



CODE OF PRACTICE FOR
Fire Management
on Public Land in
South Australia

September 2018

Endorsed by the Heads of Agencies Committee



FOREWORD

Fire is integral to the South Australian landscape, and has shaped the nature of our native flora and fauna for thousands of years. Fire will continue to shape and influence the character of our landscape, particularly changing fire regimes since European colonisation and in the face of climate change.

Every year we face the risk of bushfires. National Parks and Wildlife South Australia (Department for Environment and Water), ForestrySA, and SA Water are responsible for managing fire over a significant portion of South Australia's public land. This responsibility is shared across the landscape with the South Australian Country Fire Service, Local Government, and private landholders in working to reduce the risk of bushfire to life, property, and environmental assets.

This Code of Practice draws on the existing *Heads of Agencies Agreement for Fire Management on Public Land*. It contains the overarching fire management principles, performance measures, and desired outcomes for fire management programs on public land. The principles within this Code complement the draft State Bushfire Management Plan and will facilitate the seamless integration of bushfire management across public and private land in South Australia.

The State Government wants to improve its capacity for managing bushfire risk on public land. A shift to provide a consistent, cooperative year-round prevention and suppression effort supports this intent. We are pleased to approve this *Code of Practice for Fire Management on Public Land in South Australia*.

VISION

To manage public land responsibly and cooperatively to achieve an affordable and acceptable level of risk mitigation and ecological management. We aim to reduce the size, frequency, and impact of bushfires from public land on communities, infrastructure, and the environment.

DECLARATION

As the heads of the Agencies responsible for public land management in South Australia, we approve this Code of Practice. We will undertake, on behalf of all South Australians, to deliver fire management programs on public land that contribute to increased public safety and the long-term resilience of the South Australian environment.



John Schutz
Chief Executive
Department for Environment and Water



Julian Speed
Acting Chief Executive
South Australian Forestry Corporation



Roch Cheroux
Chief Executive
South Australian Water Corporation



Greg Nettleton
Chief Officer
South Australian Country Fire Service



TABLE OF CONTENTS

FOREWORDI

VISIONI

DECLARATIONI

1) INTRODUCTION..... 1

 1.1. Purpose of this Code of Practice 1

 1.2. Application of the Code..... 1

 1.3. Endorsement of the Code 2

 1.4. Monitoring of compliance..... 2

 1.5. Review of the Code 2

2) FRAMEWORK FOR FIRE MANAGEMENT ON PUBLIC LAND..... 3

 2.1. Prevention..... 3

 2.2. Preparedness..... 4

 2.3. Response..... 4

 2.4. Recovery..... 5

 2.5. Research, Information and Analysis 6

 2.6. Principles for Stakeholder and Community Engagement 7

 2.7. Environmental Management 7

 2.8. Cultural Heritage..... 9

3) COMPLIANCE WITH THIS CODE 10

SCHEDULE 1: HEADS OF AGENCIES COMMITTEE – ESTABLISHMENT AND GOVERNANCE 11

SCHEDULE 2: SUMMARY OF OUTPUTS AND OUTCOMES 12

SCHEDULE 3: GLOSSARY OF TERMS 12

1) INTRODUCTION

As a natural environmental process, fire can have both positive and negative outcomes. Fire plays an important role in landscape regeneration, nutrient cycling, carbon cycles, and habitat integrity, and much of the Australian landscape has a long history of fire adaptation. The impact of fire varies with the frequency, intensity, scale, time of year, type (i.e. ground, surface, and crown), and the fire sensitivity of the ecological community in which it occurs.

Parts of South Australia are highly prone to fire, with hot, dry, and windy summers potentially leading to bushfires that are typically difficult to suppress and often lead to significant public safety, economic, social, and environmental impacts. Humans, first through Aboriginal people and more recently through European settlement, have significantly influenced fire regimes across South Australia.

Fire and land managers, as part of a suite of conservation and land management tools, use fire to reduce the risk of bushfire to life, property, and the environment. Using fire in a risk-based framework and as a land management tool acknowledges that both the application of fire and its exclusion will have economic, social, and environmental consequences, both beneficial and detrimental.

