

Managing Victoria's Bushfire Risk and Valuing our Environment



Traditional Owner cultural burns

10 delivered with Traditional Owners

Throughout 2019–20, FFMVic provided operational and planning support to Traditional Owners, to enable the use of fire on Country for cultural purposes. Cultural burns were conducted on public land, in five DELWP regions, demonstrating our increased engagement across the state with local Traditional Owner groups.



Contribution of planned burning to risk reduction

66%

On average, from July 2009 to June 2020, planned burning accounted for two-thirds (66%) of the total risk reduction, compared to one-third (34%) from bushfires. This is despite bushfires burning an additional 900,000 ha compared to planned burning: that is 2.5 million ha was burnt by bushfires, compared to 1.6 million ha by planned burning. This is because we use the best available science and data to target areas for planned burning (such as close to high-value assets) to maximise risk reduction, whereas bushfire burns locations randomly.



Planned burns

257 covering 37,399 ha

Mechanical fuel reduction methods – mainly slashing and mowing was used to treat a further 17,635 ha which represents about a 50% increase from 2018-19.

Victorian Bushfire Monitoring Program

813 fuel hazard plots

The Victorian Bushfire Monitoring Program collected overall fuel hazard information at 813 sites.



Bushfire risk

64%

Bushfire risk was modelled at below the 70% state target, decreasing from 69% in 2018-19 to 64% in 2019-20.

Planned burn breaches

0 breaches

No planned burns resulted in breaches or bushfires in 2019–20.

This outcome is testament to FFMVic's ongoing investment in thorough operational planning and risk management through our Joint Fuel Management Plan.



Joint Fuel Management Program

9 cross tenure burns in partnership with the CFA

FFMVic and the Country Fire Authority delivered nine cross-tenure burns to reduce risk across both public and private land in the Otway Ranges, Latrobe, Macalister, Goulburn and Ovens areas.

Ecosystem resilience

37%

vegetation in mature or old growth stages

22%

vegetation within TFI

Vegetation within TFI and in mature or old growth stages has decreased because of the major bushfires in the Hume and Gippsland regions during 2019-20.



Research investment

\$10 million IFER & CRC

FFMVic continues its commitment to research agreements with the University of Melbourne and the Bushfire and Natural Hazards CRC, with over \$10 million currently invested in projects to enable improved policy and operational responses through community understanding, ecosystem resilience, environmental compliance and planning, decision support and risk management tools. This research also includes research investments to support the Regional Forest Agreements.



Fuel management investment

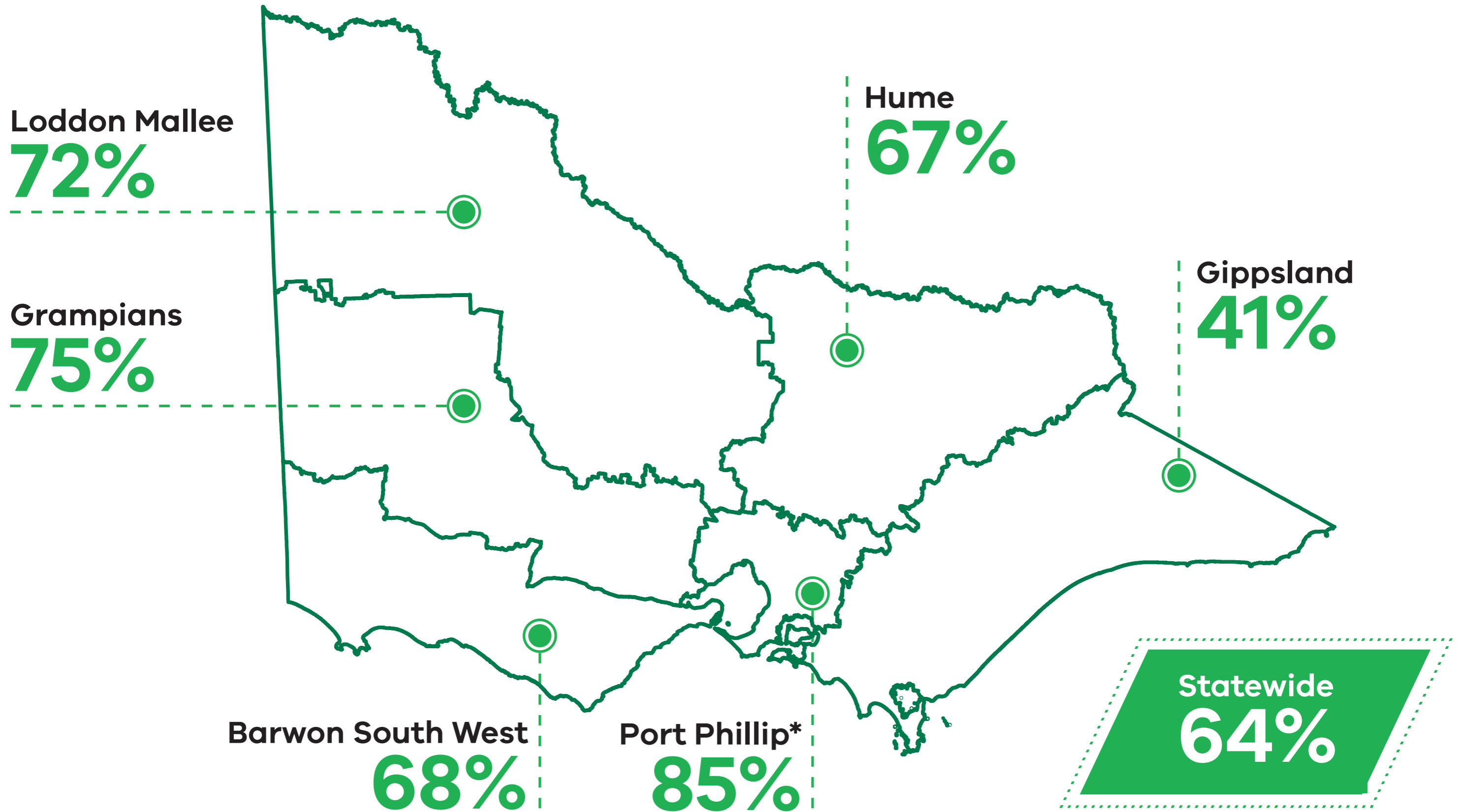
\$109.2 million

The entire fuel management program cost \$109.2 million. This is lower than last year which reflects FFMVic's investment in preparedness, response and recovery activities associated with the 2019-20 bushfire season and unfavourable weather in autumn 2020.



Managing Victoria's Bushfire Risk

2019-20 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.