Victoria's Bushfire Management Snapshot

An overview of activities delivered in 2024-25

A broad range of actions that deliver on Victoria's Bushfire Management Strategy



People and community safety



Prevention and mitigation

unattended campfires detected

FFMVic responds to unattended campfires to help prevent accidental ignitions.

Total Fire Ban **Days Declared**

Total Fire Bans help prevent fires from starting by limiting the types of fires that can be lit and restrict or impose conditions on some high-risk activities. Total fire bans are declared by the CFA across fire districts.

1,945 community events and informal engagement by CFA (including CFA station Open Days)

Building community understanding and awareness of bushfire management is critical to keeping our communities safe. More information is available at: Plan & Prepare | CFA (Country Fire Authority)

children participated in a semester-long upper primary bushfire education program

Has your family discussed their bushfire survival plan? Try this <u>template</u>.

increase in online registration for private burn-offs

Victorians should be registering their burn-offs online through the Fire Permits Victoria website to help agencies manage fire risk effectively.

5,026 online modules completed (If Bushfire Safety for Workers) online modules completed (including

If you are interested in learning more, and keeping you, colleagues and community safer, these resources will help you. E-learning | CFA (Country Fire Authority)

1,135 CFA Property Advice Visit Service assessments

Providing fire safety advice to communities which live in high fire-risk areas.



Fuel management

66% modelled fuel-driven bushfire risk

Statewide modelled fuel-driven bushfire risk was 66% on 30 June 2025, with FFMVic achieving its target to maintain risk associated with bushfire fuels at or below 70% of maximum levels. (See page 3)

114,712 ha treated with fuel management by FFMVic and CFA

FFMVic delivered 270 planned burns treating 92,473 ha and 951 non-burn fuel treatments (mainly slashing and mowing), treating a further 17,465 ha. The total investment in FFMVic fuel management program was \$159.8 M.

This year CFA completed 44 mechanical fuel management treatments and volunteers completed 202 planned burns. A total of 4,774 hectares were treated.

300+ CFA volunteers participated in the planned burn taskforce

The taskforce supports local crews in delivery of planned burns that reduce fuel loads and the intensity of bushfires.

Fuel management on roadsides

The Department of Transport and Planning (DTP), councils and FFMVic with the support of CFA manage roadside vegetation on priority routes to reduce the likelihood of fires igniting and spreading, improve the safety of firefighters responding to bushfires and communities leaving the area.

of fuel breaks

FFMVic maintained more than 1,072 km of existing fuel breaks to ensure they remained fit-for-purpose and constructed an additional 6.9 km to the network. Strengthening and expanding the fuel break network is a key strategy to make it easier, faster, and safer for firefighters to suppress bushfires and complements other fuel management works.

of strategic fire access roads 2,236km of strategic life accessing improved by FFMVic

FFMVic also replaced or upgraded 10 bridges or crossing supporting firefighters to rapidly and safely access and suppress new bushfires.



Response

bushfires attended

FFMVic attended bushfires impacting more than 251,730 ha. Information about bushfires attended by CFA and suppression performance is available in the CFA Annual Report 2024-25.

of bushfires contained on first attack by FFMVic

FFMVic also contained 92% of bushfires within 5 hectares. exceeding the suppression target of 80%.

Aboriginal self-determination in cultural fire and bushfire management



Cultural burns

31 Cultural Burns were delivered in partnership

FFMVic and CFA partner with Victorian Traditional Owners to deliver cultural burns. This includes a record number of cultural burns (104) nominated to year 1 of the Joint Fuel Management Plan (JFMP) bringing the total number of cultural burns planned to 211.

Ecosystem resilience and nature conservation



Ecosystem resilience

29% vegetation within Tolerable Fire Interval

vegetation in mature 38% vegetation in mature and old growth stages

Vegetation on public land within its Tolerable Fire Interval (TFI) has been maintained at 29% from the previous year. Vegetation in the mature and old growth stages decreased slightly in 2024-25 (39% in 2023-24).

ecological burns delivered by FFMVic

Ecological burns have a primary objective to improve the health of our ecosystems and reduce the intensity and potential destructive impacts of bushfires on our native flora and fauna.