2.8. Purpose of this Code of Practice

This Code of Practice has been developed to provide a framework for safe and effective fire management on public land in South Australia. The objectives of this Code are to:

- reduce the occurrence, severity, and impact of bushfires on life, property, and the environment; and
- promote improved ecological and biodiversity outcomes.

The State Government recognises that at all times, implementation of this Code needs to prioritise the protection of human life above other outcomes.

The Code establishes the performance measures for fire management on public land in South Australia and acknowledges that higher standards may be

implemented by individual agencies to accommodate localised risks or other factors.

2.8. Application of the Code

The Code applies to all public land managed by the Department for Environment and Water (DEW), ForestrySA, and SA Water in the State of South Australia (hereafter 'public land'). DEW, ForestrySA, SA Water, and the SA Country Fire Service (CFS) ('the Agencies') will also follow the principles of the Code when planning and conducting fire management activities on other lands.

Staff, contractors, and volunteers of the Agencies undertaking fire management activities on public land will comply with this Code.

Any policy, plan, instruction, prescription, or guideline developed for fire management activities on public land will be prepared in a manner that is consistent with this Code. Agencies will meet their responsibilities and obligations under this Code through assigned levels of delegation, funding, planning, and resource allocation.

Relationship to legislation, policy, and approved management plans

This Code supports the discharge of the Agencies' legislative responsibilities, which include:

The South Australian *Emergency Management Act 2004*, which establishes strategies and systems for the management of emergencies in South Australia.

The *Fire and Emergency Services Act 2005*, which applies to all land throughout the State, including public land managed by the Agencies.

The *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972* (NPWA), *Wilderness Protection Act 1992* (WPA), and *Crown Lands Management Act 2009* (CLMA), relevant reserve management plans, and the Wilderness Code of Management (where applicable).

The *Forestry Act 1950*, which provides for the management of Forest Reserves and Native Forest Reserves, including fire prevention, by ForestrySA.

The Commonwealth *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC), which provides for the protection of matters of national

environmental significance, including threatened species and ecological communities.

The *Native Vegetation Act 1991* (NVA), which guides the management of South Australia's native vegetation.

In addition, each Agency will have relevant individual departmental policies, procedures, guidelines, management plans, or other documents, that will be adhered to.

Agencies will follow National best practice burning as described in the National Burning Project, as well the principles outlined in the Government Agencies Fire Management Working Group guidelines.

2.8. Endorsement of the Code

The Code of Practice for Fire Management on Public Land in South Australia will be endorsed and signed by the respective Chief Executives from Heads of Agencies and noted by the State Bushfire Coordination Committee.

In endorsing this Code of Practice, the respective Agencies commit to implementing, as a matter of priority, the actions within for the benefit of present and future generations of South Australians. It is acknowledged that implementation of this Code will be subject to budgetary constraints in individual jurisdictions. However, the principles identified in this document will be reflected in strategic planning undertaken by each Agency and the cooperative arrangements developed.



2.8. Monitoring of compliance

Compliance with the Code will be monitored by the Heads of Agencies Committee and reported on annually to the State Bushfire Coordination Committee.

2.8. Review of the Code

The Code will be reviewed within five years of its approval, or at the discretion of the Heads of Agencies Committee.



2) FRAMEWORK FOR FIRE MANAGEMENT ON PUBLIC LAND

The following principles align with the Prevention, Preparedness, Response, and Recovery (PPRR) framework as established within the State Emergency Management Plan, and underpin fire management activities undertaken by the signatory Agencies.

The Agencies are committed to the principles outlined in the National Bushfire Management Policy Statement for Forests and Rangelands (Forest Fire Management Group 2014):

- Learning to live with fire – bushfires are understood, accepted, and respected.
- Shared and individual responsibility.
- Protection of lives as the highest consideration.
- Consistency of purpose and unity of command.
- Managing fire according to the landscape objectives.
- Decisions within a risk management framework.
- Integration of learning and knowledge.
- Monitoring performance.

