Phase One Engagement Summary

Background
The strategic bushfire management planning process in the Loddon Mallee region builds on values and objectives identified during the 2011 Regional Strategic Bushfire Management Planning processes and the assessments undertaken by DELWP for the West Central and Mallee Murray Goulburn Bushfire Risk Landscape. These have been further tested and refined through the Loddon Mallee Safer Together Working Group, Regional Strategic Fire Management Planning Committee and consultation with Local Governments.

Engagement Process

Engagement Approach
Loddon Mallee’s engagement approach has utilised existing networks and committees, to disseminate the survey across the community and stakeholder groups. The survey was available from 3 September to 1 October 2018 on the Engage Victoria website.

Promotion
The survey was promoted through social media on both the statewide DELWP and DELWP Loddon Mallee Facebook pages. It was also shared through multiple partner and community agencies such as CFA, local government, Parks Victoria, Mallee Fire Advisory Committee, environmental and research groups, water authorities and catchment management authorities, and traditional owners.

Participants
Ninety-seven surveys were complete for the Loddon Mallee survey. The majority of responses were from people who live in the region. The graph below shows the breakdown of responses by Local Government Area.

Contributions by Local Government Area

- Campaspe
- Central Goldfields
- Greater Bendigo
- Loddon
- Macedon Ranges
- Mildura
- Mount Alexander
- Swan Hill
- Other

Over 40% of surveys were completed by people who had previous personal experience of bushfire.
Engagement Outcomes

Objectives by level of importance to community

What you want to see in future around bushfire risk management in the landscape

- Better cleaning up of fuels on private property
- More community engagement and involvement with agencies as well as within communities
- Better education and awareness of risk on both public and private land
- Improved and easier collaboration between community, local government and fire agencies on bushfire risk management planning
- Better managed roadside vegetation
- More mosaic or strip planned burns in the landscape.
Next Steps

We will continue to post updates and further engagement opportunities on the Engage Victoria website. Our focus now is to develop risk assessments across the landscape of the Loddon Mallee region, and develop strategy options with communities in early 2019.

We will continue to work through the Loddon Mallee Safer Together Working Group and Regional Strategic Fire Management Planning Committee as key partner and stakeholder representatives. We will also reach out to the wider community through a range of forums.
Appendix 1: Survey

Which local government area (shire) in Loddon Mallee region do you live in?

How long have you lived in this local government area?
- 0-1 years
- 1-5 years
- 5-10 years
- 10-20 years
- More than 20 years

What is your interest in bushfire management in Loddon Mallee region?
- I live in the area
- I have a property in the area, but I live somewhere else
- I own/operate a business in the area
- I work in the area
- I’m an emergency services volunteer in the area
- I’m a community volunteer in the area (e.g. Field naturalists, ‘Friends of’ group)
- I visit the area frequently
- I visit the area frequently for recreation (i.e. bushwalking, trail riding, camping, etc.)
- I have past experience of bushfire in the area
- Other (please specify)

Are you involved in any of the following industries?
- Agriculture, horticulture, dairy
- Apiary
- Education
- Government agency
- Healthcare
- Energy
- Non-government organisation
- Private business (other)
- Timber industry
- Tourism
- Unemployed
- Winemaking
- Prefer not to say
- Other (please specify)
Thinking about bushfire management, how important are the following objectives to you?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Objective</th>
<th>Extremely important</th>
<th>Very important</th>
<th>Quite important</th>
<th>Somewhat important</th>
<th>Not important</th>
<th>Unsure</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Minimise loss of human life from bushfire</td>
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<td>Protect cultural heritage and promote cultural practices through bushfire and fire management actions</td>
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<td>Minimise the economic impact of bushfires</td>
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<td>Minimise social impacts of bushfire and fire management actions</td>
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<td>Maximise ecosystem function and resilience</td>
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<tr>
<td>Maximise diversity and population viability of native plant and animal species that may be impacted by bushfire or fire management actions</td>
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How would you classify your personal risk from bushfire?

- Low
- Medium
- High
- Very high
- Extreme

Are there any objectives that are highly important to you, but aren't on this list?

You have 255 characters left

Thinking about the objectives above that were most important to you, please explain why these were important.

You have 1,000 characters left
Thinking about bushfire management, what could government agencies (e.g. local government, CFA, Forest Fire Management Victoria [DELWP], Parks Victoria) do to improve bushfire management on public and private land?

Thinking about bushfire management, what could private individuals do to help improve bushfire management on private land?

Have you had personal experience of bushfire?

- I have been affected by bushfire (personal loss or displacement)
- I have been threatened by bushfire (but did not suffer personal loss)
- My family and/or friends have been affected or threatened by bushfire
- None of the above
- Other (please specify)

How would you like to be involved in future stages of the planning process?

- Receive updates on engagement opportunities for this project through Engage Victoria
- Hear about more opportunities to engage in my area

If you ticked one of the above, please provide your email address.

Is there anything else you would like to add?