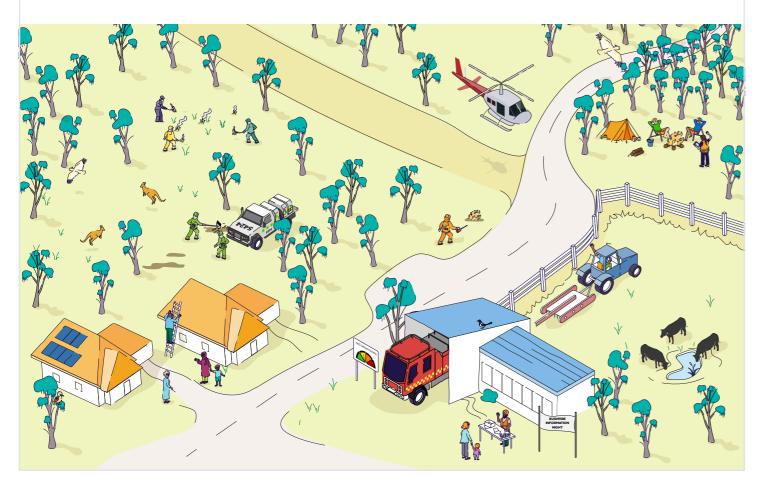
Victoria's Bushfire Management Snapshot

An overview of bushfire preparedness ahead of summer 2025-26 A broad range of actions that deliver on Victoria's Bushfire Management Strategy



Seasonal Bushfire Outlook

Victorian bushfire agencies monitor seasonal conditions and bushfire outlooks closely and take action accordingly. The Australasian Fire and Emergency Services Authorities Council (AFAC) has coordinated preparation of a seasonal Bushfire Outlook that identifies areas of increased risk in south west, western, central and north-central Victoria, as well as south-west Gippsland. The seasonal outlook is available at: AFAC Seasonal Bushfire Outlook



Enhanced capability and capacity



How we've prepared for summer 2025-26

28,000+ **CFA volunteers** (operational)

Frontline FFMVic staff, supported by hundreds more emergency & incident management staff

Incident Controllers (Level 3) across the sector

595 FFMVIC water-carry firefighting vehicles FFMVic water-carrying

FFMVic also has 444 transport vehicles for mobilising personnel and equipment. As of 1 December, some water-carrying vehicles are offline pending repairs. Fire agencies have assessed bushfire risk and the required firefighting strategies. Sufficient vehicles will be available across the season to manage required levels of emergency preparedness when combined with firefighting strategies.

FFMVic and CFA firefighting resources are part of Victoria's broader bushfire response capabilities complementing resources from, Victoria State Emergency Service, Fire Rescue Victoria and Emergency Management Victoria.

54 Victorian contracted aircraft

Additionally, there are 5 National aircraft available on request and 100+ aircraft available via a call-when-needed panel of providers.

940+ pieces of plant are available via a call-when-needed panel of providers.

new CFA emergency response vehicles delivered

For information on CFA appliances and resources, visit CFA at a Glance.

Figures as at 1 December 2025



Five things you can do to reduce bushfire risk

- Visit fireplanner.vic.gov.au to get started on a bushfire plan
- Download and get to know the VicEmergency app
- Get to know the Australian Fire Danger Ratings System

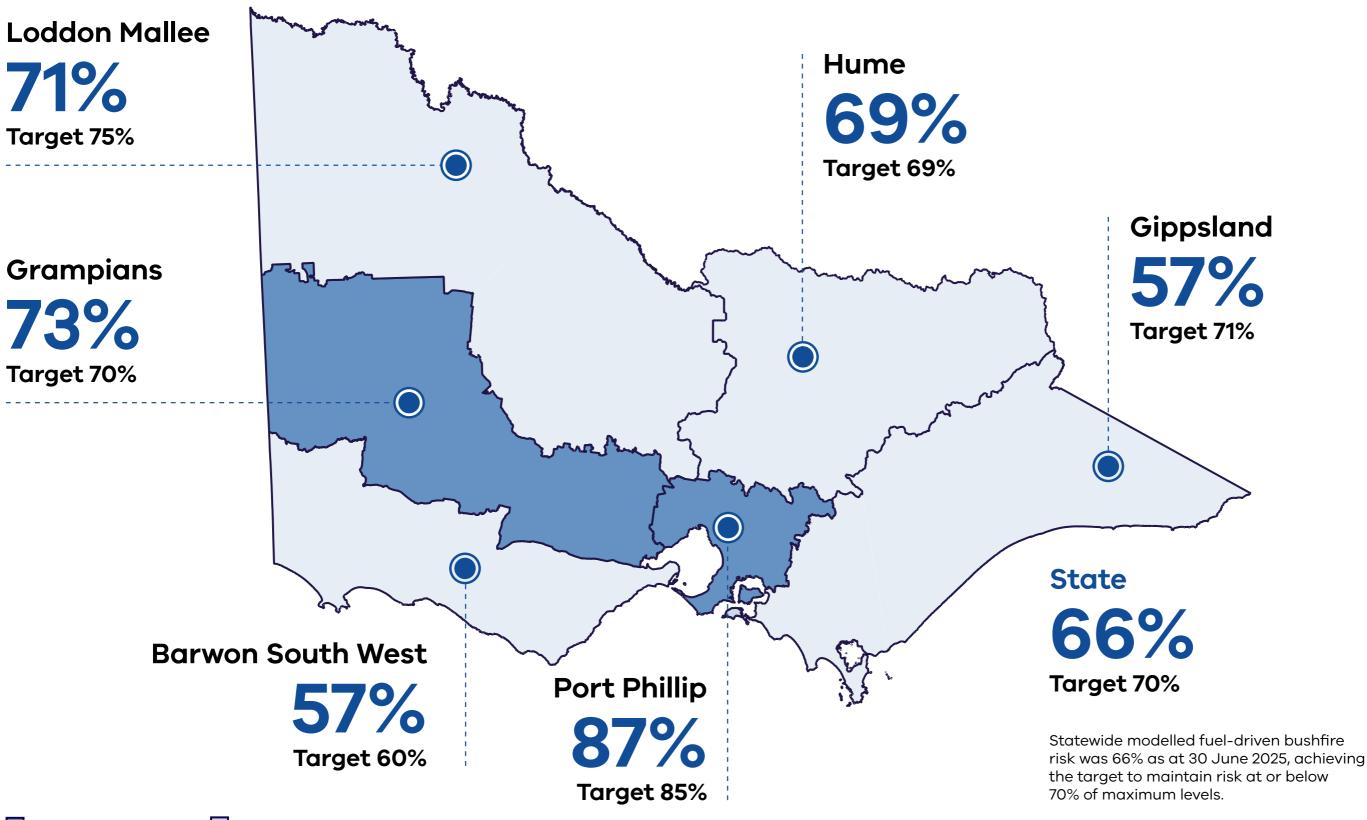
- Plan your travel head to exploreoutdoors.vic.gov.au to help you stay safe when visiting state forests
- Never leave a campfire unattended if they are cool to touch, they are safe to leave