The Agencies have agreed to be parties to this Code of Practice and confirm their commitment to conducting cooperative fire management and suppression activities, including the sharing of knowledge, resources, and relevant systems.

The Agencies agree that the protection of human life is paramount and that firefighter and community safety must be at the forefront of bushfire risk mitigation and management decision making.

2.1. Prevention

The Agencies are committed to an integrated bushfire risk management planning approach that is consistent with the principles, policies, and standards set out in the draft State Bushfire Management Plan, and will ensure they consult and/or collaborate with each other in areas where a shared interest applies.

The Agencies will comply with agreed policies, standards, or guidelines endorsed by the State Bushfire Coordination Committee (SBCC) when planning for and undertaking fire management activities.

The Agencies will contribute to and participate on all Bushfire Management Area Committees, collaboratively and cooperatively, wherever public land of the respective Agency is located.

The Agencies will establish and maintain planning policies, standards, and procedures that reflect Agency-specific needs and continue to support landscape-scale fire management planning.

The Agencies will cooperate in the implementation and delivery of prevention strategies including prescribed burning or other fuel reduction activities as described in fire management programs and plans. Strategies will be guided by the best available information to ensure environmental and cultural damage is minimised.

PERFORMANCE MEASURES:

Outputs:

All high risk public land is covered by risk-based fire management plans.

Each manager of high risk public land will have an implementation plan to address the high risk areas identified in fire management plans.

Areas covered by fire management plans meet recommended fuel levels.

Outcomes:

Risk of impacts from bushfire is managed in accordance with fire management plan recommendations.

Improve the efficiency and effectiveness of programs designed to minimise the number, spread, and adverse impacts of future bushfires.

2.2. Preparedness

The Agencies will maintain sufficient numbers of suitably qualified and competent personnel necessary to deliver fire management activities.

As a minimum, the Agencies will use the CFS Training Pathways and re-accreditation program as the basis for ensuring personnel are adequately trained and competent to fill the roles and functions expected of them.

The Agencies will comply with workplace health and safety requirements during any inter-Agency training or operational activity.

The Agencies will, as far as is practicable, ensure that adequate levels of fire specific plant and equipment meet National standards and that this plant and equipment be available for bushfire response and delivery of fire management programs.

Individual Agencies will develop and maintain integrated response plans in agreed areas of shared fire risk. The plans will define:

- response zones;
- communication arrangements;
- levels of preparedness;
- call out and response procedures;

- agreed coordination centres for days of elevated fire danger;
- significant environmental assets;
- important environmental assets; and
- other important assets.

The Agencies agree that these response plans will complement Agency-specific response requirements as considered appropriate by that Agency at that time.

PERFORMANCE MEASURES:

Output:

Response plans are current and Agency fire management preparedness audits are completed annually.

Outcome:

Agencies are capable of delivering the required level of fire management works and responding to bushfires in a safe, pre-planned, coordinated, and collaborative manner.

2.3. Response

The Agencies will conduct all bushfire management activities in accordance with the CFS Chief Officer's Standing Orders (COSOs), associated Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), and Operational Management Guidelines (OMGs).

Notification of incidents occurring within or in close proximity to public land will be provided to the respective Agency as soon as is practically possible.

Response will be initiated as per pre-planned arrangements.

The Agencies will retain all legal responsibility, including workers compensation and other employee entitlements, for their employees and members, irrespective of whether they are operating within their area of responsibility.

The Agencies will support the CFS during interstate and international deployments as considered appropriate at that time.

The Agencies will be responsible for normal operating costs when operating within or outside their own area of responsibility. Any additional costs that are incurred when operating within another Agency's area of responsibility can be claimed from the other Agency.

PERFORMANCE MEASURES:

Outputs:

Response to all bushfires is rapid, adequate, coordinated, effective, and safe.

All agencies maintain an adequate response capability.

Outcome:

The impact of bushfire on communities is minimised through safe, fast, determined, and thorough response.

