

# Mallacoota and District Community Update – Forest Fire Management Victoria – May 2022



## MALLACOOTA:

### ❖ Western Front – Non-Burn Fuel Treatment

The non-burn fuel treatment works have been completed.

Ground crews led by Clint Hodson from the Cann River Work Centre are ground truthing the area's that adjoin the Western front for plans to divide this Asset Protection Zone (APZ) into three smaller burn units and if operationally feasible, will be placed in the 2023-2024 Joint Fuel Management Plan (JFMP) cycle. Advantages to this strategy is to deliver works on a rotational basis ensuring zoning objectives are reached and units are not burnt all at once in planned burns. (Similar to Marlo State Forest with a series of walking tracks and sections divided to achieve objectives.

### ❖ Bastion Point Road – (opposite CFA Shed)

Even with the recent rain events, treatment works have turned out well. The residual timber was cut up for firewood and has now been collected by community members. Once crews return to do a tidy up, then works in this area are complete.

### ❖ Casuarina Walk – From Betka Road to Genoa Road

Many sections of the walk have been impacted by the recent rain events where parts of the track have been washed away. Materials have been delivered to the site for crews from the Cann River Work Centre to begin repairs.

Signage in the area is provided to inform community about sections of the Casuarina Walk that are managed by DELWP.

### ❖ Joint Fuel Management Plan (JFMP)

The Snowy District Fuel Management Team is busy planning the 2022-2023 JFMP cycle.

Community members are invited to nominate areas. An example of this is the three burn units mentioned in the above information about the Western Front, which MADRA Fuel Management Working Group has asked Forest Fire Management Victoria to look at.

The Joint Fuel Management Program is a state-wide program that manages fuel on public and private land. The program integrates a risk-focused bushfire management approach. Forest Fire Management Victoria (FFMVic) and Country Fire Authority (CFA) commits to working as one.

The Joint Fuel Management Program (JFMP) is updated each year with the latest information, and built on the latest long term [Bushfire Management Strategies](#).

Each region has provided maps and plans that explain how long-term strategic planning is guiding the development of the program. Each map and plan show projected residual risk reduction and ecological outcomes over the next three years.

For details of fire operations activities in each DELWP or CFA district, including burn locations, use our [interactive map](#) or download the documents. All Joint Fuel Management Program maps cover 2021/22-2023/24.

The program is designed to be flexible, allowing the timing of proposed activities over the three-year period to change in response to weather and other conditions. This means activities such as burns may be carried out in a

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different year than indicated in the maps and plans. Fuel management activities include planned burns and mechanical works such as slashing, mowing and clearing works, creating, and maintaining fuel breaks.

We welcome your comments all year round and we encourage you to have input into all parts of the strategic and operational planning process. Please contact your local [DELWP office](#), [Parks Victoria](#) or [CFA](#).

Please use this link for further information [Joint Fuel Management Program](#)

## ❖ **Roading works**

Regionally DELWP is responsible for the management of 12,000km's of Road and Track networks, in addition to 4,000km's delegated to Park Victoria to manage on our behalf. Generally, this management is administered through the Regional Roding Team and operationally delivered via the four Gippsland Forest & Fire Districts.

Funding has been allocated by Government with several packages of hazardous tree removal and scrubbing works scheduled to be undertaken East of Cann River. The packages have been determined on an access-based assessment due to un-seasonally wet conditions and works scheduled for start on the 27<sup>th</sup> of April 2022 are outlined circled in **Black** in the attachment. (Please refer to Hazardous Tree Removal – Cann River Work Area\_ Overview Map)

Once the tenders have been determined, a superintendent will be provided to oversee the works. This person will be a local who understands the specifications.

Roads not included in the Government package will be allocated as Work Centre jobs (Cann River). General track clearing and maintenance will continue to be done by work centre crews on tracks that have been hazardous tree assessed and treated.

It is a requirement of the Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006 that a person must not do an act that harms or is likely to harm Aboriginal cultural heritage. Due to the occurrence of Aboriginal Cultural heritage places in some work areas, some works will be postponed while permits or Cultural Heritage Management plans are obtained.

