

Fuel management plan

Step by step guide

This information has been collated to assist landholders by providing the background knowledge to prepare a land management plan for bushfire management.

Bushfire fuel management is a complex task and if you are unsure about any information contained in this document you should seek advice from the Country Fire Authority or your local council before proceeding.

Research your property

1. Is your property within an area identified as a Bushfire Risk Engagement Area (BREA)?

Note: Bushfire Risk Engagement Areas are included as a layer on eMap – Forest Fire Management Viewer accessible by CFA members – see also map attached.

2. Is your property in a Bushfire Prone Area (BPA) or subject to a Bushfire Management Overlay (BMO) (or both)?

3. Research your property

- Planning zones/overlays. Check <https://mapshare.vic.gov.au/vicplan/>
- What is the current use of the land?
- What is the fire risk?
<https://www.cfa.vic.gov.au/plan-prepare/your-local-area-info-and-advice>
<https://www.safertogether.vic.gov.au/understanding-risk>
- Identify areas on property to be fuel managed, consider methods (fire/planned burning or mechanical works).
- Consider planning exemptions (10-30,10-50 and fence-line clearance).
- See Clause 52.12 of the Planning Scheme - <https://planning-schemes.app.planning.vic.gov.au/Victoria%20Planning%20Provisions/ordinance/52.12>
- Are there any planning or environmental covenants or conditions that would impact the proposed works? You can check this by downloading your Title and Plan of Subdivision from www.landata.vic.gov.au.
- Are the works likely to impact on any threatened or endangered species of plants or animals?

- Are there any cultural or heritage assets that may be impacted and need to be considered in the planning process?
- Do you need a planning permit? Speak to your council. See also https://www.environment.vic.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0024/90762/Applicants-guide-applications-to-remove,-destroy-or-lop-native-vegetation-v1.1-August2018.pdf
- 4. Are there existing planning permits or agreements such as section 173 agreements in relation to your property?
 - What conditions have been applied?
 - How do these affect your plans?

You should speak with your local council for advice if you are unsure of your obligations under any type of agreement or permit, or if you are unsure about any planning issues.

Identify your approach

5. Identify fire management intent (what is the intended outcome, what do you want to achieve?)
 - Create defensible space? Do the provisions of Clause 52.12 apply? (10/30 and 10/50 rules)
 - Strategic fuel management within BREA consistent with Joint Fuel Management Program (firebreaks, Asset Protection Zones)?
 - Environmental outcomes? Weed removal, vegetation reproduction etc.
 - Further advice can be provided by the CFA Property Advice Visit Service or local CFA Vegetation Management Officer

A key step in the fire management planning process is to produce detailed property maps which summarise the information required for safe and effective fire planning. Much of the mapping will be able to be done as a desktop exercise using existing information, although it will be necessary to ground truth some elements (e.g. fuel hazard rating, condition of tracks, suitability of proposed fire breaks, etc.).

Create a base map and fire map

6. Create a base map to show the key features on a property which are relevant to fire management (e.g. slope/ aspect, type of vegetation, access and egress, assets to protect, etc.).
7. Identify and map the vegetation types in your Land Management Zones.

If considering fuel management burns:

- Make a note of the fire frequency intervals recommended for the vegetation types on your property.
- How often have these vegetation types burned in the past?
- Note when and where fires have occurred.
- Are past fire regimes consistent with recommended regimes?
- Make a note of vegetation areas on your property that don't meet recommended fire regimes.
- Think about actions you could take to bring fire frequency into line with the recommendations.



If planning mechanical vegetation management works, consider:

- the impact on the natural environment (e.g. soil, water, flora and habitat for fauna).
 - scheduling to meet the requirements of the flora or fauna in the slashed area, providing the fuel management objectives are still met.
 - avoidance of translocation of weed species from one area to another
 - maintaining slashed areas in a condition that satisfies the fuel management objectives
8. Divide the land parcel into blocks using the fence lines, fire boundaries, roads and tracks or other boundaries as identified in the creation of the base map. It is important to use numbers and/or names to identify the different blocks.

