

Barwon South West - Year 1

2019/20—2021/22 Joint Fuel Management Program

FFMVic - Barwon South West & CFA - South West



Cultural burning **5** burns with traditional owners

FFMVic and CFA will work with Traditional Owners to introduce mosaic burning to small areas within a 3,000ha area of Indigenous Protection Area lands. The Gunditjmarra people are looking to implement cultural burning across the world heritage-listed Budji Bim landscape. Objectives of cultural burning across Budji Bim include habitat provision for native birds and insects; to discover other artefact sites; reintroducing cultural hunting and harvesting practices; ecological restoration and regeneration; and fuel reduction. Also supporting both Eastern Maar and Wadawurrung with planned burning activities and planning.



Community Based Bushfire Management **12** active CBBM communities

FFMVic and CFA will continue to work with communities at Wye River, Separation Creek, Kennett River and Grey River to build on extensive connections and community risk understandings with scenario development and exercises, fuel management options and implementation while sharing learnings with other communities. Other CBBM groups will continue to meet in Lorne, Aireys Inlet, Digby/Merino, Peterborough, Balmoral, Penshurst, Wannon and Timboon.



Biodiversity Monitoring Program

FFMVic aim to have a better understanding of how species respond to fire through developing fire-response curves using real monitoring data. This enables land managers to make more informed decisions about the optimal spatial and temporal arrangement of burns.

FFMVic are building a comprehensive dataset to demonstrate the effectiveness of fine scale mosaic burning in select landscapes to manage fuel loads and improve ecosystem health, while encouraging Traditional Owner involvement in the fuel management program through traditional owner delivery of monitoring activities, including for aboriginal values.



Monitoring conditions

New Automated Fuel Moisture Meters at Heywood, Casterton, Bambra and Lorne will allow monitoring of fuel moisture content (FMC) at a landscape level. The vegetation's moisture content is an important factor in deciding when conditions are suitable for planned burning. The network will improve our ability to take burning opportunities.

Cross-tenure burns

16 FFMVic in partnership with the CFA

To reduce risk across public and private land.

Planned burns

443 covering 27,504 ha

Mechanical fuel reduction methods – mainly slashing and mulching will be used to treat 9,024 ha.

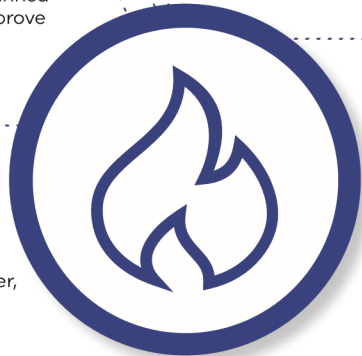
Reducing bushfire risk and habitat improvement

FFMVic are exploring the use of mulching to reduce fuels in small township areas and townships along the Great Ocean Road. This is part of a commitment to reduce bushfire risk all year round. This work is planned and delivered in consultation with communities, landholders and agencies.

FFMVic will be assessing areas of South Eastern Red-tailed Black Cockatoo habitat for pine wilding infestations. The project will map infestations and determine the suitability of fire as a tool to assist in the control of pines and improving overall habitat quality and feeding habitat.

Areas identified for bushfire protection

Gorae, Narrawong, Bolwarra, Nelson, Lorne, Aireys Inlet, Moggs Creek, Angelsea, Wye River, Separation Creek, Balmoral, Penshurst, Timboon, Forrest, Gellibrand



Research

FFMVic are working in collaboration with Deakin University and ecologists to understand the importance of both landscape and fine scale refuge areas to fauna. These studies will inform protection measures of key areas of the landscape where fauna retreat to in times of ecosystem stress, as well as how fine scale refugia impacts predation on small mammals in burnt areas.



Bushfire risk target

60% by June 2020

Current residual risk is 62%. Bushfire risk will be reduced to below the Barwon South West Region target of 60% through implementation of the JFMP. Without the joint fuel management program, it is estimated that the bushfire risk could increase to 65% by 2022. 90% of risk reduction is within the Barwon Otway.

Critical Assets and Infrastructure

Works will commence this year around the Mt Clay Sub-Station, Wannon Water Treatment Plant, high voltage powerline protection around Gorae and Heathmere, Lorne Treatment Plant in addition to township protection for Lorne, smaller township burns around Angelsea to protect assets such as the Great Ocean Road, Communication towers and tourism assets.

