



## EMERGENCY RESPONSE AERIAL SHOOTING

The immediate and sustained management of threats to native species is a key theme of Victoria's Bushfire Biodiversity Response and Recovery program.

From February to May 2020, this included an emergency response aerial shooting operation targeting feral animals. Controlling feral animals as soon as possible after fire is a critical immediate action to help ensure the survival of threatened native plants and animals.

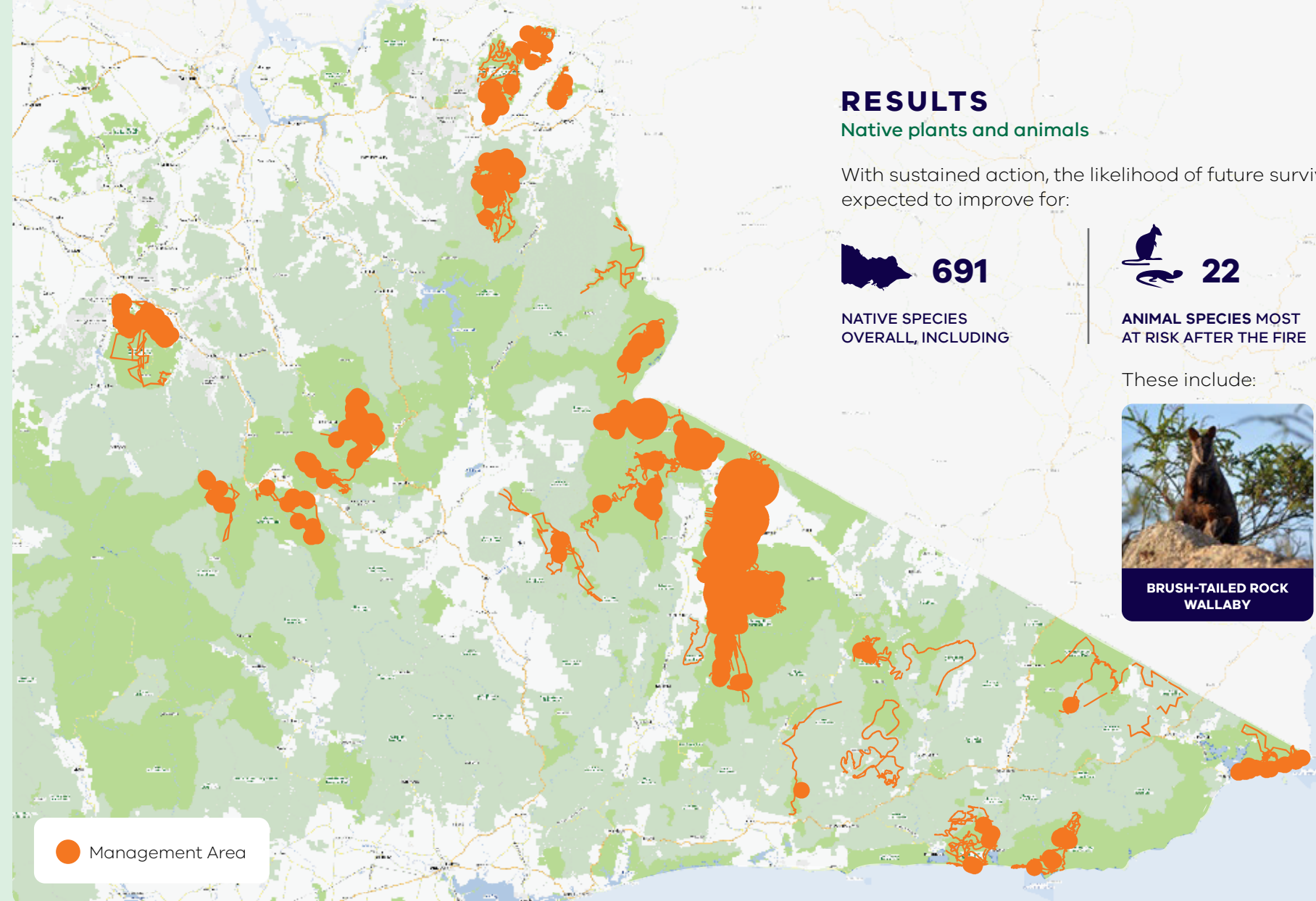
Bushfires amplify the effects of introduced herbivores, which compete with native species for scarce resources and eat remaining and regenerating vegetation. Introduced herbivores also spread weeds and significantly damage native vegetation by trampling, rubbing against trees and wallowing.

When fire reduces vegetation cover, the presence of introduced predators increases, and their impact on native animals at least doubles after fire. This can contribute to extinction of native animal species.

The increased visibility as a result of reduced vegetation cover and congregation of animals around scarce resources after the bushfires provided a perfect opportunity for aerial shooting to effectively reduce numbers of feral animals and support the survival and recover of native species after fire.

### To find out more:


Visit DELWP's [Bushfire response and recovery webpage](#) and Parks Victoria's [Deer and feral animal control in response to bushfire webpage](#)



## RESULTS

### Native plants and animals

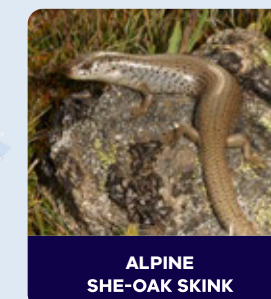
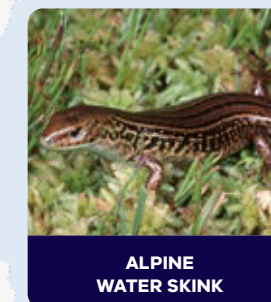
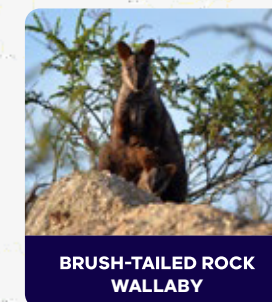
With sustained action, the likelihood of future survival is expected to improve for:

 **691**  
NATIVE SPECIES  
OVERALL, INCLUDING

 **22**  
ANIMAL SPECIES MOST  
AT RISK AFTER THE FIRE

 **72**  
PLANT SPECIES MOST  
AT RISK AFTER THE FIRE

These include:



### Key achievements

- ✓ Feral cattle likely eradicated from Snowy River National Park
- ✓ Feral goats close to being eradicated from Mount Mittamatite Regional Park

## ACTIONS

Emergency response phase (Feb - May 2020)



OPERATED FOR **42 DAYS**  
OVER 11 WEEKS



**255,992 HECTARES** OF PRIORITY  
AREA UNDER MANAGEMENT



**OVER 1500 TARGET**  
ANIMALS CONTROLLED



**90% OF OBSERVED**  
PEST SPECIES CONTROLLED



DEER NUMBERS ESTIMATED TO BE REDUCED  
BY **50%** WITHIN MANAGEMENT AREA

### Acknowledgements:

The emergency response aerial shooting operation was collaboratively delivered by staff from Emergency Management Victoria, Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning, Parks Victoria, Country Fire Authority and specialised aerial shooting contractors.

This operation was funded through the State of Victoria's Emergency Management of the 2019-20 bushfire and the Bushfire Biodiversity Response and Recovery Program.

