

# FORESTRYSA | MEDIA RELEASE

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## FORESTRYSA CLAMPS DOWN ON ILLEGAL FIREWOOD COLLECTION

ForestrySA is increasing patrols and camera surveillance of its Green Triangle Native Forest Reserves, following a spike in illegal wood collection activity.

Cutting firewood and removing fallen timber from native forests areas is illegal under the *Forestry and Native Vegetation Acts*.

Firewood collection is permitted in certain areas of plantation forest, following prior arrangement with a ForestrySA Ranger.

ForestrySA manages 13,500 hectares of gazetted Native Forest Reserve in the South East.

This amounts to 22% of the region's remaining native forest area and is scattered over 48 gazetted reserves from Mount Benson and Cave Range, to the Victorian Border.

These reserves provide crucial habitats for endangered species including the Red-tailed Black-Cockatoo and Southern Brown Bandicoot.

ForestrySA Conservation and Recreation Supervisor Mick Leibhardt said those caught driving into or removing wood from Native Forest Reserves would face substantial fines, while chainsaws and other equipment could also be seized.

"ForestrySA has a well-established camera surveillance network, with numerous cameras installed in known trouble-spots and relocated as required," Mr Leibhardt said.

"These cameras have significantly improved the likelihood of offenders being caught and are an important supplement to regular patrols carried out by our staff.

Mr Leibhardt said offenders would be issued expiation notices, while some cases may be referred to police.

"If you are found in our forests doing the wrong thing, you will pay a price," he said.

ForestrySA also welcomes assistance from community members and urged anyone with information regarding illegal forest activity to call Corporate Office on 8724 2888.

**ENDS**

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