

## TREASURER TOM KOUTSANTONIS

Thursday, 7 July 2016

### **Expanding South Australia's bushfire planning and response effort**

The State Government will invest \$16.2 million over four years to help plan, prepare for and reduce the threat of bushfires.

The 2016-17 State Budget initiative will expand the prescribed burning program and enable updated and more sophisticated mapping for the State Emergency Service Mapbooks.

The expansion – supported by the CFS – will initially focus on the densely populated Mount Lofty Ranges region.

By increasing our fire management and response capabilities, the State will be better prepared for future bushfires.

#### **Background**

Bushfires are becoming more common and more severe in our world's changing environment.

South Australia is one of the most fire-prone regions in the world.

This Budget measure underlines the importance of increasing our efforts to minimise the significant social, economic and environmental consequences bushfires pose.

The expansion will create more than 30 jobs with increased support to local CFS brigades in those areas targeted.

#### **Quotes attributable to Treasurer Tom Koutsantonis**

As the driest State on the driest inhabited continent, South Australia is at risk of not only more bushfires, but more complex bushfires.

Every outbreak has the potential to put lives at risk. We want to minimise fuel loads so the flames have nowhere to go.

We also want to ensure our volunteers have the very best information at hand, to keep them and members of the public safe.

The Government is committed to addressing the increasing threat of bushfires, and this funding will expand and improve our fire management capabilities.



**Quotes attributable to Environment Minister Ian Hunter**

This investment is about protecting people's lives and property.

This Government recognises the serious threat that bushfires pose to the safety of communities across the State – particularly in the Mount Lofty Ranges.

We know that prescribed burning is a vital tool in reducing the bushfire risk.

There was no prescribed burning program under the last Liberal Government – we introduced it – and today's funding increase is further evidence of our leadership in this area.

Extending prescribed burning beyond public lands to include high-risk areas on private lands, which will be done in consultation with the land owners and local CFS brigades, will make the incredible work our dedicated fire officers and emergency services personnel carry out safer and even more effective.

Additional mapping support and improved spatial information will enhance information issued in warnings to the public during emergency incidents.

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