

MEDIA RELEASE

11 December 2007

Kangaroo Island Fires

There are a number of fires on Kangaroo Island which started from lightning strikes last Thursday 6 December, but only 3 are located near the scheme plantations as follows:

Flinders Chase Fire

Affected Properties - Brookland Park (to the south) & Lycurgus (to the North)

This fire is still out of control in the Flinders Chase National Park. It has crossed the 3 main highways at a number of locations but these breakouts have been brought under control. It poses no threat at the moment to either properties but this will depend on weather conditions over the next few days. We have located the FEL & grader at Brookland Park in preparation for assisting neighbours with more fire breaks should the fire change direction towards the plantations.

Vivonne Bay Fire

Affected Property - Cronins

This fire started to the east of Cronins and went south to Vivonne Bay. It is now effectively out and poses no threat. It is unlikely that any fires will cause the Cronins property any problems as most of the surrounding bush was burnt in last year's fire.

Western River

Affected Property - Lycurgus

This fire is on the north coast in a wilderness area to the east of Lycurgus and is still out of control. It is a fair distance away but the wilderness area goes through to the northern boundary of Lycurgus. It poses no threat at the moment as it is moving away from the plantation.

Fire breaks on all the properties are in good condition, with external fire breaks being 20m wide. The Blue Gum plantations are a low risk to fire due to the canopy closure and very little fuel on the ground to sustain a fire; however the Pine & Niten plantations do pose a higher risk. These plantations are located at Lycurgus to the north and Wingara to the south.

Peter Kinnear

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To view a map showing the location of the fires and the proximity to the plantations click on the following link. <http://www.ruralaus.com.au/files/ki-fire-map-dec-2007.pdf>