

# ForestrySA | MEDIA RELEASE

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## Fuel reduction burning across Mount Lofty Ranges

ForestrySA will carry out its spring fuel reduction burn program across the Mount Lofty Ranges within the coming weeks.

Prescribed burns are an important part of ForestrySA's commitment to bushfire prevention. They remove understorey fuel loads from forest areas, reducing the intensity of a bushfire and the risk of damage to homes, property and biodiversity.

This season's burns will take place in native forest reserves, as well as plantation areas affected by the 2015 Sampson Flat fire.

They are expected to begin ahead of the 2016-17 fire danger season, however additional burns may also be carried out after the season begins, weather permitting and under strict permit conditions.

Forest Manager Gary Pearson said ForestrySA's 2016 plantation residue burn program was one of the largest in the region since the Ash Wednesday clean-up more than 30 years ago.

The Sampson Flat fire had a devastating impact on the Mount Lofty Ranges estate and an increased burning and re-establishment program is required to revert the area to productive plantation.

"A large volume of unusable, fire scarred timber has been left on the ground following salvage harvest operations and must be burnt to reduce fuel loads and clear the site for the next crop," Mr Pearson said.

"Residue burning is standard forestry practice, but ForestrySA continues to investigate methods to reduce residue burning and continues to seek additional sales for low value products such as pulp log and biofuel."

The bulk of the residue burns will take place in plantation located between Gumeracha, Kersbrook and Mount Pleasant, while a smaller area at Second Valley will also be affected.

All burns will be carried out by experienced ForestrySA fire management staff in accordance with strict guidelines and every effort is made to reduce the impact of smoke drift on neighbouring communities.

Members of the public can expect to see columns of smoke while burns are in progress.

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For more information and interviews contact:

**LAURA THOMAS | COORDINATOR COMMUNICATIONS**

Mobile: 0439 885 705 | Email: [thomas.laura@forestrysa.com.au](mailto:thomas.laura@forestrysa.com.au)

Web: [www.forestrysa.com.au](http://www.forestrysa.com.au)



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