

## Controlled fuel reduction burn in Horsnell Gully Conservation Park

The Department for Environment and Heritage (DEH) plans to conduct a controlled fuel reduction burn tomorrow, 14 May 2008, in Horsnell Gully Conservation Park in the Adelaide Hills.

- The controlled burn will begin at about 9 am, and should be completed by 7 pm.
- The area to be burned is near the Ashton cold store on Woods Hill Road.
- The size of the area to be burned is about 50 hectares.
- The park will not be closed during the controlled burn, but public access to certain areas and walking trails may be restricted.
- Smoke may reduce visibility on nearby roads, including Tregarthen Road, Woods Hill Road, Ridge Road and Stonyrise Road, so drivers will need to follow directions, slow down and take extreme care.
- Residents of Ashton, Summertown and Norton Summit 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.

"Fuel reduction burning is an essential part of DEH's strategy of working with the CFS and SA Water to reduce the impact of bushfires on public land," Richard de Groot from DEH said.

"Planned fuel reduction burns, known as 'prescribed burns', reduce heavy fuel loads in strategic areas of our parks and reserves.

"This 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 de Groot said.

"The risks associated with prescribed burns 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, please contact Richard de Groot on 8336 0922.

### Media contacts

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