



Dear Ratepayer;

Council would like to remind land holders of their **bushfire prevention obligations** and that now is the best time to start planning and carrying out these reduction activities when the risks of fire and interaction with native fauna (snakes) are much lower.

As part of Kangaroo Island Councils legal requirements under Part 4A of the *Fire and Emergency Services Act 2005*, Council Fire Prevention Officers will again be conducting inspections of privately owned lands.

Council believes that should you commence your fire prevention works now you will be well advanced if not compliant once these inspections start in late September.

These inspections are conducted under Section 105F of the act and relate to the land holders' legal obligation.

*Division 3 – Duties to prevent Fires*

*105F – Private Land*

*(1) An owner of private land must take reasonable steps –*

- a) To prevent or inhibit the outbreak of fire on the land; and*
- b) To prevent or inhibit the spread of fire through their land; and*
- c) To protect property on the land from fire; and*
- d) To minimise the threat to human life from fire on the land.*

*Maximum penalty \$5000.*

In an attempt to avoid confusion the council in conjunction with the CFS will be running further information sessions on the Island.

Council Fire Prevention Officers will be providing reminders and further information to you via the Council Matters section of the Islander and further releases. Exact location and dates will be confirmed at a later date. Refer to the CFS website for further information

### **Point to Remember**

Creating and maintaining a defendable space around a home does not have to mean the complete removal of all trees and vegetation, just the careful management to reduce the amount and type of readily available fuel. Flammable material that is within 20 metres of your house should be removed. If this is not possible, use pathways and gravel areas to provide fuel breaks, making sure all shrubs and trees are spaced to avoid a continuous canopy or line of vegetation to your house. Ensure ongoing maintenance by the removal of dead branches, fallen leaves, long grass and vegetation litter.

Should you have any queries please contact or leave a message for William Stevens on 8553 4500 and we will arrange a time to discuss your queries in detail and refer to the Kangaroo Island Council Website for updates and fire tips in the coming months.

*Overleaf you will examples of how mitigation works should be carried out on different types of block.*

# Reduce your fuel costs this summer

## Bushfire Prevention

### Bush Land

#### Non-Compliant



This property would be classed as non compliant as there is significant fuel loading on the ground and the trees require trimming of the lower branches up to 1.5 m. Access to the property requires the low branches to be removed to 2 metres.

#### Compliant



This allotment adjoins a property that has an asset on it as you can see vegetation has been removed. Tree branches lower than 2 metres have been removed from the trees.

### Grasslands

#### Non-Compliant



This block is not compliant and requires slashing.

#### Compliant



This block is compliant as the long grass has been slashed.