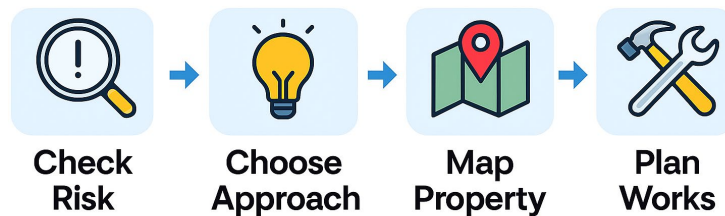


Fuel management plan

Step by step guide

This information has been collated to assist landholders with the background knowledge to prepare a land management plan for bushfire fuel management. Bushfire fuel management is a complex task and if you are unsure about any points contained in this document, you should seek advice from the Country Fire Authority or your local council before proceeding.



Research your property and understand your fire risk

Start by confirming your property's bushfire risk and any planning constraints.

- Is your property within an area identified as a Bushfire Risk Engagement Area (BREA)?
- Is your property in a Bushfire Prone Area (BPA) or subject to a Bushfire Management Overlay (BMO) (or both)?
- Check VicPlan for planning zones and overlays.
- What is the current use of the land?
- Assess local fire risk with CFA advice: Your local area info and Understanding risk.
- Identify areas to be fuel managed and consider methods (planned burning or mechanical works).
- Consider planning exemptions (10/30, 10/50, fence-line clearance, planned burning provisions). See Clauses 52.12 and 52.17.
- Check for planning or environmental covenants (download Title/Plan from Landata).
- Will works impact threatened species or cultural/heritage assets?
- Do you need a planning permit? Speak to your council and review Applicants' guide.
- Are there existing planning permits or Section 173 agreements? Note conditions and how they affect your plans

Tip: If unsure about any obligations or planning issues, contact your local council for advice

Choose your approach

Define the fire management approach (what do you want to achieve?)

- Create or enhance defendable space? Consider 10/30 and 10/50 provisions under Clause 52.12.
- Strategic fuel management within a BREAs consistent with Joint Fuel Management Program (firebreaks, Asset Protection Zones)?
- Environmental outcomes? Weed removal, vegetation reproduction etc.

You can seek advice from the CFA Property Advice Visit Service or local CFA Vegetation Management Officer.

Common block objectives:

- Exclude fire actively
- Manage fuel hazards
- Ecological management
- Promote green-pick / manage woody thickening
- Weed management
- Stock safety zone

Create a base map and fire map

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 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.).

- Identify and map the vegetation types in your Land Management Zones.
- Divide the land into blocks using fence lines, fire boundaries, roads/tracks, etc. Assign numbers or names.

As blocks are defined, adjust boundaries as needed. Ground truth fuel hazard ratings, track conditions, and control lines suitability.

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.

If considering **fuel management burns**:

- Note recommended fire frequency intervals for your vegetation types.
- Record past fire history—when and where fires occurred; compare with recommended regimes.
- Identify areas not meeting recommended regimes and actions to align frequency.

Note: Fuel management burns use the planned burning exemption under the planning scheme (Clause 52.17) and must only be undertaken to the minimum extent necessary.

If planning **mechanical works**:

- Consider impacts on soil, water, flora, and fauna habitat.
- Schedule works to meet flora/fauna requirements while achieving fuel objectives.
- Avoid translocation of weeds; maintain slashed areas to meet objectives.

Removing vegetation

It is likely that any fire management works will require the removal or modification of some native vegetation. This may be permitted under planning scheme exemptions for fire management (clauses 52.12 and 52.17) but you should check with your council to see if a planning permit is required.

- Will there be removal, destruction, or modification of native vegetation beyond allowed exemptions?
- A Planning Permit is required if removal exceeds the minimum extent necessary.
- Use the Native Vegetation Information Management (NVIM) system to register projects and explore biodiversity assets.
- Generate a native vegetation removal report under Clauses 52.16/52.17 to submit with your permit application.
- Review Exemptions guidance.

Useful Links

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

VicPlan – Planning zones/overlays	mapshare.vic.gov.au/vicplan
CFA – Local area info & advice	cfa.vic.gov.au/plan-prepare/your-local-area-info-and-advice
Safer Together – Understanding risk	safertogether.vic.gov.au/understanding-risk
Clause 52.12 – Bushfire Protection Exemptions planning-schemes.	app.planning.vic.gov.au/.../52.12
Landata – Title/Plan	landata.vic.gov.au
NVR Map – Native Vegetation removal	https://www.environment.vic.gov.au/native-vegetation/NVRMap
Applicants' guide – Native vegetation	environment.vic.gov.au/.../Applicants-guide
Bushfire Prepare resources	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.

