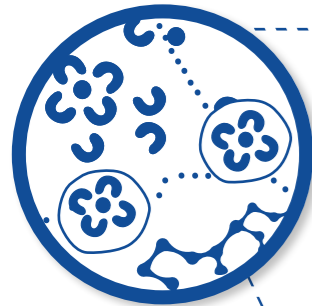


# Managing Victoria's Bushfire Risk and Valuing our Environment



## Support for Traditional Owner led cultural burns

**23** Traditional Owner led cultural burns were supported by FFMVic and CFA.

Throughout 2022–23, FFMVic and the CFA provided operational and planning support to Traditional Owners, to enable the use of fire on Country for cultural purposes. Six Traditional Owner groups across four FFMVic regions and one CFA region led 23 cultural burns with planning, delivery and post-fire management support from FFMVic and the CFA.



## Contribution of planned burning to the reduction of fuel-driven bushfire risk

**59%**

Analysis shows that despite bushfires having burnt a larger area, over the past ten years from July 2014 to June 2023, planned burning has accounted for approximately two-thirds of the total fuel-driven bushfire 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



## Fuel management on public and private land

**1,996**

fuel treatments covering 95,615 hectares delivered by FFMVic and CFA in addition to support for Traditional Owner led cultural burns

FFMVic delivered 214 planned burns treating 75,500 hectares and 1,602 non-burn fuel treatments (mainly slashing and mowing) treating a further 16,757 hectares. FFMVic also supported Traditional Owners to deliver 20 burns across 369 hectares.

CFA delivered 120 planned burns treating 3,035 hectares including 570 kilometres of roadside and rail corridor burning, and 60 non-burn fuel treatments across 323 hectares. In addition, CFA supported Traditional Owners to deliver 3 burns over 49 hectares.

## Planned burn breaches

**3** planned burns declared as bushfires

Three planned burns were declared as bushfires in 2022–23. Despite being declared 'bushfires' all were contained within their planned control lines. The burns have been investigated and treatment options for addressing identified opportunities for improvement to FFMVic systems and processes are being implemented.



## Regional fuel-driven bushfire risk

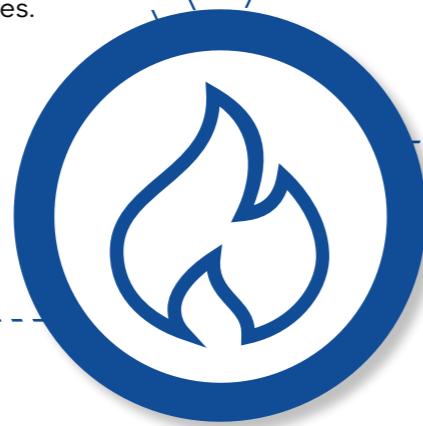
**3** regions above long-term planning targets

The fuel-driven bushfire risk level in three of FFMVic's six regions (Grampians, Hume, and Port Phillip) at 30 June 2023 was above the respective long-term regional planning target. FFMVic continues to take every available opportunity to deliver burns when weather conditions allow, and is planning and preparing for a significant autumn burning season. Readiness arrangements for the coming bushfire season take account of fuel-driven bushfire risk levels in different parts of the state.

## Victorian Bushfire Monitoring Program

**1,582** fuel hazard plots monitored

The Victorian Bushfire Monitoring Program collected overall fuel hazard information at 1,382 sites. An additional 200 permanent plots were monitored in Gippsland.



## Strategic fuel breaks

**235km** constructed

FFMVic constructed 235km of strategic fuel breaks in 2022–23. 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 other fuel management works.



## Statewide fuel-driven bushfire risk

**65%**

Statewide fuel-driven bushfire risk was 65% at 30 June 2023, below the target to maintain risk at or below 70% of maximum levels, though slightly higher than the 62% achieved in 2021–22.

## Ecosystem resilience

**38%**

vegetation in mature or old growth stages

**28%**

vegetation within TFI

Vegetation on public land within its Tolerable Fire Interval (TFI) and in the mature or old growth stages increased slightly in 2022–23. This demonstrates continued recovery in the resilience of ecosystems following the significant impacts in 2019–20 caused by the Black Summer bushfires.



