

# Annual Report 2015-16

## ForestrySA / PIRSA

Memorandum of Administrative Arrangement  
for the provision of  
Community Service Obligations  
by ForestrySA

September 2016



## FOREWORD

ForestrySA is mandated by the Charter of the South Australian Forestry Corporation to undertake a number of specific, non-commercial activities underpinned by its Community Service Obligations (CSO).

Funding of ForestrySA's CSO supports native forest management, community fire protection, community use of its forest estate and programs for industry development.

ForestrySA manages about 25,000 ha of native vegetation across its estate, receives recreational use by almost 150,000 visitors, hosts up to 300 events each year and contributes to almost 15,000 volunteer hours through its community engagement program.

ForestrySA continues to work with a number of agencies and land owners to bring an integrated landscape management approach to fire management and environmental issues.

In October 2015 several staff transferred from ForestrySA to OneFortyOne Plantations Pty Ltd. ForestrySA's primary focus in the Green Triangle has changed as OneFortyOne Plantations Pty Ltd has taken over full management of all pine plantations. ForestrySA retains responsibility for the management of Native Forest Reserves and public access to OneFortyOne Plantations Pty Ltd managed land.

ForestrySA retains management of all Mount Lofty Ranges and Mid North forest reserves and has continued to deliver a range of CSO programs and projects across all regions during 2015/16.

ForestrySA remains committed to protecting forest assets, promoting public participation and achieving the greatest benefit from the management of plantation and native resources for the people of South Australia. This report summarises ForestrySA's CSO conducted throughout 2015/16.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Jerome Coleman', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Jerome Coleman  
**CHIEF EXECUTIVE  
FORESTRYSA**

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

ForestrySA manages:

- the State owned commercial plantations in the Mount Lofty Ranges and Mid North;
- native forest reserves in the Green Triangle; and
- areas of native vegetation (most of which is gazetted as Native Forest Reserve) within Mount Lofty Ranges and Mid North.

In addition to its commercial activities, and in accordance with its Charter, ForestrySA undertakes a number of non-commercial activities for which it receives a Community Service Obligation (CSO<sup>1</sup>) contribution from the South Australian Government.

CSO funding supports:

- Native forest management
- Community use of forest reserves
- Forestry industry development
- Community protection (including fire) and forest industry support activities.

## 2. GOVERNANCE

ForestrySA operates in accordance with:

- The **Charter of the South Australian Forestry Corporation** which outlines ForestrySA's strategic commercial direction (commercial operations) and CSO to manage native forests, provide community fire protection, provide for community use of its forests and conduct forest industry development (primarily research).
- The South Australian **Public Corporations Act 1993** which requires that as a public corporation, ForestrySA must perform its commercial operations in accordance with prudent commercial principles and perform its non-commercial operations in an efficient and effective manner consistent with the requirements of its Charter.
- The **South Australian Forestry Corporation Act 2000** which allows ForestrySA to fulfil its statutory functions to be a business enterprise.
- A **Memorandum of Administrative Arrangement (MoAA)** that identifies the services ForestrySA will deliver with the CSO funding it receives and which describes specific reporting requirements. This MoAA is an agreement between ForestrySA and Primary Industries and Regions South Australia (PIRSA).

## 3. POLICY FRAMEWORK

ForestrySA's activities are undertaken in accordance with its **Policy for Sustainable Forest Management**. ForestrySA is committed to sustainable forest management, a safe environment for employees, and compliance with relevant legislative requirements, standards and codes.

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<sup>1</sup> Community Service Obligations (CSO) are non-commercial activities undertaken by Government Trading Enterprises (GTEs) at the direction of Government to achieve social policy objectives.

The policy seeks to:

- Provide the framework for Sustainable Forest Management practices, processes, systems and review;
- Optimise environmental, economic, social and cultural values of forests and lands managed by ForestrySA;
- Improve organisational performance and forest management outcomes while ensuring the expectations of all customers, stakeholders and the community are considered; and
- Protect the health, safety and welfare of all persons involved in ForestrySA activities

The full version of the ForestrySA **Policy for Sustainable Forest Management** is available at [www.forestrysa.com.au](http://www.forestrysa.com.au).

#### **4. PURPOSE OF THIS DOCUMENT**

This Annual Report provides an overview of the CSO funded programs delivered by ForestrySA and a summary of the activities that have been undertaken by ForestrySA during 2015/16, and fulfils one of the reporting requirements under the MoAA.