2.4. Recovery

The Agencies will undertake debriefs, After Action Reviews, and post-incident analysis consistent with CFS policy. Outcomes from these analyses will be incorporated into improved policies and procedures and will contribute to the CFS Risks and Lessons Management program.

Collaborative post-fire monitoring for both bushfire and prescribed burning will be undertaken to monitor the impacts of fire in the landscape, with lessons learnt contributing to an adaptive management approach.

The Agencies acknowledge the importance of contributing towards the recovery of the natural environment after bushfire suppression activities have ceased, and will endeavour to conduct recovery activities and monitor the results, as far as is practicable.

Following a bushfire, recovery activities will include consideration of whether cultural heritage values have been impacted and may require inclusion in rehabilitation plans.



PERFORMANCE MEASURES:

Outputs:

Environmental and natural resource impacts from bushfires are assessed and significant risks to environmental assets are addressed as soon as possible following each bushfire and prescribed burn.

Built assets damaged by bushfire are assessed and repaired/replaced as soon as possible following each bushfire.

Outcome:

Infrastructure and environmental impacts from bushfires and bushfire suppression activities are addressed, replaced, or restored where possible.



2.5. Research, Information, and Analysis

Fire management on public land will be based on an adaptive management approach supported by science and research.

The Agencies will contribute, where relevant, to cooperative and/or collaborative research projects for the improvement of fire management activities in South Australia and will integrate findings into Agency policies, procedures, and practices.

Agencies will engage with research institutions to address identified knowledge gaps relating to fire management.

Agencies will collect data, analyse, and publish the outcomes of relevant information to support and improve the planning and delivery of fire management programs (e.g. fire causes, debriefs and After Action Reviews, inquiries, and reports from other jurisdictions).

Agencies will monitor the performance and program outcomes of bushfire management activities, analyse this data, and use it to improve bushfire risk mitigation/reduction.

PERFORMANCE MEASURES:

Outputs:

Data gathered through monitoring programs (intra- or inter-Agency) is integrated into fire management programs annually using an adaptive management approach.

Research, evidence, and best practice knowledge relevant to fire management are reviewed and integrated into fire management policy and practice using an adaptive management approach.

Outcome:

The Agencies share expertise and resources in a culture of continuous improvement founded on improved risk management, science, evidence, and new technology.



2.6. Principles for Stakeholder and Community Engagement

The Agencies will undertake and support activities to promote the importance of self-protection and bushfire survival plans, and encourage awareness and collaboration of landscape bushfire risk mitigation actions.

Stakeholder and community engagement will:

- acknowledge that communities are at the centre of landscape scale natural resource management, which includes bushfire prevention and preparedness;
- seek to increase cooperation and collaboration between all landholders and relevant stakeholders;
- provide the community with an opportunity to engage in fire management planning;
- facilitate community education about the role of fire in the environment and the different objectives of prescribed burning, including the conditions under which they should be conducted; and
- increase public understanding and acceptance of the contribution of prescribed burning to bushfire prevention and biodiversity conservation.

The Agencies will provide relevant and consistent information that informs the public of cooperative fire management operations.

PERFORMANCE MEASURES:

Outputs:

Community has the opportunity to provide input to fire management planning.

Affected communities are notified of bushfires and prescribed burns in a timely fashion.

Community awareness of fire management programs is assessed regularly.

Outcomes:

The South Australian public is aware of the role of fire in the landscape and the fire management activities being undertaken by the Agencies to reduce the risks of bushfires on communities and the environment.

Improved opportunities for land and fire managers to promote shared learning and to better reflect the community values in decision making through community engagement.



2.7. Environmental Management



The Agencies have obligations under the Commonwealth *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*, *Native Vegetation Act 1992*, *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1972*, *Wilderness Protection Act 1992*, *Natural Resources Management Act 2004*, *Environment Protection Act 1993* and inter-governmental agreements to protect international, national, state, and regional matters of environmental significance, including biodiversity, threatened species, ecological communities, water, soil, and air quality.

