

Reducing Victoria's Bushfire Risk and Valuing our Environment

Cultural burn strategy

The Victorian Traditional Owner Cultural Fire Strategy was officially launched by a Wurundjeri Elder and the Minister at the Nioka Bush Camp, Plenty Gorge Park in May 2019. The Strategy is the culmination of two years of work and thousands of years of knowledge and know-how from Traditional Owners across Victoria. The Strategy provides a set of principles and strategic priorities to enable Traditional Owner-led cultural fire management in Victoria.

Fire Analysis Module for Ecological values

2018-19 saw the release of the Fire Analysis Module for Ecological Values (FAME), and its use in planning and reporting. Over many years of ground-breaking research, DELWP has collaborated with world class researchers to develop a suite of models and metrics (measures) to help understand and effectively manage risks to ecosystem resilience and threatened species. FAME is our new analysis module, supported by a structured decision-making framework, to facilitate more effective and transparent consideration of ecological values in decision-making.

Planned burns

251

covering 130,044 ha

Mechanical fuel reduction methods – mainly slashing and mowing was used to treat a further 12,034 ha.

Victorian Bushfire Monitoring Program

1,217 fuel hazard plots

The Victorian Bushfire Monitoring Program collected overall fuel hazard information at 1,217 sites covering 43% of all completed planned burn operations.

Bushfire risk

69%

Bushfire risk was held below the 70% state target but increased from 68% in 2017-18 to 69% in 2018-19. Without the delivery of the fuel reduction program, it is estimated that bushfire risk would have increased to 72%.

Planned burn breaches

3 breaches

All three of these breaches of planned burn control lines spread onto surrounding public land and no private property was threatened or affected.

Joint Fuel Management Program

35 cross tenure burns covering 31,750 ha in partnership with the CFA

During Winter of 2018-19, for the first time, Forest Fire Management Victoria and the Country Fire Authority (CFA) undertook a joint planning process to prepare the inaugural Joint Fuel Management Program (JFMP). Under this new JFMP, nine cross-tenure burns were delivered in partnership with the CFA to reduce risk across both public and private land.

Ecosystem resilience

42%

vegetation in mature or old growth stages

26%

vegetation within TFI

Vegetation within Tolerable Fire Interval (TFI) and in mature or old growth stages has increased because substantial areas of previously fire-affected vegetation, from the 1939 fires in the Barwon South West, Port Phillip, Gippsland and Hume Regions, have reached reproductive maturity.

Research investment

\$6 million

FFMVic continues its commitment to research agreements, with over \$6 million currently invested in projects that enable improved policy and operations through better knowledge of community readiness, ecosystem resilience, environmental compliance and planning delivery, decision support and risk management tools.

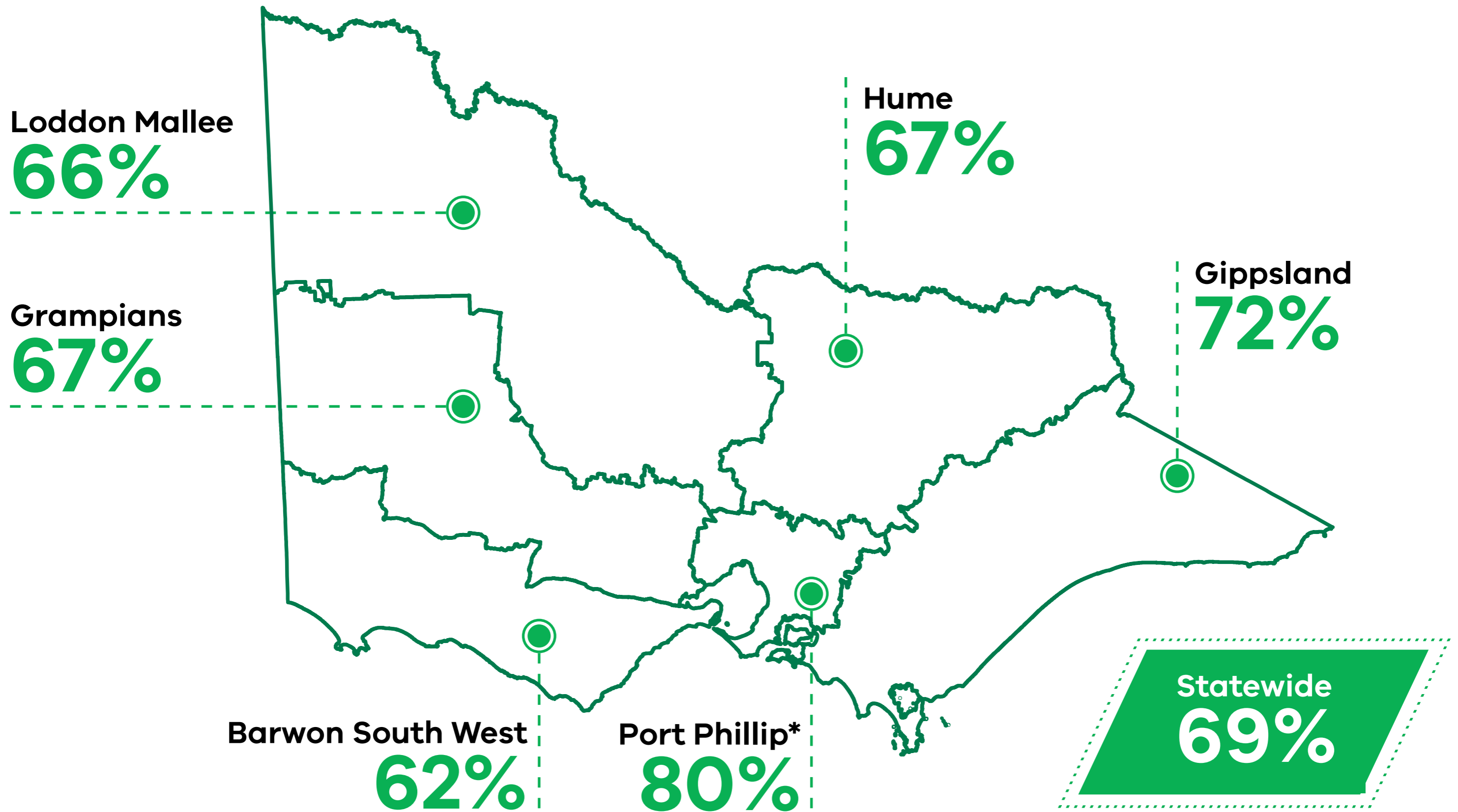
Fuel management investment

\$121.7 million

The investment of the entire fuel management program is higher than in previous years because more fuel management activities are being performed close to houses to maximise risk reduction. These activities are more challenging and technical, requiring more intense resourcing and equipment to prepare and deliver safely.

Reducing Victoria's Bushfire Risk

2018-19 Bushfire Risk



*Bushfire risk is elevated in the Port Phillip region due to large areas of private land and wet forest which cannot be treated easily by planned burning.