#### **5. OVERVIEW OF PROGRAMS**

##### **5.1 Native forest management**

This program supports the management of native vegetation on ForestrySA managed land through the development and implementation of landscape scale measures that protect and enhance biodiversity and heritage values. This includes native forests, but more broadly the protection of both Indigenous and European heritage sites that provide connections between people, events and our estate.

ForestrySA manages approximately 25,000 hectares of native forest and other native vegetation, 15,994 hectares of which is gazetted as Native Forest Reserves under the *Forestry Act 1950*. The majority of this native vegetation is surrounded by or adjacent to ForestrySA's commercial softwood plantations.

Native vegetation is managed primarily for the conservation of biodiversity values and contributes significantly to overall biodiversity conservation in South Australia. A diverse range of plants and animals are found, including a number of rare and threatened species. ForestrySA continues to undertake flora and fauna surveys, and maintains species lists for each Native Forest Reserve.

Activities delivered under this program include:

- Native forest management
- Assessment of biodiversity values
- Pest plant and animal control
- Provision of natural history information to the public
- Collaboration for landscape scale outcomes
- Prescribed burning for ecological purposes

##### **5.2 Community use of forest reserves**

ForestrySA managed land provides the setting for a wide range of recreation activities including: walking, nature studies, picnicking, camping, cycling, cave diving, horse riding and

motor sport events. ForestrySA is committed to and has built its recreational brand on passive recreational activities which reduce impacts on the environment and to visitors of forestry land. The community use program enhances the visitor experience by providing and maintaining a range of visitor facilities, and by providing educational and information materials and opportunities.

Visitor facilities include camping and picnic areas, tracks and trails, forest information centres and roadside stops, as well as purpose built facilities such as the Cudlee Creek mountain bike trails which is receiving additional attention following the State Governments commitment to establishing the Adelaide and Mount Lofty Ranges as an internationally recognised mountain bike destination.

A project has commenced to improve general facilities and in particular upgrade ablution facilities at designated campgrounds throughout the Mount Lofty Ranges. Forest recreation information and educational materials is provided to the community via forest signs, brochures, maps and the ForestrySA website, [www.forestry.com.au/Recreation.aspx](http://www.forestry.com.au/Recreation.aspx).

Services delivered under this program include:

- Development and maintenance of appropriate visitor facilities
- Provision of forest information
- Management and permitting of forest events
- Employment of Rangers for compliance and education activities
- Visitor management

ForestrySA's community use program provides school groups and other organisations with opportunities to assist in the management of native vegetation in a voluntary capacity and to learn more about the values contained within these important native forest remnants.

Recreational activities are managed to avoid commercial forestry operations and to ensure the protection of environmental values.

### **5.3 Forest industry development**

ForestrySA maintains limited forest research capability in balance with the work it undertakes as a commercial business.

Research and the dissemination of information for the benefit of the State and forestry industry, including forestry demonstration and gene conservation plantings are at the core of the program:

- Projects to improve forest productivity and sustainable forest management
- Provision of information and communication services (fact sheets, articles, field days)
- Management of forestry demonstration and gene conservation areas in accordance with management plans developed by PIRSA

The forest industry development program undertakes research projects in defined areas of interest with priority areas identified from a number of published research strategies and as agreed with PIRSA.

Priority areas have been identified using information published by organisations such as:

- Forest and Wood Products Australia
- Individual industry member surveys

Areas of research conducted under the MoAA include:

- Environmental Impacts
- Tree Improvement and Genetics
- Product Improvement and Innovation
- Climate Change and Bioenergy

#### **5.4 Community fire protection**

ForestrySA's integrated fire protection activities includes fire protection of its commercial plantations, native forest reserves and its commitment to support fire protection activities to support local communities.

ForestrySA maintains and operates seven fire spotting towers in the Green Triangle, which provide early detection of fires occurring on both ForestrySA land, and on other plantation growers' land and farmland. A fire tower at Mount Crawford is activated on days of high fire danger. ForestrySA fire crews respond to fires occurring on ForestrySA managed land, other forest owners' land and on neighbouring properties within defined response zones. ForestrySA may provide trained incident management personnel to assist with the management of fires at the request of the Country Fire Services.

Fire protection of the community is enhanced through the annual programs of fire break and track maintenance, prescribed burning and protection work which is carried out throughout ForestrySA managed land. This on-the-ground work covers over 1,000 hectares per annum and comprises of slashing, grading, herbicide application and ploughing to dissect the landscape of contiguous fuel levels and reduce potentially dangerous fuel loads.

