

# ForestrySA | MEDIA RELEASE

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## ForestrySA to begin targeted fuel reduction burns across Mount Lofty Ranges

ForestrySA will begin its annual prescribed and residue burning program across the Mount Lofty Ranges this month, as it steps up its commitment to bushfire prevention.

Prescribed burns are an important part of ForestrySA's commitment to bushfire prevention. They remove understorey fuel loads, assisting in asset protection and species biodiversity.

The 2016 autumn prescribed burn program will be undertaken across the Mount Crawford Forest estate from as early as tomorrow.

Plantation residue burning involves the burning of plantation debris left following logging operations. It reduces fuel loads and facilitates cultivation of the site for the next crop.

This year's program includes the burning of harvest debris and trees badly affected by the January 2015 Sampson Flat Fire. It will begin during May and continue throughout spring.

ForestrySA works hard to reduce residue burning when possible.

Acting Chief Executive Jerome Coleman said reducing forest fuel loads was a proven way to reduce the intensity of a bushfire and risk of damage to homes, property and biodiversity.

"The bulk of these burns will take place in plantation located between Gumeracha and Kersbrook, while smaller areas at Kuitpo and Second Valley will also be affected," he said.

"All burns will be carried out by experienced ForestrySA fire management staff in accordance with strict guidelines. Every effort is made to reduce the impact of smoke drift on the local community and to reduce residue burning where possible."

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

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For more information and interviews contact:

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