

# Improving communication between public land managers and wine industry a case study



# PART 1

- Context for fire management on public land

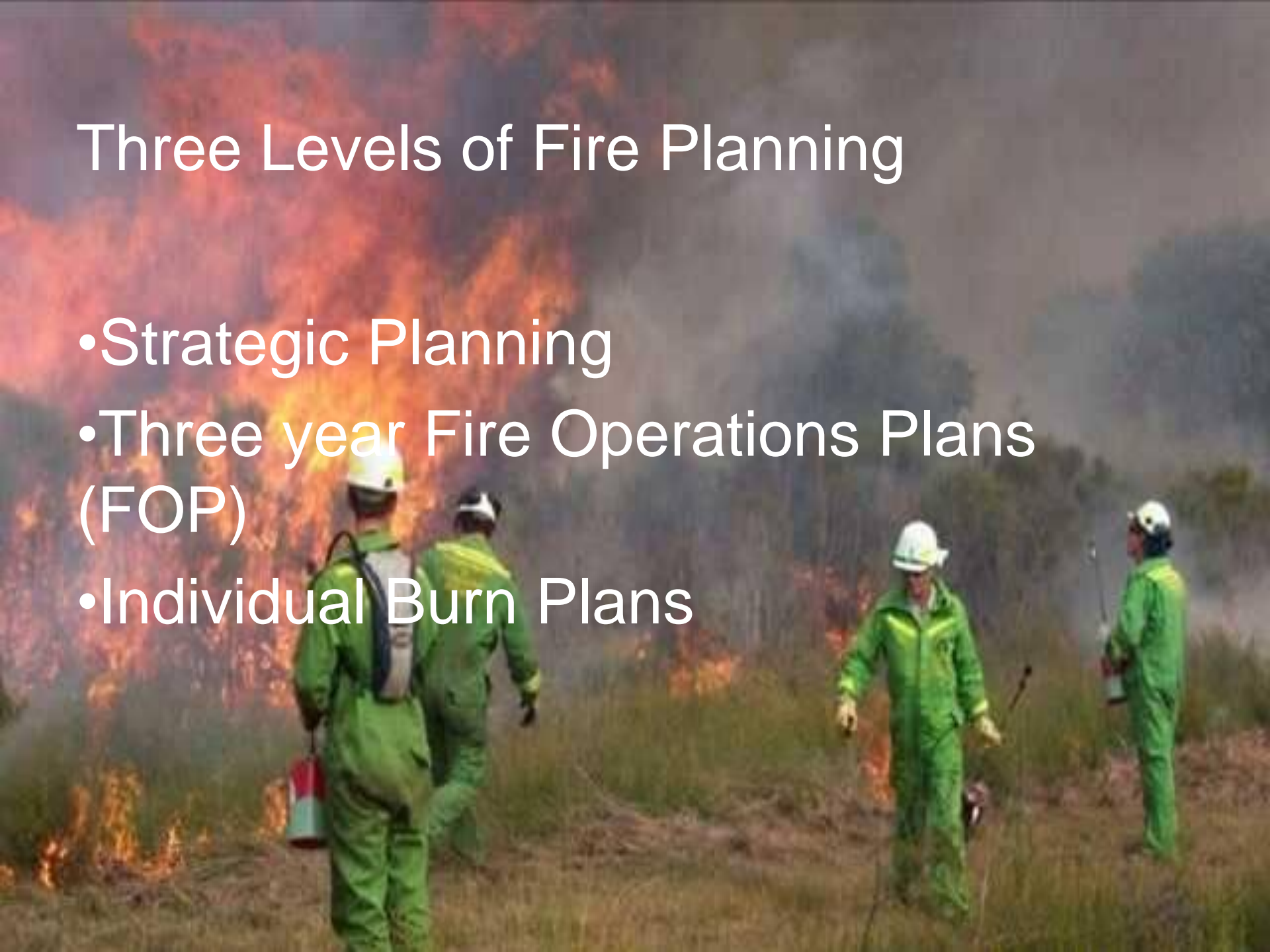
# DSE manages fire on public land

- 7.6 million hectares of public land, roughly one third of the State.
- Includes national parks, state forests and public reserves
- Involves preventing, preparing, responding and recovering from fire on public land
- Using planned burning, slashing/mowing, fuel breaks
- Suppression work during a bushfire