It may be that as the proposed planned burning blocks are drawn in, that new boundaries will need to be included, or changes to other mapping layers may be necessary. Development of the map will be an evolving process and may also change the fire action plan when developed. In developing the plan and identifying blocks to be managed, it is critical that thought be given to whether the boundaries are adequate for the proposed management method given the vegetation type, topography etc.

Based on the information collated during the mapping process it will be important to identify the goals for vegetation management in each of the blocks identified. These may include (but not necessarily be limited to):

- actively work to exclude fire;
- management of fuel hazards;
- ecological management;
- promotion of green-pick and/or management of woody thickening;
- weed management;
- stock safety zones.

The aim of the fire map is to use and build on the information included in the base map to display specific information relevant to fire management, including:

- fire exclusion areas (i.e. areas from which fire is to be excluded) and fire management areas (i.e. areas in which fire can be used as a tool);
- proposed fire boundaries;
- roads and tracks, including public access roads and farm tracks;
- water filling points, such as creeks, dams, pumps, hydrants.

Removing vegetation

9. Will there be removal of native vegetation removal (or destruction/modification) outside allowed exemptions?
 - A Planning Permit is required for the removal of Native Vegetation in excess of the minimum extent necessary.
 - Native Vegetation Information Management system - <https://nvim.delwp.vic.gov.au/>. The NVIM map is a gateway to Victoria's biodiversity and you can:
 - register for key projects
 - manage and track your participation in a project and agreements
 - explore biodiversity assets on your parcel of land
 - calculate the strategic biodiversity and native vegetation condition scores.
 - Application to remove native vegetation
 - The native vegetation removal tool will generate a report that is submitted with a permit application to remove, destroy or lop native vegetation under Clause 52.16 and Clause 52.17 of Victoria's planning schemes. The report should also be included with any other application to remove, destroy or lop native vegetation.

https://www.environment.vic.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0018/91251/Exemptions-from-requiring-a-planning-permit-to-remove,-destroy-or-lop-native-vegetation-Guidance.pdf

Links

All hyperlinks and related information are accessible at <http://bushfireprepare.online/resources>

Disclaimer:

This information is provided in good faith and is based on current best practice derived by fire and land management agencies.

The information contained in this resource is intended to be of assistance to private landholders who want more information to undertake planned burning and other fuel management activities on their properties. However, it is not a comprehensive reference source and it is highly recommended that people who wish to undertake planned burning use other sources of information as well as experience.