## **6. ACHIEVEMENTS OF 2015-16**

The following is a brief overview of CSO activities delivered during 2015/16.

### **6.1. Native forest management**

#### **Pasture Strip (Habitat management and rehabilitation of Wandilo Forest)**

2015/16 involved research and development of new techniques for revegetation, followed by successful implementation of the largest revegetation project in many years. A method for creating 'clayballs' was developed in conjunction with Nature Glenelg Trust, followed by the building of community capacity in this area. Over 1 million balls containing a variety of seeds were then sown over an 8.5 hectare area at pasture strip (meaning an average of ~10 balls per square metre). This method has proved to be economically viable for widespread use.

Monitoring of balls in both nursery and on-site conditions has also been undertaken. The pasture strip site underwent extensive preparation, including 4 spray events and grading. The site has also been hand planted with >10,000 plants, direct seeded by machine, and

also by hand. Groups involved included 3 schools, Correctional Services and local contractors including NGT and Mimosa Farm Trees. This project concludes in October 2016.



Clayball Trial – NGT August 2016

### **Biodiversity Corridor Program**

Further works were undertaken in corridors using a combination of contractors and volunteers. Works this year have concentrated on the Dry Creek to Honeysuckle and Snowgum, Mt Lyon, and Wandilo to Grundy Lane, corridors.



Wandilo – Grundy Lane Corridor – Mimosa preparing to sow clayballs, August 2016.

## **Contribution to threatened species management**

ForestrySA continue to support the University of Adelaide in post fire monitoring of two nationally endangered orchid species, *Caladenia rigida* and *Caladenia behrii*, located in Kersbrook and Mount Gawler Native Forest Reserves. Monitoring commenced pre Sampson Flat bushfire to monitor orchid fire response to prescribed burning. The Sampson Flat fire burnt out most of the orchid habitat so the fire response monitoring is critical to assess if population levels return to pre bushfire levels.

Research into the protection of another nationally endangered orchid, *Thelymitra cyanapicata*, is also being supported by ForestrySA. The SA Seed Conservation centre, part of the SA Botanic Gardens, is working on ex-situ conservation and propagation of the species for a translocation trial. Currently the species is only known from three small populations in Knott Hill native forest reserve in Kuitpo forest. If the nursery propagation is successful the new plants will be planted out in suitable habitat in Knott Hill and elsewhere to increase plant numbers and extend the range of distribution.

A large threatened species program was undertaken in Honan and Hacket Hill Native Forest Reserves. Several thousand threatened species were planted into Swamp Gum grassy areas. This work has been complemented by careful selective weed control.

## **Vegetation Assessment and Monitoring**

Twenty Native Forest Reserves have had their mapping completed in the last financial year. This marks a significant milestone in native forest management for the region. Statistics on these reserves will make their way into management plans ForestrySA is currently preparing.

## **Feral Animal Control**

Fifteen volunteer shooters are engaged as Friends of the Forest to undertake feral animal control from the Mid North to Second Valley. In 2015/16 over 700 volunteer hours controlled 397 deer and 97 goats. Contractor labour, funded through the Commonwealth Biodiversity Fund grant, working in Second Valley, controlled another 68 deer.

An aerial monitoring exercise for deer was undertaken in partnership with DEWNR on the Fleurieu Peninsula to try and gauge population densities (final report pending). More partnerships around Kuitpo forest with DEWNR surveying for feral pig presence using drones and part funding with DEWNR of aerial feral goat culls in Wirrabara. A new coordinated feral control program, involving DEWNR and SA Water, commenced around the Cudlee Creek forest/Kangaroo Creek Reservoir area.

## **6.2 Community use of forest reserves**

Forest Reserves continue to provide a wide range of recreational opportunities for local communities. Camping, horse riding, walking and mountain biking are popular activities undertaken in either native forest or plantation areas. Permits are issued for various activities undertaken on Forest Reserves.

## **Green Army Volunteer Team**

A Commonwealth funded Green Army volunteer team, run by Conservation Volunteers Australia, has started work around the Mount Crawford area. They are involved in revegetation, weed control and fencing activities in the forest until December 2016. The

group consists of eight young people with one supervisor. The Green Army application was sponsored by the South Para Biodiversity Project in collaboration with ForestrySA, Friends of Para Wirra Conservation Park and the Barossa, Adelaide Hills and Playford councils. Their work schedule will be shared with the other program partners.

