

NPWS will conduct a number of prescribed burns in the Riverland throughout autumn 2022.



Prescribed burns fire up for autumn

IMPROVING the management of native vegetation and protecting Riverland biodiversity are the goals for upcoming prescribed burns in the region.

National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) will conduct 43 prescribed burns across South Australia during autumn.

NPWS director of fire management, Fiona Gill, said the burns would only be started during “safe and practical” weather conditions.

“The number of prescribed burns that can be safely and effectively completed in any season is always subject to a window of prescribed weather conditions and we will never burn unless we can achieve a safe outcome,” Ms Gill said.

“The program of burns are part of a rolling three-year program and extra burns are planned which gives us flexibility to move burns to another season or year according to the conditions.

“Autumn is a time when larger, unbounded burns in more remote parks will go ahead as the cooler overnight temperatures and increasing relative humidity help suppress the fire.

“By creating strategic, low bushfire-hazard areas in the landscape, on our reserves and some strategically chosen private land, our autumn program helps manage the intensity and extent of future bushfires, and provides safer access for firefighters.”

A total of 47 burns were completed during spring 2021.

Ms Gill said the fire management team would work with local industry representatives – such as grape growers and winemakers – to ensure the current harvest was unaffected by prescribed burns.

“As with last year, the mild summer has led to an overlap with wine grapes not yet harvested and suitable conditions to conduct prescribed burning,” she said.

“NPWS continues to work with industry groups to address any concerns and plan burns appropriately.

“NPWS takes opportunities to burn as soon as it is safe and practical to do so.”

A map of the planned prescribed burns set for the Riverland can be found by visiting the website (environment.sa.gov.au/fire-management).

Thoughts wanted on new carryover improvements

RIVERLAND irrigators have been encouraged to attend an information session tomorrow surrounding potential changes to key water allocation regulations.

The Murraylands and Riverland Landscape Board (MRLB) will hold a public consultation meeting – at the Berri Bowling Club – regarding its updated Draft Water Allocation Plan and proposed changes to the private carryover policy.

An MRLB spokesperson said the changes would

“remove rollover and forfeiture of carryover volumes and will allow carryover to be used in the year that it is granted”.

“Consultation is now under way and the MRLB would like to hear your views on the proposed changes to the carryover policy,” the spokesperson said.

The Berri drop-in session will run from 3pm to 6pm, with presentations at 3.30pm and 4.30pm.

Public submissions regarding the Draft Water

Allocation Plan – which remain open until 5pm on Thursday, April 14 – can be made by visiting the website (www.surveymonkey.com/r/8C27SCZ), or by email (rmwap.feedback@sa.gov.au).

The full Draft Water Allocation Plan can be viewed by visiting the MRLB website (<https://cdn.environment.sa.gov.au/landscape/docs/mr/2022-RM-WAP-private-carryover-amendments.pdf>).

ADVERTISEMENT



Sam Doecke, of Waikerie's Hansen Electric, was recently named the PEER Refrigeration and Air-conditioning Student of the Year. PHOTO: Christine Webster

Sam takes home prestigious PEER prize

WAIKERIE apprentice Sam Doecke was awarded a prestigious PEER Refrigeration and Air-conditioning Student of the Year Award earlier this month before an audience of over 450 industry guests at the Adelaide Convention Centre.

PEER, a not-for-profit organisation, employs, trains, mentors and supports students in plumbing, electrical, engineering, data communications, and refrigeration and air-conditioning trades at its Port Road, Albert Park trade training centre.

Chief executive officer Peter Nolan says the night is an opportunity to recognise SA's best apprenticeship talent and celebrate the achievements of students who have completed their training and are embarking on their trade careers.

Sam, 28, has been working at Waikerie's Hansen Electric for 11 years and is proof that you are never too old to go back and do an apprenticeship.

Sam started out as an apprentice electrician at Hansen Electric, where he worked in electrical for a couple of years, before completing a Certificate III in Telecommunications and Certificate IV in Leadership.

He then decided to go back and complete the refrigeration and air-conditioning trade apprenticeship. He spent four years learning both trades, a testament to his commitment and tenacity.

Hansen Electric is a Daikin dealer and is responsible for the installation of domestic, commercial and industrial air-conditioning units.

Sam works on commercial projects for schools and local businesses and often gets called out to fix breakdowns and complete services of air conditioning units and cool rooms.

“Living in the country means we have to be across both trades well,” Sam says.

“You never know what you will get each day. Every day is different.”

Sam has lived in Waikerie all his life and attended Waikerie High School.

His managers at Hansen Electric, David and Sandy Neindorf, were rapt to hear of his win.

“It's absolutely fantastic and totally well deserved,” they said.

“Sam has a very energetic work ethic, loves learning, has great organisational skills, is polite with excellent customer service, and is a very good role model to our staff, especially the apprentices.

“Sam takes great pride with all he does at work, at home, with his family, and in the community.”

Sam said his trade has plenty of appeal. “I enjoy the challenges of both areas of the refrigeration and electrical cycle and how they both tie in together,” he said.

“It really makes me think a lot and I'm able to problem solve well.”

Sam has commended his trade training at PEER.

“I enjoy the well-equipped, real-life simulated workshop the most, plus the classrooms, and the amount of equipment I can use to train and learn my new skills,” he said.

“The layout of the place is so good, from the placement of the ducted air-conditioning units, to the cool room, refrigerators, the split systems and even an ice machine.

“The facilities at PEER are fantastic. My PEER trainer Andrew Snow is one of the best. He is knowledgeable, experienced and easy to learn from.”

Sam said he highly recommends PEER as the best way to gain the necessary skills and qualifications to get into the refrigeration and air-conditioning trade. He also said he was grateful for the registered training organisation's celebration of its apprentices at its annual graduation and awards night event.



Sam with his award. PHOTO: supplied



Send your apprentice to PEER

Train with the best to be the best!

Our leading trade school offers

- > Ongoing mentoring and support
- > Quality skill development in our real-life simulated training centre
- > Award winning trainers
- > Flexible learning. Your apprentice can start anytime!

The Experts in Trade Apprenticeships

- > Plumbing
- > Electrical
- > Refrigeration & Air conditioning

Interested in seeing out facilities? Call us on 8348 1200 for a visit.



CALL NOW!
peer.com.au

RZ11126