

Prescribed burn in Hardy's Scrub (Onkaparinga River National Park)

Subject to suitable weather conditions, the Department for Environment and Heritage (DEH) will manage a prescribed burn on 5 November in Hardy's Scrub, located in Onkaparinga River National Park.

- The burn is scheduled to begin at about 1.30 pm and should be completed by 7.00 pm
- About 46 hectares of the park will be affected during the burn.
- Signage will be placed at key locations to restrict access in the vicinity of the burn site. Walking trails including Wine Dam Track and Old Quarry Track will be closed to the public during the burn.
- Smoke may reduce visibility on nearby roads, including Chappell Hill Road, Franceschinis Road and, Whittings Road and Blewett Springs Road, and drivers will need to follow directions, slow down and take extreme care.
- Local residents are advised to close windows to minimise the impact of smoke.
- DEH fire crews will monitor the fire ground until the area is declared safe, with SA Country Fire Service (CFS) crews on standby if required.
- The purpose of the burn is for fuel reduction.

"Prescribed burns are an essential part of DEH's strategy of working with the CFS and SA Water to reduce the impact of bushfires on public land," said Ian Tanner, Senior Regional Fire Management Officer.

"They are conducted for a number of reasons such as reducing heavy fuel loads in strategic areas of our parks and reserves or for ecological and research purposes."

Reducing heavy fuel loads provides safer access for firefighters in the event of a bushfire, makes it easier to control a bushfire, helps prevent bushfires spreading to residential areas, and reduces the risk of a bushfire damaging public and private assets.

"Before every prescribed burn, we carefully assess and prepare to manage a range of risk factors including the weather, dryness of the vegetation and site geography," Mr Tanner said.

"The risks are relatively small compared to the possible consequences of a major bushfire occurring during the summer.

"We always ensure that appropriate back-up resources and fall-back positions are available in the event a prescribed burn crosses containment lines."

For further information regarding the prescribed burn in Onkaparinga River National Park, please contact Ian Tanner on 0427 406 107.

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