Green Army provides training to participants in hands on conservation field work aiming at completion of Certificate 3 in Conservation & Land Management at the end of a six month period.

ForestrySA has submitted another Green Army application for an 18 month program to be based in Second Valley forest. If successful the team will commence work in 2017.



Green Army team at Mount Crawford

### **Cudlee Creek Forest – Mawson Network Trails**

The Human Projectile Mountain Bike Club Incorporated were successful in a raising funds through a Crowd Funding campaign for trail construction and maintenance projects identified in the Draft “Cudlee Creek Forest Trails Master Plan”. \$20,000 was raised and projects undertaken included further construction work, maintenance and modification to three mountain bike trails.

ForestrySA supported Bicycle SA in a grant application for the Office for Recreation and Sport – Community Recreation & Sport Facilities Program 2016/17. The project titled Cudlee Creek Mountain Bike Network - Trail and Facilities Upgrade has secured \$190,000 grant funding with \$120,000 been contributed by ForestrySA through its Community Service Obligation funding program. Projects identified include a purpose built event facility, toilets, upgraded shed for storage and volunteer use, new experienced / national competition grade downhill trail, new beginner to intermediate uphill climbing trail, new parking areas, information bays, trail signage, fencing and gates.

The 15 year partnership between State Government agencies (ForestrySA and Office of Recreation and Sport) and peak cycling organisation Bicycle SA has been critical in

attracting grant funding in the past and developing strong community support. The trail network is a government-owned resource and dedicated local mountain bikers and volunteers have helped to develop a mountain biking destination of choice.

This project will contribute towards the South Australian Government's strategy to establish the Mount Lofty Ranges as an International Mountain Biking Destination and increase general visitation to the area and also contributes to ForestrySA's strategic goal of re-invigorating community engagement.

### **Event Management**

During the 15/16 financial year, 152 events were held within Mount Lofty Ranges Forest Reserves, attracting approximately 14,900 people participating in a variety of recreational and/or educational activities including school, scout and university programs, motorsport competitions, mountain biking, horse endurance rides, sled dog racing, orienteering, Defence training, film and photography shoots and much more.

Of the 152 recorded events, there are some significant events which annually attract larger numbers of participants and spectators and provide social benefits for local and surrounding regional communities and generate funds for charity

Significant events held over the last twelve months included: Creat-N Trax - KTM Three Forests Ride, Bicycle SA's Dirty Weekend, Birdwood Farm Day, Scouts RallySA, SA Trail Runners, Take A Breather Charity Challenge, Operations Flinders 100 and the Horror Movie Campout.

### **Creat-N Trax – KTM 3 Forest's Trail Rides**

Another successful round of the Creat-N Trax - KTM 3 Forests Trail Rides were held in the Mt Crawford, Bundaleer & Second Valley Forests. Positive feedback was received from event organisers and participants with 300 riders enjoying forest trail riding opportunities.

Foodbank received a donation from event organisers of \$1,508 for the Mt Crawford event which was used to provide fruit to children in the Northern Areas. Since the rides started \$12,446 has been raised for Foodbank. The event employs a charitable ambulance service, EMT Ambulance, to care for riders at each event and has contributed \$4,850 to them since the rides started. EMT Ambulance pick up injured or sick underprivileged individuals from Adelaide's streets and convey them to hospital without charge. A worthy organisation to support.

Event organisers have provided ForestrySA with three positive testimonials coming from the Bundaleer ride from small businesses in Jamestown who were beneficiaries of the rides in 2015.

ForestrySA received \$1,500 from the Mt Crawford ride and has collected nearly \$10,000 in rider fees since the event started in 2013.

### **Bicycle SA's Dirty Weekend**

The renowned mountain bike trails and magnificent setting of the Cudlee Creek Forest was once again host for the running of the "Dirty Weekend" 24 hour Mountain Bike Challenge. The annual event run by Bicycle SA attracted up to 400 competitors and over 1,000 people over two days of mountain biking fun and gruelling competition centred at the community village located near the Thomas Hill house. A variety of categories catered for the novices

through to serious national and international competitors, both team efforts, individuals and the not so serious dress ups. Two food and beverage vendors made \$6,000 over the weekend. Food and merchandise stalls, local cellar doors also benefited from the patronage of spectators and competitors.

