

Controlled burn today near Finniss to save Fat-leaf Wattle

The Department for Environment and Heritage (DEH) and the SA Country Fire Service (CFS) will conduct an ecological controlled burn today near Finniss.

"The aim of the burn is to stimulate the germination of the Fat-leaf Wattle, *Acacia pinguifolia*, in the area," said Richard de Groot, DEH Deputy Regional Conservator for the Adelaide Region.

"The Fat-leaf Wattle is a nationally endangered native plant species that occurs only in South Australia, with one population located near Finniss.

"The current population of this species is in serious decline and is likely to become extinct in this region if no action is taken.

"Fire is a known stimulator of germination in *Acacia* species and the burn is intended to promote the germination of seed within the soil.

"Monitoring of native vegetation is already in progress and will continue for at least 12 months after the burn," he said.

- The controlled burn will begin about 11 am, and should be completed by 3 pm.
- The burn will cover an area of about one hectare of mallee and woodland vegetation that occurs in the SteamRanger Railway Corridor to the north of Finniss.
- The township of Finniss and surrounding properties could be affected by smoke.
- Local residents are advised to close windows to minimise the impact of smoke.
- Smoke may also reduce visibility on nearby roads and drivers will need to follow directions, slow down and take extreme care.
- Roads that could be affected by smoke include the Finniss/Milang Road, Strathalbyn/Goolwa Road and Brimarvi Road.
- Fire crews will monitor the fire ground until the area is declared safe.

For further information, please contact Richard de Groot on 8336 0922.

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