



## Commonwealth of Australia

### *Exemption under section 158 of the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (Cth)*

I, Tanya Plibersek, Minister for the Environment and Water, acting under section 158 of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (Cth) (EPBC Act) and being satisfied that it is in the national interest to do so, exempt the State of Victoria, the **agencies of the State** and those acting on behalf of the State or the **agencies of the State**, from the application of all of the provisions of Part 3 (other than sections 21, 22A, 24B, 24C, 24D, 24E, 27B and 27C) of the EPBC Act, in relation to the following action:

The taking of **firefighting activities, fire prevention activities and fire recovery activities** in Victoria in response to bushfires during the 2024-2025 bushfire season.

In this notice:

**firefighting activities** means emergency actions taken to prevent bushfires damaging life, property or matters of national environmental significance.

**fire prevention activities** mean urgent preventative actions taken to prevent the spread or reduce the severity of fires. This includes back burning, clearance of vegetation and building of fire breaks.

**fire recovery activities** mean urgent actions taken in the recovery from damage from bushfires. This includes clearance of vegetation that has been damaged as a result of bushfires, and urgent repair or replacement of essential infrastructure damaged by bushfire.

**agencies of the State** has the meaning given by section 528 of the EPBC Act.

This exemption takes effect on the date of this notice.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Tanya Plibersek'. The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Minister for the Environment and Water

25 December 2024