### **Birdwood Farm Day**

The “Birdwood Farm Day” is run as a fund raiser by the students, teachers and parents of the Birdwood Primary School and was once again held at Chalks Camp Ground in Mount Crawford Forest. This country style fair attracts up to 3,000 people annually and has been run for over 30 years. Consisting of food and country fair stalls, steam engine, classic and vintage car displays, damper cooking, sheep dog demonstrations, live country music, wood raffles and other activities. Farm Day is a fun family day out in a unique forest setting. The \$20,000 generated from the event is directed to the primary school for upgrades to infrastructure, equipment and learning development.

### **Scouts RallySA**

Each year sees the running of the South Australian and Australian leg of the National Rally Championship through the picturesque forest roads of Mount Crawford Forest. Formally known as Scouts Rally SA, this major event is supported by an army of 800 volunteers. On average 3,500 people converge at various spectator points over the three day period. This year saw the first time running of a unique night stage.

### **SA Trail Runners**

The SA Trail Runners Association recently ran a major trail event through Mount Crawford Forest. Initial competitor numbers were estimated to be about 350 but over 700 competitors and numerous other spectators enjoyed the scenic courses over 48 kilometres in various categories and difficulties.

### **Take A Breather Charity Challenge**

The annual *Take A Breather Charity Challenge* was held within Kuitpo Forest Reserve in August 2015. The SA Rogaining Association (SARA) partner with Asthma SA as approximately 500 competitor compete in teams of 4, navigating with a map and compass to collect points at hidden markers located throughout the reserve. With the venue alternating each year, the 2016 event will be held at Mount Crawford Forest Reserve.

### **Operations Flinders 100**

The annual fundraiser, *Operations Flinders 100* was held, attracting teams competing over 18, 34, 50 or 100 kilometre distances. Commencing at the Adelaide University Sportsgrounds, the course takes competitors through scenic walking trails of the Adelaide Hills and Mount Lofty Ranges with participants of the 100 kilometre distance finishing at the Kuitpo Forest Information Centre. In 2015, 200 participants completed the 100 km distance, raising \$155,000 for the Operation Flinders Foundation. The foundation aims to help transform young people’s lives who have been identified as being at risk through outback intervention programs and team building exercises.

ForestrySA has remained a committed supporter of the event through numerous name changes since 1999.

## **Horror Movie Campout**

For Halloween 2015, an outdoor cinema event was held over two nights at the Kuitpo Forest Headquarters oval. Promoted as the *Horror Movie Campout*, the event was organised by Share Catering with part proceeds of every ticket sold raising funds for the Hutt Street Centre, who provide support services for the homeless. 420 people attended the event over two nights.

## **6.3 Forest Industry Development**

ForestrySA's research team decreased in October 2015 with the transfer of staff to OneFortyOne Plantations. Research programs are ongoing and ForestrySA is supportive of a federal election campaign commitment to establish a regional Forestry Industry Research Hub in Mt Gambier.

### **Gumeracha trials and demonstration plantings**

The January 2015 Sampson Flat fire burnt through all the Gumeracha trials and demonstration plots destroying or severely damaging them. Several trials and demonstration plantings destroyed during this fire event have been replanted to commercial pine plantations and ongoing assessment of the remaining trials will continue to determine their viability. Further areas may be consolidated into plantation areas or replanted as demonstration plantings.

### ***Eucalyptus leucoxylon* Seed Source Trial**

The four trials in this series have all been measured and assessed. Once an analysis has been completed the information will be used to cull poorly performing individuals and families and convert the trials to seedling seed orchards.

### **Bundaleer Species Comparison Trial**

The future of these trials is linked to the Mid North EOI process currently underway within PIRSA. Once that process is complete any requirement for ongoing management will be determined.

### **MLR Short and Long term Water Monitoring**

Water sampling has taken place as required over the year with activity concentrated in the winter months around significant wet weather and where stream flow was evident.

Reporting to PIRSA and the EPA, as well as internally to ForestrySA has taken place according to agreed schedules. No significant detections of herbicides used by ForestrySA were made.

### **Forest Health Surveillance and Reporting**

Annual Sirex control programs with nematode inoculation of trap trees throughout the Green Triangle (July/August 2015) and Mount Lofty Ranges and Mid North have been completed as required over the autumn/winter period. Trap-tree plot programs in all locations are ongoing. Benefits from these programs flow to the wider radiata pine plantation industry and farm forestry community through maintenance and improvement of regional forest health.

To date no *Diaeretus* wasp (Pine aphid predator) activity has been reported in the Green Triangle or MLR/MN regions.