Bridge Replacement –Information and advice will be sourced from the State-wide Bridges and Roding Group regarding bridges scheduled for replacement, but beforehand, hazardous tree removal is required to enable safe access for contractors & staff to undertake design & construction works. Bridges that are located within the **Black** circled areas on the attached overview map, (Thurra Junction and Neville's Falls) will undergo works within the bridge replacement package. Bridges located on Hard to Seek Tk and Roger Track require Cultural Heritage assessments and the bridges on Sarah Allen track and Sandy Waterholes Road are in locations where hazardous tree treatments are still required. Some roads identified containing bridge replacements are scheduled to be treated by local FFMVic crew and plant.

Storm recovery and response assessments are continuing after the recent rain events to determine the extent of damage to the road and track networks. Works will recommence when inaccessible areas become safe and suitable to access.

Post treatment works from recent storm events include tree and track clearing on roads and tracks around private and residential access areas undertaken by the Cann River work centre crews.

## ❖ **Hazardous Tree Removal and Scrubbing Works**

Refer to the Hazardous Tree Removal – Cann River Work Area \_ Overview Map

Please note the area's circled in **Black**, indicating where Contractors have started works. (27/04/2022)  
These works include the removal of regrowth vegetation using a blade or cutting-edge machine such as a bulldozer, grader or excavator with a mulching head and the hazardous trees are dealt with using a harvester.

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Contracts will be developed soon for works on the eastern end of Sarah Allen Track and Sandy Waterholes Road and Contracts for works on Rocky Ridge Link, Sand Patch and Boggy Creek are now in progress.

North of the Princes Highway in the vicinities of Drummer Track, Thurra Junction Track, Pikes Crescent and Neville's Falls, bridges will be replaced on both sides of access areas to the Falls and become a part of the Back Road Tours.

## ❖ **Strategic Fire Break.**

Works are continuing with the Strategic Fire Break program on the Stoney Peak Road with works commencing last month (April). Progress has been slow due to weather interruptions, but the works are currently halfway through completion.

## ❖ **Reintroduction to fire into the landscape.**

Wingan River – Wingan LMB (Landscape Mosaic Burn) planned for 2024.

The area between East Wingan and West Wingan Roads, South of the Princes Highway and then down to Jungle Creek is the large landscape block nominated for the reintroduction to fire.

This planned burn is aimed to moderate the fuel hazard across the area and prevent fuels from accumulating at the same rate across large transects of land.

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## ❖ Contact information:

Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) Offices are:

Cann River – Princes Highway Cann River 3890

Phone 03 5158 2100

Monday to Friday 8.30 am to 4.30 pm

Please call ahead if planning to visit the Office.

Services include – Registration of interest to hunt

Information provided include- Domestic firewood collection Maps/Information, Seasonal track Closures, State Forest Activities and Camping, Deer Hunting Maps, Wildlife queries, Forest Fire Management queries and Information

Orbost – 171-173 Nicholson Street, Orbost 3888

Monday to Friday

Phone 03 5161 1222 Available 8.30 am – 4.30pm

Counter Service Available 9 am to 4.30 pm

Services include – Registration of interest to hunt pest animals on Crown Land

Information provided include- Domestic firewood collection Maps/Information, Seasonal track Closures, State Forest Activities and Camping, Wildlife queries, Forest Fire Management queries and information, Information relating to wildlife licence.

## Community Engagement East Gippsland

T: Orbost: 5161 1222, Bairnsdale: 5152 0600 | E: [eastgippsland.community@delwp.vic.gov.au](mailto:eastgippsland.community@delwp.vic.gov.au)

For information on the science behind bushfire fuel management and risk reduction, and the Gippsland Bushfire Management Strategy 2020, see [Safer Together](#)

For maps and information on all planned bushfire fuel reduction activities over the next three years, see [Joint Fuel Management Program](#)

For notifications of upcoming planned burns, see [Planned Burns Victoria](#)

For information on Gippsland bushfire community recovery, fire history, science and more, as well as a place to tell your story, see <https://www.communitybushfireconnection.com.au/>  
[www.delwp.vic.gov.au](http://www.delwp.vic.gov.au)