

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

3000 fuel hazard plots

The Victorian Bushfire Monitoring Program collected overall fuel hazard information at 3000 sites.



Bushfire risk

63%

Bushfire risk was modelled at below the 70% state target, decreasing from 64% in 2019–20 to 63% in 2020–21.

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

22%

vegetation within TFI

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.



Research investment

\$10 million

IFER & OpRR

FFMVic continues its commitment to research agreements with the University of Melbourne and 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, environmental compliance and planning, decision support and risk management tools.



Fuel management investment

\$155.8 million

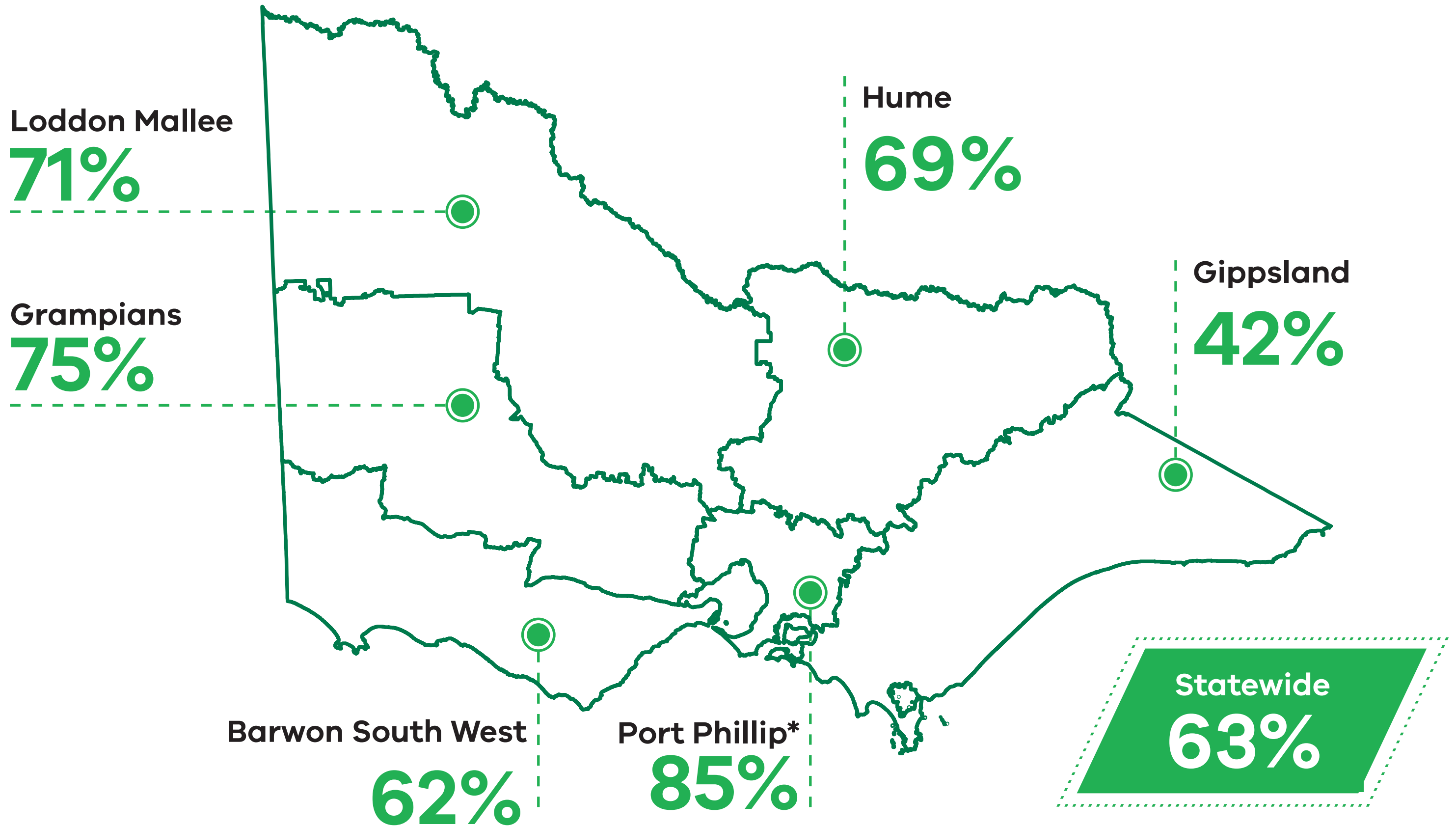
The entire fuel management program cost \$155.8 million. Expenditure on fuel management has increased compared to last year, which is primarily a result of the extended planned burn program, as well as the inclusion of the strategic fuel breaks program costs (\$10.05M) into this number.



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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.