

Joint Fuel Management Program 2025/2026 – 2027/2028

State Overview
FFMVic and CFA



Photo credits: FFMVic Jacque Quaine (APZ Planned Burn Maryborough-Brown Street, Murray Goldfields District, Loddon Mallee Region)

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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 in partnership 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.

David Nugent
A/Director,
Forest and Fire Programs 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 Joint Fuel Management Program (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 <https://www.ffm.vic.gov.au/jfmp>.

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 updated at least annually, and prepared in accordance with the *Code of Practice for Bushfire Management on Public Land 2025*, *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 2025-2026 to 2027-2028. 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.

Activities are listed in the JFMP by indicative year 2025-2026, 2026-2027 and 2027-2028. The program is designed to be flexible; the timing of proposed activities may 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.

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).

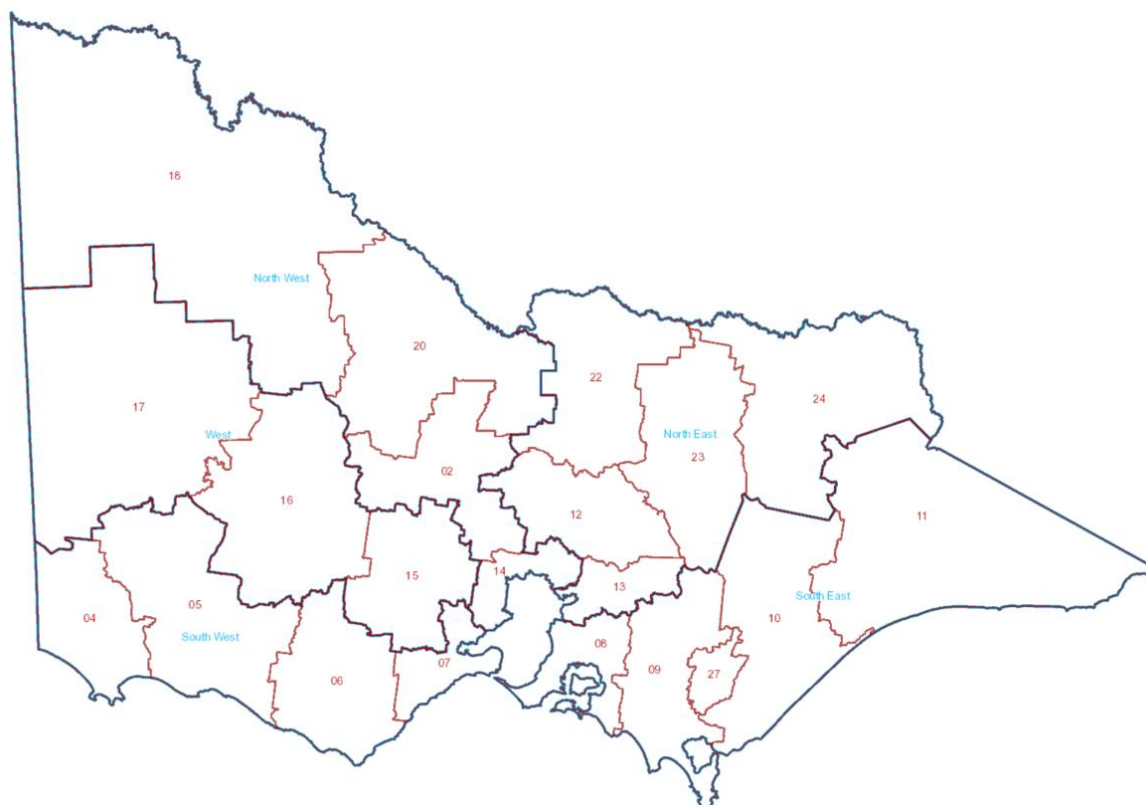
Cultural burning – planned burns nominated by Traditional Owners of that country, for a range of land management and cultural outcomes. They are planned and delivered in partnership with the fire agencies, and while they may have risk reduction benefits this is not the primary purpose.

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.
- Bushfire management approaches beyond fuel management, key actions that agencies and communities undertake together to manage bushfire risk and complement our fuel management approach. This includes.
 - Reduce bushfire ignitions through prevention activities,
 - Increase the effectiveness of fire suppression,
 - Reduce bushfire spread and severity,
 - Reduce the physical effects of bushfires in inhabited areas,
 - Reduce the social effects of bushfires on communities and
 - Reduce impacts from fire management actions.

