

ForestrySA | MEDIA RELEASE

3 December 2015

FORESTRYSA FIRE SEASON PREPARATIONS UNDERWAY IN MOUNT LOFTY RANGES

ForestrySA is reminding all forest visitors to take care this fire danger season, as preparations for a long dry summer continue across the Mount Lofty Ranges.

The picturesque local forests are a popular recreational playground for thousands of visitors annually, but with fire danger season getting underway on 17 November the threat of bushfire is very real.

ForestrySA is committed to fire prevention and protection and has undertaken a range of preparatory activities across its 12,170 ha estate, while others will continue throughout the season.

Around 1,000ha of fire breaks have been slashed, while track clearing and road grading within plantation and native forest is underway.

Plantation and residue burning have reduced fuel loads considerably across local harvest sites, while plans are also afoot to burn 5% of ForestrySA's native forest areas each year.

Although January's Sampson Flat bushfire significantly reduced fuel loads across the estate, ForestrySA conducted three of the four planned burns during spring.

Unseasonably warm and dry conditions during spring reduced the window of opportunity to conduct burn operations and led to more active fire behaviour. Further burns will be carried out in autumn.

ForestrySA Forest Manager Gary Pearson said burn operations were carried out in conjunction with the Mount Lofty Ranges Fire Cooperative and only when weather conditions were suitable.

"Burns are only carried out when it is safe to do so and every effort is made to reduce the smoke impact on neighbouring property," Mr Pearson said.

The devastating Sampson Flat blaze burnt 760ha of ForestrySA's standing timber and a further 1,700ha of native forest, equating to 10 years' of ForestrySA's Mount Lofty Ranges prescribed burn quota.

ForestrySA has also made significant progress in the harvest of burnt timber since then.

Almost 900ha of post-fire and previously harvested plantation residue areas have been cleared, reducing fuel levels and providing further protection to surrounding properties.

ENDS

For more information contact:

LAURA THOMAS | CORPORATE COMMUNICATIONS

Phone: (08) 8724 2867 | Mobile: 0439 885 705 | Fax: (08) 8724 2870

Email: thomas.laura@forestrysa.com.au | Web: www.forestrysa.com.au



ForestrySA

