

Reducing bushfire risk

The Pines Flora and Fauna Reserve

2022-2023 planned activities

Forest Fire Management Victoria (FFMVIC) work year-round to reduce the risk of bushfires in The Pines Flora and Fauna Reserve. 2022-2023 bushfire risk reduction activities include planned burning, fuel break maintenance, weed control, grass slashing and mulching.

Bushfires are a natural part of the Australian landscape and cannot be eliminated. However, effective planning and preparation can reduce their negative impacts.

One of the main ways to reduce bushfire risk is to reduce the amount of fuels – fuels are grass, leaf litter, twigs, bark and other vegetation that can burn during a bushfire. Fuel breaks are also used to reduce bushfire risk.

A map of planned activities is included in this flyer.

Planned burning

Planned burning involves lighting controlled fires under mild weather conditions to reduce bushfire fuels. The following burn will be carried out in 2023 if conditions are suitable:

- 6 ha between **Darnley Circuit** and **Ballarto Road** to reduce the amount of bushfire fuels, including selecting vegetation mulching to support the burn

Sign up for notifications about planned burns near you at 'Planned Burns Victoria' www.vic.gov.au/plannedburns. Or call the VicEmergency Hotline on freecall 1800 226 226.

Download the VicEmergency app to see the location of ignited burns.

The frequency and intensity of these risk reduction activities are determined by Fire Management Zones – areas of public land that our modelling and experience tells us are the most effective locations for reducing risk.

This planned burn is in a Bushfire Moderation Zone. Fuel management in this zone is carried out to reduce the speed and intensity of bushfires, and to reduce embers that can cause new fires. The typical time interval between planned burns in this zone is 8 to 15 years. A planned burn was previously carried out in this same location in 2015.



Fire management vehicle in the Pines FFR

Mulching

Mulching is another tool used to manage vegetation. Mulching breaks down shrubs and spreads the organic material on the ground. This can help reduce the severity of a bushfire by changing the speed that the material burns.

Mulching also provides ecological benefits to the reserve as it reduces the risk from some invasive woody species, such as Coastal Tea Tree, by giving other vegetation native to this location a chance to regenerate.

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Research is ongoing into the ecological impacts of mulching in the reserve and will help inform vegetation management in the future.

In 2022-2023 we will carry out the following activities:

- 4 ha of vegetation mulching along **Tamarisk Drive** (a further 3 ha were completed in January 2022) and 10 ha of vegetation mulching near **Lomandra Track**. This is to remove invasive woody weeds including Tea Tree, and to reduce bushfire fuels.
- **Weed control** in areas that have been mulched in previous years.



Mulching at The Pines Flora & Fauna Reserve

Fuel breaks and grass slashing

Fuel breaks create a break in vegetation in the reserve. A fuel break alone won't stop a fire but can be very helpful to firefighters by providing access for vehicles and machinery to respond if a fire does occur.

In 2022-2023 we will carry out the following activities in and around The Pines Flora and Fauna Reserve:

- **Grass slashing** and maintenance of over 25 km of fuel breaks and tracks to reduce bushfire fuels and allow fire and management vehicle access.
- **Fuel break improvement** along **School Break, Wetland Track** and **Police Break**. This involves resurfacing work to improve

safety and accessibility along the fuel breaks.

For information on the location of bushfire risk reduction activities, visit www.ffm.vic.gov.au/ifmp.

If you have questions please contact the VicEmergency Hotline 1800 226 226.

Values management

Cultural and environmental assessments are carried out for all works and planned burns to reduce any potential impacts from operations.

Databases such as the Victorian Biodiversity Atlas and the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Register and Information System (ACHRIS) are used alongside knowledge from local staff and on-site observations.

What you can do to help

For your safety, you need to understand your bushfire risk and plan ahead. Know what to do on hot, dry, windy days and plan for all situations.

In the Park

Anyone entering parks and forests during the bushfire season needs to stay aware of forecast weather conditions. Check the Fire Danger Rating and for days of Total Fire Ban at www.emergency.vic.gov.au, on the VicEmergency smartphone app or call the VicEmergency Hotline on 1800 226 226.

No fires may be lit on Total Fire Ban days.

On Catastrophic Fire Danger Rating days The Pines Flora and Fauna Reserve will be closed for public safety. Warnings signs may be erected, but do not expect a personal warning.

