

Media Release

The Hon James Merlino MP
Deputy Premier
Minister for Education
Minister for Emergency Services



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FIRE ACTION WEEK IS THE RIGHT TIME TO PREPARE

Victorians are being urged to prepare for the upcoming fire season with the launch of Fire Action Week.

Minister for Emergency Services James Merlino and Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change Lily D'Ambrosio joined Emergency Management Commissioner Craig Lapsley and the state's chief fire officers today to launch the annual fire readiness week.

The launch was part of the summer pre-season briefing at the State Control Centre on Victoria's bushfire outlook.

Forecasts show potential for an above average fire season, despite the recent heavy rain and flooding in many parts of the state.

Victorians are being urged to talk with family, friends and neighbours about fire risk and plan for what they will do on hot, dry, windy days in the upcoming fire season.

A new campaign urging people to be fire ready gets underway this week, with advertisements in high bushfire risk areas to remind people to understand their fire risk now and plan ahead – not when a fire starts.

Victoria's emergency service agencies are well prepared for the coming fire season and the CFA and the MFB will be out talking to the community about what they can do be fire ready.

The Andrews Labor Government has also invested an extra \$11.1 million to bring two of the world's biggest firefighting aircraft back to Victoria.

Last summer, Victoria's firefighting aviation fleet was critical in stopping the spread of devastating bushfires at Wye River, Scotsburn and Barnawartha.

The Large Air Tankers, named RJ and Hercules, will complete Victoria's 48 strong aviation fleets, which also includes a fixed-wing aircraft, helicopters and two 7500-litre air cranes that will be used to protect communities around the state.

Quote attributable to Minister for Emergency Services James Merlino

"Making informed decisions is vital to your safety during a fire. On hot, dry, windy days, fires will start and spread quickly. The best way to protect yourself and your family is to leave early."

Quote attributable to Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change Lily D'Ambrosio

"Despite the recent wet weather our Forest Fire Management Victoria crews are out slashing, clearing fuel breaks and conducting planned burning where conditions allow to help reduce the risk of bushfires faced by Victorian communities."

Quote attributable to Emergency Management Commissioner Craig Lapsley

"Fire planning and preparation is a shared responsibility between community members, the emergency management sector, business and industry and we need to work together to look after each other and to build safer and more resilient communities."

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