Achieving balanced fire management outcomes can be complex. Actions to protect life and property can be contrary to actions necessary to protect and conserve species and habitats. The Agencies seek to balance environmental responsibilities, as outlined in the above mentioned acts, with those obligations described in the *Fire and Emergency Services Act 2005*; however, the protection of life will always be the highest priority during suppression operations.

While primacy of life is paramount, the planning and implementation of fire management activities needs to minimise impacts to, and wherever possible enhance, environmental assets.

Procedures for planning fire management activities, particularly prescribed burning, need to identify and assess impacts to significant environmental assets in accordance with legislation and other agreements (e.g. DEW's EPBC Strategic Assessment). Other important environmental assets that are not listed will also be considered as part of the planning process.

The impact of fire management activities on environmental assets and the success of mitigation

measures needs to be audited and reported to meet individual Agency requirements.

Fire can be used to manage land and enhance the resilience of ecosystems in the face of climate change and other changes. Fire management programs will use fire to achieve native vegetation management objectives, such as promoting regeneration, managing a mosaic of successional stages, or maintaining/improving specific flora and/or fauna habitat requirements.

The Agencies will incorporate the best available information from research and relevant expertise to minimise the risk of causing environmental damage and maximise opportunities to improve ecological outcomes.

PERFORMANCE MEASURES:

Outputs:

The status of fire regimes (as described in the DEW Ecological Fire Management Guidelines for prescription burning of native vegetation in South Australia) are to be updated annually at both regional and state-wide level.

The impacts of prescribed burns on known Matters of National Environmental Significance are to be assessed annually.

Practical steps will be undertaken to reduce risks to other important environmental assets that are not listed species or communities.

The effectiveness of environmental impact mitigation measures is assessed regularly.

Outcomes:

Impacts to international, national, state, and regional matters of environmental significance and other important environmental and built assets are minimised in undertaking fire management activities.

Fire management strategies and activities aim to reduce the impacts of bushfires on environmental assets.



2.8. Cultural Heritage

Agencies have obligations under the Commonwealth *Environment Protection Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*, *Commonwealth Native Title Act 1993*, *Aboriginal Heritage Act 1988*, *Heritage Place Act 1993*, and other commitments and agreements, to ensure that Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal cultural heritage is appropriately protected.

Actions to protect life and property can be contrary to actions necessary to protect cultural heritage. The Agencies seek to balance cultural heritage responsibilities, as outlined in the above mentioned acts, with those obligations described in the *Fire and Emergency Services Act 2005*; however, the protection of life and property will always be the highest priority during suppression operations.

The Agencies will ensure that Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal cultural heritage is respected and protected as part of fire management activities. The impacts that fire prevention, suppression, and recovery activities can have on cultural heritage needs to be fully identified, understood, and considered as part of the planning process. This will require engagement as

appropriate with Aboriginal traditional owners and other community groups.

Opportunities to undertake cultural heritage surveys should be explored post-fire where appropriate.

PERFORMANCE MEASURES:

Outputs:

Fire management planning and activities will take into account the need for protection of cultural heritage.

Actions to appropriately protect cultural heritage from fire will be included in fire management plans, response plans, and rehabilitation plans.

Outcome:

Cultural heritage, including Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal, is fully understood and appropriately protected during fire management activities, in line with legislative responsibilities and community expectations.



3) COMPLIANCE WITH THIS CODE

Monitoring and evaluation of compliance with this Code will:

- be conducted in a manner that is timely, accurate, transparent, and effective; and
- provide for continuous improvement in all related activities with regard to fire on public land.

Monitoring and evaluation may review evidence from a variety of sources including on-site observations, retrospective assessment, examination of plans and other relevant documentation, and records of discussions with personnel, including operational debriefs.

Compliance with this Code will be assessed on an annual basis through a report to the Heads of Agencies Committee, using the listed principles and associated performance measures. This report will be forwarded to the SBCC for noting.



