

# Loddon Mallee - Year 1

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

### FFMVic - Loddon Mallee & CFA - North West



#### Cultural burning

**98** burns with Traditional Owners

Cultural burning in the Loddon Mallee is supported through partnership with local Traditional Owner groups.

FFMVic and CFA have a strong commitment to working with Traditional Owners to help heal Country and facilitate the reintroduction of Aboriginal fire practices into the future.



#### Community Based Bushfire Management

**2** active CBBM communities

Intensive community development is still underway in Fryerstown and Heskett/Kerrie. There are multiple other community projects underway more broadly across the region.

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 increasing resilience and building stronger relationships.



#### Areas identified for bushfire protection

Fryerstown, Macedon area, Castlemaine, Greater Bendigo, Heathcote, Newstead, Guildford, Marong, Riddells Creek, Rheola, Swan Hill

#### Planned burns

**338** covering 72,363 ha

#### Non-burning fuel treatment

Loddon Mallee Region has an extensive non-burning fuel treatment program approximating 7,000 ha that uses mechanical fuel reduction methods such as slashing and mulching.

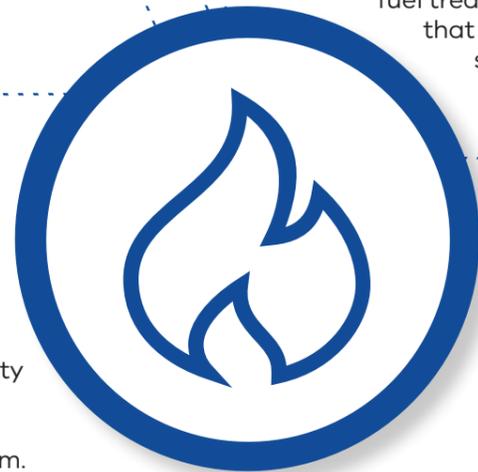
#### Engaging the community

FFMVic and CFA commit to keeping the community informed about bushfire activities through pre-season listening posts, information points set up at burns and field days.

FFMVic work with the Mallee Fire Advisory Committee, formed from key regional stakeholders, on developing a community-driven fuel management program in the Mallee region. In the Murray Goldfields, the newly established JFMP Planning Committee oversees the development of the fuel management program.

#### Ecological burning

10 burns located within the Mount Alexander Shire footprint to reduce biomass and promote populations of the critically endangered Spiny Rice-flower (*Pimelea spinescens*) through providing opportunity for recruitment. Work is supported by the *Pimelea spinescens* Recovery Team.



#### Cross-tenure burns

**6** FFMVic in partnership with the CFA

To reduce risk across public and private land.

#### Biodiversity Monitoring Program

Known stronghold populations of Eltham Copper Butterflies (ECB) occur in areas identified for asset protection around Castlemaine and Bendigo. Through surveying in these areas and modelled habitat in large forest areas, we aim to improve the understanding of the true spatial distribution of ECBs across the Murray Goldfields District.

#### Loddon Mallee Terrestrial Fauna Survey program

FFMVic are investigating the effects of fire on reptiles and small mammals, thus enabling development of more robust fire response models for species that inhabit Victoria's large mallee parks. The Loddon Mallee Terrestrial Fauna Survey program has been designed to answer questions about how species use habitats that are in different vegetation types of different fires ages.



#### Bushfire risk

**66%** by June 2021

Current residual risk is 72%. Bushfire risk will be reduced to below the Loddon Mallee Region target of 75% through implementation of the JFMP. Without the JFMP, it is estimated that the bushfire risk could increase to 75% by 2023.



#### Safer Together Project

The Safer Together Project – Bendigo & Castlemaine Bushfire Mitigation Plan is a project that aims to identify and treat areas of public land and private property to reduce the bushfire risk within the townships of Bendigo and Castlemaine. The works identified in the project will complement DELWP and other agencies planned burning programs with a key focus on strategic breaks, access and egress, good track signage as well as having defendable space around homes and private property.

The works entail installation of new signs, maintenance and upgrades of identified strategic tracks and vegetation modification including slashing & mulching.

