



South West Fire Recovery Partnerships & Technologies.

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Environment,
Land, Water
and Planning

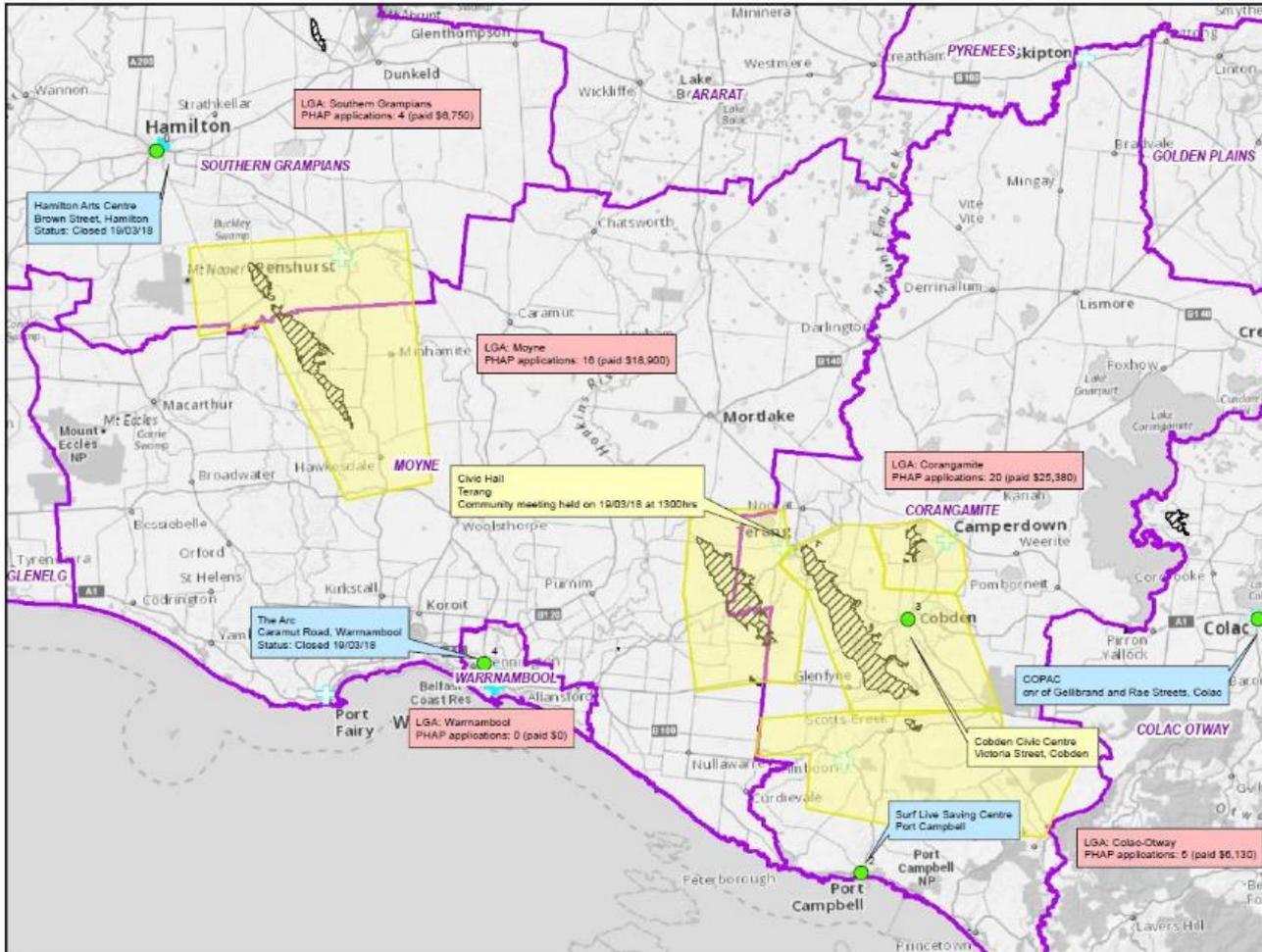
**FOREST FIRE
MANAGEMENT VICTORIA**

South West Fire Recovery

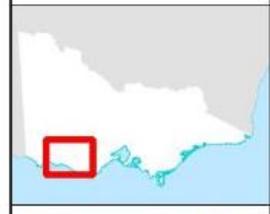
- Fire Overview
- Implications of Peat Fires
- Rehabilitation efforts
- Recovery – 6min case study video.
- Collaborating in Recovery
- Questions / Answers

Setting the Scene – St Patricks Day 17/3/2018

Relief & Recovery Map - 20 March 2018



- Relief Centres
- + hospital, bush nursing hospital
- + hospital, day procedure centre
- + hospital, general hospital
- + hospital, general hospital (emergency)
- ▲ care facility, aged care
- Fire Area
- LGA Boundaries
- Warning Areas



