

# Barwon South West - Year 1

## 2020/21—2022/23 Joint Fuel Management Program

### FFMVic - Barwon South West & CFA - South West



#### Cultural burning **8** burns with Traditional Owners

Gunditj Mirring have nominated 3100 ha of Indigenous Protected Area in the Far South West for a flexible approach to small scale cultural burning. CFA and FFMVic are working closely with Gunditj Mirring to reintroduce planned fire into the 19/20 Budj Bim bushfire area. A number of burns have also been nominated on the Portland foreshore.

CFA is partnering with Wadawurrung at the Porrongitj Karrong (Breakwater Aqueduct) precinct to re-establish traditional vegetation including the use of burning. Wadawurrung Traditional Owners participated in winter burning in the Otways District during 2020, FFMVic will continue and expand this approach with both Wadawurrung and Eastern Maar.



#### Winter mosaic burning

Far South West District commenced winter heath burning during 2020 and will continue expanding this program. Burn areas in the Lower Glenelg National Park, Mount Richmond National Park and Dergholm State Park will create a mosaic of age classes and increase ecological resilience to large bushfires. Flora and fauna monitoring will complement the program in the Lower Glenelg National Park. 7368 ha of area has been nominated over the 3 year JFMP.

In the Otways 8249 ha has been nominated in the Anglesea heath and further west in the Carlisle and Gellibrand heath. Further detailed planning is underway for long term continuation of this type of burning.



#### Key species habitat management

The JFMP nominates 12,500 ha (14%) of the South-eastern Red-tailed Black-Cockatoo (SERTBC) habitat within FSW District over the 3 year JFMP. 4,451 ha of this is intended for autumn and winter mosaic burning and a further 1,100 ha for pine wildling burns to improve habitat quality. We will continue to implement a range of measures to mitigate the impact of burning on SERTBC habitat including low scorch burn delivery, seed crop assessment, ground truthing scorch measurements and bird flock surveys.



#### Cross-tenure / PP burns (all 3 years of JFMP)

In partnership with CFA, FFMVic has incorporated 6827 ha of private land into its planned burning over the next three years of the JFMP. This means that 9% of all FFMVic led burn area is private land.

#### Planned burns

**76** FFMVic led burns totaling 27,194 ha in 2020/21  
406 CFA led burns totaling 8,088 ha in 2020/21

#### Non-burning fuel treatment

The region is committed to scaling up its mechanical works program. A total of 368 ha of mulching works, 4000 ha of mowing and slashing, plus 472 ha of various vegetation works associated with constructing new township Strategic Fuel Breaks in the eastern Otways are planned for 2020/21.

#### New fuel management strategies

CFA are extending the Hamilton Highway Strategic Management plan. This includes a continuous treatment from Weering through to Hexham. In the Otway District a ridge line sloping northwest to Forrest and southeast to Lorne is the most dominating natural feature influencing bushfire behaviour. The majority of the northern ramp of the ridge is now a fixed feature on the JFMP. We will use natural features to provide internal burn blocks, which allows for greater

flexibility in both burning opportunities and methods for this area. We will also be shifting to short rotation coastal township protection burning. Previously, rotations have been 7-10 years, now they will be 3-5 years. In the Far South West, new burns are nominated in areas of Bushfire Management Zone. The intent of these burns is to reduce the size of bushfires in the wider landscape. These include the interface between the Lower Glenelg and Cobboboonee national parks and burns adjacent to the Casterton to Penola Road and along Vickers Road at Roseneath.

#### Areas identified for bushfire protection

Aireys Inlet, Anglesea, Fairhaven, Moggs Creek, Lorne, Gorae, Narrawong, Bolwarra and Nelson.



#### Research

FFMVic is continuing to work with Deakin University and ecologists to understand the importance of landscape and fine scale refuge areas for small mammals. Surveys have identified a number of key landscape features where small mammals seek refuge after fire and planned burns, including coastal sand dunes (Eastern Otways), low elevation gully systems (East Otways and Carlisle heath) and poorly drained heathlands (Carlisle heath).



#### Bushfire risk target

**59%** by June 2021

Current residual risk for the region is 68%. The JFMP provides operational flexibility to deliver a planned burning program which is able to reduce residual risk by 2-3% each year. Without a JFMP, residual risk could increase to 72% in year 2021 and 75% by year 2023. 90% of residual risk in the Barwon South West region is in Otways FFMVic District/CFA District 6 and 7.

#### Critical Assets and Infrastructure

In the Far South West there is a focus on electricity transmission and distribution infrastructure associated with the South Australian interconnector and the Alcoa Portland Aluminium Smelter. Other sites are associated with water treatment and the Timboon Communication Towers. 6 sites in total. Works in the Otway District are associated with a range of water, power, community and communications assets. 11 sites in total.

