

Grampians

2019/20—2021/22 Joint Fuel Management Program

FFMVic - Grampians & CFA - West



Cultural burning

6 burns with traditional owners

FFMVic and CFA partner with Dja Dja Wurrung, Bank of Australia, Greening Australia, Trust for Nature, Wimmera CMA, Barengi Gadjin Land Council, Damascus College and private landowners to bring fire back on Country by reintroducing traditional burning practices to the landscape.

Long term traditional burning projects are planned at Mt Arapiles (Walpa Dyurrita), Minimay, Damascus College (Ballarat) and Wheatshaeaf.



Community Based Bushfire Management

3 active CBBM communities

Daylesford/Hepburn, Smythesdale/Scarsdale and Lal Lal.

Community Based Bushfire Management (CBBM) is an initiative under Safer Together. It provides a space for local residents and agencies to collaboratively identify bushfire risk and work towards ways to reduce it.



Monitoring conditions

New Automated Fuel Moisture Meters at Smythesdale, Mt Cole and Grampians NP 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.

Planned burns **206** covering 53,834 ha

Mechanical fuel reduction methods – mainly slashing and mulching will be used to treat 3,590 ha.

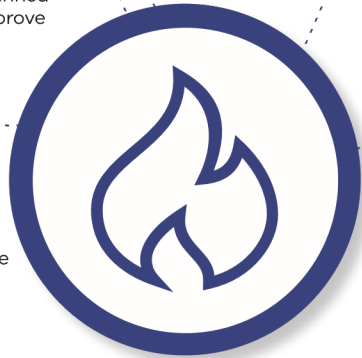
Cross-tenure burns

6 in partnership with the CFA

To reduce risk across public and private land.

Areas identified for bushfire protection

Daylesford, Wheatshaeaf and Wombat Forest area; Smythesdale – Scarsdale; Halls Gap and Grampians National Park; small communities at Harrow and Apsley.



Strategic road and Rail Corridors

833 km

CFA carry out an important program of planned burning along strategic roads and rail corridors.

Engaging the community

FFMVic and CFA commit to keeping the community informed about bushfire risk and planned burning activities through workshops, print and social media. The Grampians Fire Conference, where all agencies come together to discuss bushfire risk, will be celebrating its 30th year while the Little Desert conference is in its 48th year.

FFMVic will continue to engage with the Macedon Ranges, Pyrenees, Grampians, Henty and Geelong Wine Associations as grape ripening and harvest often coincide with Autumn planned burning. Research continues into the effects on grapes from smoke.

Biodiversity Monitoring Program

FFMVic will continue to monitor Brush-tailed Phascogale and Greater Glider habitat to determine the effectiveness of protection measures in planned burns. These mitigation measures are an important means of protecting environmental and cultural values.

Monitoring in the West Wimmera at Tooran - Jilpanger Nature Conservation Reserve will continue looking at key species, such as small mammals, woodland and Mallee bird communities and reptiles, response to burning over time. Outcomes will be used to create an approach to fire management that maximizes diversity for species dependent on healthy vegetation.



Social Research

FFMVic and Melbourne University will continue their research to find out what is important to those connected with tourism, including accommodation providers and tourists, that can be affected by planned burning in the Wombat Forest area and at Halls Gap.



Bushfire risk

69% by June 2020

Current residual risk is 67%. Bushfire risk will remain under the Grampians Region target of 70%. Without the joint fuel management program, it is estimated that the bushfire risk could increase to 82% by 2022.

Wheatshaeaf FireScope Project

90 properties in 2019/20

Residents in the high bushfire risk communities of Wheatshaeaf, Coomoora and Glenlyon, north-east of Daylesford, have been invited to take part in the FireScope project, aimed at reducing bushfire risk on private land. CFA and FFMVic have engaged with landowners through onsite information days, and individual property visits are ongoing to determine suitable methods for managing risk on properties while protecting environmental values.

