



Media Release

Friday, 25 August 2017 | Media contact: Rachel Dawkins 0407 821 153

Talking about burning

Forest Fire Management Victoria is finalising the current Fire Operations Plans for Gippsland after consulting with local community members and stakeholders about where to plan burns in the region over the next three years.

Assistant Chief Fire Officer, Chris Stephenson said: “You can make suggestions at any time of year about where burns could be planned in your area and we welcome discussions with local community members and stakeholders all year round.”

“It’s an important opportunity for people to talk with staff about local fire planning issues, individual planned burns near their home, or about where they would like to see future burns,” Mr Stephenson said.

“These suggestions are a valuable contribution to our plans, as local knowledge and community input is at the heart of delivering this important work.”

“Your local Forest Fire Management Victoria staff can talk with you about any local fire planning issues or planned burns in your area at the following locations:

Bairnsdale – 5152 0600
Nowa Nowa – 5162 0100
Swifts Creek – 5159 51000

“As we move into spring, Forest Fire Management Victoria and CFA will begin monitoring conditions to identify opportunities for planned burning,” Mr Stephenson said.

“We do planned burns to reduce bushfire risk, especially around communities, and to maintain the health of ecosystems.”

“In the weeks and months before we start burning, we carry out a range of planning and preparation works to make sure the planned areas are ready to be ignited. Planned burn preparation is essential for the safety of fire crews and the community.”

“Some of the works people might see as we prepare for the spring planned burning program include dozers clearing vegetation on road-sides for boundary preparation, and dangerous tree removal.”

For the latest information about when planned burns are happening near you visit www.ffm.vic.gov.au/plannedburn, download the VicEmergency app or call the VicEmergency hotline on 1800 226 226.

The Planned Burning Notification System (PBNS) is an opt-in system and can send an SMS or email message prior to a burn being carried out and when it is in progress in an area you are interested in. You can register at the a above website and there is no charge to receive messages.

Forest Fire Management Victoria consists of specialist staff drawn from the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning, Parks Victoria, Melbourne Water and VicForests. These staff work alongside CFA, other emergency services and communities across Victoria to protect people, property and the environment.