

17 November 2021

MEDIA RELEASE



MAKE SURE YOU ARE PREPARED FOR BUSHFIRE DANGER SEASON

Southern Mallee District Council is urging landowners to begin preparing now for the coming bushfire danger season.

Respectable winter and spring rainfall has led to a moderate vegetation load across the district which, if left unchecked, creates a fire hazard.

Landowners have a responsibility to manage vegetation to prevent the outbreak or spread of fire on their property, and to protect their own buildings and infrastructure from fire ahead of the fire danger season, which begins in the district on 15 November 2021 and runs until 15 April 2022.

Southern Mallee Mayor Jeffery Nickolls said landowners and tenants have an important part to play in reducing the district's fire danger. "We've all seen how rapidly fire can spread if given the opportunity – and the widespread devastation bushfires can wreak on rural communities,"

"Over the past few seasons, our district has escaped relatively unscathed. However, the disastrous fires in the other parts of the state and Australia, emphasises that bushfires can happen anywhere and affect anyone. We don't want to take any chances for this season.

"Our fire prevention staff have already begun their annual property inspections and have some concerns with the level of vegetation they are seeing that still require preventative measures to be undertaken. As I stated previously Landowners and their Tenants have an obligation to manage their properties to reduce the fire risk to themselves and their neighbours.

"We encourage our community to take an active role now to prepare our district to ensure that we survive this summer."

Council's fire prevention officers will continue to inspect properties in coming weeks. Landowners who don't comply with orders to clean up their properties may face fines.

For more information on fire prevention visit www.southernmallee.sa.gov.au/council-services/fire-protection.

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