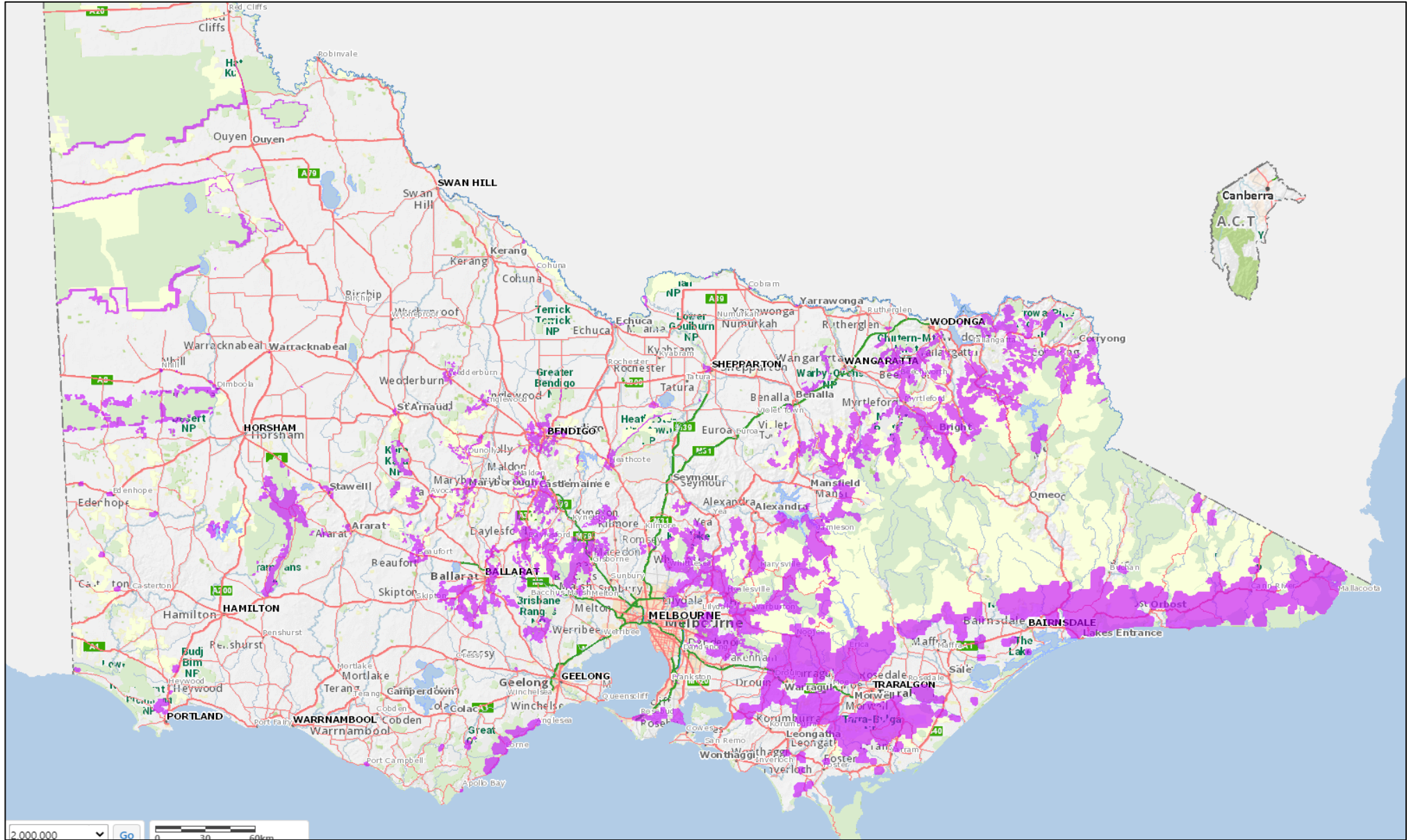
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Bushfire Prepare - Land and bushfire fuel management plan – Step by step guide – June 2022

Bushfire Risk Engagement Area map



Checklist

Item	Task	Check	Comments
1	Is your property within an area identified as a Bushfire Risk Engagement Area (BREA) ?		
2	Is your property in a Bushfire Prone Area (BPA) or subject to a Bushfire Management Overlay (BMO) (or both)?		
3	Checked vicplan.vic.gov.au to determine property planning zones and overlays		
	What is the current land use ?		
	What is the fire risk ?		
	What areas of the property need to be fire managed ? How will you do this?		
	Are any planning exemptions applicable?		
	Are there any planning or environmental covenants or conditions that would impact the proposed works? Check www.landata.vic.gov.au for your land title.		
	Are there any endangered or threatened species that may be impacted?		
	Are there any cultural or heritage assets that need to be considered?		
	Do you need a planning permit for any works?		
4	Are there any existing planning permits or s173 agreements ?		
5	What is the fire management approach to be taken – what do you want to achieve ?		
6	Create property base map .		
7	Identify and map vegetation types on your property		
8	If planning fuel management burns , prepare a fire map based on your base map. Identify areas to be managed and methods that will be used to manage.		
9	Will there be removal or modification of native vegetation ?		
	Do exemptions apply?		
	Do you need to obtain a planning permit ?		
	Contact your council to seek advice.		