

FACT SHEET: FOREST FIRE MANAGEMENT AND FORESTRY

VICTORIAN BUDGET 2017/18



The Andrews Labor Government has committed **\$309.4 million** in the 2017/18 Victorian Budget to fund **266 jobs** to reduce bushfire risk, refurbish forest-based assets, and protect our forests and wildlife through better compliance and enforcement.

The funding provides:

- **\$205.7 million** to continue an expanded program of bushfire mitigation on public land, improve forest access, egress and firefighter safety, build fire capacity and diversity;
- **\$44 million** for roads, bridges and fire towers;
- **\$30.3 million** to significantly boost to Victoria's forestry and wildlife compliance operations;
- **\$11.4 million** for targeted fuel management on private land and roadsides to reduce bushfire risk;
- **\$6 million** to build and refurbish forest-based assets;
- **\$6 million** for application of bushfire science and risk modelling;
- **\$4 million** for landscape bushfire risk planning; and
- **\$2 million** for community-based fire management.

Creating jobs

266 new roles will help Victorian communities by reducing bushfire risk and helping to strengthen protection of forests and wildlife.

231 roles have been created to help reduce bushfire risk, including:

- Frontline Forest and Fire Operations officers
- Forest management (road/bridge construction, hazardous tree removal, fire tower upgrades)
- Traineeships
- Community-based bushfire management
- Bushfire risk planning

To strengthen the protection of our forests and wildlife, **25 new roles** will be created for frontline regulation and compliance officers.

Six new roles to manage data and intelligence to support frontline operations, and a further four new roles will manage upgrades to recreational facilities in State forests.

The Government will invest **\$6 million** in local contracts to build or refurbish facilities such as carparks, toilets and BBQs, improve and join up degraded paths and bike trails, remove dumped waste and install signs.

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Building on momentum

The funding will help deliver the Andrews Labor Government's *Safer Together* bushfire prevention approach and additional forest regulation and compliance to better protect Victoria's forests and wildlife.

This funding builds on the 2016-17 budget commitment of **\$74 million** over four years and **\$18 million** ongoing for bushfire preparedness and response.

Find out more

Recruitment for these roles will commence in May 2017.

Information about *Safer Together* can be found at safertogether.vic.gov.au

