

Controlled fuel reduction burn in Para Wirra Recreation Park

The Department for Environment and Heritage (DEH) plans to conduct a controlled fuel reduction burn tomorrow, 12 May 2008, in Para Wirra Recreation Park, 40 kilometres north-east of Adelaide.

- The controlled burn will begin at about 10 am, and should be completed by 5 pm.
- The area to be burned is on the western edge of the reserve, near the park entrance.
- The size of the area to be burned is about 40 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 Humbug Scrub Road and Glenburnie Road, so drivers will need to follow directions, slow down and take extreme care.
- Residents of Yattalunga and Humbug Scrub 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.

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