## Fuel management investment

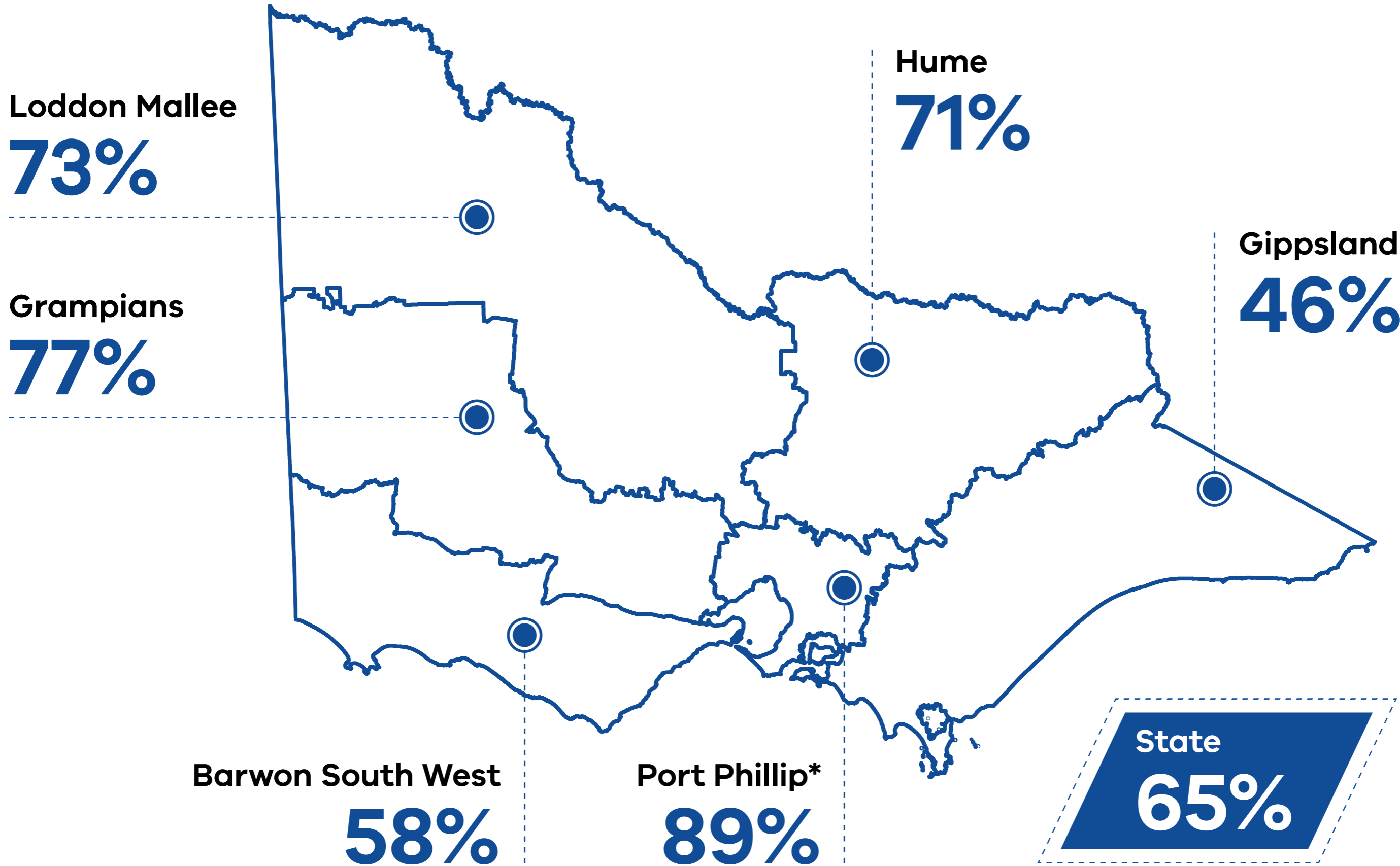
**\$141.1 million**

FFMVic invested \$141.1 million to deliver its fuel management program in 2022–23. Expenditure decreased slightly from 2021–22 (\$151 million), despite the total area treated in 2022–23 (92,257ha) being higher than in 2021–22 (77,297ha).



# Reducing Victoria's Bushfire Risk

## 2022–23 Fuel-driven Bushfire Risk



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