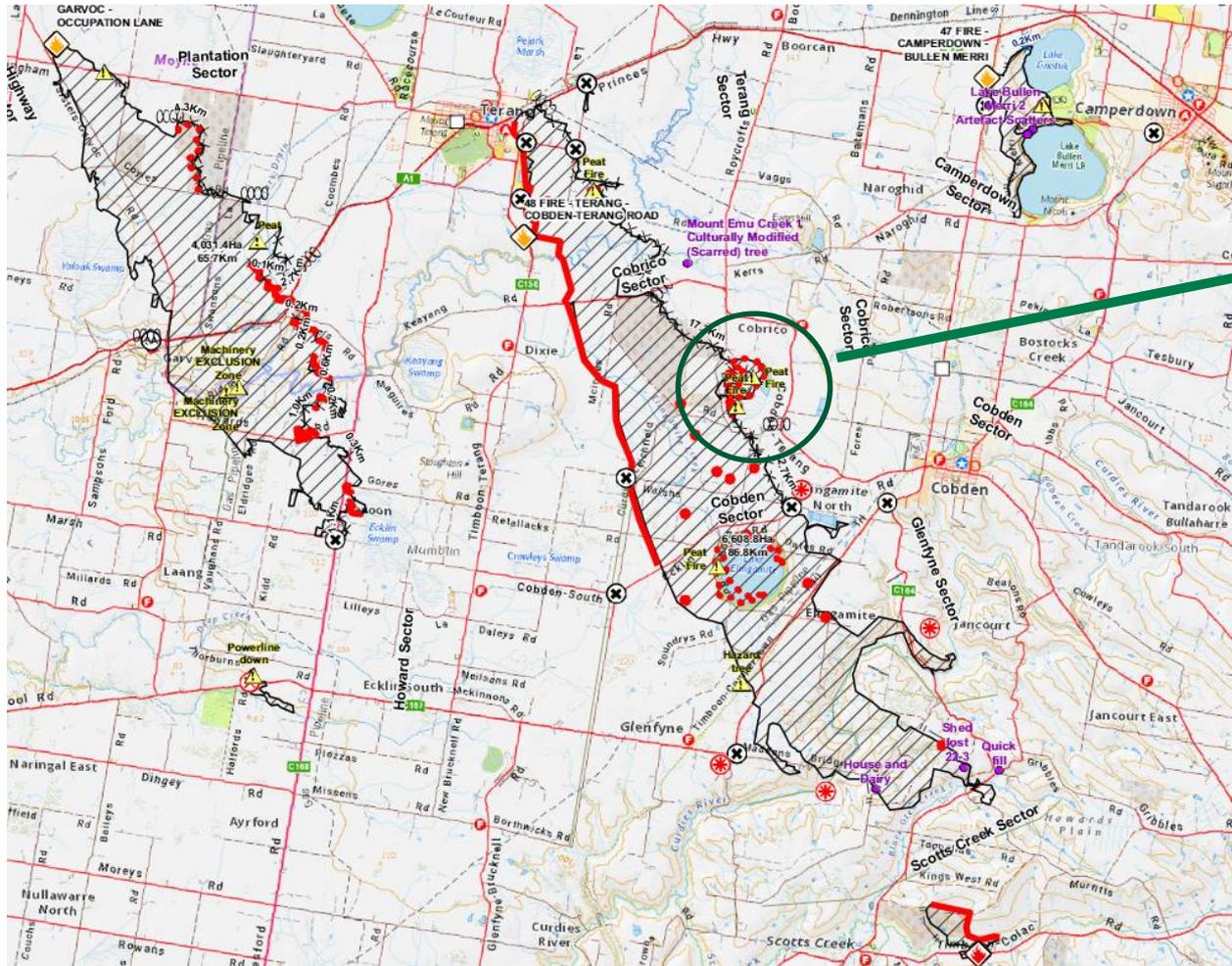
Disclaimer: This map is a snapshot generated from Victorian Government data. The State of Victoria does not guarantee that the publication is without flaw of any kind or is wholly appropriate for your particular purposes and therefore disclaims all liability for error, use or damage which may arise from reliance upon it. All persons accessing this information should make appropriate enquiries to assess the currency of the data.