### **FWPA remote sensing project**

Evapotranspiration across the Green Triangle. This project suffered a few delays due to CSIRO staffing issues but a draft final report was received towards the end of the reporting period. Results are looking very interesting and discussions on how the information can be used are continuing along with finalisation of the report. The ability to analyse historical evapotranspiration (ET) estimates across a range of land uses in the Green Triangle (not just forestry) over the period 2001 to 2010 should be extremely useful in providing a balance to landscape scale water use modelling. This capability will also be valuable within the plantation industry with an expectation that operational impacts on ET can also be studied - species differences, thinning and reestablishment practices, and seasonal interactions etc.

### **Australian Plantation Industry Herbicide Research Consortium (APIHRC)**

Management (measures, analysis, reporting) of previous year's trials and establishment of the 2015 herbicide screening trial proceeded on time over the year. The trials are being continued by One Forty One Plantations on their Green Triangle Estate.

### **Giant Pine Scale**

ForestrySA has been represented on the Reference Group overseeing the management of the Adelaide eradication program of *Marchalina hellinica* - giant pine scale (GIPS). This program was completed successfully during the year but with monitoring of treated sites continuing into 2017. The Victorian Government program in Melbourne has experienced problems in killing the scale on standing trees and other approaches are currently being canvassed there.



Giant Pine Scale infection on Radiata pine in Melbourne.

### **WeedChem**

WeedChem is an in-house ForestrySA herbicide prescription, chemical information and weed identification system that provides guidance to users on the best methods of controlling weeds in particular situations and environmental conditions. A WeedChem web-

conversion project funded by ForestrySA, FWPA and several industry members from across Australia, was largely completed towards the end of the year. It is expected that once feedback from the steering committee members is complete the system will go live early in the new year.

### **Securing Intellectual Property**

#### *CSO/ForestrySA trial meta-data base and field-trial data conversion*

Progress on this work was impacted by the transfer of staff to OneFortyOne Plantations Pty Ltd (OFO). Other ways of performing this important work are being explored - suitable contractors need to be found or trained. This work will be ongoing for a period of time but is required to capture accumulated knowledge in a "single location". The transfer of staff to OFO simply reinforces this need.

Part of the process will be publication of suitable reports on the ForestrySA or PIRSA websites.

### **Biochar**

ForestrySA has engaged with UniSA and local forest products companies to develop several proposals to test the use of biochar, as (i) an addition to potting mixes for general use, (ii) in forest nursery container seedling systems and (iii) in forest nursery open-root beds producing *Pinus radiata* seedlings. It is expected these will commence in the second half of 2016. UniSA has proposed projects looking at the characterisation of biochar and potential for use in water treatment. Industry support was sought for these projects.

## **6.4 Community Fire Protection**

### **Season 2015/16**

ForestrySA operates seven fire towers in the Green Triangle region and one in the Mount Lofty Ranges for early fire detection. Due to the dry conditions experienced over the 2015/16 fire season, the towers were operated on 116 days, higher than annual averages.

Across the State ForestrySA fire crews attended 27 fires for the season, including 6 fires on private land or land managed by other agencies.

Prescribed burns reduce the hazard in areas of native forest, help to protect adjoining assets and contribute to biodiversity conservation objectives.

Two prescribed burns totalling 104.2 hectares were completed in the Green Triangle during spring and three prescribed burns totalling 52 hectares were completed in the Mount Lofty Ranges during spring. No burns were completed in autumn due to hot April weather and early rain during May which closed the burn season off early. However, residue burns associated with plantation re-establishment continued and reduced fuel level, predominantly in the Kersbrook area. The large native forest area burnt by the Sampson Flat fire has significantly reduced treatable prescribed burn area on ForestrySA's northern Mount Lofty Ranges region.

ForestrySA is a member of three fire cooperatives in the South East, Southern Flinders and Mount Lofty Ranges regions. The cooperatives were formed in 2009 and are comprised of ForestrySA, CFS, DEWNR and SA Water representatives. The agencies work together to develop and implement integrated prescribed burning programs, and to deliver integrated bushfire response arrangements.

ForestrySA continues to participate in the Heads of Agencies for Public Land Fire Management Committee, the State Bushfire Coordination Committee and regional Bushfire Management Committees.

ForestrySA recruited summer fire season casual staff annually. Functions undertaken include a variety of plantation and native forest based activities in addition to fire preparation and protection activities which form an integral function over this period.

The arrangement established in 2013/14 between ForestrySA and DEWNR, in the Mid-North, continued over the 2015/16 fire season with significant and continued work being undertaken to clear track of fallen trees associated with the damage incurred during the Bangor fire.

