



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

BUSHFIRE PREPAREDNESS AND RESILIENCE PROJECT

Where did the funding come from and how long will it last?

Council was awarded \$3.57m for this 3-year project, through the federally funded Preparing Australian Communities - Local Stream Grant, administered by the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA).

How much is this project costing Council?

This project is wholly funded by a federal grant provided by the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA).

How will the funding be spent?

Initially, Council has employed two field staff, a project officer and purchased a remote-controlled tracked mower called a green climber. Funds will be allocated to contractors to manage fuel reduction works throughout bushfire prone areas and engage consultants to better understand bushfire risk in the area. Funds will also support education programs and community groups to better equip residents to prepare for potential bushfire events. These activities will be undertaken over a 3 year project period.

What trees are most flammable?

This project will tackle flammable grasses and woody weeds. The aim of the fuel reduction works is to not just reduce overall fuel loads but to strategically remove vegetation that is creating risk to assets. Focus will also be on the connecting understorey of tree canopies, such as the Wild Olive, Gorse, Broom and Briar Rose.

How can I reduce my own fuel loads?

There are many simple ways you can reduce the fuel loads on your own property, these include:

- Keep a clearance around your dwelling
- Keep leaf litter and dry vegetation levels low around your dwelling
- Pruning branches of trees that are near buildings
- Removing wild olives, especially ones that connect grasses to tree canopies
- Visit the CFS website to understand vegetation clearance legislation ([LINK](#))
- Establish native plants away from your house to outcompete flammable weeds

Do I need a permit to clear native vegetation?

All weeds can be removed, and grasses can be mowed. The flammable Wild Olive is a weed of national significance (WoNS) and must be removed. 10m around dwellings and 5m around boundaries can be cleared of vegetation; approvals may be necessary for further clearance.

Visit the [CFS website](#) or [Native Vegetation Council](#) for further information.

Will any trees be removed on Council land?

Some weedy trees will be removed with the aim to remove 'ladder fuels'. This is the vegetation that connects understorey to tree canopies and focuses on flammable woody weeds such as Wild Olives. Clearance of this vegetation in some areas will also result in easier access for our mowing team to effectively cut grass.

Will more trees be planted?

Some plantings may be investigated to outcompete highly flammable weed growth in treated areas. New plantings will also be considered to provide screening for residents where the current screen is made up of woody weeds.

Will I be able to access my property?

Some traffic management measures may be utilised, but properties will still be accessible. Any affected residents will be notified of works prior to commencement.

What happens to the vegetation that is removed?

In many cases the vegetation is chipped, removed and sent for treatment to ensure pathogens are killed before being reused as mulch within the Council area.

What safety measures are in place?

Council has strict safety systems in place. If you see our new remote-controlled mower around the region, please keep your distance.

Will there be noise disturbances?

Machinery will be used, but no noise louder than regular work will be created.

What about native fauna/flora?

Our Field Officers are skilled bush care workers and will work to ensure there is minimal disturbance to habitat and native vegetation. We are working closely with our natural areas team to ensure sites are suitable for fuel reduction works.

What is a Bushfire Management Area Plan (BMAP)?

The purpose of a BMAP is to provide strategic direction for bushfire management planning in the Adelaide Mount Lofty Ranges.

Visit the [State Bushfire Coordination Committee](#) website for further information.

Will traditional Aboriginal land management practices be considered within the project?

Council plans to explore the potential of incorporating traditional Aboriginal land management practices in the range of approaches at a later stage in the project.

Will you be visiting my suburb?

Please visit the [Your Say](#) page for a list of suburbs we will be visiting in 2022-23. By June 2023 a StoryMap will be created and be accessible to the public. This will outline the work that is currently taking place in each suburb.

How can I share feedback?

There are many ways you can comment or ask a question:

- Online at www.onkaparingacity.com/yoursay
- Email yoursay@onkaparinga.sa.gov.au
- Call us on 8384 0666

Further Information?

For further information please contact:

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