SCHEDULE 1: HEADS OF AGENCIES COMMITTEE – ESTABLISHMENT AND GOVERNANCE

- 1) The Heads of the CFS, DEW, ForestrySA, and SA Water agree to establish the Heads of Agencies Committee.
- 2) This Agreement is not a statutory requirement under legislation, notwithstanding, each Agency will comply with its intent.
- 3) This Heads of Agencies Agreement supersedes all previous inter-Agency fire agreements except the following (or their successors):
 - Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the CFS and SA Water, 2015.
 - MoU between SA Water and DEW (Seasonal Fire Program) 2011/12 to 2015/16.
 - MoU between ForestrySA and SA Water, 2009.
- 4) This Agreement will be implemented through two annual meetings (April and September) of the members of the Heads of Agencies. At those meetings, business will include reports from the Fire Cooperatives, pre-fire danger season preparedness, and post-fire danger season reviews, as well as other agenda items as requested by members. The Heads of Agencies will also meet at the specific request of any member. Decisions will be made by consensus.
- 5) Membership of the Heads of Agencies is the Chief Executive of DEW, the Chief Officer of the CFS, the Chief Executive of SA Water, and the Chief Executive of ForestrySA, plus their deputies as determined by the respective Agency Head.
- 6) The Chief Executive of DEW will chair the meeting, or if absent, will delegate an alternate member to chair the meeting.
- 7) DEW will provide an Executive Officer.

SCHEDULE 2: SUMMARY OF OUTPUTS AND OUTCOMES

Outputs:

All high risk public lands are covered by risk-based fire management plans.

Each manager of high risk public land will have an implementation plan to address the high risk areas identified in fire management plans.

Areas covered by fire management plans meet recommended fuel levels.

Response plans are current and Agency fire management preparedness audits are completed annually.

Agencies are capable of delivering the required level of fire management works and responding to bushfires in a safe, pre-planned, coordinated, and collaborative manner.

Response to all bushfires is rapid, adequate, coordinated, effective, and safe.

All agencies maintain an adequate response capability.

Environmental and natural resource impacts from bushfires are assessed and significant risks to environmental assets are addressed as soon as possible following each bushfire and prescribed burn.

Built assets damaged by bushfire are assessed and repaired/replaced as soon as possible following each bushfire.

Data gathered through monitoring programs (intra- or inter-Agency) is integrated annually into fire management programs using an adaptive management approach.

Research, evidence, and best practice relevant to fire management are reviewed and integrated into fire management policy and practice using an adaptive management approach.

Community has the opportunity to provide input to fire management planning.

Affected communities are notified of bushfires and burns in a timely fashion.

Community awareness of fire management programs is assessed regularly.

The status of fire regimes (as described in the DEW Ecological Fire Management Guidelines for prescription burning of native vegetation in South Australia) are to be updated annually at both regional and state-wide level.

The impact of prescribed burns on known Matters of National Environmental Significance are to be assessed annually.

Practical steps will be undertaken to reduce risks to other important environmental assets that are not listed species or communities.

The effectiveness of environmental impact mitigation measures is assessed regularly.

Fire management planning and activities will take into account the need for protection of cultural heritage.

Actions to appropriately protect cultural heritage from fire will be included in fire management plans, response plans, and rehabilitation plans.

Outcomes:

Risk of impacts from bushfire is managed in accordance with fire management plan recommendations.

Improve the efficiency and effectiveness of programs designed to minimise the number, spread, and adverse impacts of future bushfires.

The impact of bushfire on communities is minimised through safe, fast, determined, and thorough response.

Infrastructure and environmental impacts from bushfires and bushfire suppression activities are addressed, replaced, or restored where possible.

The Agencies share expertise and resources in a culture of continuous improvement founded on improved risk management, science, evidence, and new technology.

The South Australian public is aware of the role of fire in the landscape and the fire management activities being undertaken by the Agencies to reduce the risks of bushfires on communities and the environment.

Improved opportunities for land and fire managers to promote shared learning and to better reflect the community values in decision making through community engagement.

