



The Flinders
Ranges Council

COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2017



Fire Danger Season

Fire Danger Season for the CFS Flinders Fire Ban District will be notified in October, but is scheduled to start 1 November 2017 to 15 April 2018.

A dry winter has made the region a high risk to fire. All property owners within the Council district are asked to prepare their properties and continue to maintain their properties throughout the Fire Danger Season.

Local contractors are available should you require help to get ready for fire season.

Get in now before the growth is excessive and to ensure work is completed in time. Slashing contractors can prepare your property and maintain it during the Fire Danger Season. Please contact:

Quorn—	Brian O'Loughlin	0408 304 863
	Trent Downing	0428 141 281
Hawker—	Ian Press	0477 825 524

Fire Safety Inspections

Council staff will be undertaking inspections of all properties which have been identified as a potential fire risk.

The Council undertakes these inspections in accordance with the *Fire and Emergency Services Act 2005*, and with the support of the South Australian Fire and Emergency Services Commission (SAFECOM).

What happens if my property is identified as a potential fire risk? If your property is identified as a potential fire risk the Council may issue a Section 105F Notice which requires undergrowth to be cut to a maximum of 10cm and gives a timeframe to meet the request.

What happens if I don't meet the specified timeframe on the 105F Notice? If you have not complied with the directions on the 105F Notice or have not contacted Council by the due date to discuss, and following a further inspection, if your property has not been cleared, the matter may be referred to the Council's contractor to clear the land at your cost and you will be issued with an Expiation Notice, which will include a fine component.

Campfire Safety

For your safety and that of other visitors, please follow the advice below:

- Do not light or maintain a campfire during a fire ban or on dry, windy days
- Use a built fireplace where provided or dig a 30cm deep trench to house the fire and prevent embers from flying out
- Create a border around the fire using large rocks
- Ensure the fire has a 4m clearance from tents, vegetation (including overhanging) and that other camping equipment is stored well away, especially flammable items such as gas cylinders and fuel cans
- Children and pets should be supervised at all times
- Never put glass or unopened tins of food on a fire
- Completely extinguish all fires before going to bed or leaving your camp site—use water, not sand or soil, which retains heat and can cause severe burns. A campfire is out when the coals are cool enough to touch.
- Even a few glowing embers can start a bushfire



Prepare your Property Now

There are a few simple things you can do to increase your personal safety and that of your property during a bush fire. They are

- (1) **Understand** your risk,
- (2) **Discuss** with your family what you will do and where you will go if a bush fire threatens,
- (3) **Action** prepare your home,
- (4) **Know** the fire alerts and
- (5) **Save** the bush fire information number, website and apps.

Town Properties:

- o Reduce all grass and undergrowth to a maximum height of 10 cm (4 inches)
- o Clear all gutters of leaves and debris and install metal gutter guards
- o Review, update and practice your Bushfire Survival Plan
- o Check and service all mechanical equipment, including grass cutters, water pumps, sprinkler systems and fire extinguishers
- o Remove any dead branches, undergrowth and pruning of low tree limbs and those overhanging your home.
- o Enclose the areas under the house and repair or cover gaps in external walls

Rural fringe and rural living properties adjoining Hawker and Quorn towns:

- o Reduce all grass and undergrowth to a maximum height of 10 cm (4 inches) in a 20 metre radius of any building
- o Removal of any dead branches, undergrowth and pruning of low tree limbs within a 20 metre radius of any building
- o Establish 4 metre wide breaks where possible and practical on boundaries either by slashing, ploughing or spraying
- o Maintain at least 22,000 litres of water for fire fighting purposes
- o Sign post accesses suitable for fire fighting vehicles, 4 metres wide with a minimum height clearance of 4 metres.

Rural properties (as above plus)

- o Inspect machinery prior to and during fire danger season for the proper operation of spark arrestors
- o Check condition of fire extinguishers, knapsacks, pumps and hoses
- o Obtain a permit to burn during fire danger season, which will contain appropriate guidelines
- o Safe access to property including turn-around / passing bays located at least every 500 metres on private roads

For more information visit the [CFS website](#) or contact Council's Fire Prevention Officer, Mark Finlay on 0488 486 143.



Fire Prevention Officer

Council's Fire Prevention Officer, can provide advice on all aspects of fire prevention: Mark Finlay 0488 486 143

You can also access the [CFS website](#) for bushfire action plans; guidelines for operating farm fire units; use of machinery; carers information; fact sheets on burning off, using BBQs and pizza ovens, permits, care of pets and livestock and lots more!