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 2025](#).

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 13% 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 2024	Projected fuel-driven bushfire risk % 30 June 2025 no fuel management	Projected fuel-driven bushfire risk % 30 June 2026 no fuel management	Projected fuel-driven bushfire risk % 30 June 2027 no fuel management
State	70	64	69	74	77
DEECA Region					
BARWON SOUTH WEST	60	57	61	67	70
GIPPSLAND	71	49	58	67	71
GRAMPIANS	70	74	76	78	81
HUME	69	69	74	77	81
LODDON MALLEE	75	74	76	77	85
PORT PHILLIP	85	87	89	91	92
DEECA District					
FAR SOUTH WEST	55	49	55	56	58
GOULBURN	75	68	74	75	80
LATROBE	80	86	88	90	88
MACALISTER	65	61	64	70	78
MALLEE	90	79	82	78	85
METROPOLITAN	85	92	94	96	100
MIDLANDS	70	77	78	80	82
MURRAY GOLDFIELDS	75	74	76	77	85
MURRINDINDI	80	75	81	84	85
OTWAY	60	58	62	68	71
OVENS	55	66	71	74	80
SNOWY	65	14	27	44	52
TAMBO	65	35	51	62	67
UPPER MURRAY	60	50	53	58	63
WIMMERA	70	38	51	52	61
YARRA	85	86	88	90	90

**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 is 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 fire (or bushfire) regimes.
- v. Align with conservation action plans and other ecological strategies, restoration, recovery, or research initiatives.
- 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 regional 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 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	Year 1 - 2025/2026		Year 2 - 2026/2027		Year 3 - 2027/2028	
	Area Hectares	Number of burns	Area Hectares	Number of burns	Area Hectares	Number of burns
CFA Statewide	2,774	134	10,535	463	4,849	318
ECOLOGICAL	46	4	271	18	87	14
FUEL REDUCTION	2,728	130	10,263	445	4,761	304
CFA Regions	Year 1 - 2025/2026		Year 2 - 2026/2027		Year 3 - 2027/2028	
NORTH EAST	213	25	333	34	496	60
ECOLOGICAL					1	2
FUEL REDUCTION	213	25	333	34	495	58
NORTH WEST	354	24	255	24	783	79
ECOLOGICAL			14	4	22	6
FUEL REDUCTION	354	24	241	20	761	73
SOUTH EAST	95	24	214	43	1,122	39
FUEL REDUCTION	95	24	214	43	1,122	39
SOUTH WEST	1,664	37	7,187	250	779	64
ECOLOGICAL			149	6	23	3
FUEL REDUCTION	1,664	37	7,038	244	756	61
WEST	449	24	2,546	112	1,669	76
ECOLOGICAL	46	4	108	8	42	3
FUEL REDUCTION	403	20	2,438	104	1,627	73

Table 3: Planned Burning FFMVic - State and Regional Summary

Lead Agency / Region / Burn Type	Year 1 - 2025/2026		Year 2 - 2026/2027		Year 3 - 2027/2028	
	Area Hectares	Number of burns	Area Hectares	Number of burns	Area Hectares	Number of burns
DEECA - STATEWIDE	196,035	404	198,162	345	214,434	372
ECOLOGICAL	14,023	52	7,150	45	9,505	35
FUEL REDUCTION	148,801	326	137,610	280	172,471	318
LANDSCAPE MOSAIC	33,211	26	53,403	20	32,458	19
Row Labels	Year 1 - 2025/2026		Year 2 - 2026/2027		Year 3 - 2027/2028	
BARWON SOUTH WEST	24,463	73	18,842	61	22,876	65
ECOLOGICAL	5,054	14	2,948	15	4,683	12
FUEL REDUCTION	13,179	47	13,709	37	15,811	44
LANDSCAPE MOSAIC	6,231	12	2,185	9	2,381	9
GIPPSLAND	80,555	88	76,423	78	74,066	87
ECOLOGICAL	3,612	12	451	6	2,149	9
FUEL REDUCTION	59,998	69	46,143	66	61,839	72
LANDSCAPE MOSAIC	16,945	7	29,828	6	10,077	6
GRAMPIANS	16,596	58	9,280	40	10,484	31
ECOLOGICAL	3,584	12	1,032	5	1,192	3
FUEL REDUCTION	10,483	44	7,849	33	9,092	27
LANDSCAPE MOSAIC	2,530	2	400	2	200	1
HUME	49,963	92	63,436	79	77,539	107
ECOLOGICAL	166	4	509	6	586	3
FUEL REDUCTION	42,292	83	41,938	70	57,154	101
LANDSCAPE MOSAIC	7,505	5	20,989	3	19,799	3
LODDON MALLEE	19,501	60	25,248	58	24,547	63
ECOLOGICAL					543	3
FUEL REDUCTION	19,501	60	25,248	58	24,005	60
PORT PHILLIP / METRO	4,956	33	4,933	29	4,922	19
ECOLOGICAL	1,608	10	2,210	13	352	5
FUEL REDUCTION	3,348	23	2,723	16	4,570	14

