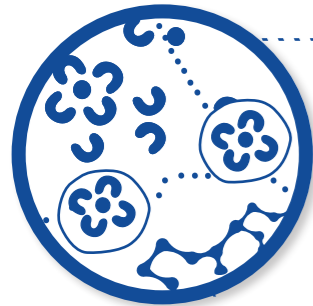


Managing Victoria's Bushfire Risk and Valuing our Environment



Traditional Owner cultural burns

14 delivered with Traditional Owners

Throughout 2021–22, Forest Fire Management Victoria (FFMVic) and the Country Fire Authority (CFA) provided operational and planning support to Traditional Owners, to enable the use of fire on Country for cultural purposes. Cultural burns were conducted on public and private land, in three regions, demonstrating a continuing engagement across the state with local Traditional Owner groups.



Contribution of planned burning to risk reduction

60%

Analysis shows that on a rolling ten-year average from July 2013 to June 2022, planned burning has accounted for approximately two-thirds of the total fuel-driven risk reduction across Victoria compared to one third by bushfires. This is because the best available science and data is used to target areas for planned burning (such as close to high-value assets) to maximise risk reduction, whereas the area burnt by bushfire occurs randomly.



Planned burns

435 covering 65,480 ha delivered by FFMVic and CFA

Mechanical fuel reduction methods – mainly slashing and mowing was used to treat a further 16,058 ha.

Victorian Bushfire Monitoring Program

2,625 fuel hazard plots

The Victorian Bushfire Monitoring Program collected overall fuel hazard information at 2,625 sites.



Fuel-driven bushfire risk

62%

For 2021–22, statewide fuel-driven bushfire risk for public land was modelled at 62%, down 3 percentage points from a projected 65% and below the 70% state target.

Planned burn breaches

1 breach

One planned burn resulted in a breach in 2021–22. This breach of the planned burn control line spread onto surrounding public land and no private property was threatened or affected.



Cross tenure burns

32 in partnership with the CFA

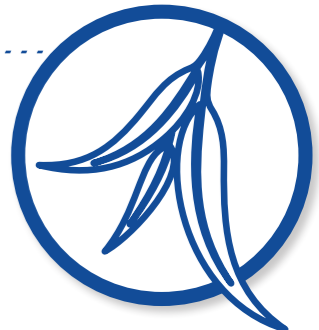
FFMVic and the CFA delivered 32 cross-tenure burns to reduce risk across both public and private land in five regions across Victoria.

Ecosystem resilience

37% vegetation in mature or old growth stages

23% vegetation within TFI

Vegetation on public land within tolerable fire interval (TFI) and in mature or old growth stages has increased slightly in 2021–22. This follows significant reductions in 2019–20 due to the major bushfires in the Hume and Gippsland regions.



Strategic fuel breaks

741 km

FFMVic built or upgraded 741 kms of strategic fuel breaks in 2021–22. Strengthening and expanding the strategic fuel break network is a key strategy to make it easier, faster, and safer for firefighters to suppress bushfires and complements fuel management works.



Fuel management investment

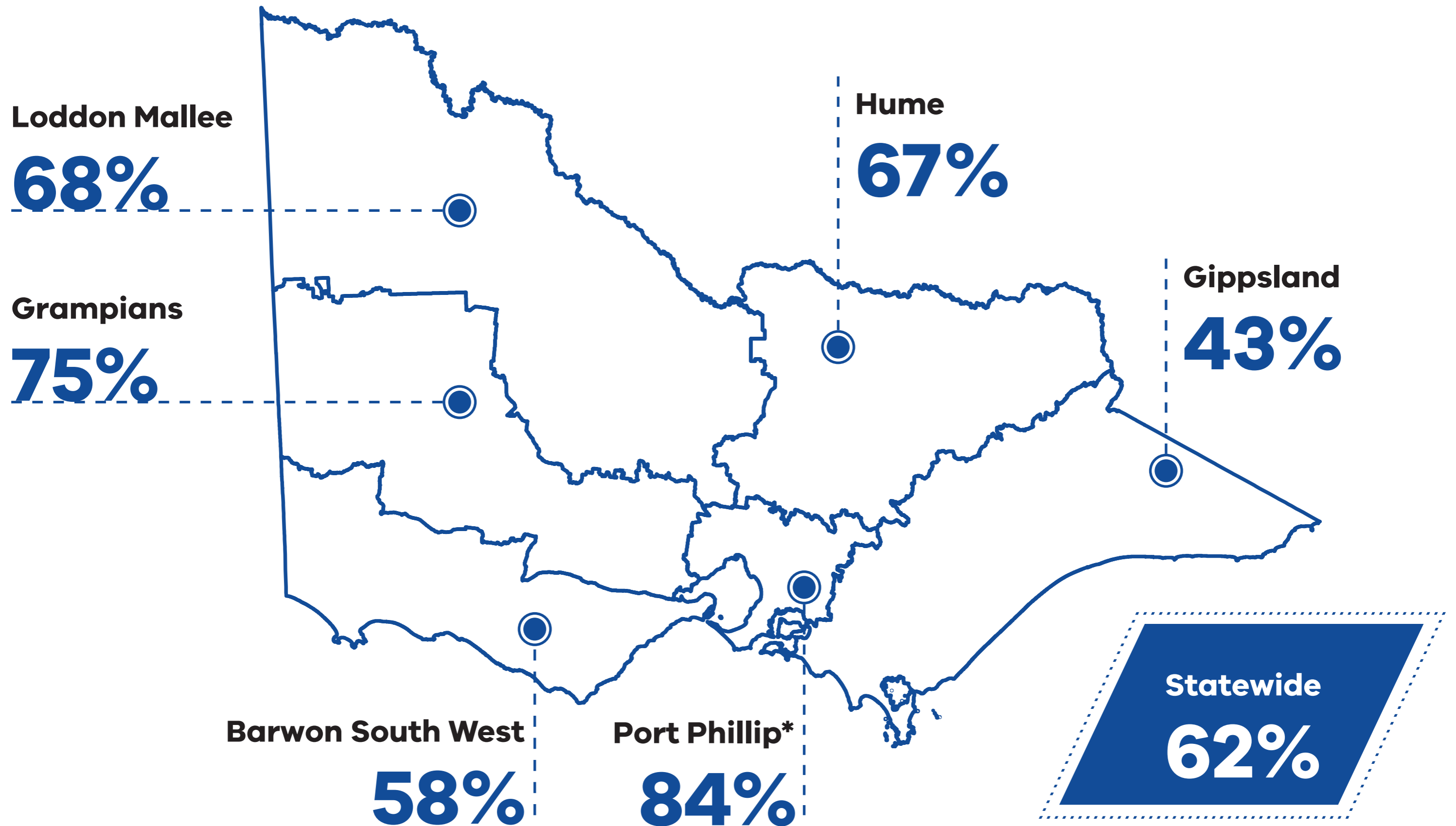
\$151 million

The entire FFMVic fuel management program cost \$151 million. Expenditure decreased slightly from 2020–21, however, the total area treated in 2021–22 was significantly less than that treated the previous year (152,083 ha) which is primarily a result of delivering the planned burn program during the wet conditions associated with La Niña.



Reducing Victoria's Bushfire Risk

2021-22 Fuel-driven Bushfire Risk



*Fuel-driven bushfire risk is elevated in the Port Phillip region due to large areas of private land and wet forest which cannot be treated easily by planned burning.