



# **MEDIA**

# release

Community Engagement Unit

Telephone 6205 3696 or 62050312

MR032/0906

## **HAZARD REDUCTION BURNS AT MOUNT AINSLIE AND KOWEN FOREST TOMORROW**

Weather permitting, hazard reduction burns will be conducted tomorrow, Wednesday 6 September at Mount Ainslie and Kowen Forest.

Large amounts of smoke from the burns will be visible throughout Canberra. Flames may also be visible from some parts of Canberra, particularly at night. Both burns will be of low intensity and aim to reduce bushfire fuels such as leaf litter, shrubs and grasses.

People are requested not to enter these areas whilst the burns are underway for their own safety and the safety of firefighters. There will be some traffic control in place on Mount Ainslie Drive.

Territory and Municipal Services would like to assure residents not to be alarmed, as these hazard reduction burns are a carefully monitored operation that is being carried out by experienced staff from the Department and the ACT Rural Fire Service. These burns have been thoroughly planned, with input from the Rural Fire Service and the Emergency Services Agency.

Territory and Municipal Services takes into account a range of factors in the planning of controlled burns, including temperature, humidity and wind direction, and endeavours to light fires in weather conditions that will push smoke away from major roads and residential areas.

ACT Health advises that thick smoke may increase the risk for people with asthma and other chronic respiratory diseases. People with these conditions should not perform vigorous exercise and should stay inside if affected by the smoke. People with asthma in particular should continue their medication and consult their general practitioner if they have any difficulties.

Enquiries may be directed to Canberra Connect on 13 22 81.

**WHAT: Hazard Reduction Burns**

**WHERE: Map References N12 and H11 (as per the Handy Map on page 6 of the Yellow Pages)**

**WHEN: Wednesday 6 September 2006**

**TIME: 10am**

Statement ends: Tuesday 5 September 2006

Further information: Nikki Hogan, telephone 6205 0312.