1080 FOX BAITING

Regional Needling Day 2017

Quorn (Gun Club—Arden Vale Road)

Wednesday 18 October 2017.



- Free needling service available to all landholders in Northern and Yorke NRM region
- BYO semi-dried meat for needling on-site
- Wild dog strength bait needling available on request
- FoxOff available for purchase

Please bring property section numbers to complete paperwork

For more information on bait preparation details or maps to rack sites, please contact Andrea Tschirner 0437 287 130

SNAKES AND LIZARDS

Snakes and lizards are a highly valued part of healthy native ecosystems.



Reptiles are generally more active in warmer weather and many species bask on roads. Drivers should take care to avoid running over snakes and lizards *where safe to do so*.

Snakes are generally shy and will defend themselves if cornered. You can make your property less attractive to snakes by reducing undergrowth and removing access to food (mice and rodents) and water (empty standing water).

All snakes are protected and may only be killed if posing a direct threat. For snake removal **from your property** contact Mick Froud, Port Augusta (licenced snake catcher) on 0418 823 784.

If you see a snake **on Council land**, contact Council on 8620 0500.

WILDLIFE RESCUE WHYALLA & SURROUNDING AREAS

The Wildlife Rescue Whyalla and Surrounding Areas Incorporated organisation rescue all wild animals and release, or take into care any wild animal that need it. The organisation also eradicate vermin and feral animals. The company is based in Whyalla but will provide a service to The Flinders Ranges Council Area. Contact details:

Telephone— Andrew Hallett 0458 686 987

Cassandra Williams 0447 741 819

Shannon Mercer 0410 236 519



Email: wrrwsa.inc@gmail.com,

Website: wrrwsa.inc.wixsite.com/website

SWIMMING POOL OPENING

Quorn Swimming Pool season opens on Friday 10 November 2017 (normal entry fees for this day)

Official opening to be held on Sunday 12 November 2017, which will include free entry and a sausage sizzle.

Hawker Swimming Pool will be opened on Friday 10 November with official opening details to follow in the next newsletter.

National Disability Insurance Scheme—Community Expo Central Oval, Augusta Terrace, Port Augusta 11 October 2017 from 11:00am - 2:00pm

Australia Day



Do you know someone who makes your community a better place?

The Flinders Ranges Council seeks your nomination for

- Citizen of the year
- Young Citizen (under 30 years of age)
- Community Event of the Year to recognise outstanding contributions from within our community.

Individuals and organisations can be nominated from all sectors of the community including education, health, fundraising, charitable and voluntary services, business, sport, arts, the environment. Winners will be selected from those who have made a significant voluntary contribution to the community.

Winners will be presented with their awards at the Quorn and or Hawker Australia Day breakfasts on 26 January 2018.

Nomination forms are available from the Council Office, Hawker Motors and Quorn Post Office and should be returned by 5:00pm, Friday 5 January 2018. For further information contact Angie Finlay on 8620 0500 or email

AustraliaDay@frc.sa.gov.au

COUNCIL FACILITY CLOSURES AND OPENINGS FOR CHRISTMAS

Quorn Principal Office – close at 12:00 noon on Friday 22 December 2017 and reopen at 9:00 am on Tuesday 2 January 2018;



Quorn and Hawker Works Depots – close at 12:00 noon on Friday 22 December 2017 and reopen at 7:00 am on Monday 8 January 2018;

Flinders Ranges Visitor Information Centre – closed 25 December 2017 and 1 January 2018 only.

Quorn and Hawker Swimming Pools – closed 25 December 2017 and 1 January 2018 only.

Hawker Landfill – open Wednesday 3 January 2018 from 8:30am to 11:30am.

Quorn Transfer Station – Wednesday 3 January 2018 from 1:30pm to 4:30pm as normal.

COUNCIL NEWS

REQUEST AND COMPLAINTS

Council would like to advise, that any request for Council to provide a service or product and or any complaints regarding Council operations, service, and property must be in writing with a name and or signature. This allows the request/ complaint to be properly managed.

THANK YOU

Council would like to take this opportunity to wish Rodney Smith well for his retirement from slashing and would like to thank him for his many years of service to Council.



Daylight Savings
Sunday 1 October
2017