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

LEAD AGENCY	Year 1 - 2025/2026		Year 2 - 2026/2027		Year 3 - 2027/2028	
	AREA HECTARES	NUMBER OF BLOCKS	AREA HECTARES	NUMBER OF BLOCKS	AREA HECTARES	NUMBER OF BLOCKS
CFA STATEWIDE TOTAL	119	18	53	12	1,479	58
CFA REGIONS						
NORTH EAST	18	4	14	4	51	11
NORTH WEST	83	6	10	3	95	10
SOUTH EAST	1	4			0	1
SOUTH WEST	6	2	26	4	1,332	36
WEST	10	2	3	1		
LEAD AGENCY	Year 1 - 2025/2026		Year 2 - 2026/2027		Year 3 - 2027/2028	
	AREA HECTARES	NUMBER OF BLOCKS	AREA HECTARES	NUMBER OF BLOCKS	AREA HECTARES	NUMBER OF BLOCKS
DEECA STATEWIDE TOTAL	28,403	N/A	5,669	N/A	1,987	N/A
DEECA REGIONS						
BARWON SOUTH WEST	4,288	N/A	1,435	N/A	243	N/A
GIPPSLAND	5,540	N/A	2,969	N/A	315	N/A
GRAMPIANS	3,808	N/A	324	N/A	487	N/A
HUME	7,296	N/A	455	N/A		N/A
LODDON MALLEE	4,825	N/A	396	N/A	833	N/A
PORT PHILLIP	2,646	N/A	90	N/A	108	N/A

Cultural Burning

Cultural fire is fire deliberately put into the landscape 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.

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 Traditional Owners and delivered in partnership with FFMVic and CFA.

Table 5: Traditional Owner Burns - State and Regional Summary

LEAD AGENCY	Year 1 - 2025/2026 NUMBER OF BURNS	Year 2 - 2026/2027 NUMBER OF BURNS	Year 3 - 2027/2028 NUMBER OF BURNS
CFA STATEWIDE TOTAL		31	5
CFA REGIONS			
NORTH EAST		2	1
NORTH WEST		2	
SOUTH EAST		5	1
SOUTH WEST		18	1
WEST		4	2
LEAD AGENCY	Year 1 - 2025/2026 NUMBER OF BURNS	Year 2 - 2026/2027 NUMBER OF BURNS	Year 3 - 2027/2028 NUMBER OF BURNS
DEECA STATEWIDE TOTAL	88	51	33
DEECA REGIONS			
BARWON SOUTH WEST	9	1	
GIPPSLAND	9	3	1
GRAMPIANS	17	10	9
HUME	5	14	1
LODDON MALLEE	36	9	14
PORT PHILLIP	12	14	8

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.

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	CFA
Manager, Operational Forest and Fire Planning	Manager Community Safety
within each region	

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 2025-2026 to 2027-2028 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 2025-2026 to 2027-2028 Joint Fuel Management Program was jointly approved on 31 October 2025 the CFA and FFMVic Agency Chiefs 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 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, nominated by 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.
- 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.
 - 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: DEECA will upgrade 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 burning of bark hazards, annual slashing, and mulching of regrowing vegetation to keep the SFBs operationally effective.

