

Hon Michael O'Brien

Minister for Agriculture, Food and Fisheries Minister for Forests Minister for Regional Development Minister for Northern Suburbs

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REDUCING BUSHFIRE RISK ON FARMS

Farmers have a new tool to help them reduce the risk of bushfire on their properties with the launch, during Bushfire Action Week, of the "Farming Guidelines for the Reduction of Bushfire Risk".

Agriculture Minister Michael O'Brien said the guidelines were a useful reference for farmers.

"The guidelines form part of the government's response to implement recommendations from the coronial inquest into the 2005 Wangary bushfires," Mr O'Brien said.

"They provide farmers with a consistent farm management approach on topics such as stubble management, fuel hazards and native vegetation.

"They have been developed by PIRSA in conjunction with the South Australian Farmers Federation and the Country Fire Service and complement existing bushfire management plans.

"Given the good season that we've been having, and the build-up of fuel loads in many parts of the state, the guidelines are timely.

"They are intended to help farmers prepare their properties the best they can to protect against the bushfire threat.

"The guidelines also reiterate the need for farmers to take responsibility to control fuel levels on their properties and be prepared for a bushfire."

CFS Chief Officer Euan Ferguson has welcomed the new Farming Guidelines brochure, which he said would supplement existing prevention measures that help farming communities increase their resilience against bushfires.

"This is a comprehensive guide, which has been thoroughly researched to reduce the risk of bushfires in day-to-day farming activities," Mr Ferguson said.

"It also demonstrates the level of co-operation between government agencies to develop an effective and practical tool for the benefit of regional South Australia."

President of the South Australian Farmers Federation, Peter White, said the guidelines formalise many of the practices most farmers already carry out.

"They are intended to help those who aren't sure of what their roles and responsibilities are in bushfire prevention," Mr White said.

Key messages in the guidelines have been developed from research undertaken by SARDI and the Bushfire CRC and follow extensive consultation with stakeholders.