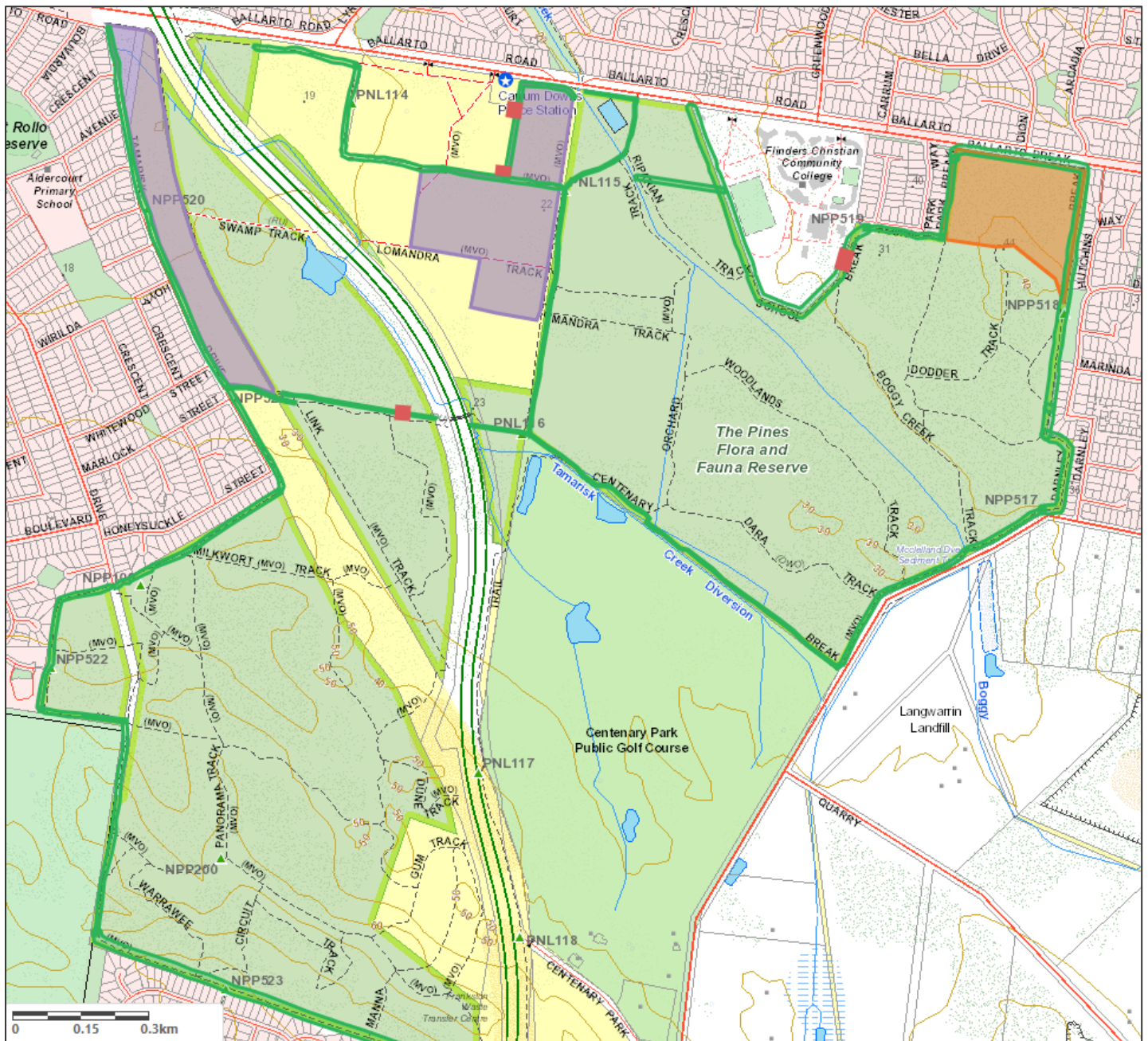
Check the latest conditions in the reserve at www.parks.vic.gov.au or by calling the Parks Victoria Information Line on 13 1963.





At home

For more information about preparing your home and staying bushfire safe, visit www.cfa.vic.gov.au/plan-prepare.

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-  The orange area shows the location of the planned burn and burn preparation works
-  The purple area shows the location of the mulching works
-  The red lines show the location of the fuel break improvement works
-  The green lines show the location of the fuel break slashing works