



Approval

South Australian Fire Management Policy Strategic Assessment

This approval decision is made under section 146B of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act).

Class of actions

person to whom the approval is granted The Chief Executive of the South Australian Government Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources

proponent's ABN 36 702 093 234

proposed class of actions All fire management actions for reducing bushfire risk on all public lands under the care and control of the South Australian Minister for Sustainability, Environment and Conservation taken under the *Fire Management Environmental Assessment and Management Procedure, November 2014*.

Further information and explanation is at [Annexure 1](#).

Approval decision

Controlling Provision	Decision
World Heritage properties (sections 12 & 15A)	Approve
National Heritage places (sections 15B & 15C)	Approve
Wetlands of international importance (sections 16 & 17B)	Approve
Listed threatened species and communities (sections 18 & 18A)	Approve
Listed migratory species (sections 20 & 20A)	Approve

conditions of approval

This approval is subject to the conditions specified below.

expiry date of approval

This approval has effect until 30 June 2045.

Decision-maker

name and position The Hon Greg Hunt MP
 Minister for the Environment

signature



date of decision

3 : 3 : 2015

Conditions attached to the approval

1. The approval holder must implement the commitments in Sections 4 and 5 of the **endorsed Policy**.
2. Within two years of the endorsement date of the **endorsed Policy**, the approval holder must submit to the **Minister** for approval an Adaptive Management Strategy. The Adaptive Management Strategy must accord with Section 4.4.3 of the **endorsed Policy**. The approved Adaptive Management Strategy must be implemented for the duration of the class of actions approval.
3. The approval holder must maintain accurate records substantiating all activities associated with or relevant to the **endorsed Policy** and the conditions of this approval, including measures taken to implement the **endorsed Policy** and the conditions of this approval. Records must be made available upon request to the **Department** and may be subject to audit by the **Department**, or used to verify compliance.
4. Unless otherwise agreed to in writing by the **Minister**, the approval holder must ensure that an independent audit of compliance with the **endorsed Policy** and conditions of this approval is conducted every five years from the date of this approval. The independent audit must be undertaken in accordance with Section 5.4 of the **endorsed Policy**.
5. If the **Minister** believes that it is necessary or convenient for the better protection of world heritage properties, national heritage places, wetlands of international importance, listed threatened species and communities or listed migratory species to do so, the **Minister** may request that the approval holder make specified revisions to the approved Adaptive Management Strategy specified in Section 4.4.3 of the **endorsed Policy** and submit the revised Adaptive Management Strategy for the **Minister's** written approval. The approval holder must comply with any such request. The revised approved Adaptive Management Strategy must be implemented. Unless the **Minister** has approved the revised Adaptive Management strategy, then the approval holder must continue to implement the Adaptive Management Strategy originally approved, as specified in the **endorsed Policy**.
6. Unless otherwise agreed to in writing by the **Minister**, the approval holder must publish all documents as required by the **endorsed Policy** and conditions of this approval on their website. Each document must be published within one month of being completed or, where relevant, of the **Minister's** approval, and for the duration of the class of actions approval.

Definitions

Department means the Australian Government Department administering the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*.

Endorsed Policy means the *Fire Management Environmental Assessment and Management Procedure, November 2014*, as endorsed by the **Minister** on 10 December 2014.

Minister means the Minister administering the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* and includes a delegate of the **Minister**.

EXPLANATORY INFORMATION

Background

This approval decision is made under section 146B of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act) which provides for the Minister responsible for administering the Act (the Minister) to approve actions, or classes of actions, undertaken in accordance with an endorsed policy, plan or program. An approval under section 146B of the EPBC Act has the same effect as an approval given under Part 9 of the Act. Actions approved under this decision will not require separate referral, assessment or approval under the EPBC Act in order to be taken.

On 10 December 2014 the Minister endorsed, pursuant to section 146 of the EPBC Act, the Policy described in the *Fire Management Environmental Assessment and Management Procedure, November 2014*. The endorsed Policy includes all fire management actions for reducing bushfire risk on all public lands under the care and control of the South Australian Minister for Sustainability, Environment and Conservation.

Actions covered by this approval must be taken in accordance with the endorsed Policy. Actions not taken in accordance with the endorsed Policy are not covered by the approval provisions of the EPBC Act and therefore may not be compliant with legislative requirements.

In implementing this approval, the endorsed Policy will provide the basis for any necessary interpretation and resolution. The Minister will provide final interpretation and guidance if required.

Actions included in the approval

The class of actions is all fire management actions for reducing bushfire risk on all public lands under the care and control of the South Australian Minister for Sustainability, Environment and Conservation taken under the *Fire Management Environmental Assessment and Management Procedure, November 2014*.

The Policy describes the mechanisms and processes the South Australian Government will implement to reduce the risk of unacceptable impacts to matters of national environmental significance from implementation of the bushfire mitigation program. This includes the fire management of public lands for the purposes of conservation. The Policy dictates that where there is a bushfire risk to life, property or environmental values, it will be managed through strategies set out in a Fire Management Plan.

Examples of activities covered by this approval include:

- prescribed burning
- other fuel reduction methods (e.g. mechanical removal, chemical treatment, slashing)
- construction and maintenance of fire access tracks
- construction and maintenance of fire management infrastructure.

Excluded actions

The approved class of actions excludes actions on Commonwealth land.

The Policy does not apply to any activities associated with the control of bushfires (including a prescribed burn that escapes beyond the capacity of the resources and contingencies in place to manage it).