Impacts to international, national, state, and regional matters of environmental significance and other important environmental and built assets are minimised in undertaking fire management activities.

Fire management strategies and activities aim to reduce the impacts of bushfires on environmental assets.

Cultural heritage, including Aboriginal and European, is fully understood and appropriately protected during fire management activities, in line with legislative responsibilities and community expectations.

SCHEDULE 3: GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Assets

Anything valued by people, which includes, houses, other property, crops, forests, and the environment.

Bushfire management (referred to as fire management in this Code)

All those activities directed to prevention, detection, damage mitigation, and suppression of bushfires. Includes bushfire legislation, policy, administration, law enforcement, community education, training of firefighters, planning, communications systems, equipment, research, and the multitude field operations undertaken by land managers and emergency services personnel relating to bushfire control.

Fire management (see bushfire management)

Fire management programs

The suite of fire management planning, activities, and operations strategically planned to meet a common set of land management goals and objectives.

Fire management activities

All activities associated with the management of fire prone land, including the use of fire to meet land management goals and objectives.

Fire management operations

The direction, supervision, and implementation of tactics in accordance with a plan and developed as part of a fire management program.

Matters of National Environmental Significance

A matter protected under environmental law – the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Act 1999*. The matters of national environmental significance protected under national environment law include:

- Listed threatened species and communities;
- Listed migratory species;
- Ramsar wetlands of international importance;
- Commonwealth marine environment;
- World heritage properties;
- National heritage places;
- The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park;
- Nuclear actions; and
- A water resource, in relation to coal seam gas development and large coal mining development.

Significant environmental assets

Species, populations, communities, and habitats that have been listed for additional protection in regards to their importance or vulnerability under federal, state, and/or regional legislation and regulatory frameworks.

Important environmental assets

Environmental assets identified by land managers and/or communities as having importance and therefore in need of protection.

High risk areas

Areas which may be designated as high risk under a risk assessment process where there is a combination of probability and consequence resulting in a risk rating of high or above in relation to potential impacts of fire on life, property, and/or the environment.

Prescribed burning

The controlled application of fire under specified environmental conditions to a predetermined area and at the time, intensity, and rate of spread required to attain planned resource management objectives.

Fuel reduction activities

Manipulation or removal of fuels to reduce the likelihood of ignition and/or to lessen potential damage and resistance to control (e.g. lopping, chipping, crushing, piling, slashing, and burning).

Fuel

Any material such as grass, leaf litter, and live vegetation which can be ignited and sustains a fire. Fuel is measured in tonnes per hectare.

Hazard

A source of potential harm or a situation with potential to cause loss.

Fire hazard

A fuel complex, defined by volume, type, condition, arrangement, and location, that determines the degree of ease of ignition and of resistance to control.

Risk

The exposure to the possibility of such things as economic or financial loss or gain, and physical damage, injury, or delay as a consequence of pursuing a particular course of action. The concept of risk has two elements, i.e. the likelihood of something happening and the consequences if it happens.

Fire risk

Processes, occurrences, or actions that increase the likelihood of bushfires occurring.

Fire threat

The impact a fire threatens to have on a community.

© State of South Australia

For further information:

<http://www.environment.sa.gov.au>

Permissive Licence

© State of South Australia through the Department for Environment and Water.
Apart from fair dealings and other uses permitted by the *Copyright Act 1968* (Cth),
no part of this publication may be reproduced, published, communicated, transmitted,
modified or commercialised without the prior written approval of the State of South Australia.

Written requests for permission should be addressed to:

Design and Production Manager
Department for Environment and Water
GPO Box 1047
Adelaide SA 5001

Disclaimer

While reasonable efforts have been made to ensure the contents of this publication are factually correct, the Government of South Australia makes no representations and accepts no responsibility for the accuracy, completeness or fitness for any particular purpose of the contents, and shall not be liable for any loss or damage that may be occasioned directly or indirectly through the use of or reliance on the contents of this publication.

Reference to any company, product or service in this publication should not be taken as a Governmental endorsement of the company, product or service.



**Government
of South Australia**