

Non-burn fuel treatments as a risk reduction approach and as an aid to suppression

Understanding the advantages of different treatment types and finding ways to align them is important to manage bushfire risk in Australia.

We acknowledge and respect Victorian Traditional Owners as the original custodians of Victoria's land and waters, their unique ability to care for Country and deep spiritual connection to it.

We honour Elders past and present whose knowledge and wisdom has ensured the continuation of culture and traditional practices.

DEECA is committed to genuinely partnering with Victorian Traditional Owners and Victoria's Aboriginal community to progress their aspirations.



Managing bushfire risk

- Bushfire risk management is an end-to-end process, and there is no single solution to managing risk.
- Tools and management actions that help prevent and minimise the impact of bushfires include:
 - strategic fire road networks
 - remote water access
 - suppression strategies and tactics
 - planned burning and non-burn fuel treatments.
- It is essential to understand the advantages of the different treatment types and how they align.



Non-burn fuel treatments

- Mechanical or non-burn fuel treatments: key components of fuel management providing advantages in planning and delivery, compliment other fuel management activities.
- Provide significant benefits in protecting assets and community value, add significant efficiency to burning programs, major aid in bushfire suppression.
- Can be tactical in scope e.g. mulching or slashing, spraying works adjacent to built assets, or strategic e.g. construction of landscape fuel breaks providing pre-planned back burning lines for bushfire suppression.



Non-burn fuel treatments

NBFTs provide several advantages:

- Treatments can be delivered in areas that are challenging to target for planned burning, e.g. due to terrain or proximity to assets, people or smoke sensitive industries.
- Can be delivered year round; much less effected by seasonal weather conditions than burning.
- Can be contracted meaning specialist staff can focus on other parts of the risk reduction program.



Non-burn fuel treatments

NBFTs provide several advantages:

- Planned strategically and used in conjunction with planned burning, they dramatically reduce the complexity and cost of burning programs.
- Provide significant advantages to bushfire suppression, supports access/egress in difficult terrain and landscapes.
- Increases firefighter safety by removing hazardous trees and allows for considered impacts on environmental values managed through planning processes.



Strategic fuel breaks – key NBFTs

- The Strategic Fuel Break Program provides a network of breaks where vegetation has been permanently modified to reduce the rate of spread and intensity of bushfire for the direct protection of assets and/or assist fire control.
- Strategic fuel breaks are critical to protecting communities, catchments and the environment from devastation by bushfire. They make it easier, faster and safer for firefighters to suppress bushfires.
- They can also assist in reducing the intensity of direct fire on houses and other buildings.



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