MXD name: C:\EMDRIVE_download\20180320\projects\20180320_0730_Relief_and_recovery_A3.mxd
 Date last saved/printed: Tuesday, 20 March 2018 8:12:23 AM
 PC login: scovie.map PC Number: CELD722GL2

Fire Weather Context

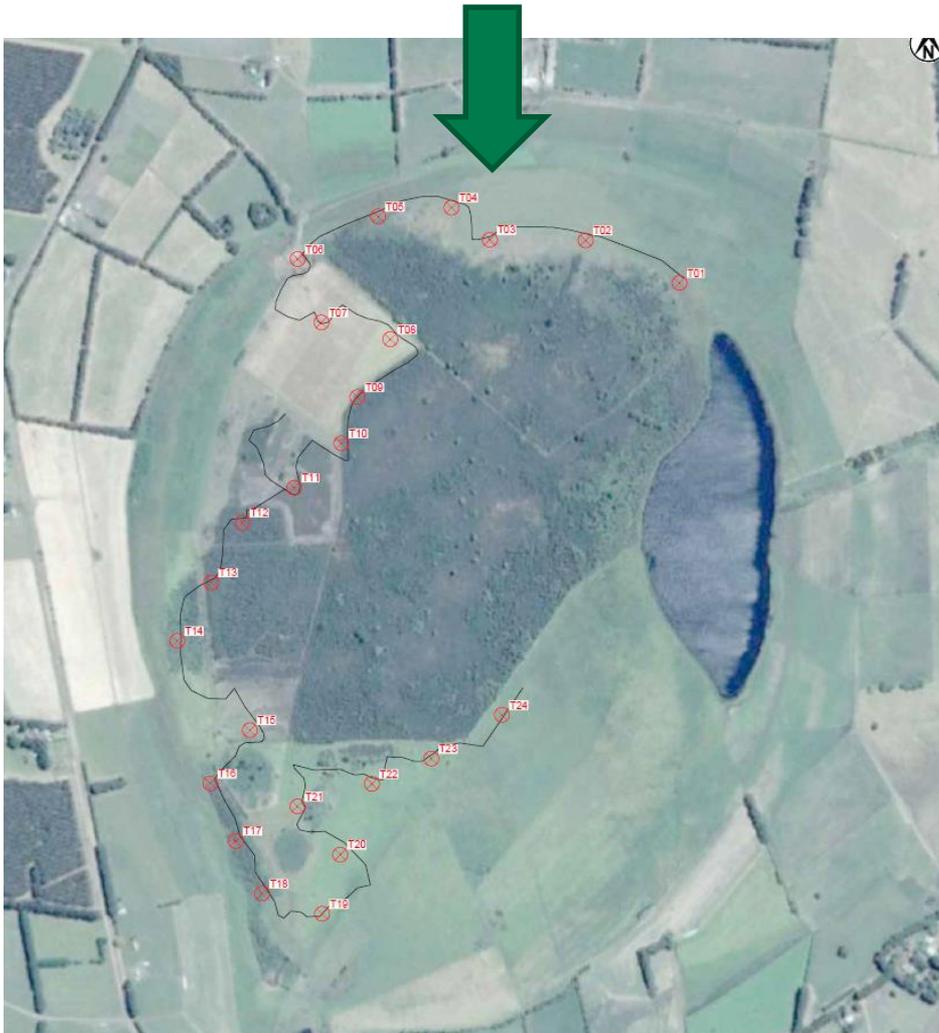
- Saturday 17th March 2018
- Severe Fire danger, 36+degrees
- Wind gusting to 104km/h
- 160 grass & scrub fires ignited in the 24hrs
- 4 fires became significant.
- 425 firefighters worked across 48hrs
- 26 homes lost, 57sheds, 15,600 ha, 2500km fencing destroyed.