Victoria's Bushfire Management Snapshot

An overview of regional and state bushfire risk as at 30 June 2025, accounting for how bushfire and planned burning has reduced risk from maximum values



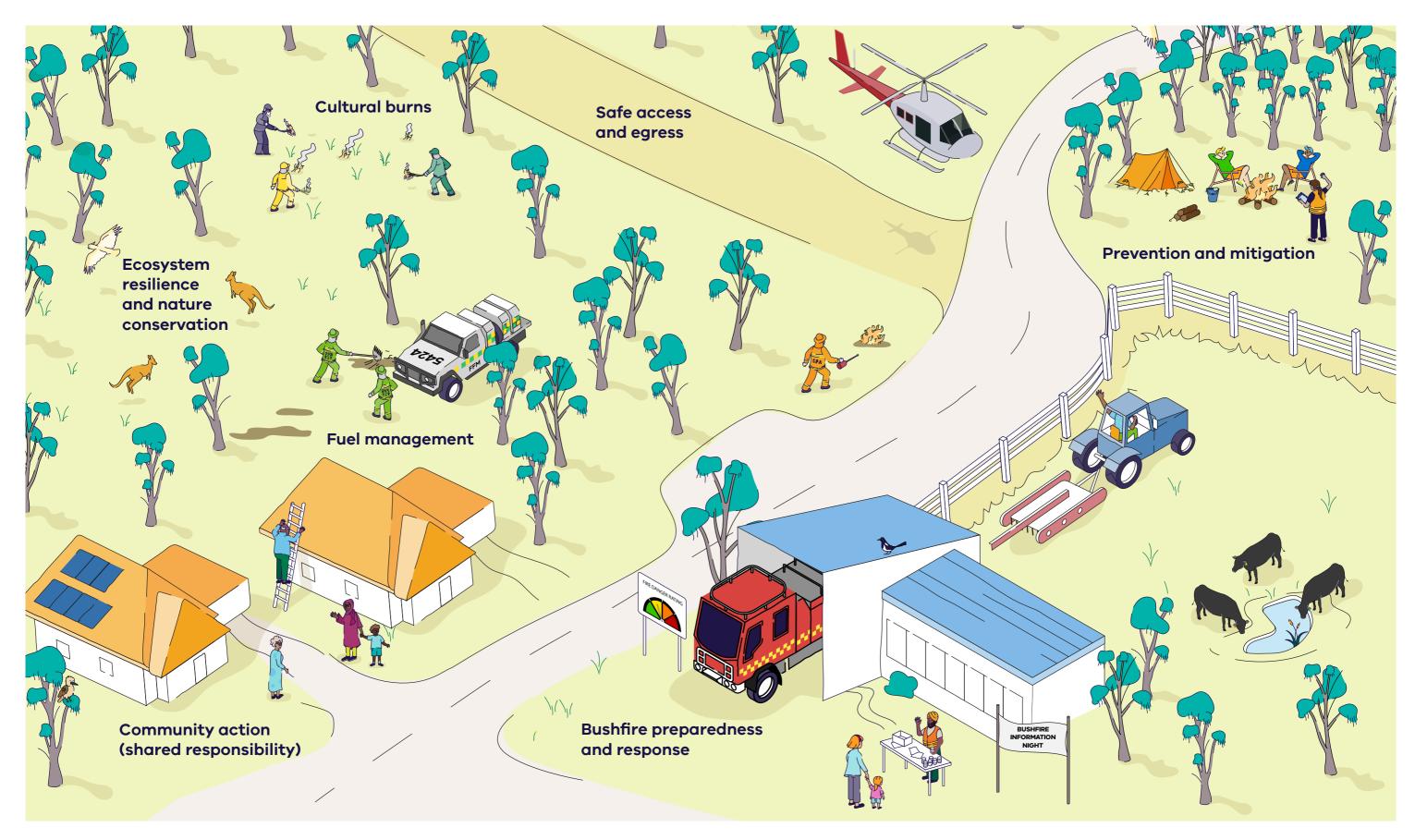
2024-25 Fuel-driven Bushfire Risk



How we manage bushfire risk

Activities that reduce the risk of bushfires include:





We all have a role to play managing bushfire risk



Many people know that in Victoria we use planned burning to manage bushfire risk. But this is not our only tool – and bushfire management is not just the responsibility of land and fire, and emergency service agencies. It is everyone's responsibility and everyone can play a role in reducing their bushfire risk.

This infographic shows you some of the different ways Victoria manages bushfire risk.

Prevention and mitigation

- Declaring and enforcing Total Fire Ban Days, Fire Danger Periods and campfire compliance controls to prevent ignitions
- Closing forests and parks when conditions would make them dangerous to enter
- Setting and administering land use planning and building standards to reduce bushfire exposure
- Working with community, business and industry to help them understand bushfire and how they can take steps to reduce their own risk

Fuel management

Fuel management is an activity that reduces the vegetation available to 'fuel' a fire. As well as planned burning on public land, fuel management in Victoria includes:

- Planned burning on private and council-managed land, including burning along roadsides to allow firefighters access to bushfires when they do occur, and to help communities leave safely
- Non-burn fuel treatments, including slashing and mowing
- Removing storm debris
- Constructing and maintaining strategic fuel breaks

Bushfire preparedness and response

- Maintaining fire access roads and bridges to help crews respond quickly
- Training, maintaining equipment and pre-positioning aircraft and firefighters
- Watching out for new fires and responding rapidly and aggressively, including through use of rappel crews
- Keeping communities informed through advice and emergency warnings
- Having a well-trained workforce of volunteers and staff to respond to bushfires on the frontline and as part of incident management and support teams

Bushfire recovery

- Working to ensure infrastructure is safe, so evacuated communities can return quickly
