

February 2018

Fire Management Unit  
Natural Resources Adelaide &  
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Dear Grape Grower

### **Minimising smoke impacts of prescribed burns in the Adelaide and Mount Lofty Ranges**

For the past fourteen years the Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources (DEWNR) has been undertaking prescribed burning (controlled burning) in the Adelaide and Mount Lofty Ranges Region (AMLR) to reduce the impact of bushfires on the community and environment.

Areas to burn are identified in DEWNR's Fire Management Plans and undergo a rigorous environmental assessment process prior to being added to an annual prescribed burning program (refer to attached map to view DEWNR's autumn 2018 program in AMLR). Once a burn is on the program further planning is undertaken to ensure it does not escape, rekindle or adversely affect surrounding properties, townships and critical infrastructure.

Most years DEWNR's autumn prescribed burning program coincides with the Regions grape harvest and this has generated some concern amongst vignerons who are worried about the impact of smoke on the quality of the grapes, especially post veraison.

DEWNR understands this concern and has been working with Vinehealth Australia, McLaren Vale Grape and Wine Tourism Association, Adelaide Hills Wine and the Barossa Grape and Wine Association to identify planned burns that are in close proximity to unharvested vineyards. Where this occurs DEWNR applies a risk management approach to ensure that smoke from the burn doesn't impact on neighbouring grapes (refer to attached fact sheet for more detail on this approach).

**Please note that DEWNR is unable to contact each grower directly regarding the status of your grape harvest.** Therefore, we encourage you to visit the website below to keep up to date with DEWNR's prescribed burning program. On this site you can subscribe to receive the latest fire news, prescribed burns and research information. <http://www.environment.sa.gov.au/topics/fire-management/upcoming-prescribed-burns>.

We are planning to hold some information sessions about prescribed burning, bushfire safety and smoke taint together with your regional wine association and the SA Country Fire Service. Dates will be publicised through your association shortly. In the meantime, if you require any further information on DEWNR's upcoming prescribed burn programme, please contact Danielle Boddington, Regional Fire Management Officer on 0437 118 217.

Yours sincerely



Richard de Groot

**Manager Fire**

**Natural Resources Adelaide & Mount Lofty Ranges Region**

**Department of Environment Water and Natural Resources**