people, property and the environment and does this by managing bushfires and bushfire risk in Victoria's parks, forests, and other public land.

Fuel-driven bushfire risk – **is** the component of bushfire risk that is attributable to bushfire fuels, that is, vegetation that influences fire behaviour, such as the speed and intensity of a bushfire.

Fuel (vegetation) is a key element of fire behaviour, and therefore is a major component of overall bushfire risk. However, it is not a full measure of bushfire risk, because fuel is not the only factor that affects fire behaviour, or the likelihood and consequence of bushfires impacting people and the things they care about. In general, the influence of fuel on fire behaviour decreases as fire weather conditions become more severe.

The sector models (using a computer program called Phoenix Rapid-fire) what impact planned burning has on reducing fuel-driven bushfire risk to inform fuel management planning and performance evaluation.

This impact is calculated and expressed as the percentage of fuel-driven bushfire risk 'left over' after bushfire fuels have been reduced, either through fuel management activities or bushfires (noting that currently this calculation can only consider the contribution of planned burning and not non-burn fuel treatments such as slashing and mowing).

This approach focuses on the role that planned burns have on moderating the severity of bushfires at large scales and the consequential reduction in impacts.

Joint Fuel Management Program (JFMP) – the statewide 3-year rolling program of fuel management works on public and private land. The JFMP includes operations led by DEECA and the CFA for the upcoming 3 years. It also includes cultural burns nominated by Traditional Owners. It incorporates and supersedes Fire Operations Plans. The JFMP is updated at least annually.

The Joint Fuel Management Program web page has maps showing all planned fuel management activities for the upcoming 3-year period. The JFMP does not include burns managed by private landholders or industry. This webpage can be accessed at https://www.ffm.vic.gov.au/jfmp.

Joint Fuel Management Program 'JFMP Live map' – a new live JFMP map is available and will always show the latest approved burns and mechanical treatments (including recent amendments). Zoom in and out of areas of interest. The map first shows the 3 Year Joint Fuel Management Program and as you scroll down the page, more information about mechanical treatments and fire management zoning is displayed. Link to JFMP Live Map https://bushfireplanning.ffm.vic.gov.au/jfmp

Land Management Objective – identifies the desired land management outcome(s) of the burn.

Landscape Mosaic Burn – Large, long-term planning and treatment areas, where it is planned to apply fire in multiple operations over multiple years at varying intensities, scales, and times to reach their objectives. The area burnt will vary year to year depending on conditions and objectives, e.g. a burnt coverage of 10-25%. The size of the planned area is related to the scale of the landscape. They are large (thousands of hectares) and are highlighted on our JFMP pdf maps. The objective of Landscape Mosaic Burns may include:

I. reduce bushfire size and severity.

II. aid bushfire suppression efforts.

III. reduce the ignition likelihood in areas where large bushfires are modelled to start and propagate and

IV. maintain or increase species habitat availability and influence growth stage distribution both directly and indirectly through influencing bushfire outcomes.

Lead Agency – the lead agency for a planned burn is determined by the burns distance from public land. For burns within public land or within 1.5 km of public land, these fall within DEECA's legislative scope and DEECA can choose to be the Lead Agency. If a burn is outside 1.5 km of public land, the CFA will be the Lead Agency to undertake that burn.

Local Government Area (LGA) – the municipality in which most of the fuel management activity is located.

Location – a direction and distance of the planned burn from the nearest major township/locality.

Long-term planning target – Each DEECA region and district has a long-term planning target for reducing fuel-driven bushfire risk, which contribute to achievement of the statewide target. Regional and district fuel-driven bushfire risk targets vary across the State and are influenced by both the level of risk in an area (influenced by vegetation, topography, and the location of houses) as well as the leverage that FFMVic has over reducing risk through fuel management on public land.

Non-Burn Fuel Treatments (NBFT) - sometimes referred to as Mechanical Fuel Treatments – fuel treatments used to manage bushfire fuels through activities other than planned burning. Examples include mowing, slashing, mulching, spraying, rolling, and grazing.

Non-Burn Fuel Treatments are used to maintain the network of fuel breaks or to treat small, discrete, or complex areas that may be difficult to burn safely (such as in steep gullies). May also complement planned burning where the geography (community, vegetation, terrain) is complex, and planned burning opportunities are very limited. Non-burn fuel treatments are more expensive than planned burning and the area that can be treated each year is usually much less than through planned burning. Maintenance of a Strategic Fuel Break is considered a routine Non-Burn Fuel Treatment.

Planned Burning – Planned burning is the lighting and managing of planned fires at times of lower bushfire risk for various reasons (such as to reduce leaf litter, twigs, bark, and undergrowth). Planned burns may be ignited all year round including over summer, but most are in autumn and spring.

Planned burns are classified into:

- fuel reduction burns, to reduce the amount of fuel available to a bushfire, which can reduce a bushfires intensity and rate of spread, improving opportunities for firefighters to suppress it and reducing impacts on assets.
- cultural burns, led by Traditional Owners for cultural purposes.
- ecological burns, to achieve ecological objectives (such as to protect environment assets and maintain and improve ecological resilience).
- other burns, which are ad hoc burns not included in the JFMP, but still undergo a planning and approval process. For example:

- regeneration burns, to regenerate species or vegetation types (such as after timber harvesting).
- windrow/heap burns at point locations, which are to burn debris piles, usually from other land management operations (such as clearing woody weed species).

You can search the Planned burning in Victoria web page by postcode, locality, park, or address to see the planned burns intended to be delivered over the next 10 days, weather and conditions permitting. The webpage is located at https://plannedburns.ffm.vic.gov.au/

Private Property Burn – burn that occurs on private land.

Planned Burn Size – the maximum area of the fuel management activity measured in hectares (ha), including areas specifically excluded from disturbance (within the burn perimeter).

Strategic Fuel Break (SFB): A strategic fuel break is a strip of land where vegetation has been modified to form a safe and effective platform for fighting and controlling bushfires. Strategic fuel breaks may be natural areas of low fuel but are typically constructed using machinery to modify or remove vegetation (such as grasses, shrubs, and trees) which allow firefighters to control fires through direct firefighting methods or indirect firefighting methods (e.g., backburning).

A strategic fuel break network is currently being expanded across Victoria to provide a last line of defence to protect townships and critical infrastructure, and to break larger blocks of forest into more manageable units to help keep fires as small as possible. This network of strategic fuel breaks ensures that firefighters can respond to fires as quickly as possible and complement a range of other fire prevention and preparedness activities.

There are three categories of strategic fuel breaks:

- New construction or establishing: DEECA will build a strategic fuel break on a new footprint, where no previous fuel break was previously established.
- Upgrading or renewing: DEECA will upgrade/renew a fuel break that was previously established (such as during emergencies), which are not up to current specifications. Unlike new construction, there is already an existing disturbed footprint.
- Maintaining: This includes periodic candling of bark hazards, annual slashing, and mulching of regrowing vegetation to keep the SFBs operationally effective.


CFA


FOREST FIRE
MANAGEMENT VICTORIA