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Reduce Fire Load Now to Help Protect Homes, Farms and Communities

Residents across the Light region are being encouraged to take simple, proactive steps to prepare their properties for the upcoming fire season, helping to protect homes, businesses, farms and the wider community.

With warmer weather approaching, now is the ideal time to tackle what is known as "**fire load**" – the dry grass, weeds, leaves, branches, shrubs, firewood and other combustible materials that can contribute to the spread and intensity of a fire.

Across regional South Australia, community preparedness plays an important role in reducing fire risk and improving safety outcomes during the Fire Danger Season.

Light Regional Council encourages residents to take advantage of the pleasant spring conditions to complete property maintenance tasks such as:

- **Mowing or slashing long grass.**
- **Removing dry leaves from gutters and around buildings.**
- **Trimming vegetation away from homes, sheds and other structures.**
- **Clearing rubbish, fallen branches and other combustible materials.**
- **Storing firewood safely away from buildings.**
- **Ensuring driveways and access points remain clear for emergency vehicles.**

These practical actions not only help reduce the risk of fire but can also improve property presentation and provide peace of mind heading into the warmer months.

Bushfire safety is a shared responsibility. While emergency services play a critical role in responding to incidents, property owners, businesses, landholders and the wider community all have a role to play in reducing fire risk before a fire starts

Preparation is a shared responsibility, and even small actions can make a significant difference during an emergency. By working together, residents can help create a safer and more resilient community.

Light Regional Council also encourages households to review their Bushfire Survival Plan, stay informed of Fire Danger Ratings, and monitor warnings throughout the season.

For further information about bushfire preparedness, visit the South Australian Country Fire Service website at www.cfs.sa.gov.au.

Mayor Bill Close said maintaining properties ahead of summer was one of the simplest and most effective ways residents could contribute to community safety.

"Preparing early helps protect not only your own property, but also your neighbours and the broader community. Small jobs completed now can make a big difference later in the season.

"The Light region has a strong history of communities working together, and by taking a proactive approach we can all help reduce fire risk and be better prepared for the months ahead."

ENDS

For further information please contact communications@light.sa.gov.au

Postal Address: PO Box 72 Kapunda SA 5373 ▪ Telephone: (08) 8525 3200

Email: light@light.sa.gov.au ▪ Website: www.light.sa.gov.au