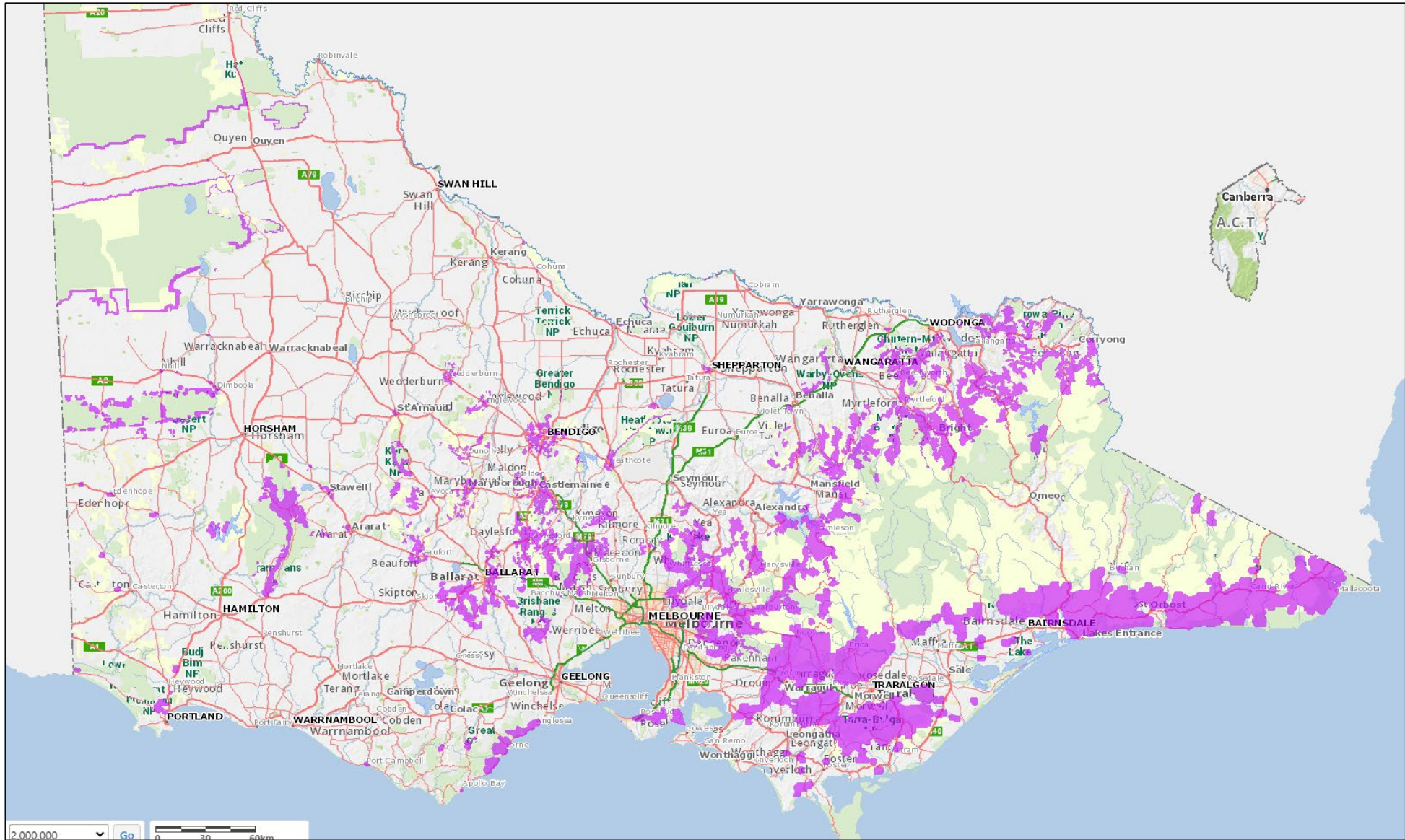
The information contained in this resource is intended to be of assistance to private landholders who want more information to undertake planned burning and other fuel management activities on their properties. However, it is not a comprehensive reference source and it is highly recommended that people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

This publication does not purport to provide legal advice, and any recommendations herein do not necessarily represent current public policy. No person should act on the basis of the contents of this publication, whether as to matters of fact or opinion or other content without seeking additional advice as required and assuming responsibility for their actions.



This guide was prepared as part of the Bushfire Prepare program supported by Safer Together.

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.		