



Our Ref: GF/5.71.3/3  
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PO Box 27, Millicent SA 5280  
[www.wattlerange.sa.gov.au](http://www.wattlerange.sa.gov.au)

Dear Fire Permit Holder

## Smoke Taint and Grapevines

Council asks fire permit holders to consider their neighbours when burning off their properties over the next month.

South Australian food and wine industries are a vital part of the state's economy. The wine industry has genuine concerns about the smoke resulting from burning and landholders need to be mindful of burning around vineyards to ensure that grapes continue to be of premium quality.

Grapevines exposed to smoke during sensitive growing periods are likely to render the grapes and subsequent wine unfit for sale and consumption. The highest potential for smoke uptake occurs from when the grapes soften and ripen to harvest. This is typically from March to early May in the South East.

Heavy exposure for a period of 30 minutes is sufficient to result in smoke taint.

Reducing the risk of smoke taint can be achieved by considering the following steps:

1. Contact and discuss your planned burn off with vineyard owners/managers in close proximity to the burn before commencing;
2. Consider vineyards in the area and burn under appropriate wind conditions to avoid smoke taint. Note forecast wind speed and direction for the period of the burn. Consider these conditions relative to both neighbouring vineyards and larger vineyard plantings (ie. The Coonawarra Strip).

Additional consideration may include:

3. Ideally burning in daylight to reduce the potential for smoke being trapped in an inversion and excessive smoke due to humidity levels;
4. Avoid burning until the grape harvest has been completed.

Thank you for your consideration and assistance in this matter.

Should you require any further information regarding this or any other permit related matter please don't hesitate to contact Council's Fire Prevention Officer, Tim Wilson on (08) 8733 0900.

Yours sincerely

Steve Chapple  
**DIRECTOR DEVELOPMENT SERVICES**

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