

# Victoria's Bushfire Risk Management Report 2023–24 key highlights

A broad range of actions by government, communities and individuals that work together to reduce bushfire risk and build resilience



## Prevention and mitigation

**1,179** bushfires attended by FFMVic

FFMVic attended bushfires impacting more than 50,000 ha. Information about bushfires attended by CFA and suppression performance is available in the *CFA Annual Report 2023–24*.

**96%** of bushfires contained on first attack by FFMVic

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

**581** Unattended campfires detected

FFMVic responds to unattended campfires to help prevent accidental ignitions.

**11** Total Fire Ban Days Declared

A Total Fire Ban is a period when all fires are banned, and people working outside (such as farmers harvesting) are asked to reconsider their activities. The rules 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. In 2023–24, the highest number of districts with a Total Fire Ban in place on any one day was six.



## Ecosystem resilience

**39%** vegetation in mature and old growth stages

**30%** vegetation within Tolerable Fire Interval

Vegetation on public land within its Tolerable Fire Interval (TFI) increased to 30% (up from 28% in 2022–23). Vegetation in the mature and old growth stages increased slightly in 2023–24 (38% 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.



## Cultural burns

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

This represents a 56% increase in the number of cultural burns delivered with support from FFMVic and CFA in 2022–23.



## Fuel management

**64%** modelled fuel-driven bushfire risk

Statewide modelled fuel-driven bushfire risk was 64% on 30 June 2024, with FFMVic achieving its target to maintain risk associated with bushfire fuels at or below 70% of maximum levels.

**144,685 ha**

treated with fuel management by FFMVic and CFA

FFMVic delivered 316 planned burns treating 122,291 ha and 1,602 non-burn fuel treatments (mainly slashing and mowing), treating a further 16,163 ha.

CFA delivered 236 planned burns, treating 5,499 ha. This included 912 km of roadsides and rail corridors. An additional 51 non-burn fuel treatments covering 732 ha were also delivered.

## 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.

**37km** of strategic fuel breaks constructed

FFMVic constructed 37 km of strategic fuel breaks in 2023–24, as well as maintaining or upgrading more than 960 km of existing fuel breaks to ensure they remained fit for purpose. 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



## Community action (shared responsibility)

**5** Actions the individuals and communities can take to reduce bushfire risk

- Visit [fireplanner.vic.gov.au](https://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](https://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



## Bushfire preparedness and response

**2,082km** roads upgraded or improved by FFMVic

FFMVic upgraded or improved 2,082km of strategic fire access roads, supporting firefighters to rapidly and safely access and suppress new bushfires.

## FFMVic statewide resources 2024–25

<b>1,800</b> frontline personnel	<b>94</b> heavy tankers
<b>54</b> aircraft	<b>47</b> medium first attack dozers
<b>523</b> ultralight tankers	<b>16</b> large dozers

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



## Bushfire recovery

DEECA Bushfire Recovery Expenditure in FY23–24

**\$8,447,971**

Following the 2019–20 Black Summer bushfires, there has been more than \$225 million in direct recovery investment across the former Department of Environment, Land Water and Planning, including significant wildlife, biodiversity and public land recovery activities.