

# MONUMENT HILL RESERVE

## HOW IS BUSHFIRE RISK MANAGED?

### INFORMATION SHEET.

Monument Hill Reserve is a popular place for walking, cycling, horse-riding and discovering nature. The 68 hectare site, situated to the east of the Kilmore town centre, provides habitat for many threatened species. The 68 hectare site contains native vegetation which has high ecological significance in the area. It provides habitat for threatened species and important connectivity with adjoining areas of native vegetation in the landscape. Native vegetation in the reserve brings with it the risk of fire; either starting in or running through the reserve which may potentially cause damage to a range of assets.

#### WHO MANAGES THE RESERVE?

The Taungurung people are the Traditional Owners of the Reserve. Monument Hill Reserve is public (Crown) land managed by Mitchell Shire Council in partnership with the Taungurung people and on behalf of the Victorian Government. A Land Use Activity Agreement (LUAA) applies to the reserve, giving procedural rights to the Taungurung Land and Waters Council regarding proposed activities.

#### BUSHFIRE RISK AND FUEL HAZARD

Much of Monument Hill Reserve contains tree species with fibrous bark. These trees have a naturally high fuel hazard. Peppermint and Box species are also present and have coarsely fibrous bark with a lower fuel hazard. There is a relatively thin layer of leaf litter throughout the reserve. The understorey is predominantly annual grasses (see left below) and in some areas the presence of shrubby plants such as Cassinia species (see right below) create a higher fuel hazard. As part of the fuel hazard assessment process, these different layers

of vegetation are combined to estimate an 'Overall Fuel Hazard' which describes the amount of fine fuel available on a site. This influences fire intensity, rate of spread and likelihood of suppression success in the event of a fire. Recent fuel hazard surveys conducted in the reserve indicate that the fuel hazard varies from Low to Extreme across the site, with the higher hazard areas associated with coarsely fibrous bark and the presence of shrubby plants.

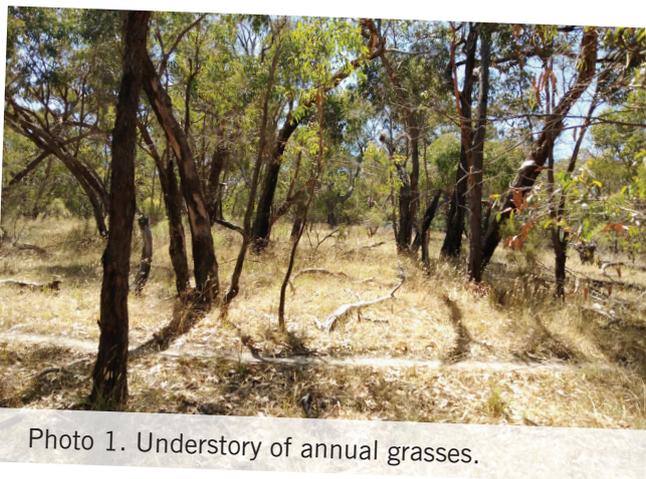


Photo 1. Understorey of annual grasses.



Photo 2. Shrubby understorey of Cassinia species.

MITCHELL SHIRE COUNCIL



