

# Appendix C:

## Review scope and method

### Scope of this review

#### Who we examined

We examined the following agencies:

Agency	Relevant responsibilities
Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action	Delivering an integrated approach to reduce risk and protect people, property and the environment, including co-delivering the joint fuel management program.
Country Fire Authority	Responding to structure fires and bushfires and building community preparedness for fires. CFA co-delivers the joint fuel management program.

#### Our review objective

Did the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action and Country Fire Authority:

- implement their action plans in response to the recommendations of our 2020 report *Reducing Bushfire Risks*?
- meet their obligations to reduce bushfire risk around Grampians National Park leading up to the 2024 Grampians bushfires?

#### What we examined

In our 2020 audit *Reducing Bushfire Risks* we looked at whether the then Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning and CFA were effectively working together to reduce Victoria's bushfire risk.

We found areas where they could strengthen their approaches and made 17 recommendations. They accepted all recommendations and provided action plans on how they would address them.

In this review we examined whether they have delivered these actions for 11 recommendations and if they have addressed the issues we identified in our audit. The 11 recommendations focused on planning and delivering fuel management activities and measuring the impacts.

We also examined whether the department and CFA met their fuel management obligations around Grampians National Park leading up to the 2024 Grampians bushfires.

#### Why we conducted this review

Climate change is increasing the risk of bushfires, with hotter, drier and longer fire seasons. This also reduces available windows for planned burns to manage bushfire fuel. This makes it essential that the department and CFA strengthen fuel management since our last audit.




### Aspects of performance examined

Our mandate for performance audits and reviews includes the assessment of economy, effectiveness, efficiency and compliance (often referred to as the '3Es + C').

In this review we focused on the following aspects:

Economy	Effectiveness	Efficiency	Compliance
			

Key:

-  Primary focus
-  Secondary focus
-  Not assessed

## Conducting this review

### Assessing performance

To form a conclusion against our objective we used the following lines of inquiry and associated evaluation criteria.

#### Line of inquiry

#### Criteria

1. Did the department and CFA's actions respond to the issues our 2020 audit recommendations sought to address?	1.1	The department and CFA have completed the relevant actions they committed to by the due date or are on track to do so.
	1.2	The relevant actions the department and CFA committed to and have implemented respond to the issues our 2020 audit recommendations sought to address.
2. Did the department and CFA deliver fuel management activities as much as possible in the vicinity of Grampians National Park prior to the 2024 bushfires?	2.1	The department and CFA used an evidence-based framework to make decisions about fuel management activities in the vicinity of Grampians National Park leading up to the 2024 bushfires.
	2.2	The department delivered and maintained all planned strategic fuel breaks in the vicinity of Grampians National Park leading up to the 2024 bushfires.

### Our methods

As part of the review we:

- reviewed documents
- interviewed representatives from the department and CFA responsible for management of bushfire risk.

#### Level of assurance

In an assurance review, we primarily rely on the agency's representations and internally generated information to form our conclusions. By contrast, in a performance audit, we typically gather evidence from an array of internal and external sources, which we analyse and substantiate using various methods. Therefore, an assurance review obtains a lower level of assurance than a performance audit (meaning we have slightly less confidence in the accuracy of our conclusion).

### Compliance

We conducted our review in accordance with the *Audit Act 1994* and ASAE 3500 *Performance Engagements* to obtain limited assurance to provide a basis for our conclusion.

We complied with the independence and other relevant ethical requirements related to assurance engagements.

We also provided a copy of the report to the Department of Premier and Cabinet and the Department of Treasury and Finance.

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### Cost and time

The full cost of the review and preparation of this report was \$473,000.

The duration of the review was 8 months from initiation to tabling.

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