# Three Levels of Fire Planning

- Strategic Planning
- Three year Fire Operations Plans (FOP)
- Individual Burn Plans



## Strategic level 3 – 10 years

- Knowing what fuel is there and how much of it
- Knowing what fire behaviour is likely under certain conditions
- Given the above, planning and preparing to protect life, property, infrastructure and the environment
- To do this, then working out where and when to burn to reduce the risk
- Working in collaboration with other agencies

# Fire Operation Plan (FOP)

- 3 year plan with one year details
- Each DSE region has a target (5 regions)
- Mix of burns with different objectives e.g asset protection, strategic bushfire moderation, ecological
- Provide flexibility in the program – move burns forward or back depending on weather and state priorities

# Individual burn plans

- Each burn has a site plan, includes plan to ignite, weather variables, resources, OHS compliance, site visits and monitoring, works orders to prepare boundaries.
- Can be less than 1 hectare to 1000s hectares in size

# Planned burning a government priority

- Government accepted Victorian Bushfire Royal Commission recommendation 56
- 2012/13 target of 250,000 hectares per annum
- Building to 390,000 per annum
- Prior to 2009 burnt average of 130,000 per annum
- 2011/12 achieved 196,000 hectares of 225,000 hectare target



# PART 2

- Improving communication between DSE and the Victorian wine industry



# The past – cloudy with potential storm



# Contributing factors

- Lack of knowledge of each other's business
- Not many strong relationships or liaison points between DSE and industry
- Mechanisms for communication missing
- Lack of knowledge about smoke taint from planned burning
- However- some localised pockets of good communication

# Improvements

1. Communications agreements between regional wine associations and DSE fire districts
  - Nine agreements currently exist
  - Agreements revised annually
  - Provide joint actions
  - Provide liaison points

# Example: Communications plan between DSE (Ovens District) and King Valley Vignerons (KVV)

- **Planning (July – August)**
- 1. DSE to provide a copy of the Fire Operations Plan (FOP) map and a list of proposed burns at the beginning of the public consultation period (August).
- 2. If required, DSE to attend a meeting hosted by the KVV to present the draft FOP and provide additional requested information about the burn program.
- 3. KVV to provide comment by Friday, 17 February 2012 with a list of proposed burns that they believe could impact on vineyards and would like to see attempted in Spring or late Autumn. The contact details for the vineyards/wineries potentially impacted should also be provided.

# Communications plan between DSE (Ovens District) and King Valley Vignerons (KVV)

- **Implementation (Spring & Autumn)**
- 4. DSE to meet with the KVV prior to implementation of the autumn burning program to discuss burning priorities and seasonal conditions.
- 5. KVV to provide a seasonal update on harvest prediction times to DSE prior to implementation of the autumn burning program (to assist with planning).
- 6. DSE Planned Burning Officer will send weekly updates by email to the nominated KVV contact person once the planned burning program is underway. These notifications will advise which planned burns may be ignited. KVV contact person to send out notifications to the members of the association.
- 7. Specific wineries/vineyards can request pre-ignition notification regarding specific burns (these notifications will be as timely as possible, noting that the timeframe for this may vary from several hours to several days).

# Improvement

## 2. Statewide strategic leadership group

- » Involves leadership from wine industry, DSE, DPI smoke taint project
- » Meets twice a year
- » Identifies improvement to communications
- » Build relationships

# Improvements

3. Participation in stakeholder roundtables run by DSE & Parks Vic
  - Currently 3 roundtables (peak body, Grampians, Ovens)
  - Involves range of stakeholders interested in planned burning
  - DSE PV share dilemmas of fire management
  - Useful for wine industry as it improves understanding of the bigger picture & builds knowledge to influence at a policy level



# Improvements

## 4. Seven day planned burning schedule for wine industry

- Prepared weekly
- Overview of possible burns to be ignited in the next 7 days
- Distributed to a wine industry liaison point (Mark Krstic) who then distributes to wine industry through their networks
- North east developed regional version

# Improvements

## 5. SMS

- Planned for 2012 (spring)
- Opt in system for stakeholders
- Up to 10 burns can be nominated for receiving messages with ability to increase if stakeholder wants to
- Will send a message advising 'within 10 days'
- Will send a message advising 'within 24 hours'
- If burn is postponed will revert to most appropriate of previous status