Terang – Cobden Fire



Case Study
Cobrico Peat Swamp

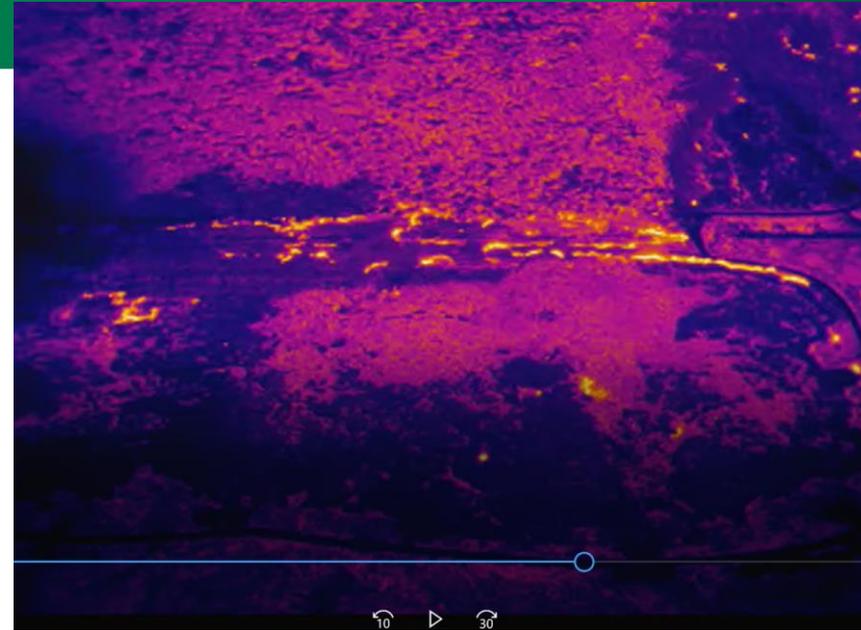
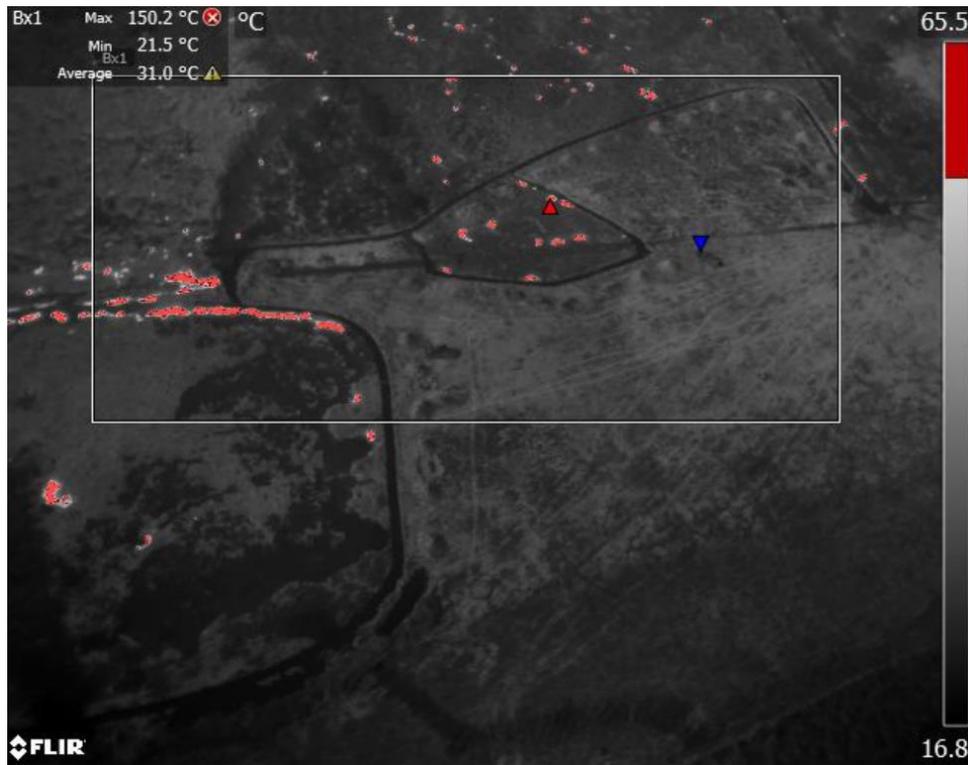
Cobrico Peat Swamp



The Peat at Cobrico Swamp continued to burn for 5 weeks after the main fire had been contained.

12th April 2018

- 25 days after the fire & the Peat is still burning.



Containing the Peat Fire

- **6.2km of trenches were dug and flooded**
- **Carbon monoxide**
- **Acid Sulphate Soils**



The Legacy - Loss of Soil Profile



- **As the Peat burnt, soil profile was reduced by 300 – 1200mm across the swamp.**
- **Long Term damage, fragile exposed soils.**
- **Rehabilitation of 6.2km of Trench**
- **Soil stabilisations**
- **“Ankle Breaking” post fire soil for stock and humans**

The collaborative crew in action....

<https://vimeo.com/412481127>



FOREST FIRE
MANAGEMENT VICTORIA



Zone 1 = 11.3 ha, 1.0kg/ha

Zone 2 = 15.5ha, 0.75kg/ha

Zone 3 = 12.5ha, 0.50kg/ha

40 ha seeded of
total site area of
71ha

Cobrico Drone seeding project
Yellow cross-hatch = seeding area
Crimson = total project area
Red = title boundaries



Other
vital
stats...

Aerially seeded in April 2020

32 Kilograms of mixed native seed was dispersed over two days

Three drones flew in what is known as a Swarm (first in Victoria)

Seed rates of 0.5Kg, 0.75Kg and 1.0Kg were applied per hectare in 3 different burn zones



None of us is as smart as all of us....

"Having strong network relationships with both freehold landowners, government and non-government agencies was identified as the most integral part in this project"



And for the future...

- With climate change it is highly likely that many of the peat swamps could be prone to an increased fire regime and change to vegetation communities
- Collaborative approaches such as this provide the best opportunity for successful outcomes