- Working with communities and businesses to support recovery from bushfire. The aim is to minimise the social, economic and environmental consequences of bushfires

Integrating bushfire management into broader land management

In taking actions to prevent and suppress bushfires, Victoria's bushfire sector considers broader land management objectives for different landscapes across the State.

In addition to the strategies above, complementary actions include:

- Delivering ecological burns to maintain healthy and resilient ecosystems
- Supporting Traditional Owners to reintroduce cultural fire for a range of land management objectives, which also reduces fuels and bushfire risk

Community action – five ways with fire

1. Get started on a Bushfire Plan

Use sites such as <u>cfa.vic.gov.au/plan-prepare</u> or <u>fireplanner.vic.gov.au</u> to learn some bushfire basics and to start building your Bushfire Plan. Start thinking about where and when you will go, who you will go with and what you will take.

2. Download and get to know the VicEmergency app – then set up 'watch zones' and turn on notifications to be kept up to date wherever you are

Emergency warnings can help you choose whether and when to leave and give you time to follow your bushfire plan. Agencies work year-round to maintain tracks and roads that will help access and egress in case of a fire, but it's still always safest to leave early.

3. Get to know the Australian Fire Danger Ratings System

There are four ratings – Moderate, High, Extreme and Catastrophic.

Work out what fire danger rating will trigger your Bushfire Plan.

If the Fire Danger Rating is Catastrophic or Extreme you're risking your life if you wait and see.

4. Plan your travel – head to exploreoutdoors.vic.gov.au to help you stay safe when visiting state forests

Government and agencies have a range of resources available online to help you navigate what you need to do if you are travelling or away from home. Sites such as Explore Outdoors and Parks Victoria have tips and advice for people visiting state forests and national parks..

5. Never leave a campfire unattended – if they are cool to touch, they are safe to leave.

Under the Country Fire Authority Act 1958 It is an offence to leave a campfire unattended. The Office of the Conservation Regulator carries out compliance patrols to make sure people are acting safely in our forests and national parks. But you can help too: if a campfire is cool to touch, it is safe to leave.