A collaborative arrangement between ForestrySA and OneFortyOne Plantation in the Green Triangle contributed towards community fire protection activities and management of fire on ForestrySA managed native forest reserves.

Several strategies are in place to protect forest reserves under ForestrySA's management. These include:

- Ensuring all forest firebreaks and fire access tracks are established and maintained in accordance with required standards.
- The operation of seven fire towers across the Green Triangle and one in the Mount Lofty Ranges, assisting in rapid fire detection.
- CFS trained firefighting personnel.
- A fleet of modern fire tankers, bulk water carriers and other fire equipment maintained and strategically stationed to react to incidents.

## 7. FINANCIAL REPORT

### Operating statement for the financial year ended 30 June 2016

#### Funding for Term of the MoAA

Program	Service Fee (GST Exclusive) \$000s			
	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/2017
Native forest management Community use of forest reserves	2,244	2,300	2,358	To be confirmed
Forestry Industry Development	474	486	498	To be confirmed
Community protection (including fire)	436	447	458	To be confirmed
Community protection (including fire) additional funding*		665	395	193
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3,154</b>	<b>3,898</b>	<b>3,709</b>	<b>To be confirmed</b>

\*Additional funding was approved via the 2014/15 Mid-Year Budget Review process. It provides funding past the End Date of the current MoAA and includes funding for prescribed burning and firefighting costs.

#### 2015/16 Funding and Expenditure

	Community Forestry (\$000)	Forest Industry Development (\$000)	Community Fire Protection (\$000)	2015/16	2014/15	2013/14
<b>Income</b>						
CSO Funds	2,358	498	458	3,709,000	3,897,202	3,189,520
*Additional Funding	-	-	395			
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>2,358</b>	<b>498</b>	<b>853</b>	<b>3,709,000</b>	<b>3,897,202</b>	<b>3,189,520</b>
<b>Expenses</b>						
Salary and Wages	1,133	49	138	1,319,642	1,708,175	1,831,949
Plant & Equipment	34	-	109	143,495	37,312	9,460
Materials	215	-	7	222,542	55,776	64,203
Contracts & Services	1,527	23	915	2,465,003	1,574,338	671,351
Vehicles	126	-	549	675,410	76,726	405,211
Staff related expenses	18	2	12	31,215	34,126	89,778
Information Technology	-	-	12	11,700	15,600	24,138
Building & Property	100	-	20	120,093	107,590	30,338
Administration & Finance	14	4	-	18,250	338,688	1,198,115
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>3,167</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>1,762</b>	<b>5,007,351</b>	<b>3,948,330</b>	<b>4,324,544</b>

Main factors contributing toward expenditure include Mid-North establishment, Green Triangle fire protection and overheads costs.

## 8. KEY STATISTICS

ForestrySA reports CSO activities and community interaction to PIRSA on a quarterly basis. The below table summarises these activities between two regions, namely the Mount Lofty Ranges (MLR) and the Green Triangle (GT).

### Native Forest Management Program

ITEM	PERFORMANCE MEASURE	ANNUAL TARGET	OUTCOME
Native forest conservation	Total area of Gazetted Native Forest Reserve	Maintained or increased target	15,994 hectares. Unchanged
Assess and extend biodiversity and heritage values	Works plan achieves CSO outcomes and reviewed.	Works plan achieved and reviewed	Yes
Pest plant and animal control	Relevant actions progressed from Forest Management Plans	>75% of scheduled actions complete	Yes
	Works plan achieves CSO outcomes	Works reviewed	Yes
Provision of natural history information to the public	Relevant actions progressed from Forest Management Plans	All completed documents available	Yes
	Public events	2	Yes. Four presentations to schools and 3 field trips.
Historic image Archive Project	Catalogue collection of historic imagery		30,000 images dating back to 1900 digitised through volunteer hours.
Collaboration for landscape scale outcomes	Representation on peak groups  Completed Documentation made available	10 Groups	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Red Tailed Black Cockatoo Liaison.</li> <li>2. Aboriginal Lands Trust Natural Resources Management.</li> <li>3. South Para Biodiversity Project.</li> <li>4. Living Flinders Planning Committee</li> <li>5. Mount Lofty Ranges Fire Cooperative</li> <li>6. Green Triangle Fire Cooperative</li> <li>7. Mid-North Fire Cooperative</li> <li>8. Mount Lofty Ranges Fleurieu Swamps and Mount Lofty Ranges Southern Emu-wren Recovery Program</li> <li>9. Mount Lofty Ranges Southern Brown Bandicoot Recovery Program</li> <li>10. MLR Threatened Orchid Recovery Program</li> <li>11. South Para Natural Resources Management Committee</li> <li>12. Office of Recreation &amp; Sport for MLR Trails</li> <li>13. Walking SA and Adelaide Hills Council</li> <li>14. Bushfire Management Committee Meetings – Green Triangle, Mount Lofty Ranges and Mid-North.</li> <li>15. Goolwa to Wellington Local Action Planning Committee</li> </ol>
Prescribed burning for ecological purposes	Areas planned, scheduled and burnt	>75% burns achieved (within prescription) over 3 years.	Planning completed for GT and MLR. Spring burns completed: GT - 2 burns, 104.2 ha, MLR - 3 burns, 52 ha. Dry April and early autumn rains reduced ability to complete autumn burns.

