

# Reducing Victoria's Bushfire Risk and Valuing our Environment

FOREST FIRE MANAGEMENT VICTORIA



## Cultural burn strategy

**1** with traditional owners

As part of supporting and increasing cultural burning practice across Victoria, the Victorian Government committed to developing the Victoria Cultural Burning Strategy over 2017-2018. The Federation of Victorian Traditional Owner Corporations worked in partnership with Victorian Traditional Owners, Aboriginal Victorians, Forest Fire Management Victoria and the CFA to develop the strategy. The strategy will provide high level direction to the fire management sector about the aspirations and objectives of Victorian Traditional Owners for cultural burning/traditional burning.



## Community Based Bushfire Management

**18** active CBBM communities

There are now 18 active CBBM communities. A further 5 communities will be established in 2018-19. CBBM supports agencies and communities to work collaboratively, sharing and valuing knowledge. It enables communities to make informed decisions and develop local solutions to reduce bushfire risk.



## Cross tenure burns

**29** in partnership with the CFA

To reduce risk across public and private land.

## High priority burns

**43** of the 71 across the state

These included highly-technical burns in tall, damp forests in the Otway Ranges, Wombat Forest & Dandenong Ranges. They provide significant reductions to the risk of bushfire affecting nearby communities.



## Bushfire risk

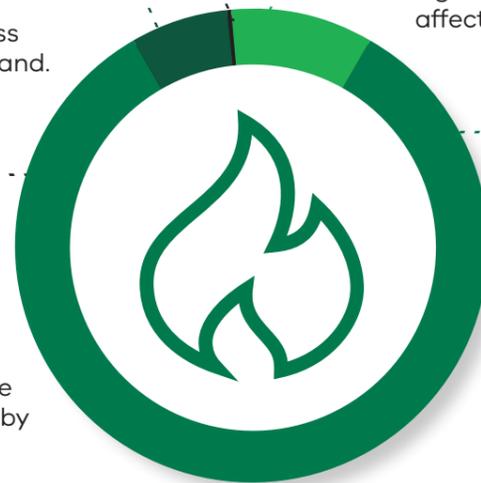
**66%**

Bushfire risk was held below the 70% state target, but increased from 63% in 2017 to 66% in 2018. Without the delivery of the fuel reduction program, it is estimated that bushfire risk would have increased to 68%.

## Planned burn breaches

**1** breach

Only one of 367 planned burns breached control lines across the state. No bushfires were caused by planned burns escaping.



## Planned burns

**367** covering 66,035 ha

Mechanical fuel reduction methods – mainly slashing and mowing was used to treat a further 9,790 ha.

## Victorian Bushfire Monitoring Program

**2992** fuel hazard plots

The Victorian Bushfire Monitoring Program collected overall fuel hazard information at 2992 sites covering 20% of all planned burn operations across the state.

**838** biodiversity plots

106 biodiversity monitoring plots were established to intensively sample plants and animals at strategic locations to deliver data that can allow the development of fire management scenarios that best support the environment. A further 732 sites were surveyed for biodiversity across Victoria to deliver the monitoring program.



## Research investment

**\$10 million**

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, and planning and risk management tools.

**\$2.4 million**

2017-18 also saw FFMvic commit over \$2.4 million to Safer Together research projects under the themes: effective operations, fire science, understanding our communities and understanding our environments.

## Cost

**\$107.8 million**

The entire fuel management program cost \$107.8 million. This is higher than last year and is the effect of delivering more challenging technical burns - close to houses, requiring more intense resourcing and more equipment to prepare and deliver safely.



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## What happening near me?

