



## Report recommends Victoria's 5pc fuel reduction target go as part of bushfire risk management change

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**The Inspector-General for Emergency Management has recommended dumping Victoria's 5 per cent fuel reduction target.**

The state's annual target to burn 5 per cent of public land was a recommendation of the 2009 Bushfires Royal Commission.

Since its implementation there has been debate about its effectiveness to reduce the risk of bushfires in populated areas.

A report from the Inspector-General for Emergency Management has recommended replacing the hectare-based target with a risk reduction target.

It said the 5 per cent target did not encourage other ways to reduce fuel loads like slashing, mulching and grazing.

It said a risk-reduction approach would encourage better fire risk planning on public and private land and avoid the health impacts of air pollution from planned burns.

The State Government said it would consider the report's findings.

**Topics:** bushfire, fires, emergency-planning, vic, ballarat-3350, bendigo-3550, mildura-3500, horsham-3400, sale-3850, shepparton-3630, wodonga-3690, warrnambool-3280



**PHOTO:** A report from Victoria's Inspector-General for Emergency Management has questioned the state's annual target of burning 5 per cent of public land each year.

(Supplied: Department of Sustainability and Environment.)

**MAP:** VIC