## Community Use of Forest Reserves Program

ITEM	PERFORMANCE MEASURE	ANNUAL TARGET	OUTCOME
Provision of a range of permitted non-commercial activities	Number of permits by category	No specific target set for this period	Camping = 2,208 Horse Riding, day = 163 Horse Riding, year = 205 Fossicking, day = 401 Fossicking, year = 71 Firewood = 83 Other = 95 Events = 163 Cave Diving = 1,492
	Website shows activities available	Website up to date	Yes
Public usage	Visitor numbers recorded	>200 000	Recorded visitors = 119,727 (Figures exclude regular daily events where permits are not allocated, e.g. school group hikes, general walkers)
Opportunities for community engagement	Stakeholder consultation for CSO related activities	Stakeholder feedback received	Yes.
Diversity of community groups involved	Number of different community groups engaged	>25	Stakeholder feedback received regarding Mount Lofty Ranges Management Plan.  Interaction with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Government Agencies, Volunteer groups,</li> <li>• Friends of the Forests, Schools,</li> <li>• TAFE,</li> <li>• Green Army and,</li> <li>• Correctional Services.</li> </ul>
Rangers available for compliance, facilitation, education, support	Conservation and Recreational staff employed		Yes
A system of monitoring use in compliance with forestry regulations	Number of compliance incidents	No specific target set for this period	59
Volunteer hours attributed to Community Engagement Program	Hours	>20 000	13,858
Comments from the community with regard to community use	Media coverage	No specific target set for this period	Media coverage of many events held on ForestrySA land throughout the year.
Projects to address visitor management	Works Plan achieves CSO outcomes	Works Plan achieved and reviewed	Yes. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Visitor Infrastructure Plan approved to upgrade facilities across the MLR.</li> <li>• Construction of Honan NFR Trail.</li> <li>• Replacement of track signage throughout Bangor fire area.</li> <li>• Remarkings Mawson Trail.</li> </ul>

## Forest Industry Development

ITEM	PERFORMANCE MEASURE	ANNUAL TARGET	OUTCOME
Projects to improve forest productivity and sustainable forest management sourced from defined Areas of Interest	Project proposal justification points directly to area of Interest	100% new projects	Yes
Agreed information and communication services provided (factsheets, articles, field days)	Project communications	100% of proposed factsheets etc. and 2 field days per year	Water Monitoring reporting (MLR and GTR)  APIHRC Interim trial reporting  Blue Gum coppice management x fertiliser Interim Report  Field Day - Undertaken and evaluation of silvicultural operations used in the MLR.
Forestry demonstration and gene conservation areas are managed consistent with management plans developed by PIRSA	Agreed annual works programs (Gumeracha, Wandilo, Bundaleer)	Gumeracha Demonstration Trial burnt during Sampson Flat Fire.	Yes  Review and action plan developed. Portions of the Gumeracha demonstration area destroyed have been converted to production plantation areas.

## Community Fire Protection Program

ITEM	PERFORMANCE MEASURE	ANNUAL TARGET	OUTCOME
Contribution to state wide or landscape scale fire protection initiatives	State Bushfire Coordination Committee  Bushfire Management Committee meetings.  Regional Fire Cooperative Meeting.  Country Fire Services	80% attendance	Yes
Contribution to regional fire suppression	Fires attended by ForestrySA on lands other than Forest Reserves	Number of fires	6
Comments from the community with regard to fire management (whether positive, negative or neutral)	Media coverage	No specific target set for this period	Both positive and negative commentary received regarding burning operations.