

Fuel Management Newsletter

Otway Autumn 2020

**FOREST FIRE
MANAGEMENT VICTORIA**

Forest Fire Management Victoria (FFMVic) will be undertaking fuel management work in your area over the next few months.

FFMVic staff would like to acknowledge that this has been an incredibly busy fire season across the state. There has been a significant effect on communities, wildlife and tourism. The delivery of the fuel management program is a very important part of protecting our communities from bushfires. FFMVic staff work alongside the CFA to carry out these works and we appreciate your ongoing support. We will endeavour to minimise impacts while we carry out these works.



Fuel management is one of the most effective ways to reduce the impact of bushfire and includes works such as:

- **Planned Burning,**
- **Strategic Fuel Breaks**
- **Mechanical Fuel Treatment**

These works help to either reduce the fuel load (i.e. amount of flammable vegetation) or modify the fuel structure, which reduces the risk of a bushfire impact, speed and intensity.

Planned Burning

There are a number of burns planned for this Autumn please see the attached map for details.

What can I expect on the day?

On the day of the planned burn you may see smoke, some roads may be closed or have speed restrictions and you may see fire fighting vehicles and crews in the area. These are a normal part of the planned burn. You may also see small embers carried by the air away from the fire.

Before the burn takes place, you may see crews preparing the site. This can include the removal of hazardous trees and the clearing of control lines for the burn.

When will these planned burns take place?

Each burn is part of a three-year Joint Fuel Management Program that outlines where FFMVic intends to carry out fuel management works. Although burns are scheduled to take place in a certain year and sometimes in a particular season, this can change depending on weather and local conditions.

Due to this, FFMVic is unable to give you an exact date when a particular burn will go ahead - the final decision to proceed can only be made on the day of the burn, following monitoring of weather conditions and local fuel moisture levels. We recommend that you regularly seek information about proposed burns near you to stay informed about when the burn may occur.

How can I find out about a burn near me?

Visit ffm.vic.gov.au

Download the **VicEmergency App**

Register for the Planned Burns Victoria website a plannedburns.ffm.vic.gov.au

We encourage you to sign up for the Planned Burn Notification System which allows you to set up automated notifications about upcoming planned burns on public land. There is no charge to register or to receive messages.

Forest Fire Management
Victoria includes:

Environment,
Land, Water
and Planning


Parks
VICTORIA
Healthy Parks
Healthy People


VicForests


Melbourne
Water
Enhancing Life and Liveability

Partnering with


CFA

Strategic Fuel Breaks

Strategic Fuel Breaks are a maintained fuel reduced feature in the landscape.

A range of strategic fuel breaks were established on the public land interface in the Surf Coast's highest risk towns between 2007 and 2011, including Anglesea, Aireys Inlet Fairhaven, Moggs Creek and Lorne.

We are investigating improvements to the existing strategic fuel break network and working collaboratively with local government and landholders to achieve integrated fuel management across public and private land, including critical township assets.

Strategic fuel breaks are areas where the vegetation is reduced by mechanical removal usually to a width of 40m. Typically, the result is a parkland or grassy woodland appearance. They are generally maintained as required through slashing or mulching.



This work will include hazardous tree removal around the proposed breaks and on key access and egress roads i.e. the Great Ocean Road

Delivery of works

Creating strategic fuel breaks requires a range of specialist machinery such as the spider excavator pictured.

Please see attached map for info on the locations of the proposed Strategic Fuel Breaks.

What are the benefits of strategic fuel breaks?

A properly constructed and maintained Strategic Fuel Break can serve multiple purposes including:

1. Providing a fuel reduced area between houses and highly flammable vegetation, thereby reducing radiant heat and ember attack in a bushfire.
2. Providing an established boundary from which to carry out strategically important fuel reduction burns and/or backburning operations in the event of a bushfire.

Mechanical Fuel Treatment

Mechanical fuel treatments, like mulching, can enable safer delivery of planned burns by treating part of a burn unit which has complex vegetation or topography. This type of fuel treatment is also very effective where planned burning is not operationally feasible due to dispersed houses and other assets in a forested area.

Mechanical fuel treatments are not weather dependent like planned burning, enabling us to reduce fuel loads more effectively each year.

These works will target the understorey vegetation leaving the larger remnant trees in place. The goal being to reduce the number of fine fuels which are the key drivers of fire behaviour during a bushfire.



Further information

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Mulching – Bodin Campbell: 0424 616 216

Planned Burning – Jack Stratfold: 0435 723 769

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