

# Managing Victoria's Bushfire Risk and Valuing our Environment



## Traditional Owner cultural burns

**15** delivered with Traditional Owners

Throughout 2020–21, 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 three DELWP regions, demonstrating our increased engagement across the state with local Traditional Owner groups.



## Contribution of planned burning to risk reduction

**69%**

On average, from July 2009 to June 2021, planned burning accounted for two-thirds (69%) of the total risk reduction, compared to one-third (31%) from bushfires. This is despite bushfires burning an additional 800,000 ha compared to planned burning: that is 3 million ha was burnt by bushfires, compared to 1.9 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

**470** covering 133,195 ha

Mechanical fuel reduction methods – mainly slashing and mowing was used to treat a further 18,888 ha which represents about an 8% increase from 2019–20.

## Victorian Bushfire Monitoring Program

**3200** fuel hazard plots

The Victorian Bushfire Monitoring Program collected overall fuel hazard information at 3200 sites.



## Bushfire risk

**63%**

For 2020–21, statewide bushfire risk was modelled at 63%, down 4% from a projected 67%, and below the 70% state target.

## Planned burn breaches

**1** breach

One planned burn resulted in a breach in 2020–21.

This breach of planned burn control lines spread onto surrounding public land and no private property was threatened or affected.



## Joint Fuel Management Program

**37** cross tenure burns in partnership with the CFA

FFMVic and the Country Fire Authority delivered 37 cross-tenure burns to reduce risk across both public and private land in the Otway Ranges, Latrobe, Macalister, Tambo, Snowy, Goulburn, Ovens, Metropolitan, Midlands, Murrindindi, Wimmera and Yarra areas.

## Ecosystem resilience

**33%**

vegetation in mature or old growth stages

Vegetation within TFI and in mature or old growth stages has remained stable in 2020–21, after significant reductions in 2019–20 due to the major bushfires in the Hume and Gippsland regions.

**22%**

vegetation within TFI



## Research investment

**\$11.3 million**

FFMVic continues its commitment to research agreements with the University of Melbourne and Natural Hazards Research Aus (formerly the Bushfire and Natural Hazards CRC), with over \$11.3 million currently invested in projects to enable improved policy and operational responses through community understanding, ecosystem resilience, forest management and planning, in addition to decision support and risk management tools.

## Fuel management investment

**\$155.8 million**

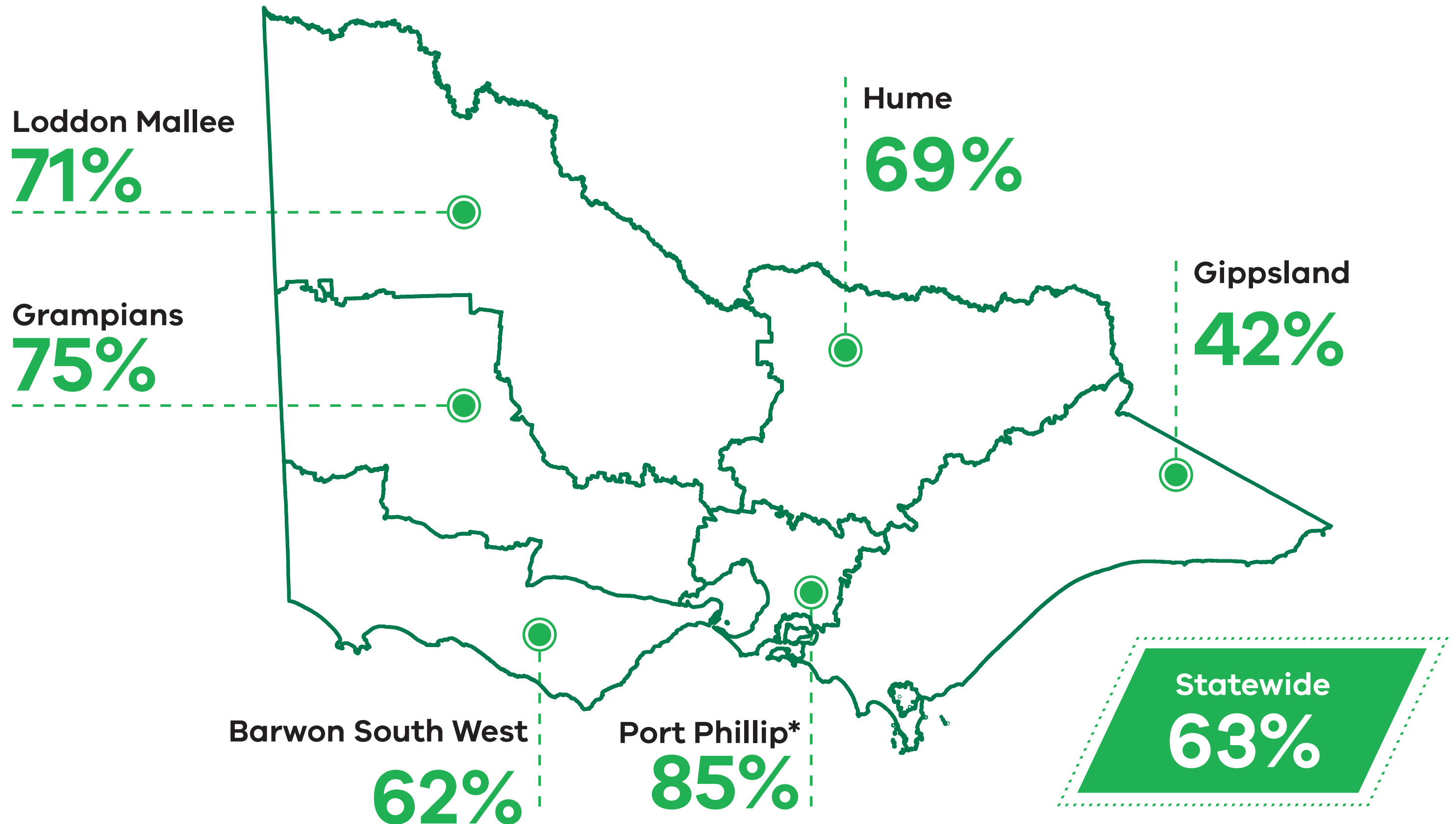
The entire fuel management program cost \$155.8 million. Expenditure on fuel management has increased compared to last year, which is primarily a result of the extended planned burn program, as well as the inclusion of the strategic fuel breaks program costs (\$10.05M) into this number.



# Managing Victoria's Bushfire Risk

2020-21 Bushfire Risk

FOREST FIRE  
MANAGEMENT VICTORIA



\*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.